alda*
European Association
for Local Democracy

Co-funded by
the European Union

Call For Proposals

TOGETHER IN ACTION

Empowering Local Communities for
Sustainable and Inclusive Futures

**10 March
Overview and Q&A**

Table of Content

The Call

The CERV Programme

The Call falls under the umbrella of the CERV programme, which seeks to support and develop open, rights-based, democratic, equal and inclusive societies based on the rule of law.

ALDA

ALDA aims at strengthening a worldwide global alliance of local and regional authorities and civil society actors working together in local communities, in order to make them more resilient, socially and economically successful, more inclusive, sustainable and fair.

16 INITIATIVES FUNDED

18/02/2025 - 18/04/2025

THE CALL IS OPEN
The proposals must be submitted **in English** by the **18th of April 2025 at 23:59 CET** filling in the Online Application Form.

06/05/2025

THE RESULTS ARE OUT
The projects to be awarded and the exact amount of financial support will be decided by the **Selection Committee (SeC)** .

09/05/2025 - 20/10/2025

IMPLEMENTATION
The beneficiaries can implement their activities within the scope of the **Partnership Agreement**.

Thematic Focus

This call seeks to support impactful initiatives that are aimed at fostering **European Citizenship** by improving conditions for civic and democratic participation in Europe. Specifically, the thematic focus of the actions should be on strengthening civic participation in the EU, and align with **ALDA Thematic Hubs**.

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Civic Participation in the EU

Proposals should **strengthen citizens' engagement and participation in democratic life** while empowering individuals and organizations to understand, advocate for, and actively contribute to the respect of EU rights and values at the local level.

Values of **non-discrimination** and **equality** (including gender equality), and the promotion of **inclusivity** must be integrated in all foreseen actions, regardless of their specific objectives. In fact, proposals should clearly articulate how these values will be integrated into the project design, implementation, and outcomes.
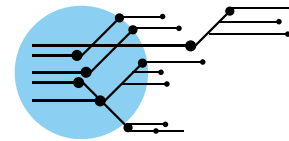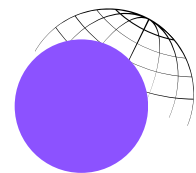
ALDA Thematic Hubs

ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE
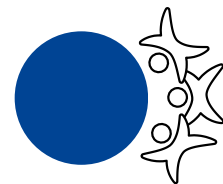
DIGITAL & INNOVATION

GENDER, INCLUSION & HUMAN RIGHTS

MIGRATION

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT & EDUCATION

TERRITORIAL & LOCAL DEVELOPEMENT

Environment & Climate

- PROMOTE **INCLUSIVE JUST TRANSITION THAT LEAVES NO ONE BEHIND**, EMPOWERING MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES AND SUPPORTING THEM IN THE GREEN TRANSITION.

- PROMOTE INITIATIVES THAT BRING TO THE TERRITORY THE **GREEN DEA**L AND ITS AMBITIONS, ESPECIALLY RELATED TO **SUSTAINABLE FOOD, CLEAN ENERGY, CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND EFFICIENT RENOVATIONS**.

- PROMOTING **ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION** AND EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES BY CREATING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL ABOUT THE MAIN ISSUES, POLICIES AND GOOD PRACTICES RELATED TO CLIMATE AND SUSTAINABILITY, ESPECIALLY IN CONNECTION TO WATER AND OCEANS, FOOD SUSTAINABILITY AND ENERGY.

ALDA THEMATIC HUBS

Digital & Innovation

- SUPPORTING **DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION** IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE.

- ENHANCING **DIGITAL SKILLS FOR YOUTH AND FUTURE WORKFORCE**.

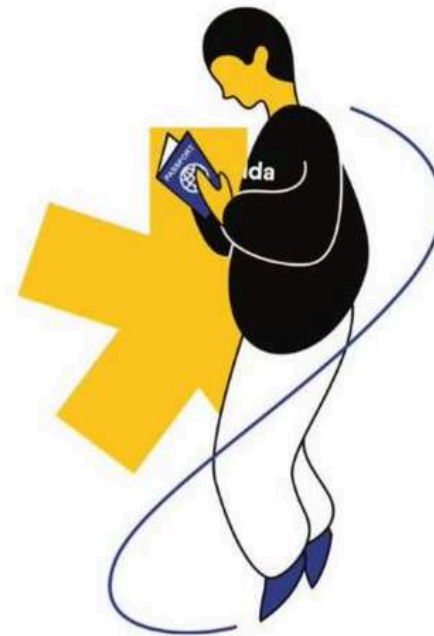- PROMOTING **INCLUSIVE DIGITAL PARTICIPATION**.

