



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

### Info-bulletin no.5 – October 2005

E-mail address: [nalas.see@gmail.com](mailto:nalas.see@gmail.com)

Web: [www.nalas-see.org](http://www.nalas-see.org)

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 and participations

- NALAS [workshop on waste legislation](#) in South Eastern Europe
- Next NALAS [meeting](#)

#### B. Members associations' activities

- Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities - [SCTM](#)
- National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria – [NAMRB](#)

#### A. NALAS ACTIVITIES AND PARTICIPATIONS

*- NALAS workshop on waste legislation in South Eastern Europe - a cooperative process of shaping new legislation for better municipal services' delivery, Prishtine / Pristina, 17 - 18. October 2005*

NALAS, the "Network of Associations of Local Authorities in South Eastern Europe" organized a workshop on waste legislation in South Eastern Europe on 17-18 October 2005 in Prishtine / Pristina, Kosovo. Based on the European Council Charter on Local Self Government, which sets the standards for rights and responsibilities of Local and Regional Government in the EU, NALAS conducted this workshop in order to highlight the main concerns in regard to the current process of drafting new waste legislation in a number of countries in South Eastern Europe.

In four Panel Discussions some 50 experts in municipal waste management from all parts of South Eastern Europe discussed how municipalities could contribute best to an efficient waste management system based on their specific local conditions. They expressed their wish to become a reliable partner in implementing waste legislation, achieving European standards and to promote citizen participation.

The discussions in the Workshop can be summarized in four conclusions:



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

- (1) Local Self Governments and their Associations must be closely involved in all legislative processes related to areas of local responsibilities. Specifically in the field of waste management, municipalities have a far reaching mandate. Only with sufficient municipal capacities and with financial decentralization the implementation of national waste legislation can have satisfactory results.
- 2) Meeting EU standards is a common objective throughout the region. However, based on the current realities in South Eastern Europe these standards can only be reached in a stepwise approach. Laws must therefore foresee a stepwise procedure, which takes into account municipal capacities. Major efforts should also be made to enforce current legislation and to include municipalities in these procedures in order to arrive at realistic approaches.
- 3) The “polluter pays principle” (“polluters” in this context are any producers of waste including private households) must be the guiding aspect of national and municipal waste policy. Law - enforcement mechanisms on central and local level must provide the basis foundation to arrive at economically efficient, environmentally sound and socially acceptable solutions.
- 4) Broad participation, sound monitoring and modern controlling activities should be the basis for central and local waste policy in order to steer a process, which may need to be adjusted frequently to changing framework conditions.

The NALAS member associations on behalf of their municipalities herewith appeal to national governments across the region to further facilitate municipal waste management through close cooperation. Only joint efforts can move us closer to the ambitious goal to shorten the process of EU accession.

*- Next meeting of the Committee of Liaison Officers, Pristine, November 2005*

NALAS will organize in Pristine, in November 2005, the second meeting in 2005 of the Committee of Liaison Officers. The aim of the meeting is to set up the vision of the network, necessary to identify the future steps that the network should undertake. Also, there will be discussions on the budget and the accounts, on the future fixed office in Brussels and other internal matters of NALAS. More info about this meeting can be obtained from Mrs. Sazan Ibrahim, executive director of the Association of Municipalities of Kosovo ([sazanibrahimi@komunat-ks.net](mailto:sazanibrahimi@komunat-ks.net)), Mr. Fatos Hodaj, executive director of the Association of Albanian Municipalities and representative of the NALAS secretariat ([aam@albmail.com](mailto:aam@albmail.com)).

### B. MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS' ACTIVITIES

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

*- Delegation of Chinese people's association for friendship with foreign countries (CPAFFC) visited Serbia*

Within the frame of co-operation between the SCTM and the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), the delegation of this association visited Serbia from 18-21 September. This visit was organised in co-operation of the SCTM and the Chinese



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

Embassy in Belgrade. The delegation which consisted of eight members visited Sremski Karlovci, Belgrade, Novi Sad, Pančevo and Pirot.

