Local Authorities & Civil Society as MULTIPLIERS to raise awareness and engage CITIZENS
Why this project?
This project is important because... there is a need to inform citizens on development issues, promote their engagement starting from the local level, including both individual and collective actions for development. It’s about poverty eradication above all, but it’s also about mutual understanding & respect of human rights, diversity & solidarity, and many more!

Who are targeted?
Local Authorities (LAs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). Working jointly, they have a considerable multiplier capacity and can become drivers for change at local level.

LADDER is a 3-year project co-funded by the EU under the DEAR programme. It aims at enhancing the action of Local Authorities for Development Education and Awareness Raising (see “Background Information - What is DEAR?” section) in the EU and in the ‘enlarged Europe’ (accession countries and European Neighbourhood area).

What does LADDER aim at?
It has 1 global objective: enhance and increase the action of Local Authorities in EU DEAR policies, with special reference to the EU Neighbouring area. To do so, it includes 4 specific objectives:

1. Strengthen the capacity of LAs and CSOs to act in a sustainable way as drivers for development, fostering their role of multipliers within their countries, communities and networks
2. Inform, raise awareness and engage citizens in global issues, global interdependency and development education
3. Develop & reinforce the cooperation between LAs and CSOs, to lead to winning synergies
4. Improve DEAR methods in non-formal education system, through the development of new and innovative methods and tools addressed to a wide range of stakeholders (including educators, civil servants, NGOs, youth leaders etc.).

The final beneficiaries are ordinary citizens: LADDER is meant to raise their awareness on global issues (short term), to promote their engagement in global challenges & poverty eradication (mid term) & to lead to a change of attitudes towards global and development challenges (long term), in line with the objectives of the DEAR programme.

THE PROJECT
Covering a wide spectrum of activities to deliver a sustainable and content-full outcome, the activities of the project LADDER fall under 5 dimensions, all contributing in reaching the same objective:
FOCUS GROUPS: The focus groups are addressed to educators (representing different stakeholders: local authorities, civil society organizations, etc.) active in the field of non-formal education. These activities are meant to reflect upon issues of development education, especially debating and exchanging methodologies and tools. They are foreseen in 10 EU countries.

JOB-SHADOWING: The project foresees a “job-shadowing” for the members of the consortium. The objective is to promote cooperation, to facilitate peer-to-peer learning, to increase and promote intercultural exchanges and learning. The peer-to-peer learning mission has the intent of giving the opportunity to experts, civil servants, trainers, LAs staff and CSOs representatives of the consortium to participate in an exchange mission on DEAR related issues, working with another “colleague” in the field of development education. The job-shadowing covers all countries of the co-applicants of the consortium.

TOOL FAIR: As a follow up of the activities mentioned above, a “Tool Fair” event will be organized. This event will allow exchanges of DEAR methodologies, practices, experiences and tools in the field of development education.

3. ADVOCACY

ADVOCATING THEMATIC PRIORITIES: The project pays a particular attention to 6 themes, called Thematic Paths:

- Youth in development
- Migration
- Citizens’ participation for development
- Sustainable and environmental development
- Public-private cooperation in development
- The European Year for Development 2015 and follow up

For each theme, a network of organizations is jointly working to raise the awareness on the corresponding theme, promoting and supporting the role of LAs and CSOs. Each thematic path has an advocacy dimension, targeting different levels and stakeholders at EU, national and/or local levels.

GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS: In parallel with the advocacy activities of the thematic paths, the project includes 3 geographical paths to extend the outreach of DEAR towards the enlarged Europe. The objective is to connect the EU with the European Neighbourhood by promoting and supporting the role of LAs and CSOs in development issues, and especially their role of change makers at the local level.

The second grass-root initiative is the Citizens Journalists Initiative. The target group is motivated citizen journalists (non-professional), who report and write on development topics such as poverty eradication, development, education, etc. An informal network of citizen journalists will be created across the countries covered by the project to promote the role of individuals, and the private and public sector in global development issues with local implications. To conclude, both the citizen journalists initiative and the Slogan Competition will contribute to communicate the project’s approach and raise awareness on development issues in a way which is appealing for the ordinary citizens. These initiatives are foreseen in all countries of the consortium.

