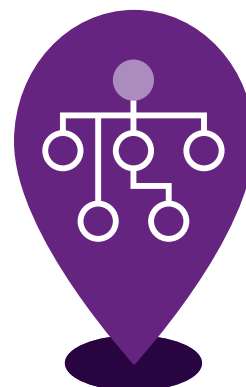# LADDER

LOCAL AUTHORITIES AS DRIVERS FOR DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION AND RAISING AWARENESS

EUROPEAN YEAR FOR
DEVELOPMENT 2015 & FOLLOW UP
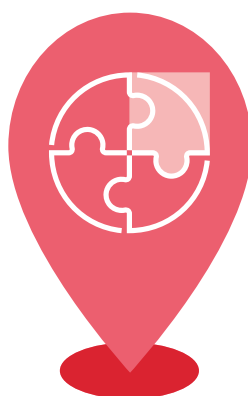
YOUTH IN DEVELOPMENT

PUBLIC-PRIVATE COOPERATION
IN DEVELOPMENT

PROMOTING DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION THROUGH A MULTI-TOPIC APPROACH

THEMATIC HANDBOOK

ENVIRONMENTAL AND
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

MIGRATION

ALDA
European Association
for Local Democracy

A MULTI-STAKEHOLDER ALLIANCE
FOR DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION

With the financial
support of the EU

ABBREVIATIONS

COR	Committee of the Regions
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DEAR	Development Education and Awareness Raising
DG DEVCO	Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (EuropeAid)
EC	European Commission
EESC	European Economic and Social Committee
EU	European Union
EP	European Parliament
EYF	European Youth Forum
IDC	International Development Cooperation
LA	Local Authority
LDAs	Local Democracy Agencies
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MEP	Member of European Parliament
NEET	Not in Education, Employment, Training
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SI	Special Initiative
PB	Participatory Budgeting

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FOREWORD

Our take-home message: working together is more than an opportunity – it is the solution

Antonella Valmorbida
Secretary General of ALDA

Sofia Caiolo
LADDER Project Manager

Since its conception phase, LADDER has been designed as much more than yet another project. The proof is in the pudding – its three years of implementation, together with its outstanding outputs, recommendations, and follow up are the best measure of our success.

Thanks to jointly coordinated, timely efforts LADDER became visible and present in all the countries included in the project and beyond. We saw it everywhere – and all the time. LADDER reached the local communities and – following the spirit and the methodology of the project – it included many of those who had never been involved in European activities or in development cooperation.

Local governments are at the centre of our approach, working together to promote global responsibility and citizenship. LADDER community has been a key actor at the European level in the definition and strong emphasis given to the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals, and our path naturally crosses the UN Agenda 2030. We have been working hand-in-hand with all main stakeholders at the EU and global level.

The three years of life of LADDER 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. But there is no wall, border, or fear which can make our world better – only through a global vision and cooperation can our main problems be addressed. **LADDER offers a platform of meeting and dialogue** where Europeans and representatives of the Neighbourhood South and East meet and identify together common solutions, using the huge 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.

This handbook gathers the work of LADDER's community on advocacy related to six main themes, the project "thematic paths" – namely Youth in Development, Migration, Citizen's Participation in Development, Environmental and Sustainable Development, Private Cooperation in Development, and European Year for Development 2015 & Follow Up.

As the leader of LADDER consortium, in ALDA we believe the voices and outputs of these paths can be extremely helpful in crafting new successful policies and practices, **empowering local communities to shape a better future, more inclusive and sustainable**.

We want to share the take-home message that working together, besides all prejudices, threats and fears, is more than an opportunity – it is the solution. 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, demography, and many more.

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

ABOUT ALDA

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

ALDA was established in 1999 at the initiative of the Council of Europe to coordinate and support the network of Local Democracy Agencies, which are self-sustainable, locally registered NGOs acting as promoters of good governance and local self-government. Today, ALDA is a key stakeholder in the field of local democracy, active citizenship, and cooperation between local authorities and civil society.

ALDA is a membership based organization gathering more than 250 members (including LAs, Associations of LAs, CSOs, and Universities) 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 our 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 creates synergies and helps reaching common goals successfully.

ALDA works in most of the EU and European Neighbouring countries. At the EU level, ALDA's activities focus on the promotion of Active European Citizenship, while the activities run in the European Neighbourhood, namely Western Balkans, Eastern Partnership and Mediterranean area focus on good governance, empowerment of citizens, participation in public life, and decentralisation.

Many LDAs are located in the Western Balkans, but ALDA is increasing its activities and projects in the European Neighbourhood. In the EaP countries, LDAs have been established in Kutaisi (Georgia),Gyumri (Armenia), and Dnipropetrovsk (Ukraine). In 2017 two new LDAs have been established in Cimişlia (Moldova), and Kairouan (Tunisia), while the opening of two other LDAs is foreseen in Ukraine and Morocco. ALDA is also leading several other projects and developing partnerships in other European Neighbouring countries, such as Belarus, Azerbaijan, Algeria, and Turkey.

For more information, please visit www.alda-europe.eu.

ABOUT LADDER

co-funded by the EU

Among the many activities and projects that ALDA manages, a key part of its work is dedicated to Sustainable Development. This is mainly represented by the LADDER project which stands for Local Authorities as Drivers for Development Education & Raising awareness, coordinated by ALDA and funded by the DEAR Programme of DG DEVCO, under Lot 5 - "Global Learning and Advocacy Projects Led by a Local Authority or Association of local authorities". Its total budget amounts to 3.88 million Euros (€).

LADDER aims to create 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 in parallel with the European Year for Development, it addresses major issues identified in the EC Communication "A Decent Life for all: ending poverty and giving the world a

better future", thus developing a synergetic and effective programme.

The 3-year project started in January 2015 and it runs until December 2017. The final beneficiaries of LADDER are ordinary citizens across the EU & non-EU countries. The project is meant to raise citizens' awareness on global issues (short-term), to promote their engagement in global challenges & poverty eradication (mid-term) and to lead to a change of attitudes towards global and development challenges (long-term). To do so, the following specific objectives have been identified:

1 To strengthen the cooperation between LAs and CSOs and to build their internal capacities to act as "drivers for change" in DEAR;

2 To inform and raise citizens and communities' awareness on their role and responsibility on global issues, as well as about the interdependencies between the EU and developing countries, by exploring and testing the most adequate methods of non-formal education.

3

The project includes a variety of activities that contribute to achieving its mission. Particularly, 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.

The strong commitment of the 27 co-applicants and the active involvement of the 19 associates (including their respective networks) ensure the timely implementation of the project and the fulfilment of its objectives. Among the several actions implemented it is important to mention a series of capacity building trainings and focus groups, exchange meetings, conferences and events that have been taking place at international, national and local level. In addition to this, in order to engage the local level and encourage citizens to take part in the project, not only a slogan competition for pupils was launched and a network of citizen journalists willing to write about global issues was established, but also a re-granting scheme has been implemented at the local level for all 28 EU Member States. As the title of the project implies, LADDER operates in the context of development education and awareness raising, and as such is inherently linked to the Sustainable Development Goals – the defining framework for global development until 2030.

ABOUT SDGS AND THEIR LOCALISATION

CSOs and LAs will play a crucial role in the implementation of the SDGs

Any mention to the SDGs without reference to the foundation laid before them would be incomplete. As such, the **Millennium Development Goals** serve not merely as a convenient, but essential starting point. Following a decade of major and unprecedented conferences, the leaders of the world's nations resolved to embark on an ambitious agenda to address humanity's pressing challenges. At United Nations Headquarters in New York in 2000, 189 heads of state and government signed the Millennium Declaration, outlining a series of 8 goals that ought to be reached in a 15-year timeframe and which primarily set out to rduce by half extreme poverty globally. The MDGs encountered major success and largely excelled expectations, with certain exceptions. Global Poverty has been halved 5 years ahead of the 2015 timeframe, the proportion of undernourished people in the developing regions has fallen by almost half, the enrolment level of children in primary education reached 91 % in developing regions, while disparities between boys and girls have narrowed, etc. ((Millennium Development Goals Report 2015)

Poverty	Education	Gender parity	Maternal Mortality	Access to drinking water	Development Assistance
50 % reduction in number of people who live in extreme poverty (5 years ahead of time)	Primary education levels reached 91 %	Around 66 % of countries achieved gender parity in primary education	reduced by 45 %	50 % reduction in people's access to sources of drinking water (5 years ahead of time)	overseas assistance from developed to developing countries increased by 66 % in real terms

Riding the waves of this massive accomplishment, world leaders set out an even more ambitious agenda that would build on the predecessor goals. At a conference held in September 2015 in New York, the leaders of virtually all UN member states agreed on a set of goals that would eradicate extreme poverty, fight injustice and take action against climate in the coming 15 years. They are known as the **Sustainable Development Goals**, or alternatively as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 2030 Agenda also addresses issues which were left out of the MDGs, such as effective institutions, good governance, the rule of law and peaceful societies. The sheer scope of the goals demonstrates the level of ambition, meaning that the number of goals and their accompanying targets has more than doubled in comparison to the previous MDGs. Indeed, unlike the original 8 MDG goals, the SDGs encompass 17 goals and 169 targets that address all aspects of human life such as hunger and poverty, environmental aspects, economic development, equality, good governance, etc. SDGs are also inclusive of the concept of human rights.

The SDGs encompass 17 goals and 169 targets that address all aspects of human life such as hunger and poverty, environmental aspects, economic development, equality, good governance, etc

Local & national training organised by Donegal County Council

The consultations in the process of formulating the SDGs were all-encompassing as they included representatives of national governments, the private sector, academic and research institutions, multilateral organizations, as well as **civil society organizations and local and regional authorities**. A 3-year consultation process was envisaged before the MDGs reached its end, in order to make all voices and concerns heard. The process not only took heed of the principle of multi-stakeholder consultation, but also ultimately ensured ownership and commitment to the implementation of the goals from all sides.

Book markers on SDGs realised for the dissemination of good practices of project re-granted by LADDER

The European Union is doing its part in the implementation of the SDGs. Thus far, its efforts have focused on greater allocation of development aid (the EU is already the biggest global aid donor), helping the governments of developing countries deal with trade (Aid for Trade) and decreasing risk for private investors wishing to invest in third countries (e.g. European Fund for Sustainable Development Trust Fund). Concurrently, the EU is also active in its own backyard by investing into renewable sources of energy, widening its social and environmental protection programmes and by implementing a variety of other initiatives that aim to achieve the goals. Just recently, it revised its guiding document in international development policy, the **Consensus for Development**, to reflect new realities and changing circumstances in its framework for tackling development issues.

> *CSOs and LAs will also play a crucial role in the implementation of the SDGs. The scope and ambition of the SDGs makes it clear that governments alone cannot accomplish them.*

Despite the pledges made at the 2015 Summit, national governments experience difficulties in the implementation of the SDGs, or at least in the formulation of coherent strategies that would steer implementation into the right direction. Thus far, very few have agreed on and released national plans for the implementation of the SDGs.

Having made their input in the consultation phase, **CSOs and LAs will also play a crucial role in the implementation of the SDGs**. The scope and ambition of the SDGs makes it clear that governments alone cannot accomplish them. Only with the commitment and contribution of governments, the private sector and civil society alike, can the ambitious agenda be accomplished. The role of CSOs during implementation will especially be related to the principle of "Leaving no one behind", which was developed as a guiding principle in response to the weak participation of CSOs and LAs in the previous MDG framework. Namely, the principle of "Leaving no one behind" takes aim at the relative deprivation experienced by the **local level** and certain desolate areas that have taken a step backwards during the 2000-2015 timeframe. Its aim is to make everyone benefit from the SDG initiative. As part of this "**localisation**" process, CSOs and LAs find their natural habitat for expression as they operate on the local level. The role they should take on consists of:

- **Listen to people and be aware of what is happening in their respective areas of operation**;
- Translate the voices of the poorest and most marginalised citizens into rational and strong arguments that are acknowledged and addressed by the local government;
- **Develop relationships or partnerships with the local government**, and in particular, identify the government departments, actors or institutions that need to respond in order to remedy problems;
- **Use human rights as a lens of analysis**;
- **Identify, engage with and learn from other CSOs that interact with these groups**;
- **Play a critical role as transformers in society** by being involved in training and advocacy processes, which build the capacities and knowledge of the general public towards the achievement of the SDGs.

It is clear from the analysis above that one of the key aspects for CSOs and LAs is the capacity to listen to the concerns of the citizens in their local context, and advocate on behalf of them for meaningful change on higher levels of government.

As part of its effort, the EU also actively supports the greater contribution of civil society and their involvement in the implementation of the SDGs. DG DEVCO aims to **empower CSOs and LAs** to be the driver of change on the local level **by raising awareness on development education** through the DEAR funding component. The programme encompasses themes such as climate change, migration and gender equality, worker's rights, sustainable consumption, as well as all other issues covered under the SDGs. Aside from educational components through non-formal channels of education and capacity-building initiatives through their project activities, the **DEAR programme also puts a great emphasis on advocacy activities**. CSOs are encouraged to advocate for the policies required, to raise awareness of goals and targets amongst the general public, and to monitor progress in implementing the SDGs and push for action where needed. In that sense, they assume a watchdog role. No other actor can combine these different and mutually reinforcing roles as effectively as civil society.

ABOUT THE THEMATIC DIMENSION OF LADDER PROJECT

LADDER empowered many CSOs and LAs to embark on advocacy activities for the very first time

In line with the DEAR Programme and the methodologies used to reach the achievement of SDGs, the LADDER project foresees the advocacy component as one of its main dimensions. In other words, as a project involving many different CSOs and LAs that incorporates advocacy into one of its main components, LADDER is also contributing to the global campaign to transform the above-mentioned actors into protagonists of the advocacy process. Specifically, the LADDER Project assumes a crucial role, as an outlet for many CSOs and LAs to embark on advocacy activities for the very first time. It also makes sure to include a broad alliance in the working groups in order to maximize the involvement of many different organizations.
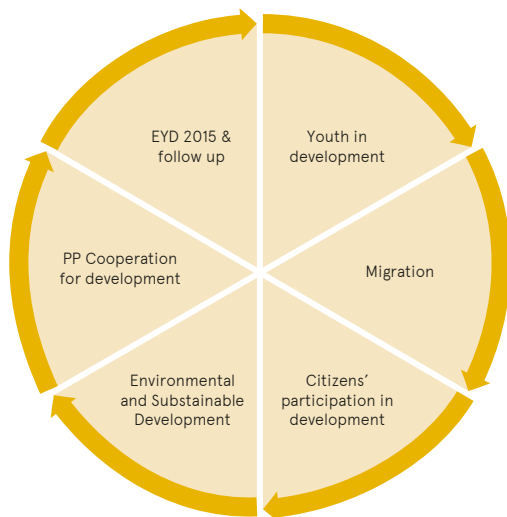
The advocacy component of the LADDER project pays particular attention to 6 themes, referred to as **thematic paths**. These 6 up-to-date themes are the following:

— Youth in Development;
— Migration;
— Citizen's Participation in Development;
— Environmental and Sustainable Development;
— Public-Private Cooperation in Development;
— European Year for Development 2015 & Follow Up.

Every thematic path is composed of a network of organizations, which work together to raise awareness on the corresponding theme, advocate and support the role of LAs and CSOs for development and DEAR. The advocacy dimension of each thematic path targets **different levels and stakeholders at EU, national and local level**.

In 2015, the members of each thematic path had the opportunity to discuss, exchange views and agree on a strategic approach. Throughout 2016, the paths delivered outputs based on the strategic document and plans, and have continued to do so in 2017. Moreover, the final year of the LADDER project

also represents an opportunity to reflect on the successes of the advocacy actions, best practices, recommendations for the future, etc.

In line with this, the advocacy handbook on the thematic dimension of the project is foreseen as a tool to provide the necessary space for thematic path coordinators to write about their experiences. Thus, it represents a collection of relevant information related to advocacy, case studies on the subject, etc.

The handbook is an output of the advocacy component of the project and serves to:

- **Provide an overview of the advocacy actions that were undertaken by the project partners**
- **Inform all those concerned about SDG advocacy**
- **Collect good practices, methodologies and approaches**
- **Guide advocacy actions of CSOs and LAs in the future, based on the recommendations**

First and foremost, the handbook provides an overview of the thematic ALDA and the LADDER consortium have mainly worked in the last 3 years. The handbook also serves to collect good practices, methodologies and approaches and provides an insight into the implemented advocacy process. A crucially important aspect of the handbook is to provide **future guidance to CSO and LA representatives in the six thematic paths** through recommendations, an overview of stakeholders, venues of action, successful examples of advocacy actions etc.

Guidelines for future advocacy actions of CSOs and LAs based on the recommendations

The work of each specific path of the LADDER project will follow a specific outline. The objective of the introductory section is to provide an overview delivered by the path coordinator, the overall and specific objectives of the path itself, and lastly the connections of each path to some specific SDGs. Subsequently, the following section – *Conceptual Framework* – explores how each path arrived at the chosen theme and their general approach and strategy to advocating. This is followed by the *Advocacy actions and impact section*, that lists down the outputs themselves and delves deeper into all relevant actions that preceded the creation of the output. The Recommendations section is next in line, and provides important insight into the key messages of the path to targeted stakeholders. Lastly, the *Tips and useful guidelines* section gets at the heart of the handbook – to provide examples of good practices to future CSO and LA entrants in the advocacy field and thus steer their actions in the right way.

THEMATIC PATH:
YOUTH IN DEVELOPMENT
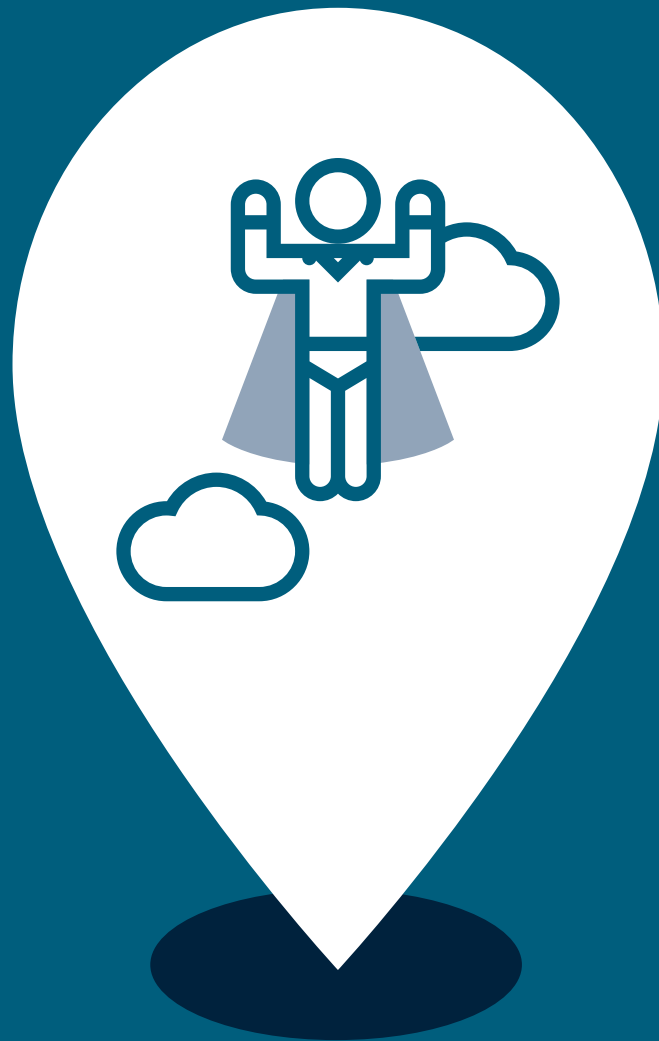
INTRODUCTION

YOUNG EUROPEAN FEDERALISTS

YOUNG EUROPEAN FEDERALISTS – PATH COORDINATOR

The Thematic Path "*Youth in Development*" is led by the **Young European Federalists (JEF Europe)**, and strives to contribute to young people's involvement in sustainable development at local, national and European level. JEF Europe is an independent, transnational, trans-partisan political youth NGO with thousands of members in more than 35 European countries. It promotes and fosters active European citizenship and strives for a more just and integrated society on the European continent. JEF works towards bridging the democratic deficit in the EU, and believes that a democratic European federation is a crucial ingredient for peace, a guarantee for a free, just and democratic society. It is uniquely placed to address the needs of young people, as it operates in two dimensions – action and policy.