*- Joint session of the government of the republic of Serbia and the SCTM presidency*

Joint session of the Presidency of the Standing Conference and the Government of the Republic of Serbia took place on 19 September 2005. The aim of this meeting was to reach agreement on permanent dialogue between the SCTM and Serbian Government, as well as discussion on urgent issues of local self-government in Serbia, in particular the property devolution and the new financing system of towns and municipalities.

The Prime Minister supported establishing of the permanent dialogue and co-operation between central and local authorities and, at the very start, he stressed that for reaching European standards in this area in our country it is necessary to bring new and change few other acts. Mr. Kostunica invited ministers to consult the Standing Conference each time when the new laws or other regulations that could affect local self-government in Serbia are under preparation.

*- Local agenda 21 for five pilot municipalities*

As the result of the co-operation between the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities and Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS) within the Programme for Environmental Protection and Sustainable Development in Serbian Towns and Municipalities, two partner associations selected 5 pilot municipalities to which SCTM and KS will provide assistance in developing Local Agenda 21. Our aim is to provide support to pilot municipalities so that local community could become capable to apply principles of sustainable development imbedded in the vision of the Strategy of Local Sustainable Development. Moreover, "Coalition LA21" Network will help municipalities in the exchange of experiences in developing their Local agendas 21 on the basis of sustainable development principles.

The first meeting – Initiation of LA21 Development Programme for Pilot Municipalities and Inaugural "Coalition LA21" Network Meeting was held on 20 September 2005. Five pilot municipalities to which the assistance will be provided are Becej, Koceljeva, Prokuplje, Smederevska Palanka and Sombor.

## **2. NAMRB activities ([www.namrb.org](http://www.namrb.org))**

*- The fifth meeting of the JCC initiated a new level of the cooperation between NAMRB and the Committee of the Regions of the EU*

On 26 September 2005 in Sofia was held the 5<sup>th</sup> and last meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) between Bulgaria and the Committee of the Regions of the EU. With the signing of the Accession Treaty Bulgarian local authorities have opportunity to be represented by their delegates in the CoR. Until the final accession they will have an observers statute. Thus the JCC is not more necessary to function as a transition structure between Bulgarian and EU local authorities and initiates a new level of cooperation. Besides the JCC delegates from Bulgaria in



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

the forum also participated the members of the Council for EU Integration to the NAMRB. At the meeting two recommendations have been adopted – “Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection” and “Policy and Strategy for Attributing the Structural Funds in Bulgaria”, as well as a Final Declaration.

Dr. Krasimir Mirev, NAMRB President, Mayor of Targovishte and Co-Chairman of the JCC emphasized his hope, that despite of the fact this 5<sup>th</sup> meeting formally ends the activity of the JCC, simultaneously it will initiate a new level of cooperation. When analyzing the 4-year period of the development of the forum for cooperation between Bulgarian and EU local authorities, he emphasized its significant contribution in the process of EU accession of Bulgaria. The dialogue and cooperation created a good basis and assisted maximally the future work of the representatives of Bulgarian local authorities to the CoR after the EU accession.

Lord Paul Hanningfield of Chelmsford, Co-Chairman of the JCC on behalf of the CoR stressed, that the next Regular Report for Bulgarian Progress towards EU accession will corroborate that Bulgaria has entered in a new stage of its development and is ready to be EU member.

As a representative of the central authority, in the 5<sup>th</sup> JCC meeting participated Mrs. Iskra Mihaylova – Deputy Minister of the Regional Development and Public Works. She addressed an appeal to the representatives of Bulgarian local authorities to be actively involved as partners in the implementation of the tasks that stand before the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works in finishing the work on defining the Bulgarian Regional Policy, finishing of the Regional Operational Program, the indicative lists of projects and clear and effective development of organizational working strategies, developments of human capacity in the central executive authority. She emphasized also that without the partnership of local authorities that are step forward in the partnership with their EU colleagues, we will not deal as well as we work together.

The representative of the European Commission Mr. Ruud van Enk provoked an lively discussion as he stressed that the administrative capacity that we build and all range of responsibilities that we delegate, have no sense if there are no available projects for funding, as such projects will not be available if the people in the cities and towns in the small and large municipalities don't know anything about these projects and the opportunities they give.

During the discussion all participants in the forum agreed on the necessity for establishment of a specialized NAMRB structure for development of projects with the certain support from the Central government. This position laid down also in the final declaration.