



NALAS
2020 ANNUAL
OPERATIONAL REPORT

SUMMARY

2020 was a year of serious health, social and economic challenges, with severe and long-lasting consequences for local governments. At the very beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, NALAS adapted its services and succeeded not only to address the new challenges, but also to steadily continue reaching the objectives of the Strategic Plan 2018-2022, contributing to

- 1) Sustainable communities,
- 2) Stable and Resilient communities,
- 3) Improved Services and
- 4) Sustainability of the Network



2020 AT A GLANCE



- A priority program, set by NALAS President, Mayor Emanuil Manolov, addressed the crises related challenges of local governments in South-East Europe and their Associations
- NALAS Survey: SEE Local Governments in Post COVID-19 Socio-Economic Recovery analysed the COVID-19 impact and identified 79 good practices of local governments in leading the social and economic recovery
- More than 1,700 mayors, experts and practitioners exchanged during 55 NALAS conferences, workshops and webinars
- 51 Updates and Digests provided a coordination and knowledge exchange platform for local governments and their Associations
- NALAS Quick Response service supported 15 national advocacy and lobbying activities
- 20 studies and publications were made available to South-East Europe local governments
- NALAS EU advocacy efforts bore fruits with the Working Group on Local Governments set up in EU Commission DG NEAR and the decision to extend Covenant of Mayors on Energy Efficiency and Climate Change to WB6 countries and Turkey
- NALAS won two important EU projects: "Europe for Municipalities Grant Scheme Albania", worth EUR 2.6 million and "Learn to be Resilient", worth EUR 230,000

ONLINE CONFERENCE
European Local Governments in Post COVID-19
Social and Economic Recovery



THE 2030 AGENDA
Through the eyes of local and regional
governments' associations



RCDN
Quality Standards for
TRAINING DELIVERY

At the source of knowledge.

PRACTICAL GUIDE

Establishing and
Running a Training Centre
...and how can RCDN
support you on that journey

PANEL 1:
Community Mobilisation in dealing with COVID-19

Key programme achievements



REPORT
ON
MANAGEMENT
EUROPE

DECENTRALISATION AND LOCAL
PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
REFORM IN MOLDOVA
STATUS REPORT

MANAGEMENT
THE COVID-19 CRISIS

RCDN WEBINAR

SARADNJA
OPĆINA I
JAVNIH VODOVODNIH
PREDUZEĆA
ZA VRIJEME COVID-19
PANDEMIIJE

MD

RCDN
Regional Capacity
Development Network
for Water and
Sanitation Services

MD

Strategic Objective 1: Sustainable Communities

Local Governments in SEE have capacity to create sustainable communities based on smart and innovative growth through quality services and job creation.

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH STRATEGIC APPROACH IN URBANISATION:

- 10 research papers developed by NALAS explored best practices for local governments to address the changing urban-rural interplay and manage its impacts, focused in five areas: 1) local government responsibilities; 2) local government finances; 3) local government structures and intermunicipal cooperation; 4) intergovernmental relationships; and 5) people's participation in decision making in the framework of the LoGov project : Local Government and the Changing Urban-Rural Interplay.

INCREASING EFFECTIVENESS AND EFFICIENCY OF THE WATER SECTOR:

- Successfully completed sub-grant agreements with five NALAS member LGAs within the Regional Capacity Development Network for Water and Sanitation Services (RCDN) for the period July 2019 - February 2020, worth EUR 119,408, while additional EUR 234,255 committed for the period until March 2021.
- More than 700 representatives of local governments and public utility benefited from capacity development measures, enhancing their capacities in water and sanitation management.
- Five NALAS members LGAs benefited from 20 different organisational development measures, such as: establishing a training centre, developing a strategic plan, fundraising strategy, etc.