Gender, Inclusion & Human Rights

- ADVANCING **GENDER-RESPONSIVE** CIVIC PARTICIPATION AND GOVERNANCE.SUPPORT INITIATIVES THAT ENHANCE WOMEN'S, YOUNG GIRLS' AND MARGINALISED GROUP'S REPRESENTATION IN POLITICS AND LEADERSHIP ROLES.

- PROMOTE AND FOSTER **HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE** INITIATIVES THAT PROTECT AND ADVOCATE FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS, COMBAT DISCRIMINATION AND SUPPORT MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES.

- **COUNTERING HATE SPEECH AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE**: CAMPAIGNS, TRAINING AND ADVOCACY EFFORTS THAT CHALLENGE HARMFUL NARRATIVES AND PROMOTE SAFE, RESPECTFUL ENVIRONMENTS.

Migration

- SUPPORT **ACTIVE PARTICIPATION** AND LOCAL INCLUSION OF PEOPLE WITH MIGRANT BACKGROUNDS IN DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES STARTING FROM THE LOCAL LEVEL.

- PROMOTE **CREATIVE COMMUNITY-BUILDING INITIATIVES** AT THE LOCAL LEVEL THAT FOSTER INCLUSION AND BRING BENEFITS TO BOTH MIGRANT AND HOST COMMUNITIES.

- CAPACITY-BUILDING, KNOWLEDGE-SHARING, COMBAT MIS/DISINFORMATION, ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES THAT PROMOTE **POSITIVE NARRATIVES** FOR KEY ACTORS WORKING IN THE MIGRATION SECTOR.

Youth
Empowerment &
Education

- **PROMOTE YOUNG PEOPLE'S ACTIVE PARTICIPATION** IN SOCIETY AND IN DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES AT ALL LEVELS.

- **SUPPORT SOCIAL INCLUSION AND YOUTH WITH FEWER OPPORTUNITIES.**

- HELP YOUNG PEOPLE **BENEFIT FROM THE DIGITAL AND GREEN TRANSITION.**

ALDA THEMATIC HUBS

Territorial & Local Development

- **PROMOTE CONCRETE INITIATIVES ABOUT SDGS** LOCALISATION, IN PARTICULAR FOCUSED ON SDG11 MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE.

- **INCREASE KNOWLEDGE** OR EXPERIMENTING CITIZENS PARTICIPATION ON URBAN REGENERATION AND COMMON USES OF PUBLIC SPACES.

- CONTRIBUTE TO **TERRITORIAL PROMOTION AND CULTURAL HERITAGE**, ESPECIALLY ENHANCING LOCAL PRODUCTIVE, ECONOMIC, AND CULTURAL CHAINS (FOR INSTANCE, SUSTAINABLE TOURISM, HISTORICAL/CULTURAL ROUTES)

Eligibility

- Be a legal entity, non profit organisation

- Be established in a Member State of the EU;

- Respect EU values as laid down in Art. 2 of the Treaty on European Union and the EU Charter of fundamental rights;

- Be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action, not acting as an intermediary;

- Be a member of ALDA

- Commit to ALDA's "Gender Equality and anti discrimination policy" and to sign the statements for members, if they have yet to do so.

Eligible Activities

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AWARENESS RAISING ACTIVITIES	**EXCHANGE OF GOOD PRACTICES**	**TRAINING AND CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES**
CREATIVE AND CULTURAL ACTIONS	**INITIATIVES WITH UNIVERSITIES AND RESEARCH AND SPECIALISATION CENTRES:**	**ACTIVITIES THAT INCREASE THE INVOLVEMENT OF CITIZENS AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS** with local, regional, and national governments, with a focus on shaping policies that foster sustainable, inclusive, and resilient communities.
	PROMOTION AND DISSEMINATION ACTIVITIES	

Not Eligible

ACTIONS CONCERNED ONLY OR MAINLY WITH INDIVIDUAL SPONSORSHIPS FOR PARTICIPATION IN WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS ETC

ACTIONS SUPPORTING POLITICAL PARTIES

ACTIONS CONCERNED ONLY OR MAINLY WITH INDIVIDUAL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDIES OR TRAINING COURSES

