

alda 2025

INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL

Resilient Communities:
Strengthening
Local Democracy in
Times of Change



Co-funded by
the European Union



3 • 4 • 5
SEPTEMBER 2025

2 SEPT.

Day 0

Welcome & Networking

- ✓ 17:30 - 19:30 | Networking Session – Informal meet-and-greet
- ✓ 19:30 | Welcome Aperitif

3 SEPT.

Day 1

Understanding Democratic Resilience

- ✓ 09:00 – 10:30 | Opening Session and Institutional Welcome -
Speakers:
 - [Gianantonio Michelusi](#), Mayor of Thiene
 - [Roberto Ciambetti](#), President of the Veneto Regional Council TBC
 - [Antonella Valmorbida](#), Secretary General of ALDA and President of ALDA Italia APS
 - [Giovanni Luigi Fontana](#), President of Accademia Olimpica (video)Moderated by [Marco Boaria](#), Scientific Committee Director, Director of Programmes & Corporate Strategy of ALDA and CEO of ALDA+
- ✓ Coffee Break
- ✓ 11:00 - 11:45 | Keynote Panel: Populism and Democracy Under Pressure
Speakers:
 - [Paolo Graziano](#), PhD, Professor of Political Science at the University of Padua, Research Associate at the European Social Observatory, Brussels and Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Surrey and Chercheur associé at Sciences Po in Paris.
 - [Dino Piovan](#), Professor-Classical Philologist and Hellenist
- ✓ 11:45 – 13:15 | Interactive Lecture: Populism, Polarisation and Institutional Trust
Speakers:
 - [Alexandra Dulkiewicz](#), Mayor of Gdansk (Poland), European Committee of the Regions rapporteur on hate speech and hate crime TBC
 - [Cana Tülüş Türk](#), PhD, Senior Specialist at Istanbul Policy Center and a lecturer in Comparative Politics at Okan and Medipol Universities.
- ✓ Lunch Break
- ✓ 14:30 – 15:30 | World Café Discussion: What can we do to make a democracy resilient? Part 1
Facilitators:
 - [Avventura Urbana](#), experts in designing and guiding inclusive, participatory decision-making processes (Turin, Italy).
- ✓ Coffee Break
- ✓ 16:00 – 18:00 | World Café Discussion: What can we do to make a democracy resilient? Part 2
Facilitators:
 - [Avventura Urbana](#), experts in designing and guiding inclusive, participatory decision-making processes (Turin, Italy).
- ✓ 18:00 | Visit of Thiene: Guided tour of key historical sites.



Veneto Heritage

With the Patronage of



European Committee
of the Regions



Provincia di Vicenza



CITTÀ di THIENE

Via Trieste 43 - 36016 Thiene (VI)

+39 0444/540146

villafabris@alda-europe.eu



alda 2025

INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL

Resilient Communities:
Strengthening
Local Democracy in
Times of Change



Co-funded by
the European Union



3 • 4 • 5
SEPTEMBER 2025

4 SEPT.

Day 2

Strengthening Institutions through Digital Innovation

- ✓ 09:00 – 10:00 | Multilateralism and Local Democracy
Speakers:
 - [David Goessmann](#), OECD Head of Open Governance Unit TBC
- ✓ 10:00 – 11:00 | Expert Lecture: Collaboration of the Private Sector & Civil Society in Local Governance.
Speakers:
 - [Valbona Karakaçi](#), Lecturer and Researcher at the University of Shkodra "Luigj Gurakuqi", Albania and founder of the Regional Advocacy Network for the Western Balkans and Eastern Europe on behalf of Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation.
 - [Bernd Steimann](#), PhD, Development Policy Coordinator at HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation.
- ✓ Coffee Break
- ✓ 11:30 – 13:00 | Interactive Panel: The Role of Digital Transformation in Strengthening Local Democracy
Speakers:
 - [Kirsi Verkka](#), Development Manager, City of Helsinki and Advisory Board Member, ALDA
 - [Samet Keskin](#), Director of the Data and Technology Center | Marmara Municipalities Union (MMU) & Marmara Urban Forum (MARUF)

Moderated by ALDA
- ✓ Lunch Break
- ✓ 14:30 – 16:00 | Fireside Chat: AI, Democracy and the Future of Citizen Participation
Speakers:
 - [Denys Tkachov](#), International and European project developer, local democracy promoter, change manager.
 - [Fabio Fraticelli](#), Chief Executive Officer of SocialTechno Impresa Sociale S.r.l. / TechSoup Italia
- ✓ Coffee Break
- ✓ 16:30 – 18:00 | Role-play Exercise: Designing a Digital Democracy engagement tool
Facilitators:
 - [Kirsi Verkka](#), Development Manager, City of Helsinki and Advisory Board Member, ALDA
 - [Denys Tkachov](#), International and European project developer, local democracy promoter, change manager.
- ✓ 18:00 | Departure for Schio
- ✓ 18:30 | Guided tour of the city's industrial heritage
- ✓ 20:30 | Experience the Flavors of Tradition
Traditional Veneto-style dinner



Veneto Heritage



Veneto Heritage

With the Patronage of



European Committee
of the Regions



Provincia di Vicenza



CITTÀ DI THIENE

Via Trieste 43 - 36016 Thiene (VI)

+39 0444/540146

villafabris@alda-europe.eu



alda 2025

INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL

Resilient Communities:
Strengthening
Local Democracy in
Times of Change



3 • 4 • 5
SEPTEMBER 2025

5 SEPT.

Day 3

Governing Enlargement: Safeguarding Democracy in Transition

✓ 09:00 – 10:00 | Keynote Speech

Speakers:

- [Clara Volintiru](#), Regional Director of The Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation (BST) (German Marshall Fund)

✓ 10:00 – 11:30 | Democratic challenges and responses in the enlargement process

Speakers:

- [Senida Mesi](#), Former Deputy Prime Minister of Albania | MP | Expert in Civil Society & Local Governance & ALDA Advisory Board Member
- [Teona Macharashvili](#), Co-funder Caucasus Open Space (COS) (Tbilisi, Georgia).

Moderated by [Antonella Valmorbida](#), Secretary General of ALDA and President of ALDA Italia APS

✓ Coffee Break

✓ 12:00 – 13:30 | Simulation Exercise: Crisis Response and Institutional Resilience. Part 1

Facilitators:

- [CRISP - Crisis Simulation for Peace e.V.](#), specialists in creating simulation games, interactive trainings, and digital civic-education tools to support non-violent conflict transformation and participatory learning (Berlin, Germany).

✓ Lunch Break

✓ 15:00 – 16:30 | Simulation Exercise: Crisis Response and Institutional Resilience. Part 2

Facilitators:

- [CRISP - Crisis Simulation for Peace e.V.](#), specialists in creating simulation games, interactive trainings, and digital civic-education tools to support non-violent conflict transformation and participatory learning (Berlin, Germany).

✓ 16:30 – 17:30 | Closing Ceremony: Final Reflection and Certificates



Veneto Heritage

✓ 17:30 – 18:00 | Veneto Awaits: Ideas for Your Weekend

With the Patronage of



European Committee
of the Regions



Provincia di Vicenza



CITTÀ di THIENE

Via Trieste 43 - 36016 Thiene (VI)

+39 0444/540146

villafabris@alda-europe.eu