OBJECTIVES

The priorities of the thematic path lie in raising awareness among young people about sustainable development goals and in engaging them in DEAR policies. The advocacy component of this path not only focuses on the objectives mentioned above, but it also pays special attention to youth engagement in **policy-making** and **active citizenship participation**. Keeping that in mind, the path's view is that "a strong civil society can only be developed and maintained via a bottom-up approach". Therefore, support to grass root initiatives all around Europe is imperative. The specific objectives of its advocacy actions are:

✓ **Raising awareness of young people around Europe about the sustainable development goals.** Young people as drivers for the future should be well aware of and engaged in the policy making on sustainable development, as they are the ones to bear the consequences of the actions of today.

✓ **Supporting young people in finding opportunities to find out more about SDGs and to engage in sustainable development around Europe.** The abundance of information nowadays prevents many young people from noticing and selecting engagement opportunities, as they are spread around many different channels. We believe that the consolidation of the information on sustainable development should help young people have fast and easy access to the necessary information. In the meantime, this will contribute to a better awareness raising and engagement of young people.

✓ **Encouraging the involvement of local authorities in youth-related initiatives in the field of sustainable development.** Local authorities are uniquely well placed to address the needs of citizens and should be fully involved in the dialogue with young people on sustainable development.

✓ **Influencing and monitoring European policy-making with the view of increasing the impact and outreach of youth-related initiatives.** This is an essential tool to reach the objective of having European Union policies which are youth and sustainable development friendly.

A strong civil society can only be developed and maintained via a bottom-up approach.

YOUTH IN DEVELOPMENT & SDGS

The contribution to SDGs through the path is as follows:

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

The path is on the front lines when it comes to promoting education for all and through all types of learning methods, notably non-formal ones. Strongly advocating for more European integration, the path believes that upholding democratic values and fighting against nationalism and isolationism can only be achieved when all citizens and young people have access to quality and inclusive education, regardless of their socio-economic background.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

In the context of the aftermath of the "Eurocrisis", the path observed with concern the high youth unemployment rates across Europe and urged since then the European authorities to tackle this issue. The path pushes for putting the issue at the top of the political agenda and finding solutions and instruments to support stable and secure employment opportunities for young people. In its effort, the path explicitly asks governments of Member States to pursue the goal of providing decent work and economic growth, reducing the proportion of youth NEETs and participating in a global strategy on youth employment.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

The path stands for more solidarity in Europe and beyond EU's borders, monitoring political developments at all levels that might induce discriminations. Socio-economic inequalities need to be overcome as much as equality before the law needs to be ensured.

9

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

The core values of the path's vision include peace, the rule of law and the respect of human rights. This is why the path developed its advocacy strategy based on the idea that the European Union should become a role model and an active contributor to international democracy.

Beside the achievement of those specific SDGs, the path's work is set to contribute to all 17 SDGs, as all of them are essential to ensure a better future for all. As young people are those who will be affected by sustainable policies that are currently being shaped by decision-makers, they need to be informed about the engagement possibilities in SDGs.

▼ CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The priority of the youth in development path are youth policies favourable to the greater involvement of youth in sustainable development, with a particular focus on policy-making at the European level and close cooperation with the European institutions. The path aims to influence the European decision-making processes and its advocacy strategy is to be involved at all stages of the policy-making process, that is to say, formulation, adoption and implementation.

> *Increasing investment to tackle youth unemployment is urgent and essential*

In this sense, the path pays special attention to the opportunities offered by the European Commission to take part in its public consultation activities during the formulation phase of new policies. Moreover, the path also engaged with the European Parliament by raising concerns during public hearings at the European Parliament and by cooperating with MEPs that are closely ideologically aligned to JEF – the path coordinator – through the **European Parliament Intergroup on Youth**. This group brings together young Members of the European Parliament and youth civil society, and adopts recommendations aimed at improving the situation of young people in the European Union. Keeping in mind that the European Parliament is the 2nd link in the legislative triangle of the EU, the path also targeted the Council of the European Union via statements, letters, policy papers, resolutions and recommendations.

Specifically, in the context of promoting quality education and encouraging greater investment in European youth policies, the Youth Path calls for greater allocation of financial means to various initiatives targeted at young people, namely the Erasmus+ programme at European level. Erasmus+ is one of the EU's most popular and successful programmes, acting as a main and crucial tool for the creation of the European identity. It is already oversubscribed, meaning that young people cannot access the vital support. Organisations across Europe are producing thousands of good projects, receiving excellent evaluations, but they cannot be funded because there are not enough resources available. The youth path strongly opposes the idea that Erasmus+ funding could be sacrificed at the expense of other newly created youth programmes, such as the Youth Employment Initiative or European Solidarity Corps (ESC). While increasing investment to tackle youth unemployment is urgent and essential, Erasmus+ enables youth organisations to contribute to the personal, social, political and economic development of youth and their communities. This helps tackling the key challenges facing Europe, such as youth unemployment, the erosion of social cohesion and political disengagement. The youth section of Erasmus+ is performing particularly well. Strengthening the support to the youth chapter would increase the overall outreach of the programme, and it will contribute to the quality education goal around Europe. As a result, the youth path has closely monitored the development of youth programmes at European level and the negotiations taking place with regards to their funding and budget share. The path shared its view on the elaboration of the ESC, warning about the reallocation of funds from existing projects. In the framework of the Youth in Development path, the youth path argued that local authorities should be further involved in the design process of the initiative as they will be the main beneficiaries of the ESC activities.

Young Citizen Journalists & some other representatives from the LADDER consortium attending the DEAR Tool Fair of LADDER 10–12 May 2017 – Torun, Poland

Indeed, in the current state of affairs, the national states and local authorities struggle to regulate globalisation on their own, thus the path believes that global challenges like youth unemployment, discrimination, social exclusion, education, environment and others, need to be first addressed on an international and European level with clear policy-frameworks to follow for the local level. However, as global and European policies have direct impact on citizens in local communities, the involvement of national, regional and local authorities is essential in consultation, adoption and implementation of policies related to youth and development. This is why the Youth Path also welcomes the adoption of SDGs on a global level, but advocates for a greater involvement of local communities in their implementation and monitoring. Local communities should be able to contribute to the shape of global and European development policies as they are more familiar with the needs of their citizens and, at the same time, more competent in policy fields that are affecting mostly young people.

The national states and local authorities struggle to regulate globalisation on their own, thus the path believes that global challenges like youth unemployment, discrimination, social exclusion, education, environment and others, need to be first addressed on an international and European level with clear policy-frameworks to follow for the local level.

📢 ADVOCACY ACTIONS AND IMPACT

During the 3 years of implementation, the path has systematically advanced the advocacy agenda through the following actions:

✓ **Outputs: Resolutions, Public Statements and Other actions**

- November 2016: Statement on the re-negotiation process of the British status vis-à-vis the European Union
- April 2017: Youth4Development Website
- May 2017: Resolution in response to the European Solidarity Corps
- June 2017: Statement on the new interinstitutional European Consensus on Development
- September 2017: Statement on the 2nd Anniversary of the SDGs

RE-NEGOTIATION PROCESS OF THE BRITISH STATUS VIS-À-VIS THE EUROPEAN UNION

In the light of Brexit, the Youth path called on the EU and UK negotiators to ensure that British youth remains part of the Erasmus+ Programme. In addition, the path called for support for the maintenance of UK-EU cooperation with regards to university-based research, as well as funding programmes for such projects. Moreover, the path called on universities to offer the opportunity to host other international students. These actions are necessary to ensure that young Britons do not become unwilling sacrifices to Brexit, as a more isolated UK could see them being left behind in a globalising world. The qualitative impact is hard to measure under the current circumstances as negotiations are still on-going. However, considering the trends in the BREXIT negotiations, and the special attention the European Commission pays to the citizens' rights during talks, the path believes that efforts, combined with other CSO contributions, will pay off in the near future.

YOUTH4DEVELOPMENT WEBSITE

The path has created the Youth4Development website (www.youth4global.com) to enhance youth engagement and participation in the field of SDGs and in the activities of LAs and CSOs working in that sector. The website is meant to serve as a platform for young people who are interested in the topic of SDGs. By using it, youngsters will be able to search for the organizations that are active each SDG on a local level. The website has the potential to grow into a pioneer with regards to safeguarding the awareness raising of the SDGs through new media and web technologies, and will be a drive for societal change far beyond the organisational borders of the path as well as facilitate civic engagement of young people.

The website allows its viewers to filter the information by the country they are interested in, as well as by the SDGs themselves, and thereby provides a unique opportunity for the viewers to **quickly access the information regarding the organisations and their field of expertise**. The website achieves the objective for **higher involvement of young people in SDGs**, as it has all information collected on one portal. In addition, it saves time by not having to conduct extensive internet browsing. Although the impact of the website on the current stage, it will in future increase the engagement of young people in cooperating with the civil society and local authorities on the development matters.
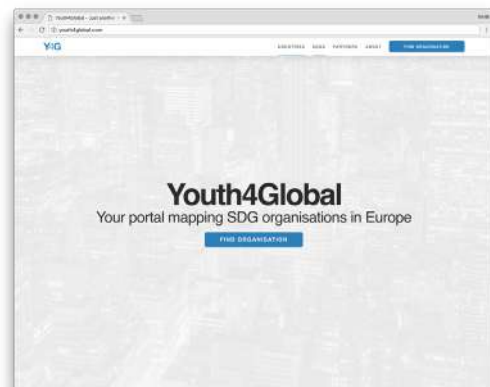
RESOLUTION IN RESPONSE TO THE EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS

In May 2017, the Youth Path drafted a resolution in response to the European Solidarity Corps, a new EU initiative launched on 7 December, 2016 that aims to improve opportunities for young people and promoting solidarity. The guiding principle of the ESC is to bring young people willing to contribute to societal challenge through volunteering work and organizations that support local communities and work for a more inclusive society together. In order to write a legal base for the initiative, the Commission launched a public consultation directed at young people, youth workers and educators, youth organizations, public authorities and other stakeholders. The Youth Path called on greater involvement of local authorities in the implementation process of the European Solidarity Corps. Decision-makers at the local level are uniquely well-placed to engage citizens, and especially young people, in development initiatives. Thanks to their proximity to pressing social issues, LAs have the knowledge and the experience of

the specific, local, supra-local or regional characteristics of these issues.

During the shaping of the ESC, the Commission consulted the civil society organizations which will be influenced by the new initiative, and took into account most of the concerns raised by the Youth Path, along with other international youth NGOs. Although the ESC is still under construction, the path believes that the results of the advocacy work achieved its primary objectives. Although the direct impact of that kind of documents is hard to measure, at least declaratively, the EC takes into account the views of the civil society and youth organizations on the topic.

STATEMENT ON THE NEW INTERINSTITUTIONAL EUROPEAN CONSENSUS ON DEVELOPMENT

The path issued a statement on the new interinstitutional European Consensus on Development, adopted by the Council of the EU on 19 May 2017. Replacing the joint statement created in 2005, this document aims to revise the EU's development policy to incorporate SDGs. While Youth in Development welcomes the greater integration of a youth dimension in the new EU Consensus and the recognition of youth unemployment as one of the biggest challenges, it is concerned with the fact that the document did not deliver a more ambitious proposal to guarantee a constant dialogue between youth and public authorities on development cooperation, in and outside the European Union. The European Consensus on Development is a recent document by the European Union institutions, thus the impact of the produced statements is difficult to measure at the present stage. However, several discussions have been raised in the youth organization as to what will be the exact implication of the Consensus on youth organization, and mens through which the youth sector can contribute to the development cooperation and external dimension of the European Union development policies.

"YOUTH FOR SUSTAINABLE EUROPE", BRUSSELS, SEP 2017

In September 2017, the Youth in Development path organized a three-day event for participants from all over Europe to discuss sustainable development, the **role of young people in the Agenda 2030 and external dimension of the development policy, quality education, youth mobility and youth unemployment**. Linked to the anniversary of the adoption of the SDGs, the special initiative intends to raise awareness of young people about sustainable development and how to get more involved in cooperating on a local level for the sake of achieving them within an indicated timeline. The events brought together representatives from youth organisation from all over Europe, as well as policy makers, local authorities, and civil society. The event strove to create a dialogue among all the key players of the development agenda, and reach compromise on how to better engage young people and citizens in SDGs and sustainable development agenda. The impact of the conference can

be measured in the long-term, as it aims to provide skills and knowledge to young people. Youth will be able to share lessons learnt with other citizens of their local communities and help spread the information and the experience beyond one country.

RECOMMENDATIONS PRODUCED BY THE PATH

The Youth in Development path directed its advocacy activities towards the European policy-makers, as it believes that global challenges of sustainable development need to be addressed on a European level. A clear European framework is needed for national and local authorities to successfully implement the SDGs on their territories. Through its advocacy actions, the path aims to influence the decisions of European policy-makers when it comes to youth policies and the involvement of young people in development issues all around Europe. The recommendations produced in the course of the LADDER project are still valid and important, as the processes the path addressed are currently on the negotiation table in the European institutions. All the recommendations produced are forward looking, meaning that they share the goal of a more active, inclusive, just and sustainable society. Throughout the duration of the project, the youth path produced several policy recommendations:

> *Through its advocacy actions, the path aims to influence the decisions of European policy-makers when it comes to youth policies and the involvement of young people in development issues all around Europe.*

Greater involvement of LAs in the European Solidarity Corps

- The Youth in Development Path developed a recommendation that stresses the importance of greater involvement of LAs for successful initiatives in the youth field. Indeed, the path published a call targeted at local and subnational authorities to actively take part in the implementation process of the ESC. On one hand, the guiding principle of the ESC is to bring together young people willing to contribute to societal challenge through volunteering work, and on the other hand, organisations that support local communities and work for a more inclusive society. The path strongly encourages LAs to get involved in the implementation stage of the ESC, as this will contribute to both funding and human resources to tackle development issues on the ground.

- A European programme like ESC with young people at its heart and NGOs at the centre of its management calls for innovative policy-making. It is a unique opportunity to strongly involve all the beneficiaries in its development

Youth for Sustainable Europe – Special Initiative Youth in Development Path – 25-27 Brussels, Belgium

through more in-depth consultation in order to ensure the programme is adjusted to their reality and needs. It is also the opportunity to design new methods of managing EU programmes. The ESC opens the door for real co-management of EU programmes through the involvement of project beneficiaries in the implementation and evaluation of the programme alongside the institutions.

> Keeping in mind the goal of reducing inequalities and providing equal opportunities for all, the investment in the ESC should also be put in perspective: the programme aims to reach out to 100.000 young people until 2020, or approximately 0,1% of all young people in Europe. Such an approach will lead to limited number of opportunities and a high demand for such experiences, where young people with higher qualifications have better access to these programmes, leaving young people with fewer opportunities with even less opportunities. In order to reach the desired objective of creating a society where young people from various background have the same opportunities to be engaged, the path recommends that the European Commission takes these considerations into account, while implementing the ESC. In the long term, this will shape a solidarity-oriented generation of young people who will be willing to get engaged for the benefit of the European Union.

More Funding of Erasmus+ Programme and Equal Access to Quality Education

> Youth path has also been active in the field of education, striving for quality education accessible for all as enshrined in SDG 4. The Youth path advocates for the funding and the right to equal access to quality education. The right to education should be guaranteed to everyone, in all settings, without any barriers, as education contributes to the personal and social development of young people. In this context education has a broad definition, and includes the recognition of non-formal education and civic education, vocational education and training and training systems, global education and life-long learning.

> In the context of quality education, the youth path regularly recommends to increase investments in youth policies at European level, notably the reinforcement of Erasmus+ programme by making it more inclusive, more accessible and with a wider outreach.

> Furthermore, the youth path also recommended the EU and UK negotiators to ensure that British youth remains part of the Erasmus+ Programme, as well as universities which are greatly benefiting from funding programmes for their research projects. The Youth path argues that Europe must not curtail its initiatives in the education and research sectors as this will negatively impact on and undermine its commitment to the SDGs which also focus on high-quality education.

Bearing in mind that education comprises not only formal education, but also non- and informal education, the path strongly recommends that special attention is paid to these matters. The recognition of transferable skills and competences gained from non-formal education is not yet implemented across Europe. This leads to high youth unemployment rates, that can be fought by not only creating new job opportunities, but investing into the recognition of skills gained outside the classical formal education systems.

👍 TIPS & USEFUL GUIDELINES

The advocacy work of the **European Youth Forum** – the European platform for youth organisations – in the field of sustainable development, quality education, and youth unemployment serves as a convenient **starting point and inspiration** for those with little experience in the advocacy field. The following set of articles/documents provide an insight into the general frame of advocacy action pursued by EYF. They can be accessed on the EYF website (www.youthforum.org/) and constitute a good source of information on the state of play in youth policy, recent developments, as well as challenges and obstacles in the field:

- "Sustainable development goals are ambitious but lack focus on youth"
- "European Youth Forum welcomes adoption of Sustainable Development Goals and calls on European countries to not ignore them"
- "SDG watch Europe launch - Civil society groups join forces to push for a sustainable future"
- "University on Youth & Development Declaration"
- "EU Green Week: Investing For Future Generations"

Moreover, by participating in the **European Development Days** (www.eudevdays.eu) one can have a unique opportunity to both gather more ideas about what can be done to reach the SDGs, and also to share its own practices in the field. The EDD is organised by the European Commission to bring the development community together each year to share ideas and experiences in ways that inspire new partnerships and innovative solutions to the world's most pressing challenges. As part of this manifestation, there is an **EDD Youth Agenda** that showcases the active role that youth play in implementing the current development agenda. Various organisations set up their own stands, organise sessions and other activities that are relevant to younger audiences.