ACTIONS WHICH CONSIST EXCLUSIVELY OR PRIMARILY IN CAPITAL EXPENDITURE, E.G. LAND, BUILDINGS, EQUIPMENT AND VEHICLES, EXCEPT IN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

ACTIONS INTENDED TO RAISE FUNDS OR PROMOTE THE VISIBILITY OF THE APPLICANT OR ITS PARTNER(S)

ACTIONS WHICH DISCRIMINATE - EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, AGAINST INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS OF PEOPLE

ACTIONS INCLUDING PROSELYTISM

CORE FUNDING OF THE APPLICANT OR (WHERE RELEVANT) ITS PARTNERS.

ACTIONS CONSISTING MAINLY OF RESEARCH OR OF STUDY.

Target Group

CITIZENS AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITIES

YOUNG PEOPLE BETWEEN 15 AND 29 YEARS OLD

MARGINALISED GROUPS
people with a migrant background, Roma, Sinti and Travellers people, girls and women, LGBTIQA+ people, gender minorities, people with Physical/Mental/Sensorial barriers

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Grant

10.000 Euro each

16 Projects

The sub granting scheme will cover 100 % of the total project budget.

Grant

A new structure for the budget

The form is a *mixed-budget based*, the reimbursement is on the basis of actual eligible costs plus a percentage for the personnel costs.

To be **eligible,** the costs:

- are incurred during the **lifetime of the submitted proposal** and partnership agreement
- are **indicated** in the estimated overall budget of the submitted proposal
- are **necessary** for the implementation of the project
- are **identifiable and verifiable**, in particular being recorded in the accounting records
- comply with the requirements of **applicable tax and social legislation**.
- are **real costs, reasonable, justified**
- they are **not covered through EU grants** in the form of contribution to unit costs, lump sums or flat-rate financing.

Grant

For the Personnel costs as flat rate contribution:

The costs for flat-rate contribution that will be considered as "eligible costs" are all costs incurred by the beneficiary which meet all of the following criteria:

- They must be declared under the budget line Personnel costs <u>as planned in the application phase</u>
- They must **not cover other kind of costs** apart than Personnel costs
- They must **fulfil the general eligibility conditions** for the type of cost concerned
- The usual accounting practices must be applied in a consistent manner, based on objective criteria, regardless of the source of funding.

Grant

For the budget planning and reporting:

Out of the total grant, the staff costs budget line can be considered up to a maximum of 30% of the grant. Applicants can also decide to lower the percentage from 30% to 20% or 10%, or - in case they consider to have no need for the staff costs - to 0% and use the whole grant as a budget based on actual costs incurred.

The personnel costs will then be reported as percentage on the total budet, no supporting documents for the staff costs will be asked at this phase but they need to be kept and available in case of audits by the EC.
All the other actual costs will be supported by the required documentations (i.e., contracts, invoices, proof of payments).

Evaluation

Relevance of the action

Quality of the project design and implementation

Impact

Evaluation

Relevance of the action

The project proposal is relevant to the objectives and addresses at least one of the key priorities of the action.	(1-7 points)
The profile, experience and activities of the applicants are relevant for the field of the application.[1]	(1-7 points)
The target group is clearly identified and the expected results meet their needs.	(1-7 points)

*NB. Specify how many years of experience : 1 point = not clearly specified ; 3 points less than 5 years of experience with similar projects/activities; 5 points between 5 and 15 years of experience; 7 points more than 15 years of experience

THE KEY ELEMENTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

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Thematic Focus - Alda Hubs *

◯ Environment & Climate Hub

◯ Digital and Innovation Hub

◯ Gender Inclusion & Human Rights Hub

◯ Migration Hub

◯ Youth Empowerment & Education Hub

◯ Territorial and Local Development Hub

Thematic Focus -
Strengthening Civic Participation in the EU (1500 characters max.) *
Please highlight how your proposal is relevant to this objective.

Long answer text

Thematic Focus - **ALDA Hubs** (1500 characters max.) *
Starting from the ALDA Hub you identified, please explain the key priorities of your actions.

Long answer text

Please chose one Reference HUB for your action — please take your time to check the hub priorities on the call and the pages on Alda website, in order to connect your actions to them

Mention how your action can strengthen citizens engagement

Here please connect your actions to the key priorities of the HUB you identified. In addition to the key hub, here you can mention if your action interconnects with other hub/themes.

