

SUMMARY

of **NALAS**

20

Network of Associations of Local
Authorities of South-East Europe



23

Annual
Operational
Report

Foreword

2023 was a year of changes for NALAS. It marked the start of the implementation of the new Strategic Plan (2023-2027), with three important strategic objectives, putting in the focus the development and sustainability of NALAS member LGAs, as safeguards of local autonomy, promoters of decentralisation and drivers of local public administration reform and development.

The year also brought a bit of uncertainty related to the financing of the Network, as this was the first year with complete switch to project funding.

2023 proved that NALAS is strong and resilient, able to persistently implement its mission in any circumstances. This report witnesses the successes of 2023, as this has been a truly productive and fruitful year.



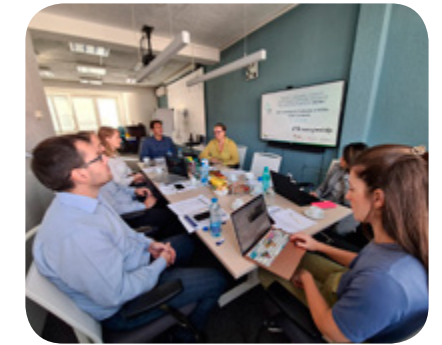
With 2023, we are concluding two decades of NALAS. For all that NALAS is today, we owe a huge gratitude to our leadership, the mayors-presidents and vice-presidents of NALAS, the directors and secretary generals of our member associations, their staff, NALAS Secretariat staff, as well as all partners and supporters. We invite you to join us in celebrating the achievements, and continue your contribution to a stronger, smarter, and more successful NALAS in the years to come.

Strategic Objective 1: Strong Local Government Associations



2023
at a glance

More than **1,700** mayors, experts and practitioners developed their capacities at **80+** NALAS trainings, networking meetings, study visits and peer exchanges



4 comparative studies shed a new light on digital transition of local governments, **air quality management** and **fiscal decentralisation**



Developed **Methodological Guidance for Advocacy in Social Inclusion for LGAs**

3 peer reviews bolstered the institutional capacity of national associations and further enhanced their advocacy efforts

NALAS **Quick Response** service supported **11 national advocacy and lobbying activities**



Strategic Objective 1:

Strong Local Government Associations



2023 at a glance

Conceptualised **Association Development Academy** and **Project Development Academy** for LGAs and APUCs involved in capacity development for the water sector

Built consensus of mayors across political spectra around a **shared vision for a unified local government association in Albania**



Enabled **exchanges between CALM and EU institutions** regarding Moldova's process of European Integration



Strategic Objective2:

Sustainable, Smart, Inclusive and Resilient Cities and Municipalities



2023
at a glance

1.7 million EUR investments in local public infrastructure and services in **19 municipalities in Albania**, for the benefit of **36,798 citizens**

Established EU Projects City Network in the Western Balkans



EU projects City Network in the Western Balkans

Increased capacities of 11 cities in project development and management resulted with **fundraised over 1.85 million EUR**



216 local government employees attended and **99** successfully completed **5 e-learning courses** offered by NALAS e-Academy, in social inclusion, asset management and capital infrastructure investment projects

10 local governments supported to implement **evidence-based decision-making processes** and **measures for social inclusion**

Published **EU project development guide for local governments**

Compiled **inventory of IT tools** for knowledge dissemination - Open Data and IT Platforms for Emergency Situations



Organised inaugural **Local Self-governments Forum on the Green Agenda**

SEE local governments supported the **development of Darkhan, Mongolia**



8 local governments from SEE **supported 8 Ukrainian local governments** in EU accession process and preparation and management of local development projects

Strategic Objective 3: Centre of Excellence



2023 at a glance

16 different projects, out of which **6 new**, have been implemented by the Network and contributed to the achievement of its new Strategic Plan



NALAS e-Academy enriched with a **new e-course on LNOB Social Mapping and Evidence-based Policy Making**



NALAS structures enhanced with **Task Force on Energy and Climate** and working groups on **Digitalisation** and **Social Inclusion and Migration**



Developed **strategic plan for NALAS' Working Group on Water** as part of NALAS' Task Force on Solid Waste and Water Management



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