THEMATIC PATH: MIGRATION

🔍 INTRODUCTION

SOLIDARITY OVERSEAS SERVICE MALTA – PATH COORDINATOR

Solidarity Overseas Service Malta (SOS Malta) is a non-governmental organisation set up in 1991 working in Malta and overseas. SOS Malta initially started working in overseas development, emergency relief and livelihood programmes. While maintaining these overseas areas of activity, the organisation developed other areas of activities over time, including migration and integration activities.

As part of the LADDER project, SOS Malta is specifically coordinating activities within the Migration Thematic Path, which seeks to **build a body of knowledge to enable local, national and European authorities to impact policies and practices related to migration and development**. Migration is a multifaceted development issue, intrinsically related to the SDGs. It is not solely discussed as a European security issue, but as a global development issue and one that is fundamentally about human development and human rights, affecting Europe, its neighbours and developing countries further afield.

OBJECTIVES

There is an **interdependent relation between migration and development**, meaning that migrants can bring positive contribution to the society as a whole. For instance, they can contribute to population growth within a country, thus tackling the negative birth rates in many European countries, and also give a strong impetus to the national economy. Thus, it is important to recognise that solutions must take this global perspective into account whilst also recognising that action must be taken at the local level. The achievement of this global objective can be made possible through the achievement of the specific objectives:

✅ **Raising citizens and stakeholders' awareness about Migration issues to make them aware of their role as leaders for change across partner countries and at European level.** The goal is to bring them to understand that Migration is a multifaceted development issue that affects and requires the involvement of society as a whole.

✅ **Disseminating knowledge and good practices about the implementation of policies related to Migration issues on the local level.** Local authorities are not fully aware and knowledgeable on the SDG framework and how they can actually engage. The aim is to enhance their knowledge through advocacy campaigns, dissemination of statements, organisation of meetings, etc. to demonstrate example of good practices already implemented in other areas.

✅ **Increasing the involvement and action of the local authorities, national governments and the European Union on Migration issues.** The political authorities have the duty to provide an effective response to the migration crisis situation, by recognising migration as a humanitarian and human rights crisis, by combatting illegal migrant smuggling, by developing an effective diplomacy related to the migration crisis, by developing effective aid and development policies, by integrating the migrants into the local communities. Migration should be taken into consideration as a global policy by the political authorities.

MIGRATION PATH & SDGS

Many of the **SDGs are related to the migration path**, concerning developing and least developed countries, as well as developed countries that have to act to develop actions and strategies for a positive environment for every individual living within their society including migrants and people on the move. The main goals related to migration are:

Many migrants live under the national poverty line and have reduced or non-existent access to social protection and basic services such as healthcare, water and electricity access, sanitation and education.

Access to education for migrants is not always automatic, nevertheless better integration within the school systems of vulnerable people including migrants is a way to develop their skills and their inclusion within the host society in the short and long term. However, access to education must not only be focused on children but also as a prerequisite for inclusion of adults in order to facilitate social and economic inclusion especially for those who have not benefitted from education within their country of origin.

In many situations, migrant women experience comparatively greater hardships. It is especially true with regards to discrimination, violence, trafficking and labour rights. Rights to the same access and specific services for migrant women and girls should be achieved in order to increase their inclusion and opportunities through further empowerment and gender equality.

Violations of labour rights and safe and secure working environment are present within every society and particularly affect vulnerable populations, migrants included. They are victims of precarious employment, forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking.

As a vulnerable population, migrants suffer various situations of inequalities such as low income, exclusion and discrimination. In order to strengthen social, economic and political inclusion of all individuals, strategies and policies must be developed in favour of less inequalities and targeting fiscal, wage and social protection without excluding migrants.

Provide housing, basic services and public transports for vulnerable people such as migrants, lead to their inclusion within the society by reducing their successive moves and by increasing their mobility for a job or education and services access.

More and more climate disasters are occurring across the world leading to the displacement of more and more climate refugees. Tackling climate change is key to tackling migration.

The local level should provide more transparent and effective institutions toward their services: free access to information, reception, facilities and support to population to help them to ensure access to education, healthcare, administrative formalities, etc., will be strengthened without excluding migrant populations (for instance by providing translators). Their fundamental freedoms and rights must be respected. This would also involve the enforcement of non-discriminatory laws and policies towards migrants.

The local / national / international level should act in this sense to strengthen its activities, efficiency and involvement of every individual in particular through the coordination of partnerships and exchanges between CSOs, private sectors and institutions to develop strategies and policies targeting migrants.

"Life-jackets on Chios's beach" – Decentralised solidarity bridge for refugees – ALDA on the spot 2-5 March 2016 – Chios, Greece

▼ CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Within LADDER, it is essential to stay true to the multi-stakeholder approach and keep faith in the model used through to promote change. As such, it is important to know who the stakeholders in the migration field are and how they should be targeted. Migration is a transversal issue that involves the whole society.

Migration is a transversal issue that involves the whole society.

The main advocacy principle of the path is that cooperation between the different stakeholders on migration is the best way to find solutions to emergency situations and to draw the map of a long-term integration policy of migrants in the society. Thus, the advocacy actions of the Migration Path target many stakeholders:

- Civil society (NGOs working in migration field or on DEAR, faith based organizations engaging in this field, migrant led movements);
- Academia (Think tanks, academics or academic institutions engaging in research on relevant topics);
- The business sector;
- Governmental institutions including the EU institutions or bodies, National Governments and their ministries relevant to the migration field, and in particular Local Authorities (Association of Local Authorities, individual councils/municipalities) as key actors to link national governments with the needs of people at the local level.

Migration and development is a broad issue and as such, it is necessary to focus the framework for the intervention of the LADDER Migration thematic path on specific areas where it can add 'awareness-raising' value. This does not preclude action in other areas, however, but rather provides a thematic focus of where to build a body of knowledge and competence, exchange learning and seek cooperation. The following themes were agreed in consensus with the working group in the initial meetings held in the first year of the LADDER project and they were based on the identified needs of the participants and their local context:

- Effective integration at the local level (practices, procedures and policies);
- Effective response to the crisis situation from local authorities;
- Raising awareness on Migration in the framework of the SDGs at national and local level;
- Enhancing knowledge and practice to encourage migrants as drivers of development;
- Promoting Peace education and conflict resolution as a means to tackle discrimination when migration occurs.

📢 ADVOCACY ACTIONS AND IMPACT

In order to achieve the objectives identified by the participants of this path, the migration path has implemented several actions. All outputs aimed at increasing awareness and involvement of the relevant stakeholders on the migration and development topic:

✓ **Output: Resolutions, Public Statements and Other actions**

- September 2015: Reaction Statement to the "Extraordinary Justice and Home Affairs" Council meetings
- November 2015: Reaction statement to the Valletta Summit
- November 2015: Good practice guide for Local Authorities engaging with migration and development
- June 2016: Reaction Statement to the European Council Conclusions on migration
- October, 2016: Letter to Public Consultation on Social Rights Pillar
- December 2016: Reaction Statement to the New Migration Partnership Framework agreed by the European Council
- February 2017: Reaction Statement to the Malta Declaration that came up from the meeting of the Council of the EU
- March 2017: Statement calling for specific policy responses of the EU toward the situation of women and girl migrants

REACTION STATEMENTS

The migration path came out in response to various policy developments throughout the project. On the occasion of the Extraordinary Council, 14 September 2015, it called for immediate, comprehensive, coordinated and humane response to the migration crisis currently affecting Europe and the neighbouring areas. In response to the European Council Meeting, 27-28 June 2016, the path expressed its disappointment regarding the conclusions on migration made by EU Member States which continually risked securitising the reaction to the migration crisis. With the statement, the Migration path wished to reiterate the need for Humane, comprehensive and immediate action for Migration. For the final summit of the European Council of 2016, on 15-16 December, it once again drew attention to the need for Europe's Heads of States to ensure a humane response to the asylum and migration crisis. In reaction to the 'Malta Declaration' produced by the members of the European Council in Malta on 3 February 2017, the path again expressed its disappointment regarding the statements made within the Malta Declaration which continue to risk securitising the response to migration within and around the EU Borders at the expense of respecting and upholding the Human Rights of migrants. Lastly, on 16 March 2017, the path issues a joint statement that placed a spotlight on the situation of women and girl migrants in the current migration crisis.

GOOD PRACTICE GUIDE FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES ENGAGING WITH MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

This guide developed by the Migration Path of LADDER encourages the Local Authorities to collaborate among themselves to join their resources and exchange knowledge and good practices, to lobby national government in order to encourage them to allocate more resources and to deal with the immediate needs of the migration crisis but also with the long-term integration plan on the local level. This guide provides LAs with ideas of networks (such as the Intercultural Cities programme) they can join and good practices implemented by other Local Authorities.

CONTRIBUTION TO POLICY PROCESSES

The migration path took part and reacted to two **public consultations** of the European Commission in order to provide their input and views into the shaping of the strategies and legislative documents. The two consultations were:

1 **Revision of the European Consensus on Development**
The European Commission launched this broad consultation process, seeking views on how development policy should respond to the range of landmark 2015 summits and conferences, and also to the rapid changes happening in the world. Stakeholders from civil society (NGOs, think tanks, policy organisations), government institutions and public administrations, international organisations, universities, the private sector and individual citizens, were asked to participate to this online public consultation in 2016. The Migration path submitted a consultation document highlighting how this consensus should be strengthened in regard to migrants.

2 **Social Rights Pillar**
The European Commission engaged with social partners, citizens and Member State authorities to discuss a new proposal for the Social Rights Pillar. The consultation process aimed at making an assessment of the present EU social "acquis", reflecting on new trends in work patterns and societies and gathering views in the euro area. The migration path called on the Commission to: clearly identify migrants within the opening 20 guiding principles of the pillar; integrate appropriate and specific measures for migrants within the pillar; highlight migration as an opportunity; highlight migration as an opportunity for the EU.

"MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT EYD 2015 – THE YEAR OF LOCAL ACTION FOR GLOBAL SOLUTIONS", MALTA, NOVEMBER 2015

The work undertaken as part of the advocacy process was initiated during the special initiative in the first year of the project. This was a two-and-a-half-day event bringing together stakeholders from across the Mediterranean region. Approximately 100 people participated and the event was opened by Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca - the President

of the Republic of Malta – under the title "**Migration and Development EYD 2015 – The Year for Local Action for Global Solutions**". It took place on 11-13 November 2015 in Malta. An evaluation of this special initiative showed that **85% of participants felt the content of the event was good or very good** and was appropriate to raise awareness on migration at the local and international level (81%).

The conference was attended by approximately 100 people from various sectors (Civil Society, Local Authorities, Government and Academia) and involved 35 foreign participants from all over Europe and the neighbourhood region. It was organised in the form of plenary sessions on various subjects such as the European and Neighbourhood perspectives on migration, the link between migration and development, the migration thematic, and the approach of LAs to Migration and Development at the local level.

Migration Path special initiative: "Migration and Development: EYD 2015 – The year of local action for global solutions" event 11-13 November 2015 – Sliema, Malta

The vast majority of the participants connected to the themes in various ways and many of them contemplated the content of the conference as highly relevant for their work. When asked about the most successful aspect of the conference, many respondents appreciated every part of the conference and especially mentioned the different realities and experiences that were shared. They all agreed on the fact that it was useful to meet the other partners and to have the possibility to discuss and share ideas. This evaluation illustrated the importance of providing a space for networking and collaboration on key themes and sharing different experiences and realities which revealed to be essential in order to improve the migration path's intervention. This is in line with the path's vision of partnership and cooperation. As part of this conference, some workshops were held on the different themes related to the project and recommendations for actions were developed.

🗨 RECOMMENDATIONS PRODUCED BY THE PATH

The advocacy actions required the production of a set of recommendations that could be presented to the European and national policy-makers, as well as LAs, and formed the basis of the principles which were reinforced through further advocacy activities. This process was based on a research, exchange of knowledge and expertise from the CSO sector and the experience of LAs themselves.

In this regard, the LADDER Conference on Migration and Development, that took place on 11-13 November 2015, has been a major step forward in the formulation of the migration path's recommendations as it provided an opportune moment to discuss the global perspectives on migration and how it affects development worldwide, whilst focusing on actions that can be taken at the local level to combat challenges caused by migration, harness positive forces of migration and raise awareness of the issue of migration globally. The panel was composed of stakeholders from CSOs, LAs, Governments and Academia, and the recommendations that followed proved that the cooperation between the different parties on the migration issue is the best way to find solutions to the migration crisis and to draw the map of a long-term policy for integration of migrants in the society. Among the main recommendations developed during the conference:

❯ In order to develop a new migration outlook, it is needed to:

- Move away from seeing migration needs as a security issue and more as a human issue, ensuring the respect of fundamental human rights;
- Implement the 2030 Agenda as a roadmap for migration policies and strategies;
- Understand migration as a resource for development;
- Implement a migration policy not only at the emergency level, but also in a long-term framework of actions.

❯ Develop a long-term diplomacy and aid policy based on the respect of fundamental human rights. As part of this policy, it is essential to:

- Provide new solutions to the migration crisis that will take shape only if the international community, the EU included, invests and increases efforts in peace building, conflict resolution, tackling terror and terrorism, promotion of stable, accountable and just governments and development in origin and transit countries;
- Create actions that must be developed together with international actors, national governments, Local Authorities, civil society organisations and citizens from Europe and from the concerned countries, ensuring cooperation, diplomacy and ownership;
- Tackle root causes of migration such as wars, unstable zones and reasons behind the instabilities, through identification and policies designed to address them. This can only be possible if EU Member States uphold and increase their support to overseas development assistance and ensure that their spending, in combination with political & economic tools, are targeted genuinely and strategically and tied to action on human rights, conflict and peace resolution and governance in the conflict areas;
- Combat illegal migrant smuggling through a more proactive approach (e.g. more legal channels to ensure migration flows takes place under safe conditions, instead of tighter border restrictions);

- Initiate a centre migration cooperation between EU and third countries, to access the protection of refugee rights, define human rights benchmarks and increase operational accountability.

To develop an inclusive integration policy at the local level. The path particularly stressed the importance of:

- Developing local level plans for integration with adjustments to policies within their remit to ensure inclusion of migrants in health, education, employment and other public policies
- Providing and ensuring services to populations without excluding migrant populations. Specific services should be developed to respond to specific needs, e.g. healthcare and education access, accommodation facilities, administrative support, etc.
- Ensuring that fundamental human rights are upheld and specific rights of special interest groups are in particular recognised for example, women and children: particular practices that violate the rights of children on the move based on their migration status, namely detention, deportation and automatic return to community of origin must be ended
- Raising citizens conscientiousness and awareness on migrant issues at the local community level, by increasing intercultural dialogue through trainings, workshops, conferences, etc., or by facilitating and ensuring the voice of migrants' stories
- Targeting the empowerment of migrants and avoiding barriers to integration, such as the language barriers by providing free and systematic national language courses for new migrants, by protecting their social and economic rights, by including migrants into the educational system and increasing skills exchanges, by implementing financial support for them to facilitate the development of business activities for migrants
- Treating migrants with dignity: respect the rights of unaccompanied minors and women, do not discriminate them, do not penalise them for their irregular entry or stay, inform them about their rights and procedures available.

Enhance multilevel and multi-expertise partnerships and actions

To efficiently face and respond to the "migrant crisis" with both emergency and long-term approaches, CSOs, LAs and national governments, as well as the private sector must join their resources, knowledge and expertise to ensure a coordinated approach, in particular, in order to exchange learning and good practices targeting migrant issues. To emphasise the 'global' aspect of development education and migration issues, the migration path recommends that:

- Any action taken needs to be coordinated in a cross-sectoral manner with multi-stakeholder involvement to ensure its effectiveness;
- Local authorities and Civil Society together have a responsibility to promote intercultural awareness and dialogue and to ensure the enhanced intercultural competence of public sector providers, so that migrants are able to access public services in their host and transition countries;
- Networks and partnerships are developed in order to strengthen the exchanges of good practices. Solutions to the migration problem require dialogue between origin, host and transit countries. European leaders and European NGOs should be engaging with origin and transit countries to find solutions to the problems they are facing;
- Strategies are developed to fill the gap between theory/policy and practice/implementation, in particular by bringing forward the problems of the citizens, regardless of their status, make their stories and voices heard, help them get the legal support they need, and as a result improve their standard of living;
- Mobilisation of resources from national level to help local level responses should be strengthened. Lobbying targeting national government should allocate more resources to Local Authorities to deal with immediate needs of the migration crisis and additional long-term needs of integration.

The recommendations hold true for any policy development at any level, and as such provide a sound basis for anyone advocating for better migration policies. They can be adapted and developed further depending on the policy target and the relevant body targeted. All actors are encouraged to utilise the recommendations/principles for their work and strengthen their advocacy accordingly.

👉 TIPS & USEFUL GUIDELINES

*Inspiration and real-life cases –
See the Good practice guide
for LAs engaging with migration
and development*

International seminar "Urbanism: resilience, welcome and urban innovation" – 27 May 2017 – Thessaloniki, Greece

As part of the objective to disseminate knowledge and good practices about the implementation of policies related to migration issues, the aforementioned 'Good practice guide for Local Authorities engaging with migration and development' was produced by the path. The following summary encapsulates the gist of what the path believes and it will provide inspiration and guidance for those wishing to engage in the issue. The main good practices gathered during the project are the following:

Join an existing network or create a network
a. Create or join a National Network

b. Join a European Network. An example would be The Intercultural Cities (Council of Europe), which is a capacity-building and policy development programme that supports and helps cities across Europe and beyond with the participative design, implementation and evaluation of diversity and inclusion strategies.

c. Join an International Network. Cities of Migration showcases good ideas in migrant integration and promotes innovative practices that foster inclusion and urban prosperity. This network tries to improve local integration practice in major migrant receiving cities worldwide and support learning exchange and information sharing.

Launch a national diversity & openness campaign, initiative or project
Among inspiring examples:

a. The City of Barcelona (Spain) developed the BCN 'Anti Rumour" campaign, an innovative, multi-pronged strategy that promotes the value of "**convivencia**" (living together in diversity and intercultural coexistence) that has been replicated in over 15 cities across Europe.

b. In 2015, the City of Athens (Greece) launched the "Open Schools" initiative. This scheme aims to turn public schools under the jurisdiction of the municipality into education, recreational, cultural and sport centres for all Athenians (adults and children, refugees and migrants included).

Rate your cities integration/diversity approach
For instance, the OPENCities Monitor helps to identify the links between migration and city economic competitiveness through the emphasis on internationalisation and population strategies. Thus, it portrays migration as a source of competitive advantage. The project aims to help cities become more open, whereby openness means the capacity of a city to attract international populations and to enable them to contribute to the future success of the city.

Develop a transnational project to address specific emerging issues and to respond to particular emerging or unforeseen challenges a city is facing
Working together with colleagues to develop projects, especially cross-sector types of collaborative ventures, are encouraged. ARRIVAL CITIES (2016-2018) is a project of this type

that brought together 10 cities to respond to the migration flow arrival. The aim is to exchange experience and mutual learning on the themes of migration and integration, to support the partner cities in reviewing their current practice and developing local actions plans that take on board the lessons emerging from the transnational exchange programme.