Evaluation

Quality of the project design and implementation

The project objectives are clearly defined, realistic and address the needs and goals of the applicants;	(1-5 points)
The proposed methodology is clear, adequate and feasible and the project work plan is clear, complete and effective;	(1-5 points)
The activities that applicants commit to carry out satisfy the principles of economy, efficiency and effectiveness;	(1-5 points)
The activities are designed in an accessible and inclusive way, with regards to racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, (dis)ability, age, gender, sex or sexual orientation;	(1-5 points)
The project incorporates the use of digital tools and methods;	(1-5 points)
The project is designed in an eco-friendly way and incorporates green practices in different project phases;	(1-5 points)

When writing the proposal, make sure to be very clear on this.

The SeC will evaluate solely taking into account what you write.

THE KEY ELEMENTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

Description of the Initiative (3000 characters max.) *

Please, briefly explain your project idea.
Guiding questions: What are the project objectives? How is this project proposal relevant to the objectives and the key priorities of the action? What is the methodology you intend to implement?

Long answer text

Describe your planned activities (4000 characters max.) *

Please, describe the planned activities in detail, including the foreseen project timeline. Provide a detailed explanation of the proposed activities specifying: i) the activities you plan to implement through the action; ii) how you intend to implement them (please mention if you will implement creative solutions in terms of methodology, implementation tools, communication strategy etc) ; iii) which stakeholders you plan to involve in the organization of the activities (if any); iv) existing linkages with on-going activities, events, processes, projects etc (if any) v) an indicative timeline of the project activities.

Long answer text

Innovation, inclusion and sustainability of the action *

Please mention if and how, your activities are: i) designed in an accessible and inclusive way, with regards to racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, (dis)ability, age, gender, sex or sexual orientation; ii) designed in an eco-friendly way and incorporates green practices in different project phases and iii) including the use of digital tools and methods.

Please take note of the guiding questions

Describe the target group of the project (1500 characters max.) *

Please specify the characteristics of the group of people that the project aims to reach and involve in the action and the number of direct and indirect beneficiaries you expect to reach through your project idea.
Guiding questions: Who are the members of the target group? What are their needs?

Long answer text

NB. The SeC will evaluate solely taking into account what you write in the proposal.

The points here will depend on how clear and specific you are – how are you going to be sustainable and inclusive?

Evaluation

Impact

The project proposal includes concrete and logical steps to integrate the project results in the regular work of participating organisation;	(1-5 points)

The project has the potential to positively impact its participants and participating organisations, as well as the wider community;	(1-5 points)
The project proposal includes an appropriate way to evaluate the project outcomes;	(1-5 points)
The project proposal includes concrete and effective steps to make the results of the project known within the participating organisations, to share the results with other organisations and the public and to publicly acknowledge the European Union funding (e.g. the communication & dissemination strategy is clear, the communication tools and channels are clearly identified)	(1-5 points)

Please describe the synergies you wish to create with other stakeholders *

Please describe potential synergies with other stakeholders

Long answer text

Please mention if you would like to host a ALDA Hub event *

Please, specify if you would like to co-organise, or host an ALDA hub event, and if so how

Short answer text

Briefly describe the communication strategy of your project and its potential impact (2500 characters max.) *

Guiding questions: How and where will you give visibility to the project (organization website, social media, partners website, etc.)? Which communication channels will you use to promote your project? Please specify if you use X, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, YouTube; Vimeo; TikTok, others (please, include the links of your account) Are you going to produce dissemination material (posters, brochures etc.)?

Long answer text

For the HUB event — if you are willing to host a HUB event please mention how and when this could be doable, and what priorities you could match

Evaluation of the results *

Please describe if and how you will evaluate and monitor the project results.

Long answer text

Evaluation

Additional Points

The project demonstrate exceptional strategic merit - considering elements such as innovation, coherence with ALDA's strategy, and outreach	+ 3 points
The project clearly foresees cooperation with other key local actors and Local Authorities.	+ 3 points
The applicant agrees to adopt an internal policy, by the end of the project, that foresees **Gender equality and Anti discrimination guidelines** to be implemented within the organisation.[2]	+ 3 points

Be inspired

Check last years' subgrantees

Thank You!

https://www.alda-europe.eu/citizens-voice-call-for-proposals/

regranting@alda-europe.eu