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

REPORT BENCHMARKING ON SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT IN SOUTH-EAST EUROPE 2019



Strategic Objective 1: Sustainable Communities

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SUPPORTING FISCAL DECENTRALISATION REFORM IN SOUTH-EAST EUROPE:

- Over 150 Albanian local policy makers, experts and practitioners learned from SEE good practices and formulated recommendations for regulating and financing of LG social sector responsibilities in education, social protection and healthcare
- The eighth edition of NALAS Fiscal Decentralisation Report that creates a platform for learning on best practices on the regulation and financing of SEE LGs responsibilities in education, social protection and healthcare is in the peer review phase
- The second edition of the NALAS [Statistical Brief: Local Government Finance Indicators in SEE](#), provided policymakers and analysts with accurate, relevant and comparable data on local government finance in SEE in 2019

IMPROVING WASTE MANAGEMENT:

- Published new [Benchmarking Report on Solid Waste Management in SEE](#)
- Over 140 participants from local governments, utility companies, associations and donor community learned from the experiences of practitioners in provision of SWM services in times of the COVID-19 pandemic

WASTE MANAGEMENT PROVISION IN SEE & COVID-19
Panel discussion series

SAVE THE DATE

MAY 20
MAY 27
JUNE 3

Panel 1	Panel 2	Panel 3
May 20 2020 14:00 CET	May 27 2020 14:00 CET	June 3 2020 14:00 CET
Continuity of the waste management business operations during the Covid-19 crisis	Waste management, work safety and protection of public health within the pandemic crisis	Resilience of the waste management services, present, and future

Panel discussions will bring together relevant actors from the SEE region to exchange about SWM services in the COVID-19 crisis

NALAS **zoom**

Strategic Objective 2: Stable and Resilient Communities

Decentralised cooperation contributes to stable, safe, inclusive and resilient SEE communities and regional cohesion.

LOCALISING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) AND IMPLEMENTING AGENDA 2030

- Sub-grant agreements signed with six NALAS member LGAs for the period May 2020 – April 2022 within the project “Enhancing local capacities to implement the 2030 Agenda and the Leave No One Behind Principle”
- Sub-grant agreements signed with two NALAS member LGAs for the period May 2020 – December 2022 within the project “Regional Learning for the Implementation of the Agenda 2030 in South-East Europe”
- Developed five training packages on approaches for delivery of social services: Day-care Centre, Mobile Outreach Teams, Social Dialogue Forum, Awareness Raising and Emergency Response
- Support provided to three day-care centres for children with disabilities and autism in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania
- Children from disadvantaged families from seven municipalities in North Macedonia, Serbia and Kosovo¹ received IT equipment for distance learning
- 232 local practitioners have increased their knowledge on establishing and running a day-care centre and conducting awareness rising campaigns for the rights of vulnerable groups at local level

SURVEY:

South-East European Local Governments in Post Covid-19 Socio-Economic Recovery

- NALAS supported the development of the CEMR-PLATFORMA Publication: The 2030 Agenda through the eyes of local and regional governments' associations
- NALAS supported the development of the European Section of the GOLD V Report, by CEMR, PLATFORMA and UCLG, “The localisation of the Global Agendas: How local action is transforming territories and communities

¹ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

Strategic Objective 2: Stable and Resilient Communities

Decentralised cooperation contributes to stable, safe, inclusive and resilient SEE communities and regional cohesion.



ACHIEVING GENDER EQUALITY AT LOCAL LEVEL:

- Upgraded the **NALAS e-Academy** course in Introduction to Gender Mainstreaming at Local Level
- Course made available in Serbian, Albanian, Turkish and Macedonian language to 157 participants
- With the support of PLATFORMA and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the

Council of Europe, the course has been translated and adapted by the Association of Ukrainian Cities and delivered to Ukrainian local governments

- Methodology for identification of gender aspects in the solid waste management service delivery piloted in the City of Bijeljina, Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Collected good practices in Gender Responsive Budgeting



Strategic Objective 3: Improved Services

SEE Local Government Associations and Local Governments emerging needs are met by a unique knowledge and evidence-based policy making and influence, through strategic regional and national partnerships.



STRENGTHENING LOCAL GOVERNMENT VIA NALAS E-ACADEMY:

- NALAS e-Academy offered 11 e-learning courses in the spring and autumn delivery sessions
- 134 participants successfully completed the courses



SUPPORTING INFORMED POLICY-MAKING AND LGAS ADVOCACY ROLE:

- 14 national advocacy and lobbying activities were supported with arguments and comparative regional data, within the Quick Response service
- In partnership with CEMR and PLATFORMA, supported decentralisation and local government reform in Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine through seminars, peer exchanges, status reports and a study.
- 23 COVID-19 Updates

- 20 issues of the electronic NALAS Digest
- 7 issues of special NALAS Digest on combating COVID-19
- Over 6,000 downloads of NALAS 2020 publications from NALAS website
- At Academia.edu, NALAS Fiscal Decentralisation Report has been viewed 757 times and downloaded 304 times, by 414 unique visitors, from 85 countries and 109 cities from almost all continents, of whom 86 work in universities.