Promote the regularisation, permanent residency and/or achievement of citizenship of migrants
One way to ensure that migrants can lead a full and productive life and contribute to the city is to ensure that they are able to participate in all areas of civic life and provide them with knowledge that their position and residency within the city is stable. For instance, the cities can establish a City Hotline to answer information about the naturalisation process and connect migrants to city services and play a role in advocating to the federal level for better integration policies.

Enhance your knowledge about the migration including its links with the wider global agenda for sustainable development
This can be accomplished by reading documents produced by the migration thematic path or by other entities such as the Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMDI) which aims to bring the development agenda forward by giving local governments, migrants and local actors a central role in the larger debate of migration and development. JMDI wishes to strengthen the cooperation efforts at the local level and ensure that local actors are empowered. Besides, JMDI has the objective to put migration as an enabler for local development.

Promote and support other initiatives by other actors within the city
Firstly, this entails finding out about different initiatives in your city or different organisations that are working on migration, collaborate and support such initiatives. These might include projects such as Refugees Welcome, a German founded initiative which put together refugees and private accommodation provider, or collaboration with the private sector such as in Rotterdam where the council implemented a formal partnership between the city and the private sector. Alternatively, it could also include MyRar - a microcredit programme for migrants and refugees located in Buenos Aires that provides vocational training and capacity building for migrant entrepreneurs.

Develop a Strategy for integration and Migration management at local level
In order to have a truly comprehensive approach to tackling migration and integration at the local level, the most effective approach is to mainstream intercultural integration within city policies and practices by developing a specific policy or strategy dedicated to this. This policy could include some of the steps above. By joining a network such as ICC, experts can help you design your policy and adapt it to the specific needs of your city. An essential element of the strategy is to make your intent public with a statement or visibility of what the city stands for. Strong leadership is required to ensure that intercultural integration can become a reality.

THEMATIC PATH: CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

🔍 INTRODUCTION

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE CITIZENS NETWORK – PATH COORDINATOR

The **Central and Eastern European Citizens Network (CEECN)** promotes citizen participation in Central and Eastern Europe and provides opportunities for grassroots initiatives to learn and exchange experiences and ideas. The main aim of the network is to ensure democratic systems through citizen participation. Democratic systems endure when there is mutually reinforcing practice and belief of transparent, free and open citizen participation. Both the practices and beliefs are relatively new in CEE. That is why citizen participation needs to be fostered, and connections to the wider European family of civil society built. Citizen Participation is not an end in itself, rather it is a means of achieving change. Furthermore, citizen participation cuts across multiple issue areas, and at-

> *Share best practices of citizen engagement promoting effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions*

tempts to place it in a box all by itself should be resisted.

OBJECTIVES

The overall objective of the thematic path was to **model best practices of citizen participation based on the conceptual framework articulated, and apply this model of citizen engagement into policy advocacy**. The Thematic Path Citizen Participation engaged in a process over a three-year course of this project that attempted to: put into practice citizen participation strategies, especially those embodied in the "Development Education and Awareness Raising" (DEAR) model of development education; leverage the participation processes created via the Special Initiative project (i.e. the "Citizen Participation University" or "CPU") into applicable policy-related outputs; direct those outputs at key audiences of decision makers.

More specifically, CEECN is pursuing the following specific objectives:

✅ **Highlight best practices of citizen engagement that promote effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions.**

✅ **Draw attention to the dangerous closing of civic space within the European Union.**

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PATH & SDGS

The Sustainable Development Goals provided a key policy framework in which to locate different phases of the path's project. For example, in looking at the intersections between climate change action and citizen participation, as was done at the Citizen Participation University (CPU) in 2016, the event statement read as follows:

"Our goal is to make the changes we want to see in our future which will allow us to implement the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in relation to our planet, our economic models and our democracy. It is a time for regeneration for our local communities, our local economies and the ways we govern."

The contribution CPU makes towards the SDGs is felt in many areas and across sectors. The following SDGs are linked to the path's area of action:

Citizen participation is directly relevant to how we as a society organize our economy, how we make decision regarding the public budget, and how we decide to allocate public resources democratically.

 While the path cuts across numerous SDGs, this specific goal is worth highlighting, because it empowers ordinary citizens to provide their contribution to strong democratic institutions.

First EU Level LADDER Training 15-17 July 2015 – Donegal, Ireland

▼ CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The program and curricula of the main path event, the Citizen Participation University (CPU), was heavily influenced by the DEAR model. This model is process-oriented and at times hard to quantify. However, there are several interconnected outputs of this process, that when combined give a better insight into the conceptual framework in which the path is situated. Those key outputs are:

- Uncovering of "generative themes"
- Articulation of key questions
- Action steps taken to build from the objectives

According to the essay Participative Methods for Community Action (Beck, Purcell, 2013), "a **generative theme** is something about which people feel strongly and are willing to take some action about". However, according to the authors, these are not always obvious, and a process involving "problem-posing" methods and structured dialogue is needed to uncover generative themes. To demonstrate this with a concrete example, the Citizen Participation path built the curriculum of the **CPU** around this analysis, and the following is a list of some of the generative themes that emerged over the course of the week-long special initiative event:

- Helping people have a meaningful life;
- Critical thinking;
- Community action builds confidence;
- Learning by doing;
- "Blaming the capitalists": productive? Not productive?;
- Consumerism is part of capitalism—we are also part of the problem;
- Participation is down, poverty is up;
- What goes on between the protests?;
- Fear of having the kind of power that means control over others, i.e. the kind that politicians have;
- Outputs vs. Relevance. It is not enough to simply talk in terms of outputs—are those outputs relevant? "Participation" could be seen as an output, but the real question is whether anyone cared that we participated? Did it change anything that we participated?;
- Individual burnout;
- Organisational funding challenges.

Fight dangerous closing of civic space within the European Union

Related to the process of uncovering generative themes is the process of identifying **key questions** that shape the path's thinking and actions. If the generative themes can be viewed as the initial "clues" on the map path was trying to follow toward its goal, these key questions can be viewed as a set of driving directions. The following are key questions that emerged over the week-long special initiative event:

- How do we bring community organising into the European environmental movement?
- What is the "secret sauce" that moves a group that is focused on the small, local issues (i.e. the stop sign, or the local park) to start to see their work in the context of a bigger struggle?
- If we are building a "movement at every level", do we believe that such a movement can also be located in the local authorities? Why yes, or why not? And how?
- In local authorities, how do we make people understand—and feel—that they have the power?
- For many—including us—the idea of "power" is still seen as only the ability to live a life that we control. In other words, it is a very personal conception of power. How do we move beyond this framework in order to build the power we will need to take on climate change, for example?

In order to boil down a process build around the DEAR model of development education, CEECN believes the formula could look like this:

Generative themes + Key Questions = Action

Citizens do not know why they should get involved in making change if they do not first connect an issue to a deeply held feeling or belief (i.e. a generative theme). They do not know how to act unless they have developed some capacity to analyse the problems they wish to change (i.e. key questions). Once these obstacles are removed, however, it is hard to hold citizens back from getting engaged.

📢 ADVOCACY ACTIONS AND IMPACT

The Citizen Participation Thematic Working Group advanced several policy-oriented advocacy actions over the course of this project:

✓ **Output: Resolutions, Public Statements and Other actions**

- May 2017: Letter to Mr. Jean-Vincent Placé, member of the CoR, on PB
- July 2016: "Citizens Participation University", Hungary
- August 2016: Letter to Ms. Marina Škrabalo, member of the EESC, on PB
- August 2016: Video about shrinking civic space in Europe

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS AND LETTERS ON PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING PRACTICE (PB) WITHIN MEMBER STATES

According to the European Parliamentary Research Service, "participatory budgeting in Europe was born of the need to revive democratic participation, strengthen civil society, modernise public services and combat corruption." While much of the growth of PB has been from the "bottom up" via locally led, relatively small projects, the path found out that little attention had been given to thinking about EU-wide

policies on the issue. Therefore, the focus of the Citizens Participation path policy recommendation became to articulate a series of "top-down" policy actions that can be taken by the EU to support the already well-established local and regional PB efforts taking place in various member states.

In the Spring and early Summer of 2017, CEECN initiated contact with policy-makers and other relevant stake holders in Brussels who they believed might have an interest in the research and recommendations. The path sent out a **letter and recommendations to Mr. Jean-Vincent Placé, a member of the European Committee of Regions** representing Paris. Given that Paris is the home to Europe's largest PB project, it felt like a good place to start. Subsequently, another letter was sent to **Ms. Marina Škrabalo, a member of the European Economic and Social Committee** with a background in policy research, advocacy and education on issues related to participatory democracy, human rights and good governance. Communication has also been established with Mr. Gianluca Sgueo from the European Parliamentary Research Service and the author of the only (limited) research on the issue of PB at the EU level thus far.

"CITIZEN PARTICIPATION UNIVERSITY", HUNGARY, JULY 2016 AND FOLLOW-UP

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 Kunbabony (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 over twenty workshops, various panels and group 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 raising awareness on climate crisis, including the economics of climate change and the individual habits related to this global issue. Exactly a year after the initial CPU, from 3-7 July 2017, the path organised a follow-up event in the same location, Kunbabony, Hungary. This served as an opportunity for many of the participants in the original event to re-convene and further work on the issue of civic space that has further declined in the space of just one year. As part of the event, a mix of hands-on group sessions, workshops, learning labs and outdoor social activities was offered to participants.

First EU Level LADDER Training 15-17 July 2015 – Donegal, Ireland

VIDEO CLIP ABOUT SHRINKING CIVIC SPACE DISSEMINATED ONLINE

As CEECN explored the issue of civic space together with LADDER project partners, ENNA and CIVICUS, it was clear that the issue already has a well-developed set of EU-level policies recommendations. However, it was clear that the human side of the story was missing, in order to match the policy-level discourse already taking place on the issue. In a sense, the task for this advocacy action was similar to participatory budgeting, in that a "bottom-up" narrative was developed, targeted at decision makers to complement the "top-down" work already taking place to combat the closing of civic space. Working with LADDER project partners, as well as members of civil society throughout Europe, CEECN created a short set of video interviews to highlight stories that illustrate the ways in which Europe is struggling with a closing of the civic space. The video was distributed broadly on social media.

RECOMMENDATIONS PRODUCED BY THE PATH

The policy recommendations occupied two distinct spaces; the **proactive and the defensive**. On one hand, with the work on PB, the path made a significant effort to define an element of public policy that has the potential to broaden and deepen democratic citizen participation in the decisions that affect their lives. On the other hand, with basic freedoms and civic liberties under attack in many EU member states, especially in Central and Eastern Europe, the policy work took on a decidedly defensive posture, as well. The effort of the path was to detail personal stories that highlighted the closing of civic space in Europe and this was designed to provide compelling and persuasive material to EU policy-makers trying to combat this worrying trend.

To define the issue of PB, the path sought alliances with organisations engaged in PB at the local level, starting with leaders within the PB Network in the UK who took part in the CPU in 2016. Branching out from there, some connections were made to PB practitioners in Poland, Portugal, and Italy, who in turn had many relationships with PB practitioners across Europe.

In the course of the research, it became clear that CEECN was breaking new ground; no one that had so far done work related to the field elevated this issue with the level of depth that the path had at the European level. CEECN therefore thinks that this project will retain relevance for the long term. In the future, the vision is of a much more robust set of EU-level policies in place, providing support to the broader dissemination of PB throughout Europe, and the EU's potential interventions are categorised into three main categories:

> **Acceptance:** policies aimed at encouraging broader acceptance of PB and initiating new PB projects in locations where they have not yet been tried.

> **Addressing weaknesses and building on strengths:** policies to improve weaknesses in current European PB

processes, as well as best practices to disseminate to wider audiences.

⊙ **Mainstreaming:** policies designed to support the "mainstreaming" over time of PB processes into the work of local authorities.

The policy recommendations provide detailed insight, highlighting financial and technical incentives that can be developed to support the dissemination of PB. Additionally, CEECN provided existing policy matrixes that can be used by EU decision makers in designing PB programs at any level of government which make it possible to locate a PB process somewhere on the spectrum of impacts between "achieving government efficiencies" on one hand, to "deep democratic inclusion of citizens" on the other. However, for the sake of clarity about what is and what is not participatory budgeting, the following baseline measure shared by partners at PB Network is: if citizens feel like they have decided, then it is participatory budgeting. If citizens feel like someone else decided, then it is not participatory budgeting. This criterion should be applied by EU decision-makers in discussion involving PB.

What became clear in the process of this collaboration with LADDER partners on the issue is that all the right policies are in place, and the advocacy organisations are right to hold decision makers to their existing rhetoric and treaty obligations. However, the attacks on basic human rights are still escalating.

What became increasingly clear is that advocacy should not only rely on a single "weapon" so-to-say, but include a more creative and diverse strategy.

⊙ **Use other venues for advocacy such as video material, that could potentially target policy-makers on an emotional level**

Policy makers are people too, and they aren't always moved by reports and facts, regardless of how correct those reports and facts might be. Sometimes a powerful story or testimonial goes much further in advancing a policy agenda. Therefore, the contribution to the policy debate on this subject was to create useable media that "puts a human face on the issue". Thus, a video was disseminated to decision makers with the recommendation with the central message - listen to these stories!

👉 TIPS & USEFUL GUIDELINES

A very good starting point for exploring the issue of participatory budgeting is the **PB Network**. The PB Network is the independent body advocating for learning and innovation

in Participatory Budgeting. It places emphasis on learning events, publishes policy related papers and stimulates debate on where PB might go next. On its website, the PB Network has compiled a very comprehensive set of resources and is a great place to gather first insights. The resources section of its website (https://pbnetwork.org.uk) offers the Introductory Guide to Participatory Budgeting, Mainstreaming PB Brief, a Guide to Evaluating PB, as well as a range of other documents that clarify the concept and developments to newcomers in the field.

When it comes to resources on the topic of civic space, the World Alliance for Civic Participation (CIVICUS) is doing excellent work documenting the health of civic space world-wide. One of their tools, the **CIVICUS Monitor** (https://monitor.civicus.org/) is a cutting-edge research tool built by civil society incorporated into a website. The aim of the monitor is to share reliable, up-to-date data on the state of civil society freedoms on a global scale, in every single country in the world. The interactive world map on the website allows users to access live updates from civil society around the world, track threats to civil society and learn about the ways in which our right to participate is being realised or challenged.

For the Citizen Participation University, CEECN created several original pieces of curriculum aimed at applying the Development Education and Awareness Raising (DEAR) model to challenges of citizen participation work. These workshop modules are hands-on tools that can be used in the work of cultivating greater citizen participation. The 1st educational tool - Republic of Kunbábony – Part 1[1] - is a simulation exercise designed to approximate a real-life situation that participants may have faced in their professional settings. It is an opportunity to practice and problem-solve in a learning environment, so that workers are better prepared for work in their respective communities. The purpose of the 2nd tool - Republic of Kunbábony – Part 2[2] - is to build on part 1 of the strategy role play game. In this session, participants delve into real life challenges of community work. There are roles envisioned for community organisers, community development workers, and for people working for local authorities. The 3rd tool is a supplemental handout[3], that provides scenarios, characters, rules of the game, etc.

Emotional component is Key – putting a human face on the issue

1. https://drive.google.com/file/d/0Bx2yDfhkTd-cWHJmVTNWMUtNTms/view?usp=sharing
2. https://docs.google.com/document/d/1P0Ch7Rb9mBhXSxHLv7-VqkGNGvgBNY6icdPPOnPhLHc/edit?usp=sharing
3. https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_zS2bodKatq-tS446v-bi4uDbPY6C8iVm_gCknalT10/edit?usp=sharing

THEMATIC PATH: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
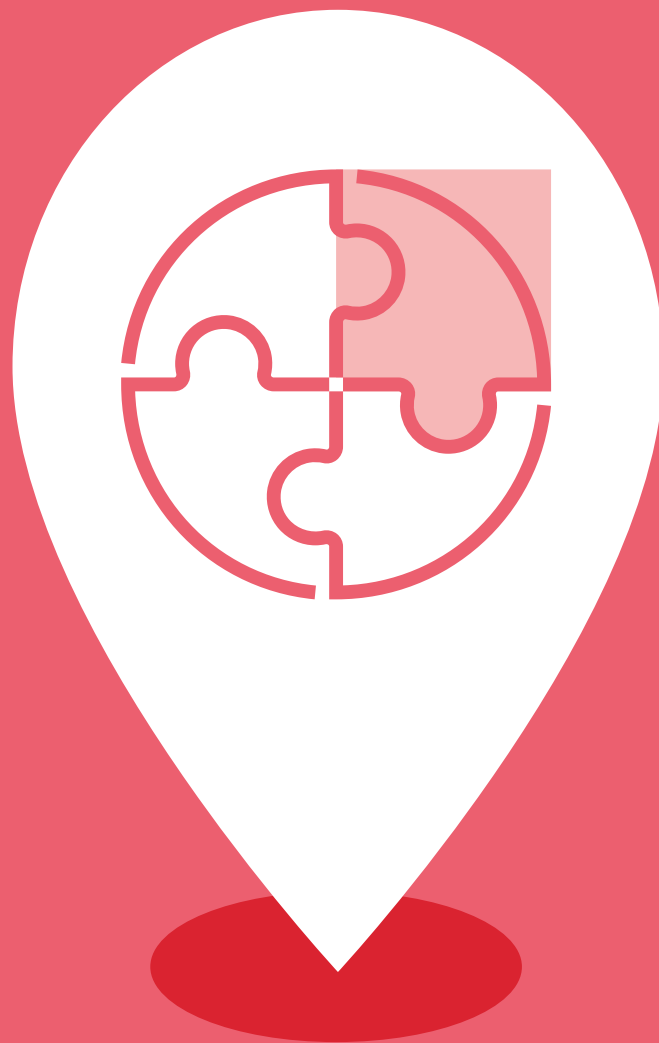
INTRODUCTION

FOSTER EUROPE – PATH COORDINATOR

Foundation for Strong European Regions (Foster Europe) is an independent, non-partisan, private, and charitable Austrian Foundation that aims to further European integration, democracy, regional capacity and federalism in Europe. While working in a pan-European framework, Foster Europe focuses mainly on the area of Central and Eastern Europe. Foster Europe has organised international projects and large-scale events since 2009 in an intercultural and intergenerational framework. In addition, since 2011 Foster Europe has promoted participative political culture in Europe. It is a founding member of the Danube Civil Society Forum. Foster Europe coordinates the Environmental and Sustainable Development path within the LADDER project.

> *Sustainable development is a process – all development triggered in and by the EU should be sustainable*

OBJECTIVES

When defining the path, members agreed that sustainable development is a process. In other words, sustainable development has to be flexible in order to safeguard its sustainability even in a changing environment – thus, the term "resilience development" was considered as an alternative name for the path. The path members also agreed that sustainable development presupposes a lawful, democratic, pluralistic, responsive, coherent and participative social and political order. Overall, the TP focuses on the promotion of environmental and sustainable development as part of agenda 2030. The specific goals of the thematic path are to:

- ✓ Introduce DEAR into the EU Macro-Regional Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) and other strategy-related concepts and processes as a key factor of EU regional and Cohesion Policy in the region

- ✓ Introduce and link the SD concept with EUSDR and foster SD as a key feature in EUSDR and other EU MRS objectives

- ✓ Demonstrate and prove that sustainable development presupposes a lawful, democratic, pluralistic, responsive, coherent and participative social and political framework

FOSTER EUROPE & SDGS

Due to its holistic concept, the path tackles more than one sustainable development goal. During several events such as the Danube Participation Day, the path covered the following SDGs in its work:

Foster Europe recommends the education system to provide incentives for people to introduce concepts related to sustainability in education, e.g. energy efficiency.

