



SUMMARY OF



ANNUAL OPERATIONAL REPORT





2019 was rounded up with significant achievements contributing to NALAS Strategic Plan 2018-2022, related to

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

2019

at a glance

NALAS RECOGNISED AS A KEY PARTNER FOR INTRODUCING LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASPECT IN THE BERLIN PROCESS. CO-ORGANISED THE FORUM OF CITIES AND REGIONS IN THE FRAMES OF THE POZNAN SUMMIT 2019.

964 PARTICIPANTS benefited from NALAS networking exchange & peer learning events

422 PARTICIPANTS took part in NALAS trainings





A POOL OF **103** TRAINERS & MODERATORS for water and sanitation created

NALAS Quick Response Service supported

8 NATIONAL ADVOCACY AND LOBBYING ACTIVITIES



3 municipalities in Albania WERE PROVIDED

EXPERT SUPPORT IN THE EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE OPERATIONS



3

5 RESEARCH PAPERS on local finance IN ALBANIA, CROATIA, MOLDOVA AND NORTH MACEDONIA

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

4 NEW PROJECT APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED AND SUBMITTED **2** WERE APPROVED, PENDING



10 PILOT MUNICIPALITIES FROM 4 ECONOMIES

WERE SUPPORTED TO REORGANISE THEIR WASTE COLLECTION PRACTICES, SAVING AROUND 162.000 EUR AND PROVIDING BETTER WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

5 METHODOLOGIES AVAILABLE TO MUNICIPALITIES AND PUBLIC UTILITY COMPANIES

TO GUIDE THEM THROUGH THE PROCESS OF IMPROVING THEIR SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SERVICES



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 based on smart and innovative growth through quality services and job creation.



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

- Improved capacities of the water sector in 6 economies, through series of 26 national trainings and stakeholder forums, organised by NALAS member LGAs
- Developed advocacy strategies and policy papers for improving the water services in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro
- Strengthened institutional capacities of 13 partner Associations (LGAs and APUCs) through series of capacity development measures (training, mentoring, peer exchange), based on individual Association Needs Assessment
- Increased Pool of Trainers, Moderators and Advisors, now bringing together 103 individuals

Improving **waste management**:

- Developed and tested 5 methodologies for improving solid waste management services, related to: Optimisation of collection routes; Introduction of home composting; Optimisation of cost centres; Introduction of health & safety, and Optimisation of customer base.
- Improved solid waste management in 10 pilot municipalities from 4 economies, that resulted with savings of around 162.000 EUR



Strategic Objective 2: Stable and Resilient Communities

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

Improving municipal capacities for **Disaster Risk Management**

- 3 municipalities in Albania (Tirana, Durrës and Krležë) were provided support in the earthquake response operations, with experts from North Macedonia, Slovenia and Turkey, with the assistance of ZELS, SOS and MMU.
- The first group of 11 experts successfully completed the NALAS e-Academy course in Disaster Risk Management.

Achieving **gender equality** at local level:

- Organised the first Forum of Women Mayors in SEE
- Upgraded the NALAS e-Academy course in Introduction to Gender Mainstreaming at Local Level



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**:

- 8 national advocacy and lobbying activities supported with arguments and comparative data from all NALAS countries
- 3 of the processes were completed and resulted with protected independence and interests of local government



Benchmarking for improving local public services:

- *Positive trends and challenges identified in the third issue of the Benchmarking Report on Solid Waste Management in SEE, this time extended with the issue of circular economy*
- *Strengthened group on Water and Sanitation, as part of the Solid Waste and Water Management Task Force*



Online courses made available via NALAS e-Academy

- Three courses delivered in autumn session: Gender, Asset Management and Disaster Risk Management - 76 nominated participants, 18 certified

Localising Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

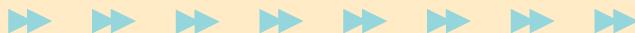
- Trained trainers for Raising Awareness for the SDGs at local level
- Published resource material for local governments: Handbook "Agenda 2030 in my municipality"





Strategic Objective 4: Sustainability of the Network

Networks' sustainability is ensured by using all NALAS potentials.