EUROPEAN UNION

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP AREA
MEDITERRANEAN AREA
SOUTH-EAST EUROPE AREA

EUROPEAN UNION

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP AREA
MEDITERRANEAN AREA
SOUTH-EAST EUROPE AREA

Co-applicants countries
Associates countries
Co-applicants
& Associates countries
**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

**What is DEAR?**

DEAR, a programme of the EU managed by DG DEVCO (International Development and Cooperation) stands for Development Education and Awareness Raising and aims at informing EU citizens about development issues, mobilising greater public support for actions against poverty, providing citizens with tools to engage critically with global development issues, foster new ideas and changing attitudes towards global challenges.

The EU has dedicated a specific program to reach these objectives supporting projects implemented by civil society actors and local authorities. For further information, see the European Commission dedicated portal: [https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sectors/human-rights-and-governance/development-education-and-awareness-raising_en](https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sectors/human-rights-and-governance/development-education-and-awareness-raising_en)

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**CO-APPLICANTS:**

1. ALDA (coordinator): European Association for Local Democracy (France)
2. Foster Europe: Foundation for Strong Regions (Austria)
3. JEF: Young European Federalsists (Belgium)
4. ENNA: European Network of National Civil Society Associations (Belgium)
5. UBBSLA: Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities (Bulgaria)
6. NAMRB: National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria (Bulgaria)
7. CAC: Croatian Association of Counties (Croatia)
8. Municipality of Vejle (Denmark)
9. NALAG: National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia (Georgia)
10. EGTC Amphityny (Greece)
11. Donegal County Council (Ireland)
12. TECLA: Associazione di Enti Locali per la Coopera-Cazione Territoriale (Italy)
13. CIME: Consiglio Italiano del Movimento Europeo (Italy)
14. COPPEM: Comitato Permanente per il Partenariato Euromediterraneo delle Autorità Locali e le Regioni (Italy)
15. Progettarte Associazione culturale (Italy)
16. LALRG: Latvian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (Latvia)
17. SOS Malta: Solidarity Overseas Service Malta (Malta)
18. Birgu Local Council (Malta)
19. URC Poland: Union of Rural Communes of the Republic of Poland (Poland)
20. SKGO: Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities (Poland)
21. CEECN: Central and Eastern European Citizens Network (Slovakia)
22. UTCS: Union of Towns and Cities of Slovakia (Slovakia)
23. SLOGA: Slovenian Global Action (Slovenia)
24. The Hague Academy for Local Governance (the Netherlands)
25. Lam Encomi Association (Tunisia)
26. MMU: Marmara Municipalities Union (Turkey)
27. Fons Mallorquí de Solidaritat i Cooperació (Spain)

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**ASSOCIATES:**

1. ADD-Medine Association pour le Développement Durable (Tunisia)
2. AAM: Albanian Association of Municipalities (Albania)
3. FACM: Algerian Forum for Citizenship and Modernity (Algeria)
4. AII: Agency for Legislative Initiatives (Ukraine)
5. ARM: Romanian Municipalities Association (Romania)
6. AKM: Association of Kosovu Municipalities (Kosovo)
7. ALAS: Association of Local Authorities in Lithuania (Lithuania)
8. BINA NGO: Alliance for Municipality Development (Azerbaijan)
9. CALM: Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova (Moldova)
10. North-South Centre of the Council of Europe (Portugal)
11. CFOA: Communities Finance Officers Association (Armenia)
12. CIra: Center for Institutional Development (FYROM)
13. CSP: Comitato Internazionale per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli (Italy)
14. Ciucius: World Alliance for Citizen Participation (South Africa)
15. Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, Council of Europe (France)
16. Leu Sapieha Foundation (Belarus)
17. REMESS: Réseau Marocain de l’Economie Sociale et Solidaire (Morocco)
18. SEEYN South East European Youth Network (Bosnia-Herzegovina)
19. SHATIL New Israel Fund (Israel)

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**WHO WE ARE:**

*Co-applicants* members of the consortium who are actively involved in the design and implementation of the activities.

*Associates* partners actively contributing and participating to LADDER’s events.

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4-6 November 2015
EU Level Training on DEAR
Athens, Greece