



**SUMMARY OF**

# **NALAS** **2018**

**ANNUAL OPERATIONAL REPORT**



2018 marked the first results in the implementation of the new NALAS Strategic Plan 2018–2022, focusing on

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

# 2018

## AT A GLANCE

# 11 DIFFERENT PROJECTS

HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED BY THE NETWORK AND CONTRIBUTED TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF ITS STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

# 14 NATIONAL ADVOCACY & LOBBYING ACTIVITIES

## IN 9 COUNTRIES

HAVE RESULTED WITH SUCCESS, SUPPORTED BY REGIONAL COMPARATIVE DATA PROVIDED BY THE NALAS QUICK RESPONSE SERVICE

**780** PARTICIPANTS  
BENEFITED FROM NALAS  
NETWORKING, EXCHANGE  
AND PEER LEARNING EVENTS



**310** PARTICIPANTS  
TOOK PART IN NALAS TRAININGS

**101** PARTICIPANTS  
TOOK PART IN NALAS E-COURSES

NALAS' publications  
from 2018 reached out  
to **8.500**

3

» » » » » » » » » » » » READERS

**5** NEW  
PROJECT  
APPLICATIONS  
HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED  
AND SUBMITTED  
**2 WERE APPROVED**



**NALAS Revolving Fund**  
has been established  
to ensure long-term  
financial sustainability  
of the Network



# KEY PROGRAMME ACHIEVEMENTS

## 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.*



Increasing effectiveness and efficiency of the **water sector**:

- Strengthened institutional capacities of 13 partner Associations (LGAs and APUCs) through 9 training measures
- Established regional Pool of Trainers, Moderators and Advisors, with 87 individuals
- Developed curriculum for trainings in Infrastructure Investment Projects

Improving **waste management**:

- Developed methodology for advisory service for extension of municipal solid waste collection services and optimisation of waste collection routes
- 10 pilot municipalities from 3 countries benefited from the advisory service
- Established Regional Working Group on Solid Waste Management

## 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:

- 42 municipal employees, via NALAS e-Academy, increased their capacities in Gender Mainstreaming at Local Level
- Local governments benefited from a methodology for mainstreaming gender in waste management
- LGAs benefited from a roadmap for promoting and supporting adoption of gender responsive budgeting policy at local level

**Social inclusion** of all municipal citizens:

- The challenges in bringing 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) closer to community level were addressed by 120 participants at a “Regional Conference on social inclusion and (re) integration through 2030 Agenda and SDGs”
- Series of workshops and conferences increased local level capacities in responding to migration movements and emergency situations





### 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.*



Supporting LGAs advocacy efforts via the **Quick Response Service**:

- 14 national advocacy and lobbying activities in 9 countries supported with arguments and comparative data from all NALAS countries
- Three national laws amended, providing better conditions for local governments
- Two successful lobbying initiatives protected the independence of local government

Setting up **regional benchmarks**, comparing the **progress of decentralisation** and advocating for **better services**:

- *NALAS Regional Decentralisation Observatory (RDO)* established, with 110 indicators and 4 dimensions: Autonomy of local government; Quality of local services; Participation and responsiveness; and Inter-governmental dialogue



## Strategic Objective 4: Sustainability of the Network

*Networks' sustainability is ensured by using all NALAS potentials.*



EU advocacy for **voicing** and **improving the position of local government** in South-East Europe:

- NALAS proposals integrated into the opinion of the Committee of the Regions (CoR) on “Enlargement: Inclusion of Western Balkans Local and Regional Authorities in the EU’s Macro-Regional, Cross-Border and Other Transnational Cooperation Initiatives”
- The CoR’ Opinion on the EU Enlargement Package mentioned NALAS *expressis verbis* under point 27, calling the Commission to step in and launch joint initiatives - reflecting *inter alia* the spirit of the Berlin Process - with organisations in touch with the situation of LRAs in the candidate and potential candidate countries

Ensuring **recognition** of the work done and **sustainability** of NALAS:

- NALAS 2018 Membership Satisfaction Survey confirmed a high and increasing satisfaction of members with NALAS work. 72.3% of the respondents judge the usefulness of NALAS as “high” or “very high”, which represents a significant progression over the last years
- NALAS products were promoted at several global events
- 5 new project applications have been developed and submitted, 2 were approved
- NALAS Revolving Fund was established

## WHAT DO OUR USERS SAY



We are very satisfied with the Quick Response service. The quality of the final report is quite impressive as well as professionally delivered.

*(NALAS member, evaluation of the Quick Response service for 2018)*

This is a very interesting and useful training. The knowledge gained will help a lot to better implement RCDN activities in the upcoming period.

*(Participant at the training in Training Cycle Management, comprehending RCDN Training Standards)*



I gained a general view of gender mainstreaming at local level. I learned a lot about gender responsive budgeting at local level. I gained awareness about national policies. I will try to use all I learned at my municipal policies.

*(Participant in the e-learning course in Introduction to Gender Mainstreaming at Local Level)*

I expect that NALAS continues the excellent work and efforts! Good luck!

*(LGA Director, NALAS 2018 Membership Satisfaction Survey)*



NALAS should continue to be the strongest network supporting local autonomy in the region as well as represent and protect their members' interests and provide high level services. You are the voice advocating towards central governments and international organisations in the region and in Europe. Continue to share experiences and knowledge with local governments and local government associations beyond the region.

*(LGA Staff Member, NALAS 2018 Membership Satisfaction Survey)*



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