The importance of open policy-making for structured dialogue/consultations with the public and stakeholders are of immense importance. The aspect of cultural differences should be taken into account when participating in different countries.

As part of this path, Foster Europe encouraged the production, updating and re-use of user friendly open data on available platforms (e.g. DRDSI), as well as education, motivation, knowledge transfer, assessment regarding civil society participation, involving all stakeholders in the process. It highlighted the need for transparent and clear processes of citizen participation and the importance of all governance levels (EU, national, regional, local) in fostering active citizens' participation.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Foster Europe followed the following line of questions in developing its conceptual and policy framework:

1. Where is social, economic, and democratic development a crucial issue in Europe?

2. Where do we find close connections to the geographic paths of the project?

3. Where is the EU steering social, economic, and democratic development in relation to indigenous national processes?

All the three questions served to largely define the Danube region countries as post-totalitarian haracterised by the following traits: young developing democracies experiencing

an economic backlog; large demand for development; aspiration to join the EU; main recipients of EU structural and cohesion funds; neighbours of the Mediterranean and Eastern Neighbourhood geographic areas, and lastly and most importantly, widespread, active and qualified organised civil society.

Cohesion, structural change, good governance reforms, democratic development, EU enlargement and regional development in the Danube region are to a large extend co-shaped and affected by the EUSDR. The thematic path thus decided to target the EUSDR in order to address SDG education, introduce a holistic approach to SD into the civil society and political debate of the EUSDR and at the same time learn from the experience in the wider framework of the LADDER project.

Environmental & Sustainable Development Path Special Initiative 2-3 November 2016 – Bratislava, Slovakia

Furthermore, it was possible to embed the thematic path approach into the existing structure of participation and political debate at the high level of the annual summits of civil society and state actors in the strategy. This means that the special event of the path could be prolonged for two years, and include the summits and EUSDR presidencies together with the 3rd and 4th Danube Participation Days, in Bratislava and Budapest respectively. This concept offered the distinct advantage of using already existing policy frameworks channels of communication and processes to communicate and discuss the issue with a wide range of stakeholders from EU and national decision makers to regional international institutions, such as the Central European Initiative (CEI) or Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), national and regional authorities and local actors and civil society from the entire Danube region and beyond.

The advocacy strategy followed a two-track approach. Firstly, it focused on stakeholders and actors of the EU Danube Strategy and its region. Secondly, it focused and addressed key national and EU decision-makers, such as governmental officials, MEPs, EC Commissioners with specific portfolios, etc. The broad cooperation of path member with partners like civil society, civil society networks, the Plenipotentiary for Civil Society Development in Slovakia, the Council of Danube Cites and Regions, specific towns such as Ulm, Vienna, Bratislava, Novi Sad, the EUSDR implementing bodies, the CoR and the EESC, the CEI and RCC, national actors like the National Contact Points EUSDR from Slovakia, and many more ensured to a certain extend a deepened mutual penetration of the concept of SD into the EUSDR.

📢 ADVOCACY ACTIONS AND IMPACT

Based on the strategy, the path embarked on the process involving stakeholders and path members in addressing key national and EU decision-makers. The "4th Danube participation Days" event (November 2017), which served as a platform to gather path members and decided on a set of recommendations. was followed by some relevant actions of the path such as the one addressed to the Energy Commissioner and Vice-President of the EC, Maroš Šefčovič, Regional Policy Commissioner Corina Crețu, President of the EP Antonio Tajani and Vice-President of the EP Ulrike Lunacek via separate letters.

None of the targeted policy-makers advocacy was alien to the concept of SD or the SDGs at all. The mission was not intended to preach to the converted, but to elaborate the full meaning of the holistic concept of SD with regard to social, economic, environmental and cultural development in the Danube region (and abroad). Furthermore, the concept of SD and DEAR were to be mainstreamed within the EU concepts of Cohesion and Regional Policy, which is applied through the EU Macro-regional strategy in the Danube. The following actions were developed:

✅ **Output: Resolutions, Public Statements and Other actions**

- December 2015: Letter sent to national and EU decision-makers as part of COP21 in 2015
- December 2015: Letter sent to Martin Schulz, Former President of the European Parliament
- October 2017: Recommendations and letters from the "4th Danube Participation Day"
- November 2017: Letter sent to national and EU decision-makers as part of COP23 in 2017

LETTER SENT TO NATIONAL AND EU DECISION-MAKERS AS PART OF COP21 IN 2015

The United Nations Conference on Climate Change in Paris – COP 21 – was a decisive moment for future generations in Europe and globally, as world leaders and experts from civil society met in order to limit the scale of climate change and its impact on life on Earth. As such, it was also an opportune moment for the path to address **national and EU decision-makers on climate change mitigation**. The wording was completed in close cooperation with the respective national project partners. In their central message, the path urged decision-makers to: reduce emissions of heat-trapping gas so as to restrict global warming to a 2°C maximum; shift the mix of energy sources from carbon and nuclear to renewable energy sources with a focus on decentralisation; reduce the use of energy wherever possible as reducing energy use is the most effective way to reduce strains on the environment and natural resources.

LETTER SENT TO MARTIN SCHULZ, FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The joint letter of the thematic path was sent to Martin Schulz in December 2015, following the input created by the path members. The letter follows the same logic as the precedent-letter on climate change mitigation. In it, the path members call on reduction of heat-trapping gas emissions, a change away from carbon energy sources to renewable energy sources, and reduction of energy use. The goal of introducing and elaborating – or rather mainstreaming – SD as a key element of regional development and EU Cohesion Policy was also referred in the letter.

"4TH DANUBE PARTICIPATION DAYS", HUNGARY, OCTOBER 2017

The "3rd Danube Participation Days" held in Bratislava, Slovakia, was an official side event to the political summit of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR 5th Annual Forum) and managed to place Sustainable Development as its programmatic centerpiece. The subject was addressed by the former EU Commissioner Franz Fischler, Irene Lucius of WWF Danube Carparthian Pogramme, Gisela Erler, State Councilor, State Government of Baden-Württemberg, Karl Heinz Lambertz, Vice-President of the Committee of Regions, Ugo Poli of the Central European Initiative, Trieste and many others. 210 Participants discussed the issue of sustainable development from various angles (democratic rule and development, social innovation, consumer behavior, development education and awareness rising, local actors and regional approaches, regional international institutions, etc.). The quantitative element of the initiative has revealed to be a milestone for this advocacy component as its outreach saw the participation of more than 210 high level representatives in two days. A lasting connection of the thematic path to high-ranking officials was established with Commissioner Crețu, who addressed the audience during the event.

Environmental & Sustainable Development Path Special Initiative 2-3 November 2016 – Bratislava, Slovakia

The 3rd Danube Participation Days is replicated in 2017 with the follow-up event – "4th Danube Participation Days" in Budapest. The event scheduled for 17 October at Andrássy University Budapest puts a special emphasis on the importance of science and research for implementing SD in EU and national policies. The 4th Danube Participation Day is held one day before the 6th Annual Forum of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region. The planned quantitative contribution of the initiative is the outreach to more than 180 multipliers.

📥 RECOMMENDATIONS PRODUCED BY THE PATH

In the course of its work, the thematic path has developed a set of recommendations that can be relevant for the work of other actors in the field of SD and that can carry on the efforts. They include:

▶ **Strengthening the current DEAR concept by including the elements of lawful, democratic, pluralistic, responsive, coherent and participative social and political concepts as principles of DEAR both as an aim and condition for any development.**

All development triggered in and by the EU should be sustainable. Sustainable Development is understood as a process. This process is characterized by meeting human development goals while recognising the finite character of natural resources and the limits set by human nature, society and culture. Sustainability in its holistic concept is therefore understood as a process applying goods and services of the ecosystem, society, culture and the creative abilities of man without jeopardising their ability to deliver services and goods of similar quality in the future. The process of sustainable development has to be flexible in order to safeguard its sustainability even in a changing environment (ecological, economic, social, and cultural). Thus, sustainable development has to be resilient.

Sustainable development presupposes a lawful, democratic, pluralistic, responsive, coherent and participative social and political order. This social and political order needs to be resilient by itself and constantly adapting to new challenges and demands by providing new forms of lawful, accountable, democratic, pluralistic, and participative systems. While sustainable development is depending on the precondition of such a developing democratic order, at the same time it is contributing to such a democratic system. Sustainable development can thus be built only by educated, informed, interested and empowered citizens.

▶ **Linking principles of Territoriality and Participation to SD**

The Lisbon Treaty introduced two principles into the EU governance: the principles of Territoriality and Participation. In order to convert development into SD linking the two principles would strengthen the direct links to bottom-up processes and local potentials and need in the EU and its neighbouring regions. This is an indispensable precondition to realise SD.

▶ **Improving alignment and mainstreaming of actions, programs, processes and financial instruments**

The EU, jointly with its partners in Eastern and Southern Europe and the Mediterranean, run a number of different programs and funding schemes coming from various policy fields and EU institutions. A better alignment of actions,

programs, processes and financial instruments under the umbrella of the overall goal and international commitment to reach SD and foster DEAR would be highly recommendable. The path also calls for better mainstreaming of SD in actions, programs, processes and financial instruments of the EU.

❯ Removing obstacles to grassroots partners

In order to better involve non-governmental, especially grass-roots partners low hurdle access to SD actions, and processes with an EU background are necessary. In order to achieve this introducing adequate funding (especially micro-funding) is absolutely necessary on EU level.

👍 TIPS & USEFUL GUIDELINES

Several organizations developed over the course of the last few years represent examples of good practices and their format could be replicated across the continent.

⭕ Danube and National Participation Days

Within the EU Strategy for the Danube region, the civil society - jointly with the strategies responsible structures such as Directorate General Regio - developed the Danube Participation Days (DPD) which represents a supra-national Civil Society and participation "summits" and tool fairs, held once a year in the context of the political Danube summit.

This DPD is mirrored and backed on national level by national information and discussion events on participation in the EUSDR, called National Participation Days - http://dcsf. danubestrategy.eu/danube-participation-days - (in some countries different terms are applied for the same issue, like Danube Dialogue Forum, National Hearing, etc,). By definition DPDs and NPDs build on the principle of SD and have proved to be an excellent tool to develop and spread the issue of SD in EU macro regional strategies. The model of DPD in the EUSDR has been taken over by the Baltic macro-regional strategy 2017 for the first time in Berlin.

⭕ Citizens Participation Forum Bulgaria

The Citizens Participation Forum Bulgaria is a national movement to promote a lawful, democratic, pluralistic, responsive, coherent and participative social and political order and to fight corruption. Its main focus is on participation and SD as a holistic approach. The CPF has gathered more than 150 NGOs in Bulgaria and developed an international renowned methodology to promote participation.

⭕ Office of the Plenipotentiary for the Development of Civil Society

Based on the experiences of the times of the velvet revolution in Czechoslovakia and the transition period of the early 1990s, the Office of the Plenipotentiary for the Development of Civil Society is devoted to promote bottom-up approaches and to foster civil society development in Slovakia. SD in the economic, social (Roma minority), democratic and environmental dimension are key issues of NGO concern in Slovakia.

⭕ Hungarian Association of NGOs for Development and Humanitarian Aid – HAND Hungary

The Hungarian HAND Network is a long-standing NGO network and centre of excellence in Hungary and Eastern Europe, with development education and awareness rising is one of the core issues of HAND in its work in Hungary. Since the fall of the communist regimes, foreign aid and civic engagement for development cooperation almost collapsed for a number of reasons. The HAND Network is promoting civic engagement for development cooperation with a loud, clear and steady voice in Hungary. HAND even managed to work on the concept of "illiberal democracy" and be heard by Victor Orbán's government. Unfortunately, as most of the Hungarian non-authoritarian NGOs from the Anti-Foreign NGO Law, HAND suffers banning civil society organisations that receive more than € 24.000 from foreign sources.

THEMATIC PATH: PUBLIC–PRIVATE COOPERATION IN DEVELOPMENT

🔍 INTRODUCTION

Movimento Europeo Italia
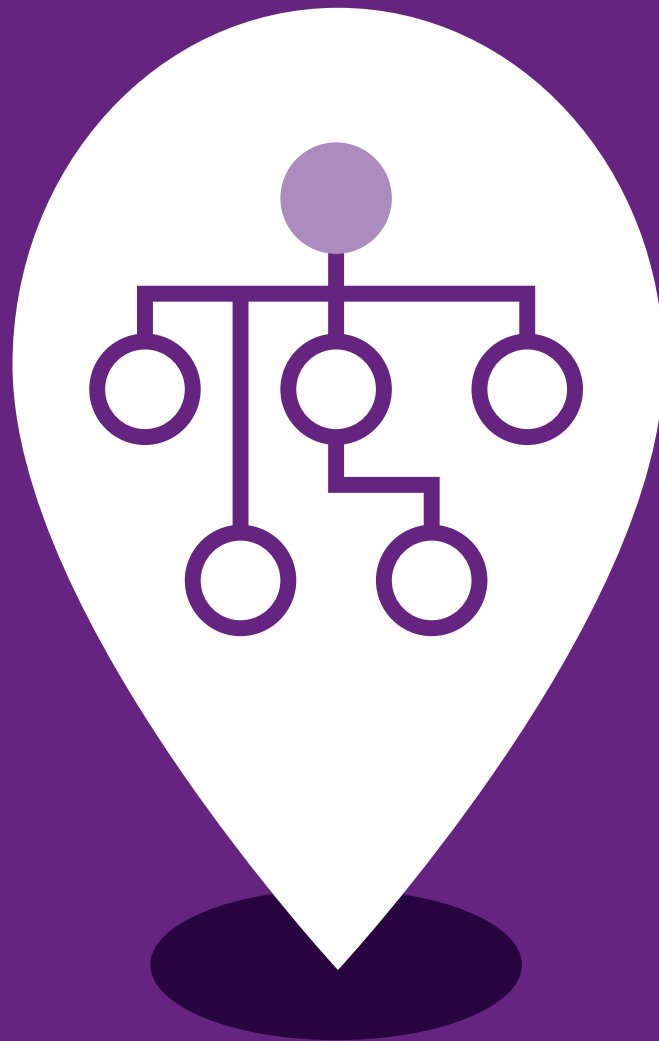
THE EUROPEAN MOVEMENT ITALY – PATH COORDINATOR

The European Movement – Italy (CIME) is a three-layered organisation, composed of single individual members, organisations of the Italian civil society, and "umbrella organisations", bound together by a common interest and awareness of the importance of achieving a deeper political integration on the European level, in the spirit of the Ventotene Manifesto (1941). CIME is founding member of the European Movement International. It carries out various activities at both national and European level, such as: lobbying directed at national and European institutions; organisation of conferences and seminars; collection, analysis and synthesis of debates on issues related to the European integration process in Italy; raising awareness and information campaigns targeted at citizens, particularly youth. It is the path coordinator for the public and private cooperation path.

> *Inclusive business, local authorities, and critical points affecting LAs efficiency in the spotlight*

OBJECTIVES

In recent years, CIME is more committed to Italy's role in achieving the SDGs, specifically with regards to increasing the role of the private sector in this endeavour. The specific advocacy objectives of CIME are to:

✓ **Contribute to the ongoing debate on PPC for Development**

✓ **Contribute to the exchange of best practices in PPC for Development among European and non-European Local Authorities and stakeholders**

✓ **Provide stakeholders and institutional interlocutors with key recommendations on PPC for Development**

✓ **Contribute to raising awareness of civil society on issues related to SDGs**

EUROPEAN MOVEMENT ITALY & SDGS

Like others, the path is versatile in that it tackles more than one SDG. Throughout its operation, it has dealt with the following goals:
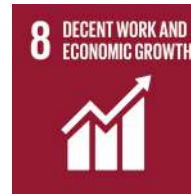
CIME considered the various implications, taking into account that, although investments are usually intended as a means to increase labour units, they may even be detrimental to job creation. Development may increase productivity through machinery and be aimed at crowding-out labour.

PPC is a powerful instrument to give impulse to the green business, and to facilitate the achievement of SDG 12. If, on the one hand, private business can adopt the principles of green economy on voluntary basis, on the other hand, the public sector can contribute to the development of sustainable production by introducing Green Public Procurement. With an adequate legislative framework, proposed by the EU, single regions and local authorities are bound to select companies that respect the above-mentioned principles: which would grow, gradually replacing the open end, linear production and creating more jobs.

CIME views development as the result of common strategic behaviours by all stakeholders: public authorities, private firms and civil society. Each of these should contribute to the establishment of a sound and trustful environment for development to take place. Key points that should be kept in mind are: decentralisation of decisions should not hinder collective action; dialogue and transparency are among the most important elements; monitoring systematically the results and impact of projects is also a crucial feature; a small committee where all stakeholders are represented, working together on a daily basis with a strong strategic goal in mind is necessary to implement local development.

▼ CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

Three important considerations shaped the theoretical underpinnings of the thematic path: inclusive business, local authorities, and critical points.

At the outset, an important distinction needs to be made between: philanthropy; business (social enterprises); inclusive business (profit-oriented). The PPC path is not interested in philanthropy, although the resources collected that way may prove significant. Social business is also not of interest, i.e. in enterprises oriented towards enhancing social welfare. The point of interest is **inclusive business**, i.e. enterprises that make profits out of social business. Enterprises remain a profit-oriented entity, and incorporate poverty reduction goals in its core business for its own interest. Still, its profitable core business activity tangibly expands opportunities for the poor and the disadvantaged in developing countries, engaging them as employees, suppliers, distributors or consumers. From this point of view, one can refer to the UN Global

Compact – a network of firms following values. The compact embraces the "think globally, act locally" mind-set and helps companies understand what responsible business means within different national, cultural and language contexts and facilitates outreach, learning, policy dialogue, collective action and partnerships.

Local authorities can affect development in more practical and crucial ways than national authorities

The focus of the PPC path throughout the duration of 3 years was mainly related to the role **local authorities** can play in enhancing the chances of success of public-private cooperation in development. Local authorities face financial constraints and find it hard to mobilise significant funds. They can, however, affect development in more practical and crucial ways than national authorities. Their role is to build a more incentivising environment for private capitals to invest in local projects. Furthermore, they can participate in national and international development contests and provide competencies to manage projects. A role they should not play in development is planning in cooperation with private firms, best exemplified by their role in the second half of the 1990s. The approach of "negotiated planning" was entrusted to provinces – i.e. local authorities – rather than central government. Private firms were asked by local authorities to express their wishes in order to establish a priority for co-funding. The approach failed due to the incoherent requests that could not synthesise a coherent strategy.

