



STABILITY PACT
FOR SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE
Thessaloniki Office



**CONFERENCE ON ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP IN THE BALKANS
SARAJEVO, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA, 25 MAY 2007
FINAL DECLARATION**

The Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA) in cooperation with the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe/Thessaloniki Office are supporting active citizenship in the Balkans through the organisation of conferences, workshops and seminars.

ALDA is one of the main European stakeholders working on active citizenship issues at present. Past projects dealt with the European Constitution, the participation of citizens in the local decision-making, contact between European institutions and local authorities as well as the Europe-wide campaign "Cities for Peace and Democracy" in 2006. In addition, the 12 Local Democracy Agencies in South East Europe and the Southern Caucasus are strong supporters of active citizenship in their regions and beyond.

The participants of the conference on "**Active Citizenship in the Balkans**":

- **Recognize the need for citizens to participate more directly in the political decision-making process**
- Encourage a strengthened **dialogue between Governments and their citizens** with a view to promote the emergence of an **active and participatory citizenship**
- Support the promotion and dissemination of the **fundamental values of human rights and the respect for the rule of law**
- Endorse the projects and activities implemented by the **Local Democracy Agencies to promote the participation of citizens** in decision-making processes
- Stress the importance of citizens' involvement in the **debate and discussions on the enlargement and the future constitution of the European Union**
- Call on **citizens to be active in the democratic process with their Government** and its institutions
- Endorse the initiatives undertaken by the organizations engaged in the **promotion of an active and participatory citizenship in South Eastern Europe.**
- Recognize the important role that **civil society networks** in South Eastern Europe play in promoting active citizenship.

- Request that the **European Union** continues to support **European integration** of the **Western Balkans**
- Support **cross-border co-operation** of citizens and civil society groups as a means of promoting better co-operation of national governments
- Call on governments to use **new technologies** to provide opportunities for direct participation of citizens in political decision-making processes
- Call on governments and local authorities to support **civic education initiatives** and to recognise the importance of civic education in promoting active citizenship.