

## PRESS RELEASE

### A VISIONING CONFERENCE WILL DISCUSS THE PERSPECTIVES OF SOUTH-EAST EUROPE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

**Podgorica, 14 December 2016** - Representatives of Associations of Local Governments from 12 countries of South-East Europe (SEE), international organisations, local and central government representatives will meet in Podgorica, Montenegro, on **15 and 16 December 2016** to discuss the perspectives for the development of local government in SEE, at the visioning conference **“Local Governments in SEE in 2022”**, organised by the Union of Municipalities of Montenegro and the Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS).

*“Local governments in SEE need to re-think their strategy and re-position to revive the decentralisation process and bring it back on the right track. Decentralisation in SEE is not only needed to improve the quality of public services and quality of life of its citizens, but it is also a pre-requisite for further democratisation, conflict prevention and economic growth”*, says Mr. Kelmend Zajazi, NALAS Executive Director.

The conference “Local Governments in SEE in 2022” will focus at:

- The current status of decentralisation in SEE
- The vision of decentralization 2022
- The role of local governments in economic growth in SEE
- Priorities 2022 in different municipal function areas
- Approaches to strengthening anticorruption mechanisms at local level
- The way forward

Key sessions of media interest during the event include:

<b>15 December 2016 (Thursday), Hotel Podgorica</b>	
10:00 – 10:30	Welcome and opening of the event
10:35 – 11:00	Opportunity for Press Statements

For more information, please contact NALAS Knowledge and Communications Manager Jelena Janevska, at [janevska@nalas.eu](mailto:janevska@nalas.eu), ++389 70 280 582, [www.nalas.eu](http://www.nalas.eu).

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**About NALAS:** NALAS brings together 15 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](http://www.nalas.eu)*