



Antonella Valmorbida (ed.)

## Citizens' participation at the local level in Europe and Neighbouring Countries

Contribution of the Association of Local Democracy Agencies

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**A** LDA – The Association of Local Democracy Agencies – is an organisation dedicated to the promotion of good governance and citizen participation at the local level. It is made up of over 160 members comprising local authorities and civil society organisations in the enlarged Europe. Recently, new forms of interaction between citizens and decision makers have been put in place. By analysing ALDA's 15 years of hands-on activities with its members and partners, this publication contributes to a better understanding of the added value of citizen participation at the local level in Europe and its neighbouring countries. This book brings together the work of the Director and staff of ALDA and of the Local Democracy Agencies, as well as numerous practices and voices from the members and partners of its vast network. Through the field experiences presented, ALDA shows how and why citizen participation leads to the adoption of better solutions, and, at the same time, fosters long lasting, balanced development. This publication formulates conclusions and offers insightful input for future activities aiming at building truly democratic local democracy. It is therefore particularly useful for all those who intend to work within the recently adopted programme 'Europe for Citi-

zens' 2014-2020, as well as to bridge the topics of active citizenship and development – the focus of the European Years 2013 and 2015.

**CONTENTS:** The Approach of the Association of Local Democracy Agencies to Citizen Participation • Data and Figures from a Seven Years Implementation Period • Citizen Participation in Europe. Focus on the European Year of Citizens, Practices and Trends • Citizen Participation at the National Level • Citizen Participation at the Local Level and Best Practices • Citizen Participation in Enlargement and Neighbouring Countries: Comparing Frameworks, Experiences and Outcomes • Experience of the Local Democracy Agencies in Citizen Participation • Citizens' Panels: an Innovative Approach for Enhancing Participation.

**ANTONELLA VALMORBIDA** is the Director of ALDA since its establishment in 1999. She has been working for over twenty years promoting citizens' participation and local democracy in the enlarged Europe. Mrs Valmorbida is involved in most the European networks dealing with multilateral governance and local democracy, and a constant partner of the European institutions and of the Council of Europe on the matter. She is lecturing at the University of Padua, Italy, on decentralised cooperation.

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