



## Network of Associations of Local Authorities from South-East Europe - NALAS

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NALAS is announcing through this info-bulletin the intention to bring into your attention as many as possible general information about its activities, but also about what the member associations are doing at the level of the respective countries. The information from this info-bulletin is submitted by the associations' representatives and by different collaborators. To subscribe or to unsubscribe to this info-bulletin, please send e-mail with your request to [nalas.see@gmail.com](mailto:nalas.see@gmail.com).

Summary:

#### A. NALAS activities

- NALAS network has been invited on permanent basis to observe [Committee of the Regions](#) meetings

#### B. Members associations' activities

- Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities from Serbia - [SCTM](#)
- Romanian Federation of Local Authorities - [FALR](#)

#### A. NALAS activities

*- NALAS network has been invited on permanent basis to observe Committee of the Regions meetings*

Due to a letter sent by NALAS President, Mr. Tarzan Milosevic, in which the network showed its interest to receive the observer status in the Committee of Regions, Mr. Michel Delebarre, CoR President, invited NALAS to attend the Committee meetings. Mr. Delebarre considered that the efforts of NALAS to create a functional network of regional authorities associations in South East Europe are a necessary contribution to the construction of a multi-level fabric of democratic governance. He emphasizes that stable, decentralized democratic governance as part of a multi-level system can foster peace and prosperity in the region, thereby enhancing prospects for accession and improving relations and cooperation within European family. On this basis, NALAS was invited on permanent basis to observe CoR meetings with 2 representatives.

Also, NALAS was invited to attend the meeting of the CoR Working Group on the Western Balkans (which meets on the margins of the RELEX commission) from October.

#### B. MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS' ACTIVITIES

##### 1. SCTM activities ([www.skgo.org](http://www.skgo.org))

*- The seminar "Preparation of Serbian local authorities for European integration"*

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NALAS

Page 1 out of 3

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In cooperation with Austrian Association of Cities and the Slovak Association of Local Authorities the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities organised seminar "Preparation of Serbian local authorities for European Integration", which took place on mountain Zlatibor from 14 to 16 June 2006. This seminar was organised within the *Municipal support programme - Eastern Serbia*, which is supported by the European Agency for Reconstruction and implemented by the SCTM, Austrian Association of Cities and the Slovak Association of Local Authorities through "Belgrade-Bratislava" Fund.

The objective of this seminar was to initiate development of the strategy for preparation of local authorities in Serbia for the upcoming EU accession process. Moreover, the participants had an opportunity to get acquainted with the context of the accession process, programmes and EU funds which are available to Serbia, the expectations of European Union from the Republic of Serbia, as well as with direct experiences of Austria and Slovak Republic. Participants of this seminar were Serbian mayors, representatives of relevant ministries, other state bodies, NGOs and donor community.

- *Official signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the SCTM and 10 pilot municipalities within the project "Tools and mechanisms for local development"*

The Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities organised official signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the SCTM and 10 pilot municipalities within the project "Tools and Mechanisms for Local Development", financed by the Norwegian Government. The Ceremony of official signing and the press-conference took place on 26 June 2006, at the premises of the SCTM.

The objective of the project "Tools and Mechanisms for Local Development" is to implement Poverty Reduction Strategy at local level effectively - to assist the SCTM and local governments in 10 selected underdeveloped municipalities in building their capacity to become efficient and responsible in planning and implementing local development plans including the vulnerable groups aspect. Another very important objective is to build a network of under-developed municipalities, which would have an important role in advocating "their case" towards national decision makers and potential donors. The main partners of SCTM in this Project are Poverty Reduction Strategy Implementation Focal Point (PRS IFP), International Management Group (IMG) and Centre for Liberal-Democratic Studies (CLDS).

Within the project activities, the Standing Conference will organise seminar "*Strategic Planning in the Field of Social Care*" designed for 10 pilot municipalities which will be held on Kopaonik Mountain from 30 June to 2 July 2006.

- *Second round table "Development of municipal credit market"*

Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities, Association of Serbian Banks and Municipal Economic Growth Activity Program (MEGA) funded by the United States Agency for International Development, organised the second Round Table "Development of Municipal Credit Market", which was held on 27 June 2006 in Belgrade.

This gathering was organised for local government representatives, commercial banks and National Bank of Serbia, Ministry of Finances, Ministry for International Economic Relations, Ministry for Public Administration and Local Self-Government, Municipal Infrastructure Agency, as well as foreign experts in this field.



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### 2. FALR activities ([www.falr.ro](http://www.falr.ro))

#### *- LOGIN workshop*

Within June 23-24, it took place the 7th LOGIN workshop (Local Government Information Network) in Ohrid, Macedonia. The workshop was a debate on the actual situation of the LOGIN project and on the identification of different ways of raising the sustainability, other than the OSI (Open Society Institute) funds. 15 organizations from Center and South-East Europe and from ex-soviets countries participated to this event, and other two members were officially announced: Kosovo and Kyrgyz Republic. FALR is a member of the Network since 2005 and created the Information Center for local and regional authorities within this project, an information-providing instrument in the territory. Also, the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities from Serbia, the Association of the Units of Local Self-Government of the Republic of Macedonia and the Association of Kosovo Municipalities are members of LOGIN and attended the workshop.

#### *- Training workshop “Participative democracy and public partnerships – civil society in the perspective of structural funds management”*

Within June 29-30, the French Embassy together with the Municipalities Association, the Association of Towns, the Association of Communes and FALR organized the training workshop “Participative democracy and public partnerships – civil society in the perspective of structural funds management”. The workshop was based on practices of participative democracy in the framework of territorial collectivities and management of dealing with associative sector. Mrs. Irina Boulin-Ghica, councilor of cooperation and cultural action and director of French Institute in Bucharest, Mr. Cristian Anghel, president of FALR and Mr. Martin Bottesch, president of District Council of Sibiu participated at this event. Mr. Gilles Quinquenel, Mrs. Sophie Le Flamanc, Mr. Mihai Lisetchi and Mr. Ion Olteanu were the trainers of the workshop. Also, 26 representatives of municipalities, towns, communes and district councils attended this event.