Many **critical points** affect the efficiency of local authorities, making public-private cooperation in development successful, including:

- Problems of collective action, meaning that decision-making in collective choices is difficult to implement when one single actor is involved. When more actors are involved the difficulty rises.
- A top-down approach risks to generate inefficient results. Bottom-up processes may be democratic but result in the impossibility to find a strategic unity.
- Business requires certainty in laws, that local authorities cannot provide.
- Trust is a crucial feature of investments. Given that private/public relations are characterized by very low mutual trust, it is a commodity that should be provided ad-hoc.. This crucially depends on the ability to create and maintain credibility in the long run, which is often not compatible with political dynamics. Efforts must be put into 'trust building' among the public sector, civil society and the private sector.
- Local authorities should enhance, through development, the capacity of local people. Otherwise development is weak and does not last in the long-term.

- Private and public sector speak two different languages, so we should aim at having common platforms of dialogue.
- Risk sharing: public financing private profits is a problem.
- Simplification is an asset for private investments, but bureaucratisation is often an asset for local political dynamics.
- Overlapping interventions by local authorities are a concrete risk, as well as competition between LAs.

📢 ADVOCACY ACTIONS AND IMPACT

CIME has implemented a number of activities to reach the goals:

✓ Output: Resolutions, Public Statements and Other actions

- February 2017: Policy paper "European Charter of Local Authorities for Public-Private Cooperation in Economic Development and Job Creation". The aim of this Charter is to provide a list of requisites that should guide Local Authorities when approaching to PPC for Development
- February 2017: Policy paper "Charter for Medium and Large Sized Enterprises in International Cooperation: The Relevance of Corporate Social Responsibility". The document aims at proposing the possibility of introducing a binding regulation on minimum standards for Companies willing to participate in development cooperation programs.
- March 2017: Policy recommendations and letter to Luca Jahier – President of GRIII at the EESC – on PPC in Development
- June 2017: Policy recommendations and letter to the G7 Ministers of Environment on Environmental Standards in Development

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS AND LETTER TO LUCA JAHIER – PRESIDENT OF GRIII AT THE EEESC – ON PPC IN DEVELOPMENT

This letter was preceded by a consultative workshop conducted as part of the "Public-Private Cooperation in Economic Development and Job Creation", event organized by CIME in Rome. During these intensive workshops, a wide variety of stakeholders from business, government and civil society, formulated a set of recommendations as part of the "Charter for Medium and Large Size Enterprises in International Cooperation. The relevance of Corporate Social Responsibility". These recommendations were extracted and incorporated into the letter that was then disseminated to the President of Group III – Various Interests – of the European Economic and Social Committee, Luca Jahier. In particular, the letter aimed to influence a then on-going policy formulation process – the EESC opinion on the "Core Role of Trade and Investment in Meeting and Implementing the SDGs".

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS LETTER TO THE G7 MINISTERS OF ENVIRONMENT ON ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS IN DEVELOPMENT

In light of the Bologna meeting of the G7 Ministers of Environment, held on 11-12 June 2017, a letter was issued addressing all 7 Ministers of Environment. Similarly, as in the case of the letter sent to Luca Jahier, this letter was based on the policy recommendations that were agreed during the Rome event, but focused on Environmental minimum standards enterprises should comply with to participate in development programs.

Public-Private Cooperation Path Special Initiative 22-24 February 2017 – Rome, Italy

"PUBLIC-PRIVATE COOPERATION IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND JOB CREATION", ROME, FEBRUARY 2017

The event "Public-private cooperation in economic development and job creation" was held in Rome from February 22 to 24. As part of the event, one of the sessions was dedicated to the presentation of successful experiences of PPC in international development, while another plenary session focused on dialogue with local, national and European institutions on the same subject. Likewise, advocacy meetings with representatives of national institutions, CSOs and private sector companies were held. The event was a very successful in terms of participation, as it brought together: 90 Citizens; 9 LAs; 22 CSOs; 6 private companies; 6 universities or research centres. Aside from, 11 institutional panellists participated in the event: 2 regions; 2 embassies; 1 representative of EESC; 1 representative of DG DEVCO; 1 representative of EC; the Director General for Development Cooperation at Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Development Cooperation (MAECI); 1 representative of EU Parliament; 2 representatives of the Italian Parliament and 1 representative of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development of the Holy See. The event resulted in the two policy papers outputs mentioned above.

RECOMMENDATIONS PRODUCED BY THE PATH

Through the research process, the thematic path has produced a series of recommendations addressed to Local Authorities and Private Enterprises in their approach to Public-Private Cooperation in Development. The recommendations have been collected in the aforementioned policy papers and are still valid.

Local Authorities in Public-Private Cooperation

Local Authorities should be guided in the PPC domain by the following requisites:

> Increasing transparency in decision-making

Collective decision-making is the key of LAs actions. LAs are required to increase the level of participation of all stakeholders in decision-making, and make it a transparent and accountable process.

> Horizontal and vertical coordination

The coordination of different layers of government is a crucial asset in making effective choices. Coordination must be assured both in horizontal and vertical terms, encouraging the adoption of "tables" of discussion and decision among all actors involved.

> A stricter monitoring on blending

Blending is becoming a popular means to promote PPC in development. It nevertheless bears some risks, mainly linked to favour private marketing over effective and long-lasting development. LAs are encouraged to:

A monitor the extent and quality of blending, sharing with companies a common strategy of marketing;

B adopt ethical charters for companies in blending.

> Opportunities, more than limits

LAs are required to commit to a careful and wide-ranging campaign in order to underline opportunities, more than limits, in the pursue of SDGs, thus positively impacting also on the general trust of local communities as concerns both firms and citizens.

> Trust

Private investments crucially depend on expectations, concerning political priorities, prospective effective demand, etc. Referring to private investors' willingness to invest in SDG

sectors, an effective promotion and the provision of information by LAs, including details on political priorities and on the regulatory framework accompanied by feasibility studies, is particularly important, as companies face great difficulty in assessing potential risks and returns on such investments, due to a lack of historical data and investment benchmarks to make meaningful comparisons of performance.

Social responsibility

Business is usually associated with profit-maximisation, irrespective of the social impact of company strategies. In reality, society often witnesses a great sensitivity of firms towards the quality of the social fabric in which they operate. LAs should improve the link with local firms and encourage the adoption of a specific charter on social responsibilities.

A sound juridical framework

LAs are not monopolist of laws; but they produce a huge amount of regulations impacting the quality of the social and economic environment where citizens and firms operate. It is in the interest of everybody to have LAs committed to achieve an increased level of access to opportunities through the simplification of their regulating activity. Of course, simplification does not mean deregulation, especially in sensitive sectors such as healthcare and education, where strong public-sector responsibility exists. Greater private sector involvement in these sectors must indeed be accompanied by appropriate regulation and government oversight (that in turn needs capable institutional and technical competencies), to safeguard quality and inclusiveness of public services. LAs should then set appropriate standards concerning the content, quality, inclusiveness and reliability of the services and commit to monitor their compliance.

Stimulate the development of human resources and skills

LAs should contribute to improving the quality of local skills in SDG sectors through training and education. This is crucial not only to facilitate private investments, but also to maximise long-term benefits of investments for local economies.

Encourage knowledge sharing between firms

LAs should promote contacts between firms at local, national and international level to facilitate technical knowledge sharing. This is key to simplify the possibility to trace sustainable growth paths.

Considerations on the relevance of Corporate Social Responsibility for Private Firms in PPC

A growing consensus has been emerging about the importance of strengthening the involvement of the private sector in development programs. Enterprises are and must be active agents of international development cooperation, and those willing to cooperate with the public sector in the implementation of development projects should however be qualified for it. In other words, they need to demonstrate the adoption of key principles and purposes of international development cooperation, proving that their work is sustainable and ethically robust. Nevertheless, there is no binding regulation yet on shared minimum standards for enterprises to be considered eligible in development programs.

CIME firmly believes that a move towards a **binding regulation on shared minimum standards is crucial**, taking the internationally recognised guidelines and principles, emerging from both the European legislation and other international organisations, as a benchmark. The regulation should be drawn up as a result of multi-stakeholder consultations and require companies to provide two types of reports. The first one, to be published before the decision on eligibility for funding, should include:

- a policy statement committing the firm to respect human and labour rights, as well as environmental clauses, and to fight against all forms of corruption;

- a description of the internal processes aimed at ensuring that the company will comply with these commitments in the conduct of development cooperation activities;

- a description of the appropriate remedial mechanisms the firm will activate or participate in.

The second type, to be published at regular intervals and when the works are completed, should include:

- a description of how the internal processes worked (and if not why);

- a description of how remedial mechanisms worked (and if not why).

These provisions should be applied, at least, to the following areas:

1. Human Rights

2. Employment and Industrial Relations

3. Environment

4. Irregular Practices

A **list of the firms** satisfying these criteria should be drafted, updated and made public by all international institutions responsible for development cooperation policies.

Public-Private Cooperation and Sustainability. The Challenges for Local Development and Tourism, Cagliari, July 12–14

👍 TIPS & USEFUL GUIDELINES

○ Networking and engagement of different stakeholders

Networking plays an important role in advocating, as it can both establish key links within a community that shares the same goals and principles, in this case the greater role of PPC in development, as well as keeping up to date with local resources, services and activities. Advocates need to be proactive in identifying opportunities for setting up new networks that could help achieve its goals. Networks and key contacts provide advocates with helpful information about the policy area in which they operate in, as well as opportunities for sharing information of mutual benefit. Acknowledging the crucial importance of networking in its advocacy efforts, CIME co-organised in April 2016 the conference entitled "Sustainable Development Goals, Value-Based Investors & the Catholic Church's Social Teaching in the Light of Laudato Si". The catholic church is a rather unusual partner in PPC, but through insistence on diversifying its network of contacts, CIME came into direct contact with Ghanaian cardinal Peter Turkson – Prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development and involved him in the above

mentioned Conference as keynote speaker. CIME came into contact with his Department in 2015, after the publication of the encyclical of Pope Francis Laudato Si'. CIME have, indeed interpreted the call of the Pope to a renewed sense of responsibility on the part of all for the common good, as the will of the Vatican to take on commitments under Agenda 2030. The Secretary General of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace immediately accepted CIME's meeting request and soon introduced them to Cardinal Turkson.

The cultivation of a fruitful and continuous cooperation between CIME and faith-based organizations proved crucial on several occasions, including the organization of CIME's event "Public-Private Cooperation in Economic Development and Job Creation". It provided a much-needed synergy that enriched the discussion with an additional voice at the table.

The cooperation path continued with the 2nd Conference of Value Based Investors and SDGs "The new Frontier. Sustainable Finance and Care", held in Rome on September 8, 2017. It promoted a new model of sustainable finance focused on the concept of solidarity and on the desires of the investors to make an impact beyond personal financial returns, generating positive externalities for the communities.

THEMATIC PATH: EUROPEAN YEAR FOR DEVELOPMENT 2015 & FOLLOW UP

🔍 INTRODUCTION

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL DEMOCRACY AND MARMARA MUNICIPALITIES UNION – PATH COORDINATORS

ALDA is dedicated to the promotion of good governance and citizen participation at the local level. ALDA focuses on activities facilitating cooperation between local authorities and civil society. Through the LADDER project, this objective is maintained, but specifically applied to the international development arena. Please refer to the section About ALDA of this handbook to find out more.

> *Ambitious and integrated implementation of SDGs, and monitoring*

As part of the LADDER project, alongside ALDA, Marmara Municipalities Union (MMU) represents the co-coordinator of the EYD2015 thematic path. Based in Istanbul, MMU is the first Turkish association of municipalities. As the leading regional union of local authorities in Turkey, MMU gives utmost importance to cooperation and exchange of experiences between local decision makers from different countries. The Union continuously provides trainings for its members' municipal staff and local decision makers in various fields of municipal services; it spreads information and knowledge through conferences and seminars.

OBJECTIVES

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. At the same time, a new innovative and engaging alliance of CSOs was arising in Brussels: SDG Watch Europe. **SDG Watch Europe** was established in order to shape new EU level structures that emerge and work together with other stakeholders to ensure the implementation of the most ambitious and potentially transformative global agenda ever adopted by the international community. ALDA and the LADDER Project joined the SDG Watch Europe platform and continued to work with the other members of the alliance in order to advocate for SDGs.

SDG Watch Europe operates on the overall level of **advocating for better implementation mechanisms for SDGs** and attempts to **hold governments to account for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda**. As mentioned, SDG Watch Europe is a cross-sectoral alliance composed by more than

75 different CSOs operating in several fields such as Youth, Sustainability, Social Justice, Fair Trade, International cooperation, Health, Culture, Environment, Gender Equality, Migration, Climate Change, Local Democracy, Human Rights and Media Development. On 13 October 2016, this informal EU-level alliance was officially launched.

The specific advocacy objectives are encapsulated in the 4 strands of SDG Watch, set up to deal with different aspects of the SDGs. The objectives are:

✅ **Joint high-level advocacy and policy coordination for ambitious and integrated EU SDG implementation**

✅ **Monitoring, accountability and review of European SDG implementation across all sectors**

✅ **Engaging CSOs and citizens – at local, national and EU level – on the topic of SDG implementation**

✅ **Promotion of Innovation, reflection, experimentation and learning amongst the members of the alliance**

EYD PATH & SDGS

As is the case in other paths, the EYD path addresses a wide scopeand touches on all SDGs, since it operates on a general level. However, most applicable to the SDGs is its contribution to:

The path views development as the result of common strategic behaviours by all stakeholders: public authorities, private firms and civil society. SDG Watch Europe through its operation and a network of 75 CSOs exemplifies the depth and width of partner involvement from various sectors. Each should contribute to the establishment of a sound and trustful environment for development. A key point that should be kept in mind is that working together on a daily basis with a strong strategic goal in mind is necessary to implement local development.

🔻 CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

On 25 September 2015, following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, CSOs internationally have received wide-spread satisfaction after extensive consultations for the formulation of the goals. Still, while the Agenda 2030 has recently been adopted, the real work starts in the present. The challenge is to turn Agenda 2030 into reality, making sure no SDGs and targets are left behind in the process, both in Europe and worldwide.

The accomplishment of the SDGs rests on the active and broad-based civil society engagement. CSOs will need to advocate for the policies required, raise awareness of goals and

targets amongst the general public, monitor progress in the implementation of SDGs and push for action where needed, i.e. assume a **watchdog role**. No other actor can combine these different and mutually reinforcing roles as effectively as CSOs can. On the EU level, CSOs need to mobilise for the implementation phase. Organisations that join the process now will ensure that they can shape the new EU level structures that emerge as we begin to work together and with other stakeholders to ensure the implementation of the most ambitious and potentially transformative global agenda ever adopted by the international community.

In line with this, the EYD & Follow up path decided to adopt this dimension and to advocate for it.

It is also relevant to mention that, during the consultative phase for the formulation of the SDGs, civil society played a prominent role and it is important that the principle of widespread engagement of different actors, referred to as multi-stakeholder partnerships, is sustained. In **multi-stakeholder partnerships**, non-governmental actors such as civil society organisations and companies work side by side with governmental actors, such as intergovernmental organisations and public donor agencies. The core idea is to build a win-win situation where public and private partners pull their resources and competencies to address common social or environmental objectives more effectively.

📢 ADVOCACY ACTIONS AND IMPACT

In order to achieve the objectives, the EYD path has implemented a number of advocacy-related actions. The list below contains the outputs aimed at increasing awareness and involvement of the relevant stakeholders on the migration and development topic:

✓ **Output: Resolutions, Public Statements and Other actions**

- February 2016: Letter to Commissioner Timmermans for the SDGs
- January 2017: Letter on Proposed EU Multi-Stakeholder Platform for Sustainable Development
- June 2017: Reflection paper on EU finances sent to Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the EC
- June 2017: Scenario 6: Sustainable Europe for its Citizens
- 25 September 2017: Launch of the video "Blow the Candle out: SDG anniversary" – Advocacy Video and Campaign in cooperation with CONCORD Europe
- 25 September 2017: Participation to the Campaign "Can you see the elephant in the room?" launched by SDG Watch Europe for the SDGs adoption anniversary

LETTER TO COMMISSIONER TIMMERMANS ON SDGS IMPLEMENTATION AT EU LEVEL

The first action in 2016 developed by the path together with SDG Watch Europe was a letter aimed at Commissioner and EC Vice-President Frans 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. In the letter, the mapping exercise initiated within the Commission to analyse where the EU has appropriate policies in place to implement Agenda 2030 and where there are gaps, was welcomed. With regards to the development and implementation of a strategy to implement Agenda 2030, the Commissioner was urged to make the results of both the mapping and subsequent analysis public and hold a consultation with civil society on the next steps. Lastly, the letter also called for the creation of a robust, effective, participatory and transparent monitoring, and accountability mechanism at EU level to guide and review implementation of the strategy, to analyse progress and redirect efforts as necessary. The impact of advocacy actions is quite hard to measure, but in this specific case it resulted in a response.

REFLECTION PAPER ON EU FINANCES SENT TO JEAN-CLAUDE JUNCKER

The reflection paper on EU finances was sent to Mr. Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the EC, in June 2017. The EYD path, along with the SDG Watch Europe alliance, stressed the ambitious reform which requires Europe to be a positive driver of change, meet the expectations of the people for an ambitious future for Europe, and accordingly support the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The reflection paper contains sustainability principles for the future EU budget to be applied as an inseparable set. Altogether, 7 principles set out by the alliance elucidate the way forward for Europe through the perspective of civil society. The sustainability principles in the reflection paper are part of a document that was produced beforehand, entitled "Sustainability Principles for the Future EU Budget". The principles themselves were agreed through a questionnaire that was conducted between 6 January and 1 March by SDG Watch Europe. Overall, 314 responses were collected from various stakeholders. The stakeholders were approached within the membership through direct emails (sent to more than 4400 contacts covering different policy fields) and thematic email lists. The results of the questionnaire are encapsulated in the document "Stakeholder views on the next EU Budget Cycle".

SCENARIO 6: SUSTAINABLE EUROPE FOR ITS CITIZENS

On 20 June 2017, more than 250 CSOs from across Europe have released a vision of Europe they deem as democratic just and sustainable entitled "Scenario 6: Sustainable Europe for its Citizens". The number of signatories to the policy document is more than 3 times larger than the SDG Watch Europe alliance itself, and of course included the EYD thematic path. The document is intended to shape the debate on the future direction of Europe, as a response to the 5 visions that were initially outlined

by the Commission of President Jean Claude-Juncker. Unlike the scenarios of the Commission, the 6th scenario of CSOs refers to a Europe in which "sustainability sits at the heart", and where democracy and participation, social and environmental justice, solidarity and sustainability, respect for the rule of law, and human rights are at the forefront. It was deliberately publicised ahead of the summit of EU leaders, as the central issue of the summit was Europe's future, amongst Brexit, migration and security.

> *Unlike the scenarios of the Commission, the 6th scenario of CSOs refers to a Europe in which "sustainability sits at the heart", and where democracy and participation, social and environmental justice, solidarity and sustainability, respect for the rule of law, and human rights are at the forefront.*

"CAPITALISATION OF THE EUROPEAN YEAR FOR DEVELOPMENT: THE ADDED VALUE OF DECENSTRALISED COOPERATION TO PROMOTE LOCAL GOVERNANCE", PARIS, MAY 2016

On 12-13 May 2016, the Special Initiative of the path "**Capitalisation of the European Year for Development: The added value of Decentralised Cooperation to promote local governance**'' was held 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). The SI was 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.

