

MEDIA ADVISORY

International Conference: The Future of Fiscal Decentralization in South-East Europe

Podgorica, 29 October 2012 – Is the fiscal decentralisation the main strategy for the countries in South-East Europe to face the financial challenges and to reinforce investments in local communities? What are the open issues related to the process of fiscal decentralization throughout the Region? Where and how should countries direct the future of fiscal decentralization?

These are some of topics that will be addressed within the **International Conference: The Future of Fiscal Decentralization in South-East Europe**, organized from **1-2 November 2012**, (starting 13:30 on 1 November) in *Hotel Splendid, Budva, Montenegro*, by the Network of Associations of Local Government Authorities (NALAS), in partnership with the Ministry of Finance of Montenegro and the Union of Municipalities of Montenegro.

The Conference relates to the commitments undertaken by the countries of South-East Europe to implement the principles of the European Charter of Local Self-Government. It aims to discuss, strategize and develop a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing the Region in finding the right ways to finance projects and activities of sustainable local development.

The Conference brings together over 100 participants, representing Ministries of Finance, Mayors, Local Governments, Associations of Local Governments, Municipal Finance Analysts, Researchers, CEOs, Economists, Policy Regulators, Financial Controllers, Infrastructure Managers, etc. The conference is expected to foster a regional intergovernmental dialogue on the intergovernmental financing schemes and mechanisms to reinforce the fiscal decentralization process in South East Europe.

Opening addresses include:

- Mr. Özgen Keskin, PhD, NALAS President
- Mr. Milorad Katnić, PhD, Minister of Finance of Montenegro
- Mr. Tarzan Milosevic, Minister of Agriculture of Montenegro and Former NALAS President
- Mr. Aleksandar Bogdanovic, President of the Union of Municipalities of Montenegro
- Ms. Catherine Farvaque Vitkovic, Lead Urban Development Specialist of the World Bank Institute
- Mr. Waldemar Figaj, Acting Head of OSCE Office in Montenegro



ZAJEDNICA OPŠTINA CRNE GORE
UNION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF MONTENEGRO

For the full Conference Agenda, please click [HERE](#). For more information, please contact NALAS Communications and Knowledge Manager Jelena Janevska, at janevska@nalas.eu, ++389 70 280 582, www.nalas.eu.

About NALAS: NALAS brings together 15 Associations which represent roughly 9000 local authorities, directly elected by more than 80 million citizens of the SEE Region. NALAS promotes the process of decentralisation, considering local self-government as a key issue in the current process of transition affecting the various countries in South-East Europe. NALAS contributes to the reconciliation and stabilisation process in the region and its European integration. 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 and developed itself as the knowledge centre for local government development in South-East Europe, recognised among all relevant stakeholders. *For more information about NALAS: www.nalas.eu.*

About UMM: The Union of Municipalities of Montenegro is a national association of local authorities of Montenegro and one of active NALAS members. It is working on developing local democracy and realizing common interests of local government units; improving organization, work and functioning of local government and creating conditions for developing various forms of cooperation in all areas of local communities work in Montenegro. *For more information about UMM: www.uom.co.me.*