

PRESS RELEASE

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IN THE FOCUS

Ljubljana, 16 April 2018 - What are the challenges in bringing 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) closer to community level, how to achieve social inclusion and what is the way forward – all these questions will be in the focus of the “**Regional conference on social inclusion and (re)integration through 2030 Agenda and SDGs**”, organised on **17 and 18 April 2018** in **Brdo, Slovenia**.

The conference will provide a platform for **over 120 local stakeholders, NGOs and representatives from national level** in order to (1) *improve mutual learning* among professionals and practitioners on successfully implemented community-based approaches to social inclusion and (re)integration, (2) *increase awareness on the challenges in the municipalities* and acknowledge the importance of *collaboration* within and between the countries among various stakeholders, (3) *create awareness on the SDGs and migration*, and (4) *recommend approaches on social inclusion and (re) integration* in the form of a bottom-up policy advice following the do-no-harm principle.

“The municipality must provide equal opportunities to all and involve all citizens in making it a place of wellbeing. I expect that this conference brings new ideas and opens interesting discussions on what we as Mayors and local governments can do to contribute to making the Sustainable Development Goals our reality. The way we need to undergo requires a strong commitment by all stakeholders, both at local and national level, so we are looking forward to join forces for the benefit of our citizens”, says Mr. Mico Micic, President of NALAS and Mayor of Bijeljina, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The conference is organised by the Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS), supported by the GIZ regional project “Social Rights for Vulnerable Groups (SoRi)”, commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Key session of media interest:

17 April 2018 (Tuesday), Brdo Congress Centre	
09:00 - 09:45	<p>Welcoming & introduction into the agenda <i>Moderator: Mr. Stefan Friedrichs</i></p> <p>Welcome addresses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Mico Micic, NALAS President • Dr. Ute Boettcher, Head of Section Democracy, Policy Dialogue, Urban Development of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) • Mr. Branko Ledinek, President of SOS, Association of Municipalities and Towns of Slovenia

For more information, please contact NALAS Knowledge and Communications Manager Jelena Janevska, at janevska@nalas.eu, ++389 70 280 582, www.nalas.eu.

About NALAS: NALAS brings together 14 Associations which represent roughly 9000 local authorities, directly elected by more than 80 million citizens of South-East Europe. NALAS promotes the process of decentralisation, contributes to the reconciliation and stabilisation process in the region and henceforth contributes to the process of the European integration of the whole region. NALAS initiates and carries out regional initiatives for its members and helps the associations to become viable representatives of local authorities vis-a-vis central government. NALAS provides services to local governments for the benefit of the citizens in the region, through its Knowledge Centre for local government development. *For more information about NALAS: www.nalas.eu*