EYD2015 & Follow Up Path Special Initiative 12-13 May 2016 – Paris, France

NETWORKING EVENTS

As part of the advocacy and networking actions, the path also took part in events in its domain of activities. One such is the '**Next steps for a sustainable European future: Reforming Europe – Implementing SDGs**'', held on 7 July 2016 at the EESC. Vice-President of the European Commission Frans Timmermans & the Senior Adviser for Sustainable Development Karl Falkenberg attended the event. 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 the "EU strategy for incorporating the sustainable development dimension into all EC's actions & policies".

RECOMMENDATIONS PRODUCED BY THE PATH

The path has enjoyed a period of rich activity since its inception, which has resulted in a number of concrete proposals. As such, this might provide a genuine added value for actors that wish to participate in the overall advocacy of the 2030 Agenda. The following is a snippet of recommendations divided into areas of action:

Vision and Implementation

- Call for the European Commission to lead in developing an overarching EU Sustainable Development Strategy, including a concrete plan of implementation covering all goals, with a 2030 timeline to guide the EU and its member states in their national implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including all areas of internal and external policy development and action.

- Request to the European Commission to further develop its current mapping of EU policies into a comprehensive and in-depth gap analysis, with associated actions, based on a transparent and inclusive process. The gap analysis should identify the shortcomings in existing EU policy frameworks, agree the steps to be taken to address them, and support the overall EU Sustainable Development Strategy.

- Call for a clear plan of implementation to accompany the overarching strategy in order to ensure that it actually delivers on its objectives. Until a new EU Sustainable Development Strategy is adopted, existing policy coordination mechanisms, like the European Semester, can already be employed to a greater extent for integrating all aspects of SDGs implementation and guide the member states in SDGs implementation.

- Recognise the limits of GDP as a measure of overall progress, and agree and adopt a common and ambitious set of European progress indicators covering social, economic, environmental and governance factors, which should be used to guide and act as a dashboard for all EU and member state decision-making.

Policy Coherence

> Ensure that the overarching EU Sustainable Development Strategy and implementation plan addresses the four dimensions of Sustainable Development equally – social, economic, environmental and governance related factors. Ensure the Strategy applies a "whole of government" method to overcome the 'silo' or non-integrated approach to policy development and implementation.

> Commit to strengthening policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD) at all levels and in all policy areas where the implementation of Agenda 2030 is concerned, and request the Commission to propose new mechanisms to ensure adequate and regular impact assessments and transparent arbitration in the event of divergences between different policies of the Union. The EU and its member states should ensure that no European policy undermines other countries' abilities to achieve sustainable development or to realise their people's human rights.

> Commit to leaving no one behind and prioritising the most marginalised, by making fiscal policy and budget prioritisation fairer, recognising that the growing inequality both between countries and within countries is holding back progress on sustainable development, causing social unrest, populism and even extremism and magnifying the impacts of other global challenges including climate change.

Multi Stakeholder Engagement

> Commit to supporting the operationalisation of an inclusive, multi-stakeholder approach to implementation as set out by Agenda 2030. The democratic deficit that has characterised European politics over many decades could benefit from the involvement and inclusion of diverse citizen led stakeholder groups in the implementation of Agenda 2030, as base for a New Europe.

> Call for the commitment in the Communication to establish a Multi-Stakeholder Platform on Sustainable Development to be acted upon promptly by the Commission. Ensure that this platform is given a mandate to advise upon, and to monitor the EU's implementation of its commitments as set out in the 2030 Agenda, and to provide its recommendations to the highest level of the EU institutions.

> Call on the Commission to support wide-ranging public awareness campaigns on Agenda 2030 across the EU in order to educate and engage the public, including the most marginalised, to ensure cross sectoral support for the Sustainable Development Goals and their implementation.

The EU and its member states should ensure that no European policy undermines other countries' abilities to achieve sustainable development or to realise their people's human rights.

Robust Monitoring and Accountability

> Establish robust monitoring, accountability and review frameworks at EU and member state levels, based on the collection of quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data and using both quantitative and qualitative indicators.

> Agree and set a date for the EU to report to regional and global Agenda 2030 accountability mechanisms established by the UN – including the UNECE Regional Review mechanism and the HLPF – before the end of this Commission's mandate, demonstrating that the EU is serious about implementing the 2030 Agenda and willing to submit itself to external scrutiny and review.

Financing

> Call on the Commission to ensure that the next Multiannual Financial Framework promotes sustainable development priorities throughout the EU budget and that the four dimensions of sustainable development – social, economic, environmental and their governance-related factors – are all addressed in a comprehensive manner through sustainability proofing, with no one-dimension outweighing another in importance.

> Ensure that current financing instruments and financing commitments (including ODA) are being met and support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

> Call on the Commission to also explore all possible options for generating innovative and additional sources of public finance, including carbon and environmental taxes, a financial transaction tax, ban on tax havens, or a fair EU tax package, to allow them to meet their 2030 commitments.

> Member States should express concern about any potential over-reliance on private finance to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and should call instead for adequate safeguards and accountability mechanisms for private funding and an acceptable balance between public and private funding.

👍 TIPS AND USEFUL GUIDELINES

As part of the objective to disseminate knowledge and good practices about the advocating on the general level of SDGs to future entrants into the advocacy field, there are several resources that will provide immense value. One of them is undoubtedly the **Advocacy Toolbox** publication, or even mini website , that both offer insight into advocating regardless of the specific theme. As such, it is a perfect tool to use in order to get started with an overarching strategy and initial advocacy plans on implementation, follow-up and review of the SDGs. The added value of the toolbox is its comprehensiveness that accompanies the user along every step such as: understanding the key post-2015 development agenda processes and making a distinction between goals, targets and indicators; identifying opportunities to influence the agenda at regional, national and global levels; identifying key post-2015 stakeholders and decision-makers, and their relative influence at regional, national and global levels; developing a comprehensive action plan to influence government and/or relevant intergovernmental bodies; applying the adopted post-2015 framework to the national context and identify the national indicators to be adopted by the country. Aside from English, the toolkit is offered in French, Spanish and Portuguese in order to make it even more accessible to a variety of stakeholders.

The work of x-**Localising the SDGs** website platform (www.localizingthesdgs.org) is an excellent means of finding out more in terms of advocacy. It provides practical methods of achieving the SDGs at the local level. Specifically, the section and corresponding tool Monitoring and Evaluation provides value for actors in the field as the SDGs will be monitored and assessed through a system of 231 indicators, many of which can be localised by gathering data at the territorial level. Moreover, the section Strategies and Plans can assure the translation of the political agenda into development objectives and tangible results. It gives an overall framework for development (use of resources, services, corresponding financial needs, etc.) and aims to coordinate the work of local and other spheres of governments.

Lastly, no better of implementing SDGs is to lead by example.

Another superb tool to use is the **Human Rights Guide to the Sustainable Development Goals**, developed by the Danish Institute for Human Rights. The guide uncovers the human rights anchorage of all 17 goals and 169 targets, as well as the adequacy of the global indicators. The Guide enables actors to use human rights as a driver for realising the SDGs and vice-versa, to use the SDGs to realise human rights. Above all, the guide is essential to understand the interlinkages between human rights and the SDGs.

Lastly, no better of implementing SDGs is to lead by example. In the course of its research activities, the research task force of the LADDER project has produced two toolkits which can be accessed online (www.ladder-project.eu/?p=16181): "26 ways to turn your local authority more sustainable" - a set of recommendations for local authorities to turn SDGs into reality and "32 Ways You Can Change the Individual and Collective Footprint" – recommendations aimed at the individual level that can provide a boost to SDG implementation.

SDG Watch Europe The launch of the new alliance 13 October 2016 – Brussels, Belgium

LIST OF PARTNERS INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT

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
countries
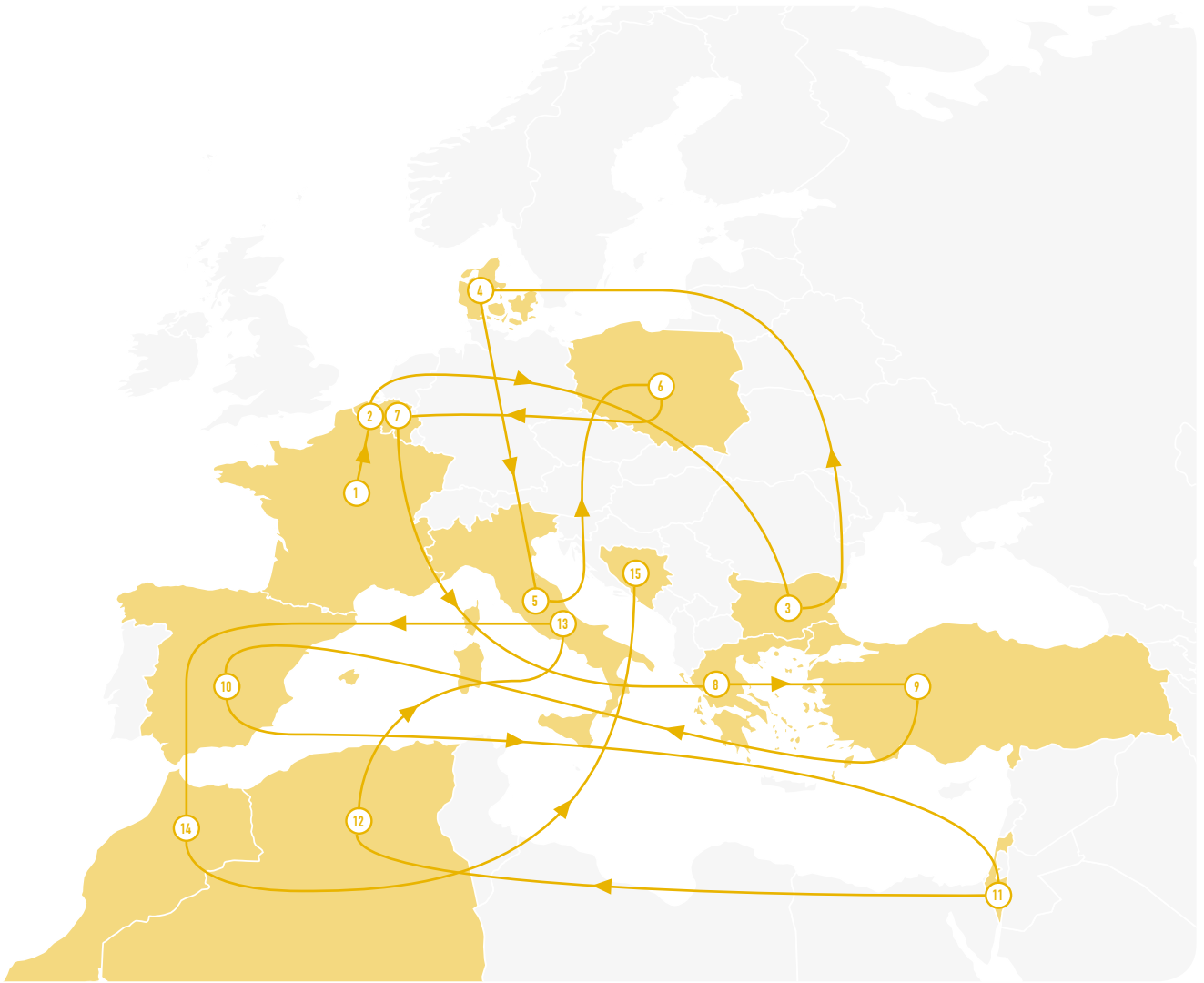
Associates
countries

Co-applicants
& Associates
countries
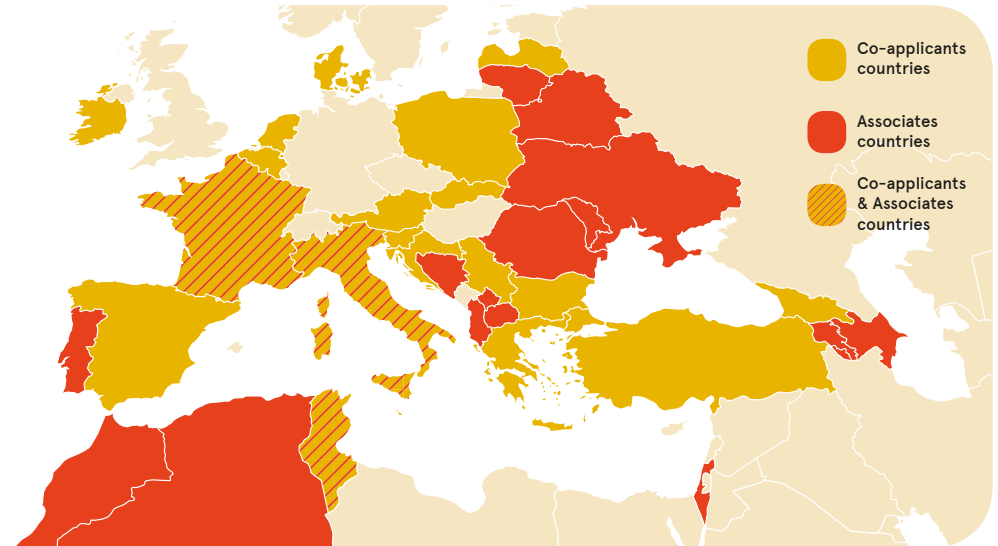
LADDER TP1 YOUTH IN DEVELOPMENT – WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

1. **ALDA** - European Association for Local Democracy (France)

2. **Birgu Local Council** (Malta)

3. **SKGO** - Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities in Serbia (Serbia)

4. **CAC** - Croatian Association of Counties (Croatia)

5. **EGTC AMPHICTYONY** - European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation Amphictyony (Greece)

6. **Association Lam Echaml** (Tunisia)

7. **UBBSLA** - Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities (Bulgaria)

8. **Donegal County Council** (Ireland)

9. **ENNA** - European Network of National Civil Society Associations (Belgium)

10. **REMESS** - Réseau Marocain de l'Economie Sociale et Solidaire (Morocco)

11. **SEEYN** - South East European Youth Network (Bosnia-Herzegovina)

12. **NSC** - North South Centre of the Council of Europe (Portugal)

13. **ALAL** - Association of Local Authorities of Lithuania (Lithuania)

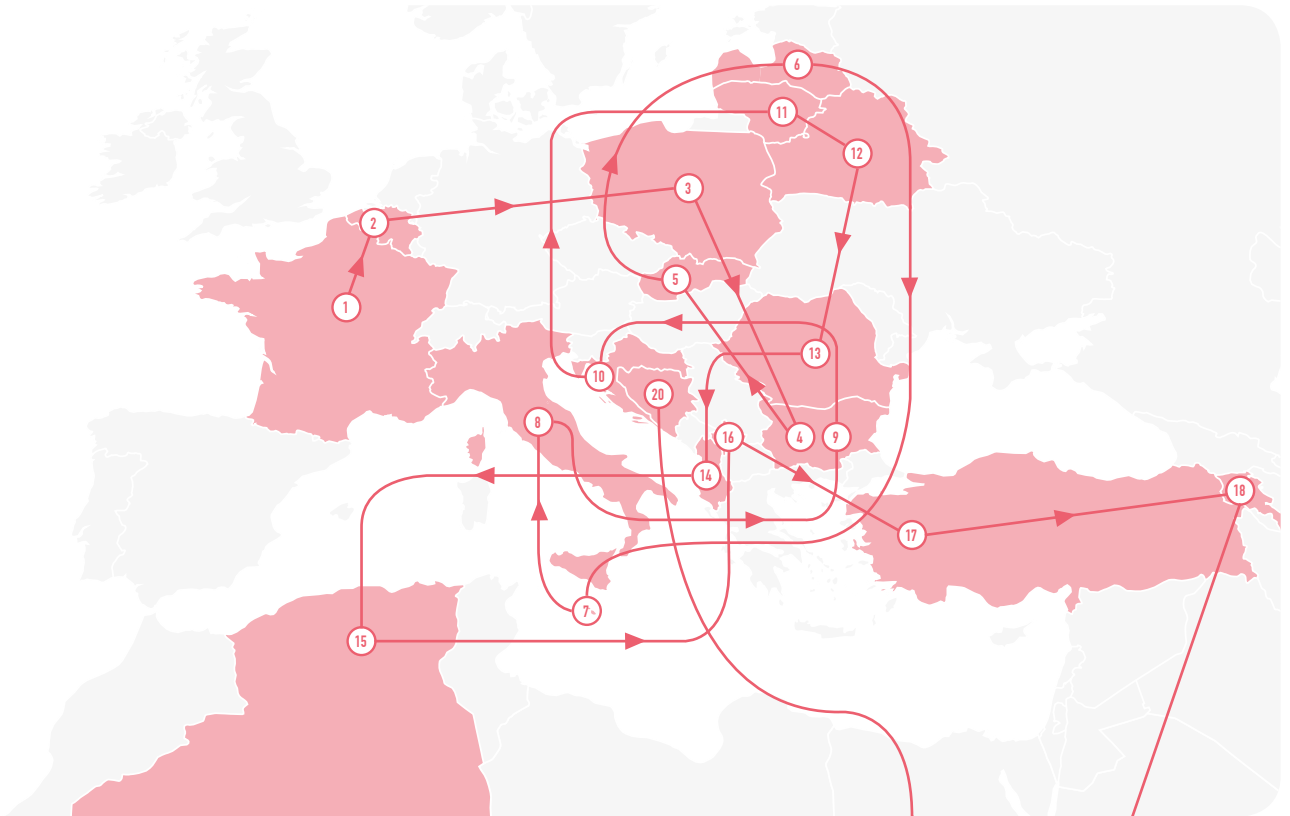# LADDER TP2 MIGRATION – WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

1. **ALDA** – European Association for Local Democracy (France)

2. **ENNA** – European Network of National Civil Society Associations (Belgium)

3. **NAMRB** – National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria (Bulgaria)

4. **Municipality of Vejle** (Denmark)

5. **Progettarte Associazione Culturale** (Italy)

6. **URC RP** – Union of Rural Communes of the Republic of Poland (Poland)

7. **JEF** – Young European Federalists (Belgium)

8. **EGTC AMPHICTYONY** – European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation Amphictyony (Greece)

9. **MMU** – Marmara Municipalities Union (Turkey)

10. **FONS** – Fons Mallorqui de Solidaritat i cooperacio (Spain)

11. **SHATIL** – New Israel Fund (Israel)

12. **FACM** – Algerian Forum for Citizenship and Modernity (Algeria)

13. **CISP** – Comitato Internazionale per le Sviluppo dei Popoli (Italy)

14. **REMESS** – Réseau Marocain de l'Economie Sociale et Solidaire (Morocco)

15. **SEEYN** – South East European Youth Network (Bosnia-Herzegovina)