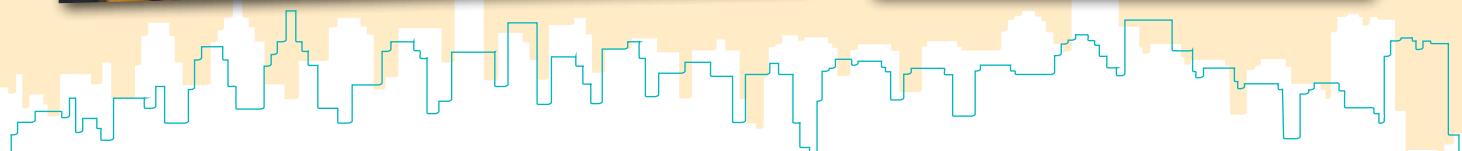


EU advocacy for **voicing** and **improving the position of local government** in South-East Europe:

- NALAS proposals regarding role and function of LGs in enlargement reflected in the CoR Draft Opinion on Enlargement Package 2019. NALAS mentioned *expressis verbis* point 27 and 51 (CIVEX-VI/042)
- NALAS has been recognised as a key partner for introducing local government aspect in the Berlin Process. Co-organised the Forum of Cities and Regions in the frames of the Poznan Summit 2019
- Key note speech of NALAS President during the EU Enlargement Days
- Commissioner Johannes Hahn addressed at NALAS General Assembly via video message
- A Working Group for Local Governments set up within DG NEAR

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

- NALAS products were promoted at several global events and recognised as key resource
- 4 new project applications have been developed and submitted, 2 were approved
- NALAS Revolving Fund provided support in the application process
- 22 issues of the electronic NALAS Digest have been published, informing on local government developments throughout SEE





WHAT DO OTHERS SAY

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“NALAS has grown to be a relevant actor and supporter of the decentralisation process in South East Europe. NALAS plays an important role in representing local authorities in order to get proper position in the process of EU integration, at the same time it gives power to the local government associations as promoters and safeguards of local democracy”

– H.E. Ms. Sybille Suter Tejada, Ambassador of Switzerland in North Macedonia at NALAS 2019 General Assembly

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“Thanks to the NALAS work, we have at our disposal up to date data on local government finance indicators and information on reforms in South-East Europe, allowing us to make comparisons and learn from other countries experiences and best practices”

Fran Brahimi, Director of Local Budget Department, Ministry of Finance and Economy of Albania

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“The training was very well prepared and concise and a big thank you for the trainers and their work”

– participant at NALAS RCDN training

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“NALAS and the Congress political positions and common interests are well aligned, in particular in strengthening local self-government and representing and defending the interests of local and regional authorities. We need the political will of local leaders, a critical mass of engaged and reform-minded elected representatives to restore and build trust in our institutions, active national associations and a proactive network such as NALAS to create a space for local governments in the discussions between governments in the region and with international organisations”

– Mr. Johan Van Den Hout, Vice President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

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“We thank the NALAS Network and its member local government associations for the quick reaction and the support in the earthquake response operations. I trust this shadowing program will be only the beginning of a longer learning journey on how our cities can become more resilient”

Anuela Ristani, Deputy Mayor of Tirana, Municipality of Tirana, Albania.

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“NALAS is doing a very important work at the SEE level in terms of providing updated data and information on local government finance, and has provided significant support to establishing the World Observatory of Subnational Government Finance and Investment”

Edgardo Bilsky, Director of Research at United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), during the First Conference of the World Observatory of Subnational Government Finance and Investment, organized by UCLG and OECD.

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“The Quick Response tool is very useful and good and we think that NALAS has to continue to make this kind of support to the members”

– NALAS member, evaluation of the Quick Response service for 2019

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“I think the training is very valuable for the National Agency of Water Supply and Sanitation in Albania

participant at NALAS RCDN training



Network of Associations of Local Authorities
of South-East Europe

NALAS is supported by:



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