



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.

Summary:

A. NALAS activities and participations

- Meeting of the [Committee](#) of Liaison Officers
- 6th [Forum](#) of Cities and Regions of South-East Europe

B. Members associations' activities

- Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities - [SCTM](#)
- Association of Albanian Municipalities - [AKM](#)
- Romanian Federation of Local Authorities - [FALR](#)

A. NALAS ACTIVITIES AND PARTICIPATIONS

- The meeting of the Committee of Liaison Officers, Prishtina, November 18-19, 2005

The meeting was focused on discussing the vision of NALAS on the next years and of the activities of the next year. The meeting was honored by the presence of Mr. Yavuz Mildon, president of the Chamber of Regions of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities from Europe, by Mr. Ismet Beqiri, the acting president of AMK and mayor of Prishtina, who enhanced the importance of the network in the region.

Representatives of 10-member association and 1-associate member attended the meeting, the exceptions being the Romanian and Macedonian associations.

During the meeting it was finalized the format of the vision (first draft can be seen on the network site). It was divided in three parts: presentation of the region, NALAS presentation and trends of development and the main priorities for the development of the region. The participants agreed that NALAS should act more radically on the decentralization issues and not to allow that these issues be only on paper but to act in order to put them into practice in order to offer more services to their citizens. Another important issue was the EU Enlargement and the integration processes. Also it was decided that the municipalities should get closer to the business that operate in their area in order to promote them and to attract more investors.



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It was discussed also the action plan for 2006 – 2008, being concluded that NALAS should be more focused on some issues each year. The most important tasks identified during the meeting were fiscal decentralization, financing municipal infrastructure, financing of associations and waste and water management.

- The next Forum of Cities and Regions of South-East Europe, Sinaia, Romania, December 2005

Within 8 and 9 of December 2005, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe and the Prahova County Council from Romania are organizing the 6th Forum of Cities and Regions of South-East Europe “Improving leadership, citizen participation and service provision in cities and regions of SEE” with the support of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, Dexia and FEDRE in the framework of the Romanian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers.

The forum debates will be focused on recent developments of the political situation in South-East Europe, on improving leadership, citizens participation and service provision in cities and regions of South-East Europe, on how to secure associations of local and regional authorities, on how to improve the participation of citizens at local/ regional level, on the development of sustainable communities and on recent initiatives of co-operation between cities and regions in south-east Europe.

Local and regional elected representatives from southeast Europe are expected to attend the event.

B. MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS’ ACTIVITIES

1. SCTM activities (www.skgo.org)

- 15th Session of the SCTM Presidency

The 15th Session of the SCTM Presidency took place on 22 November 2005 in Belgrade, with only one item on the agenda: *Proposal of decision on SCTM membership fee.*

Also, Mr. Mladjan Dinkic, Minister of Finance in the Serbian Government, participated at the session and participated in the discussions on preparation of the Budget for 2006 and especially - the issues of local government financing in the upcoming year.

- XXXV General Assembly of the SCTM

The XXXV General Assembly of the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities will take place on 5 December 2005 in Belgrade. The main topic of the General Assembly is: *“Towards Better Local Self-Government through Partnership between Central and Local Governments”*.

The SCTM General Assembly is the most important gathering of local government representatives in Serbia in 2005. Together with mayors and other representatives from all Serbian towns and municipalities, high officials from the Central Government level, foreign and international organizations and actors in the fields of importance for local governments in Serbia will be present at this event.



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As foreseen, the XXXV General Assembly of SCTM will present an opportunity for a thorough exchange between the Prime minister, the Speaker of the Parliament and the relevant ministers in Serbian Government, with local government representatives, aimed at discussing the main issues of importance for local governments, such as municipal property, municipal finances etc., and thus mark the true beginning of structured dialogue between the two levels of governments, for which both sides have already expressed their full commitment.

2) AKM activities (www.komunat-ks.net)

- The delegation of the Association of Municipalities of Albania visited Kosovo

Invited by the Association of Kosovo Municipalities; the delegation of the Association of Municipalities of Albania visited some municipalities of Kosovo. This visit was done in the framework of the regular contacts and visits that the Association of Kosovo Municipalities and the Association of Municipalities of Albania is developing between them in order to exchange experiences as local authorities.

The visit of the delegation from Albania began by meeting with Mr. Ismet Beqiri, the Acting President of AMK and at the same time a mayor of Prishtina, and in this meeting were present also the mayor of Podujeva Mr. Agim Kikaj, mayor of Shtime Mr. Fatmir Rashiti, mayor of Lipjan Mr. Xhevat Olluri, mayor of Glllogovc Mr. Gani Sylaj, mayor of Obiliq Mr. Ismet Hashani and the mayor of Fushë Kosova Mr. Skënder Zogaj.

In this meeting, the mayor Beqiri said that this visit strengthens more the co-operation between our two Associations that represent the local authorities and such a visit also impacts the exchange of experiences with the same objectives. Also the individual visits have their importance, but when they are done by the Association of Kosovo Municipalities and Albania have a big importance in a wider context.

Mr. Artur Kurti, a vice-chairman of the Association of Municipalities of Albania said that this visit indicates that our associations have a close and very important co-operation in the exchange of our experiences.

- The delegation of AMK took part in the Third Annual Conference of the Local Authorities of Bulgaria

The delegation of Association of Kosovo Municipalities (AMK) represented by Mr. Fadil Ferati, Mayor of the municipality of Istog and the member of the Council of Mayors in AMK, Mr. Osman Sadikaj, member of the Committee for Finance of AMK and Mr. Arsim Osmani-Communication Manager of AMK took part in the Third Annual Conference of the Local Authorities of Bulgaria which was celebrating at the same time the Day of Municipalities of this country. In the two-day meetings, the delegation of Kosovo took part in the general meeting where there were presented the achievements

and the challenges of the municipalities of Bulgaria, then the topics such as economic development in South Eastern Europe and the establishment of the legislation of the local government in accordance with the laws of European Union. The delegation of Kosovo took part in the special dinner where present were also the Prime Minister Mr. Sergei Stanishev together with three ministers of his cabinet and they held a meeting with

Executive Director of the Local Authorities of Bulgaria (NAMRB).



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Mrs. G. Tchavdarova as well where there were presented the achievements of the local government and they exchanged experiences in the policies of the local authorities of two places.

- The representatives of AMK met with Mr. Joachim Rucker, Chief of the IV Pillar of UNMIK and with Mr. Ahmet Shala, vice director of KTA

The mayor of AMK Mr. Ismet Beqiri and Chief Executive of AMK Mr. Sazan Ibrahimimi held a meeting today with Mr. Joachim Rucker, Chief of IV Pillar of UNMIK and with Mr. Ahmet Shala, vice-director of Kosovo Trust Agency (AMK). In this meeting, the representatives of AMK, UNMIK and KTA discussed about the possibilities that the municipalities of Kosovo should be given the allocation of the use of social and public enterprises for public interest in order to build school objects, ambulances and cemeteries etc. Also in the stage of changing the municipal properties which is managed by AMK, it must be found a common language and they must not go with the proportion of one hectar managed by AMK with dozens of hectar of municipal properties since this does harm the public interest and is not good for the citizens.

The pairs were agreed in this meeting for the possibility of having preliminary consultations of KTA with the municipalities of Kosovo before the privatization of enterprises and for a closer co-operation of municipalities themselves and KTA. In this meeting, the pairs were agreed that the process of privatization should be done in harmony by respecting the Urban Planning of municipalities and the process of privatization of the social enterprises should be done through solving the cases one by one and in close co-operation with municipality. At the same time, it was concluded in this meeting for the privatization of the social enterprises, municipalities have to create commissions of experts who will co-operate with the representatives of AMK in the local level, regional and with the highest representatives of KTA. The pairs stated that if privatization is to be successful there must be a mutual co-operation, a closer co-operation of KTA with municipalities and vice-versa and to have more frequent and regular meetings of the representatives of municipalities and KTA.

3) FALR activities (www.falr.ro)

- The Romanian – French Forum of Decentralized Co-operation

Within November 24 – 26, 2005, in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, the City hall of Cluj municipality and the associative structures from Romanian and France organized a *Forum of Decentralized Co-operation*. The debates of the round table were focused on decentralized cooperation between Romania and France, sustainable development at local and regional level, ways to apply local and regional policy and the local autonomy and decentralization. The second session of the forum was focused on 4 workshops: 1) Development of participative democracy at local level; 2) Economic development – territorial planning at local and regional level; 3) Social cohesion at local level; 4) Public services management. The event offered a good framework for an open and dynamic dialogue between the representatives of local authorities and civil society interested in developing partnerships from Romania and France.