Strategic Objective 4: Sustainability of the Network

Networks' sustainability is ensured by using all NALAS potentials.

EU ADVOCACY AND NETWORKING FOR VOICING AND IMPROVING THE POSITION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN SOUTH-EAST EUROPE:

- Rising recognition of NALAS by the EU institutions: contribution to the Opinion of the Committee of the Regions on the Enlargement Package 2019; Roundtable "A new-bottom-up approach to bring the EU closer to its future citizen", co-organised by NALAS and the BCSDN in Brussels.
- Setting up of the Working Group on Local Governments in DG NEAR
- NALAS joined the Development Partners Network on Decentralisation and Local Governance (DeLoG)
- Enhanced cooperation with UCLG by becoming member of: a) Capacity and Institutional Building (CIB) Working Group; b) the Local Economic and Social Development Commission; c) the UCLG Working Group on Local Finances
- Enhanced cooperation with CEMR, through regular participation and contribution to the CEMR Expert Group on COVID-19 and Expert Group on Local Finances, as well as partnership in PLATFORMA
- Preparatory consultations with the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission on a cross-European study on local government revenues tax revenues

FUNDRAISING:

- Won EU funded Project in Albania: "Europe for Municipalities Grant Scheme Albania" under EuropeAid call 166359 "Europe for Municipalities", where NALAS is the lead partner. The project will provide grants to Albanian municipalities to improve the public infrastructure for local public services and development potential. The total budget is EUR 2.6 million, of which EUR 100,000 as co-financing from the Revolving Fund.
- Won the project "Learn to be resilient" under EC- Union Civil Protection Mechanism, with a budget of EUR 230,000, where NALAS is the lead partner.
- NALAS is affiliate partner of the project "Security and Protection through Knowledge Synergies", under EC- Union Civil Protection Mechanism, led by the Society Development Institute, Bratislava, Slovakia.

A white speech bubble with a tail pointing towards the bottom right, centered on a dark blue background. The bubble is surrounded by several concentric white lines, including a dashed line and several solid lines of varying lengths, creating a circular, dynamic effect.

What do
others
say

"I would like to highlight the work of NALAS President Mr. Emanuil Manolov and his determination in maintaining the topic of post-crisis recovery at the heart of debates and discussions through the Network's activities. In line with the priority defined at the beginning of his term, President Manolov's drive has provided NALAS members with the appropriate tools in preparing for the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis. We must now look forward to economic and community recovery".

Ms. **Gunn Marit HELGESEN**, President of the Chamber of Regions of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, during NALAS' Online Mayors' Conference: SEE Local Governments in post COVID-19 Socio-Economic Recovery

"It was an extremely good experience, participating and exchanging ideas with other participants from different countries in the course "Introduction to Gender Mainstreaming at Local Level", organised by NALAS e-Academy. The course modules have a good connection with each other and obviously I will try to implement these experiences in our institutions. Gender equality and integration can only be done together by both genders, starting with our family, otherwise not".

Mr. **Avni Gashi**, Municipality of Peja,

"I was very happy to receive the call for NALAS Academy e-Learning Course on Introduction to Gender Mainstreaming at the Local Level. The online and flexible nature of the course was so effective that I had no difficulties with time allocations regarding my duties at work. Such platform also helped building up self-responsibility in following the course and fulfilling the tasks. The contents of the topics, case studies, forum discussions and recommended readings were all very comprehensive. The course provided a wide spectrum of information ranging from the concept of gender to gender budgeting in local governments. I would like to thank all the contributors. I find such courses very valuable and useful and I think it would be very good to mainstream this course so that it would reach more participants from local governments".

Ms. **Gizem Ceviz**, Beylikdüzü Municipality, Turkey

"I would like to thank NALAS for the long-standing cooperation. I am glad that the Austrian Association of Cities and Towns is an associated member of NALAS and we work together towards European Integration, especially on the local level since many years".

Dr. **Michael Ludwig**, Mayor of Vienna, President of the Austrian Association of Cities and Towns



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Network of Associations of Local
Authorities of South-East Europe
Réseau des Associations de Pouvoirs
Locaux de l'Europe du Sud-Est



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

**Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC**