



PRESS RELEASE

Cross Border Cooperation Task Force

The Stability Pact Office in Thessaloniki (SPOT) and the Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA) have agreed to work in synergy to promote Local Democracy and Cross border co-operation in South Eastern Europe. ALDA and its network of local democracy agencies will implement part of the Cross Border Cooperation Task Force 2007 action plan through a series of joint events. The kick off event will be a conference on "Active Citizenship in the Balkans: How regional and cross-border cooperation can promote active citizenship" that will take place in Sarajevo on 25th May 2007.

The overall goal of the Cross Border Cooperation Task Force (CBC TF) that is coordinated by the Stability Pact Office in Thessaloniki (SPOT) in 2007, is to strengthen regional cooperation and links between local authorities, their associations and citizens groups, particularly in border areas. Emphasis is given to activities that enhance the role of the civil society in cross border cooperation processes in the region, and programmes that strengthen democracy at grass-root level. Taking into consideration that effective Euro-Atlantic integration process must be accompanied by a speedy economic development of the region; an additional aim of the CBC TF is to complement activities in the field of democracy promotion with activities in the economic area.

Local Democracy Agencies (LDAs) and the Association of LDAs (ALDA) are instruments at the disposal of local and regional authorities and civil society organizations that contribute, as effectively as possible, to the local development in South East Europe and the Caucasus.

The Association of Local Democracy Agencies has been created under the auspices of the Council of Europe, in particular its Congress of Local and Regional Authorities. ALDA has been member of the Working Table I of the Stability Pact since its establishment.

More information on the conference "Active Citizenship in the Balkans: How regional and cross-border cooperation can promote active citizenship" that will take place in Sarajevo on 25th May 2007 can be found at: www.ldaaonline.org