# LADDER TP3 CITIZEN PARTICIPATION – WORKING GROUP MEMBERS
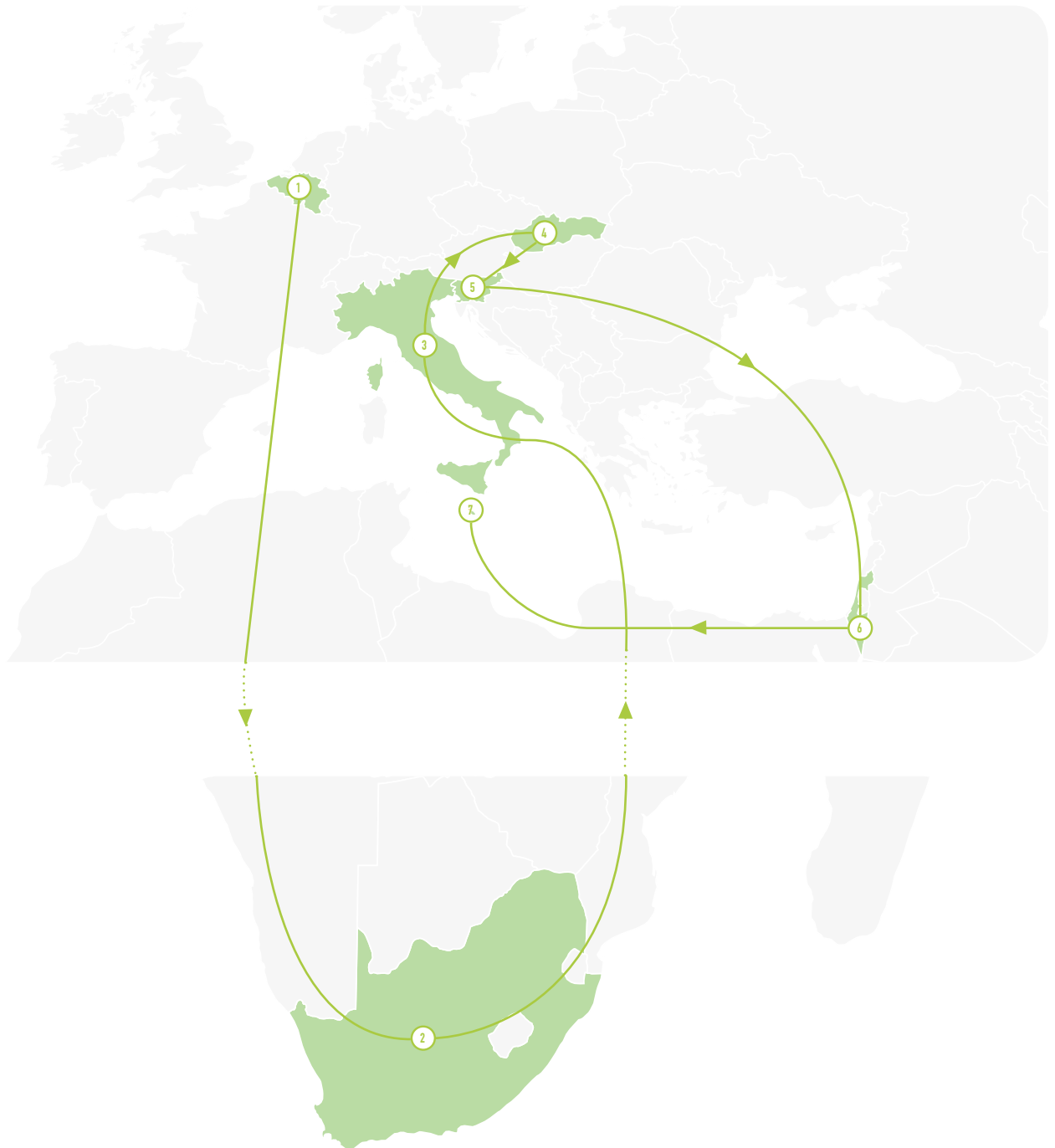
1. **ENNA** – European Network of National Civil Society Associations (Belgium)

2. **CIVICUS** – World Alliance for Citizen Participation (South Africa)

3. **COPPEM** – Comitato Permanente per il Partenariato Euromediterraneo delle Autorità Locali e le Regioni (Italy)

4. **UTCS** – Union of Towns and Cities of Slovakia (Slovakia)

5. **SLOGA** – Slovenian Global Action (Slovenia)

6. **SHATIL** – New Israel Fund (Israel)

7. **SOS Malta** – Solidarity Overseas Malta (Malta)

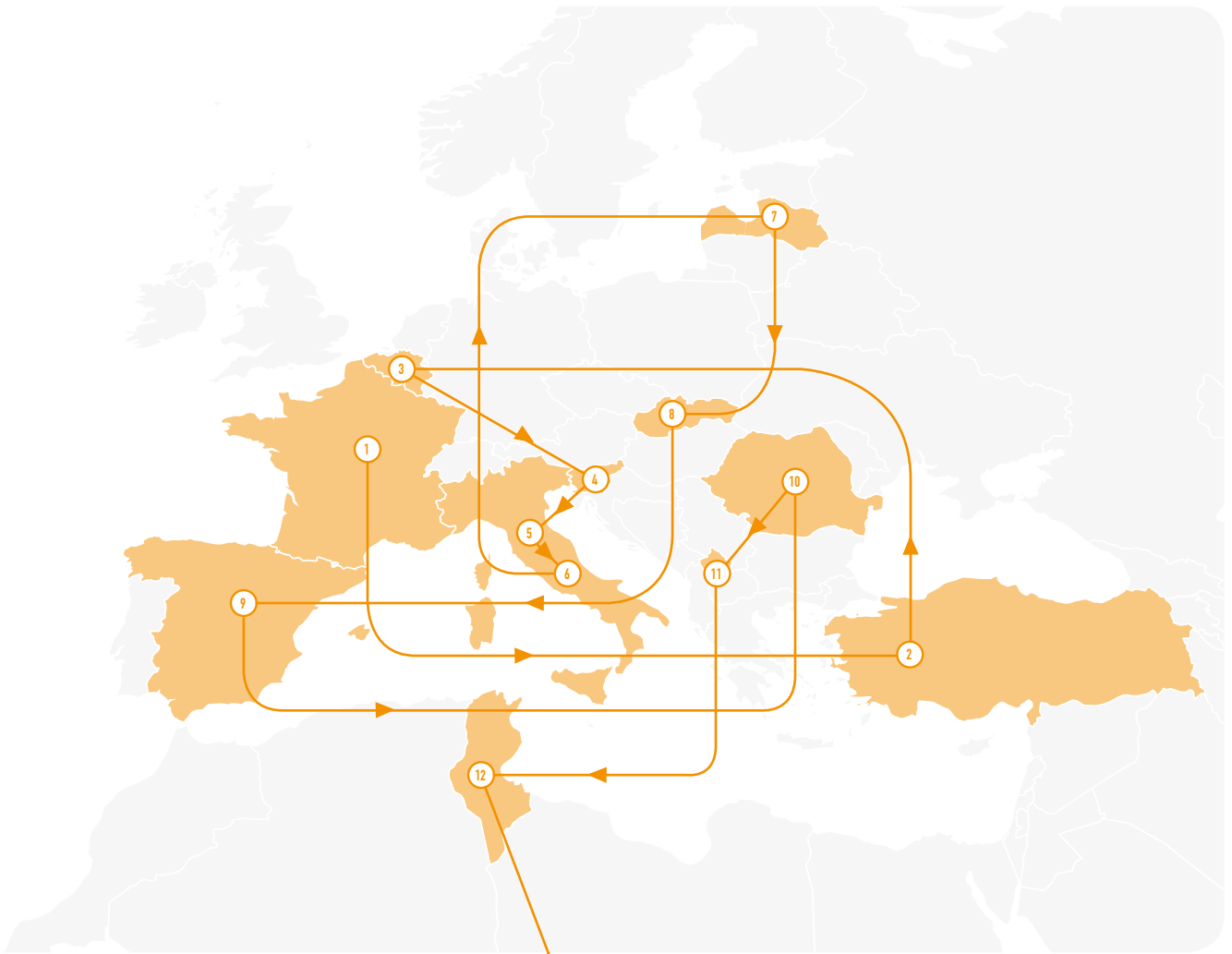# LADDER TP4 – ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT – WORKING GROUP

1. **ALDA** – European Association for Local Democracy (France)
2. **ENNA** – European Network of National Civil Society Associations (Belgium)
3. **URC RP** – Union of Rural Communes of the Republic of Poland (Poland)
4. **UBBSLA** – Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities (Bulgaria)
5. **UTCS** – Union of Towns and Cities of Slovakia (Slovakia)
6. **LALRG** – Latvian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (Latvia)
7. **Birgu Local Council** (Malta)
8. **COPPEM** – Comitato Permanente per il Partenariato Euromediterraneo delle Autorità Locali e le Regioni (Italy)
9. **NAMRB** – National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria (Bulgaria)
10. **CAC** – Croatian Association of Counties (Croatia)
11. **ALAL** – Association of Local Authorities of Lithuania (Lithuania)
12. **Lev Sapieha Foundation** (Belarus)
13. **AMR** – Romanian Municipalities Association (Romania)
14. **AAM** – Albanian Association of Municipalities (Albania)
15. **FACM** – Algerian Forum for Citizenship and Modernity (Algeria)
16. **AKM** – Association of Kosovo Municipalities (Kosovo)
17. **MMU** – Marmara Municipalities Union (Turkey)
18. **CFOA** – Communities Finance Officers Association (Armenia)
19. **CIVICUS** – World Alliance for Citizen Participation (South Africa)
20. **SEEYN** – South East European Youth Network (Bosnia-Herzegovina)
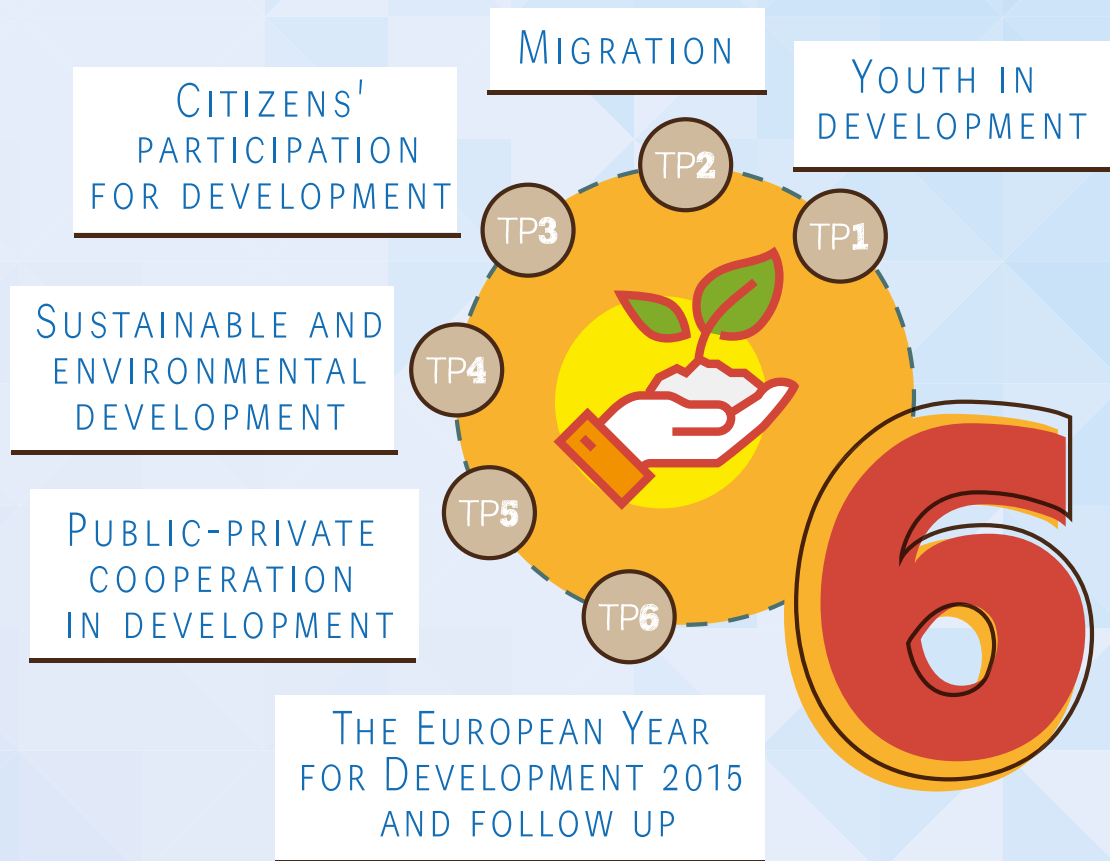
LADDER TP5 PPC – WORKING GROUP
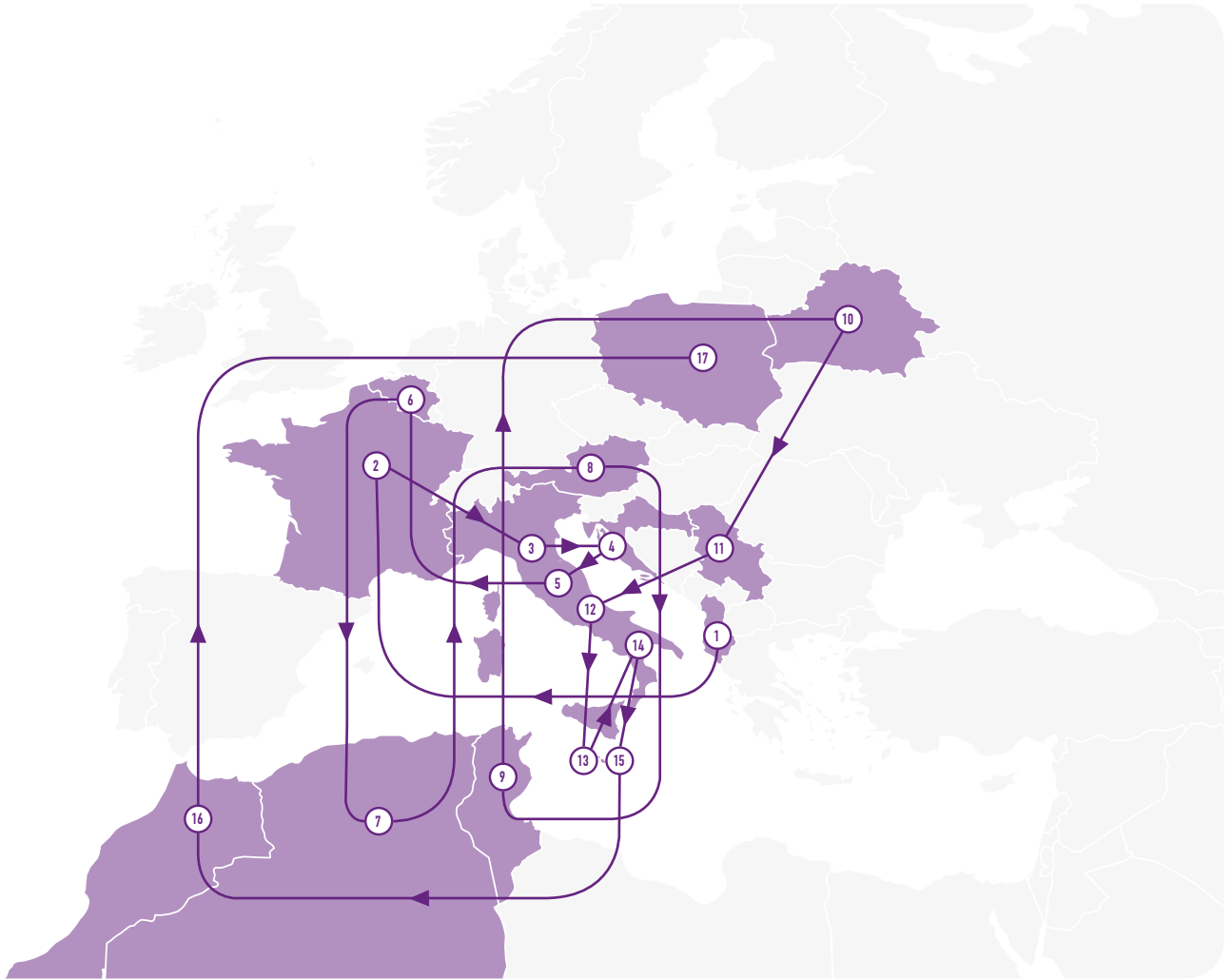
① **AAM** – Albanian Association of Municipalities (Albania)

② **ALDA** – European Association for Local Democracy (France)

③ **COPPEM** – Comitato Permanente per il Partenariato Euromediterraneo delle Autorità Locali e le Regioni (Italy)

④ **CAC** – Croatian Association of Counties (Croatia)

⑤ **CISP** – Comitato Internazionale per le Sviluppo dei Popoli (Italy)

⑥ **ENNA** – European Network of National Civil Society Associations (Belgium)

⑦ **FACM** – Algerian Forum for Citizenship and Modernity (Algeria)

⑧ **Foster Europe** – Foundation for strong European Regions (Austria)

⑨ **Association Lam Echaml** (Tunisia)

⑩ **Lev Sapieha Foundation** (Belarus)

⑪ **SKGO** – Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities in Serbia (Serbia)

⑫ **Progettarte Associazione Culturale** (Italy)

⑬ **SOS Malta** – Solidarity Overseas Malta (Malta)

⑭ **TECLA** – Associazione di Enti Locali per la Cooperazione Territoriale (Italy)

⑮ **Birgu Local Council** (Malta)

⑯ **REMESS** – Réseau Marocain de l'Economie Sociale et Solidaire (Morocco)

⑰ **URC RP** – Union of Rural Communes of the Republic of Poland (Poland)

LADDER TP6 EUROPEAN YEAR OF DEVELOPMENT – WORKING GROUP

1. **ALDA** – European Association for Local Democracy (France)

2. **MMU** – Marmara Municipalities Union (Turkey)

3. **ENNA** – European Network of National Civil Society Associations (Belgium)

4. **SLOGA** – Slovenian Global Action (Slovenia)

5. **TECLA** – Associazione di Enti Locali per la Cooperazione Territoriale (Italy)

6. **Progettarte Associazione Culturale** (Italy)

7. **LALRG** – Latvian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (Latvia)

8. **CEECN** – Central and Eastern European Citizens Network (Slovakia)

9. **FONS** – Fons Mallorqui de Solidaritat i cooperacio (Spain)

10. **AMR** – Romanian Municipalities Association (Romania)

11. **AKM** – Association of Kosovo Municipalities (Kosovo)

12. **ADD** – Medenine Association pour le Développement Durable (Tunisia)

13. **CIVICUS** – World Alliance for Citizen Participation (South Africa)

THEMATIC PATHS

MIGRATION

CITIZENS' PARTICIPATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

YOUTH IN DEVELOPMENT

SUSTAINABLE AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT

PUBLIC-PRIVATE COOPERATION IN DEVELOPMENT

THE EUROPEAN YEAR FOR DEVELOPMENT 2015 AND FOLLOW UP

TP1 TP2 TP3 TP4 TP5 TP6

6

31
16

OUTPUTS

EVENTS