

# 20 years dedicated to empowering local voices, driving regional progress



In 2024, NALAS marks an important milestone, 20 years since Network's Statute was signed in the Council of Europe's Hemicycle during the Plenary Session of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, in Strasbourg, France, on 27 May 2004.

The past 20 years have been committed to further the process of democratisation and decentralisation in South-East Europe in accordance with the European Charter of Local Self-Government and support Local

Government Associations to prepare for EU accession. Guided by the principles of regional cooperation and solidarity, NALAS assisted its members to provide effective services to local governments, to voice their interests, and to be recognised as strategic dialogue partners at national and European level.

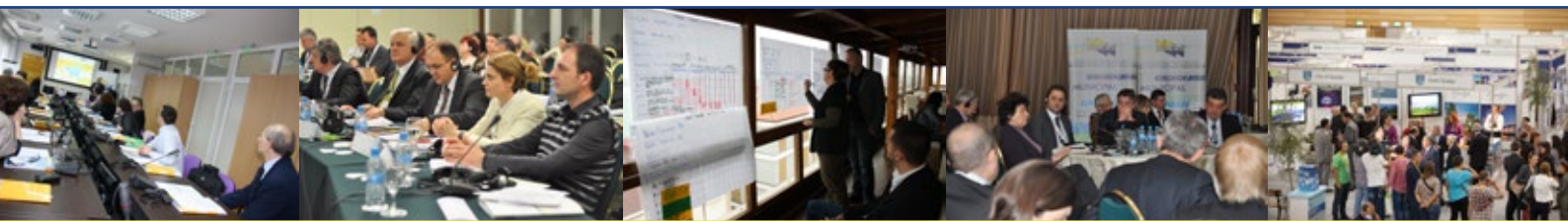
Today, NALAS is a unique local government network, living up to its mission to safeguard local autonomy, promote decentralisation and actively support the local public administration reform and development of strong local government in South East Europe. Through regional cooperation and NALAS' Knowledge Centre, we have supported Local Government Associations to grow and their beneficiaries to transform into sustainable, smart, inclusive, and resilient cities and municipalities, thereby contributing to democracy, stability, and prosperity in the region.

The institutional and operational development of NALAS would not have been possible without the ownership and commitment of its 13 members, the national associations that bring together more than 7,000 local governments, as well as without the continued support of the Swiss and German governments, convinced that the Network would contribute to a bottom-up approach to foster sustainable and inclusive development leaving no one and no territory behind.





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Throughout these past 20 years NALAS:

- ▶ Influenced over **30,000** local elected officials and administration via our **capacity development programmes**.
- ▶ **Enhanced the capacities of local level** in key emerging topics, such as: EU accession, localisation of SDGs, migration, green agenda, digital transformation, etc.
- ▶ **Supported modernisation** of local public services in over **150 pilot municipalities**.
- ▶ Devised a unique **Knowledge Centre** for local government issues, including: 181 publications, 55 comparative studies, 30 regional policy positions, 15 tools, etc.
- ▶ Institutionalised e-learning long before it became a necessity, now with **17 e-learning courses** and over 1,350 certified local government practitioners.
- ▶ Supported the work of the LGAs with over **EUR 3 million** in grants.
- ▶ Contributed to national advocacy processes with over **300** regional comparative quick responses, technical assistance, and support to intergovernmental dialogue.
- ▶ **Unified the voice of local governments** in 2 economies.
- ▶ **Strengthened the position and role** of local governments in EU accession.
- ▶ Implemented portfolio of projects in the value of over **EUR 15 million**.

All of this would not have been possible without the enthusiasm and strong belief of our leadership, the mayors-presidents and vice-presidents of NALAS, the directors and secretary generals of our member associations, their staff, NALAS Secretariat staff, as well as all partners and supporters. We thank you all and we promise that we go stronger, smarter, and more successful in the years to come.



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