

3 SEPT.

Day 1

Understanding Democratic Resilience

✓ 09:00 – 10:15 | Opening Session and Institutional Welcome -

Speakers:

- [Gianantonio Michelusi](#), Mayor of Thiene
- [Roberto Ciambetti](#), President of the Veneto Regional Council
- [Andrea Nardin](#), President of the Province of Vicenza.
- [Chiara Luisetto](#), Regional Councillor of Veneto
- [Nataša Vučković](#), President of ALDA and President of Center for Democracy Foundation
- [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

✓ 10:45 - 11:45 | Keynote Panel: Populism and Democracy Under Pressure

Speakers:

- [Dino Piovan](#), PhD, Research Fellow at the University of Bologna (Ravenna campus), fellow at the Hannah Arendt Center for Political Studies (University of Verona), ordinary fellow at the Accademia Olimpica (Vicenza).
- [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.

✓ 11:45 – 13:15 | Interactive Lecture: Populism, Polarisation and Institutional Trust

Speakers:

- [Patrick Molinoz](#), Former President of the citizenship, governance, institutional and external affairs commission (CIVEX) of the European Committee of the Regions and Vice-President of the Burgundy-Franche Comté Region (France).
- [Massimo Bardin](#), PhD, City Councillor and Chair of the Culture Committee in Vicenza
- [Nataša Vučković](#), President of ALDA and President of Center for Democracy Foundation

Moderated by [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 | Introduction to the Open Space Technology: What can we do to make a democracy resilient?

Facilitators:

- [Alberto Cena & Camilla Zurlo \(Avventura Urbana\)](#), experts in designing and guiding inclusive, participatory decision-making processes (Turin, Italy).

✓ Coffee Break

✓ 16:00 – 18:00 | Open Space Technology: What can we do to make a democracy resilient?

Facilitators:

- [Alberto Cena & Camilla Zurlo \(Avventura Urbana\)](#), 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)

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4 SEPT.

Day 2

Strengthening Institutions through Digital Innovation

- ✓ **9:00 – 10:30 | 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**

- ✓ **11:00 – 12:30 | 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 [Beatrice Frascatani](#), Deputy Head of ALDA's Communication Department & ALDA+ Comm Expert

- ✓ **Lunch Break**

- ✓ **14:00 – 15:30 | 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**

- ✓ **16:00 – 17:30 | 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.

- ✓ **17:45 | Departure for Schio**

- ✓ **18:30 | Guided tour of the city's industrial heritage**

- ✓ **20:30 | Experience the Flavors of Tradition**
Traditional Veneto-style dinner



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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)

✓ Coffee Break

✓ 10:30– 12:00 | 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).
- [Clara Volintiru](#), Regional Director of The Black Sea Trust for Regional Cooperation (BST) (German Marshall Fund)

Moderated by Antonella Valmorbida, Secretary General of ALDA and President of ALDA Italia APS

✓ Lunch Break

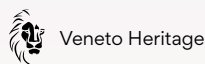
✓ 13:00 – 17:00 | Simulation Exercise: Crisis Response and Institutional Resilience.

Facilitators:

- [Kateryna Pavlova & Farida NourEldin](#) (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).

✓ 17:00 – 17:30 | Closing Ceremony: Final Reflection and Certificates

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



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