

PRESS RELEASE

SOUTH-EAST EUROPE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS MEET IN SLOVENIA

Ljubljana, 16 April 2018 - Over 150 representatives of local governments and local government associations from the whole South-East Europe (SEE) will meet in the Brdo Congress Centre on 18 April 2018 for the 13th General Assembly of their umbrella organisation, the Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS). NALAS is a network of 14 local government associations from 12 SEE countries, representing 9.000 local governments, and the Association of Towns and Municipalities of Slovenia (SOS) is one of its founding members.

Based on the rotation presidency system, Mr. Darko Fras, Mayor of Sveta Trojca, Slovenia, will be appointed a new NALAS President, who will lead the Network in the next year.

Key note speakers during the General Assembly include: Mr. Mićo Mičić, Mayor of the City of Bijeljina and current President of NALAS, H.E. Ms. Sybille Suter Tejada, Ambassador of Switzerland in Macedonia, Dr. Franz Schausberger, Member of the Committee of the Regions and Special Advisor to Commissioner Hahn and Ms. Breda Pecan, Vice President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe.

Delegates will review NALAS work in 2017 and the work plan for 2018 and will discuss policy issues related to the EU Enlargement Strategy, NALAS representation and advocacy role and the role of local governments in refugee and migration crisis. NALAS Statute will be amended, to emphasise Network's efforts to achieve gender equality.

Key sessions of media interest during the General Assembly include:

18 April 2018 (Wednesday), Hotel Brdo	
14:00 – 14:30	Opening session
14:30 – 14:45	NALAS Position Paper on EU Enlargement Strategy

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*