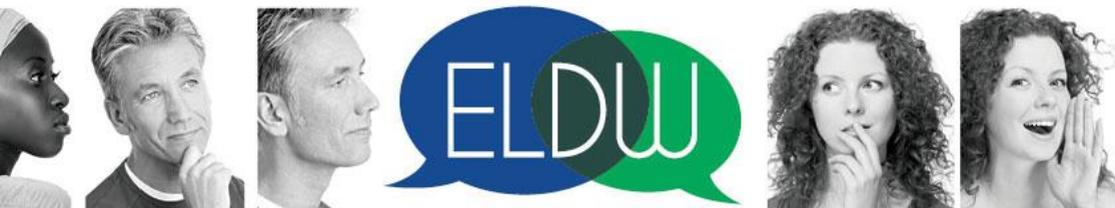


European
Local
Democracy
Week



Assessment of the European Local Democracy Week 2015

The Congress



Le Congrès

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Dear ELDW partners,

European Local Democracy Week (ELDW) is an annual pan-European initiative launched in 2007 with the aim of boosting citizen participation at grassroots level. It is co-ordinated by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe.

The week around 15 October – the date on which the *European Charter of Local Self-Government* was opened for signature in 1985 – is dedicated to bringing together local elected representatives and citizens across the 47 Council of Europe member countries at public events and discussions on issues of current interest.

ELDW is intended to provide an international framework for cities and municipalities all over Europe to promote awareness of the rights and responsibilities that are incumbent on each individual in a democratic society, whether as an elected representative, public servant or ordinary citizen. In this framework, ELDW offers opportunities for its committed partners to be part of a bigger international *community* engaged in promoting active citizenship.

A pan-European *community* of local authorities, through which they can share innovative ideas on participation and good practices, build twinning partnerships, and thus learn from each other's experience and use it to further develop their actions.

A *community* of representatives, who can better inform their citizens, not only about what they can do for their local communities, and how they can do it, but also about what they can achieve at pan-European level through their elected representatives.

And lastly, a *community* that enjoys the support of the Council of Europe's recognised expertise, and above all its extensive knowledge of the concept of democratic citizenship and its carefully developed participatory tools.

Taking stock of the 2015 edition of ELDW, let me congratulate all 96 local and regional authorities, their associations and the civil society organisations which celebrated European Local Democracy Week with us in 2015. I look forward to welcoming them, and many other new partners, at the 2016 edition.

Andreas Kiefer,

Secretary General of the Congress

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Promoting peaceful “living together” in diverse societies

By its very nature, Europe is a multicultural space: diversity is rooted in the history of the continent and has been enhanced by the modern phenomenon of globalisation. Waves of migration and intense cross-border mobility are integral parts of European societies’ rich history, but also sources of challenges which need to be addressed.

Today societies face not only an economic, but also a security and identity crisis, as proved by the numerous terrorist attacks in 2015 in several cities of Europe and beyond, as well as the growing phenomenon of xenophobia coupled with social exclusion. Radicalism and extremism, as causes of these tragic events, are major present-day threats.

Building inclusive societies on the bedrock of fundamental rights and freedoms is certainly one of the most appropriate responses to these challenges – a mission for which responsibility lies equally with European, national and local leaders, and ultimately, the citizens.

In this context, local and regional authorities have an important role to play in fostering intercultural dialogue, active citizenship and cultural diversity, thus enabling citizens to live better together, as well as preventing and overcoming ethnic, religious, linguistic and cultural divides.

Based on these considerations, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, responsible for the co-ordination of European Local Democracy Week, decided to devote the 2015 edition of ELDW to the theme *“Living together in multicultural societies: respect, dialogue, interaction”*.

The choice of this theme is in line with the new Congress Strategy to combat radicalisation at grassroots level, debated and approved by the Bureau of the Congress on 2 February 2015.

Figures and data¹

This year, European Local Democracy Week officially took place between *12 and 18 October*. As in previous years, participating municipalities and regions, their associations and civil society organisations also had the option of implementing their ELDW activities at a more convenient time, should the week coincide with other important events in their community.

National associations of local authorities, national and international organisations and institutions, and civil society organisations also contributed to the success of the week by disseminating information and raising awareness of the 2015 theme through their networks.

As a result of this joint effort, *95 partners from 29 countries (see Chart 1)* registered on the official website to take part in the 2015 Democracy Week. More than *240 activities* were organised in the ELDW framework, covering either the main theme “Living together in multicultural societies: respect, dialogue, interaction” or other issues of current interest.

Of the 95 registered partners, *60 were municipalities and regional entities and 35 were associations* of local and regional authorities and NGOs, in total representing 29 countries. Out of the 29 partner countries, 14 have participated in all nine editions, while cities or associations from *Cyprus, Denmark and Luxembourg* took part for the first time (*see Chart 2*).

The country with the largest number of participating cities in 2015 was Russia with 7 cities, closely followed by Greece, Ukraine and the United Kingdom, each with 6 cities involved in ELDW. As for the contribution by associations, the strongest commitment was shown by France, where 7 associations took part in the initiative, either by organising events or by mounting a publicity campaign about ELDW.

¹ Data are based exclusively on the information registered and uploaded on the ELDW website

“12-Star” partners

A record number of 24 partners representing 12 countries chose “12-Star” status, hence giving special prominence to their participation in the Local Democracy Week. The “12-Star” concept was launched in 2010, as a voluntary label for heavily involved cities and associations, which, on registering for the latest edition of ELDW, took on the following 5 commitments:

1. allocating a specific budget to ELDW activities;
2. running an ELDW promotion campaign using the ELDW visual identity;
3. carrying out a number of specific activities linked to the main theme of the year;
4. involving different groups of citizens in the initiatives forming part of ELDW;
5. organising an event with a European or pan-European dimension.

In 2015, ‘12-Star’ status was taken up by: *Amadora (PT), Association of the City and the Municipalities of the Brussels-Capital Region (BE), Antalya (TR) Buyukcekmece (TR), Bydgoszcz (PL), Chania (GR), Falun (SE), Huddinge (SE), Iasi (RO) Ivano-Frankivsk (UA), Izmit (TR), Kadikoy (TR), Karsiyaka (TR), Katowice (PL), Kharkiv, (UA), Luleburgaz (TR), Medgidia (RO), Melitopol (UA), Mioveni (PL), Reggio Calabria (IT), Stockton on Tees Borough Council (UK), Strasbourg (FR), Sundbyberg (SE) and Tbilisi (GE)* – most of which have been participating in ELDW with that status for several years (see Chart 3).

Activities organised by the ELDW partners²

Finding local responses to the migration crisis

The 2015 theme “Living together in multicultural societies: respect, dialogue, interaction” had been chosen to draw attention to the great

² Based exclusively on the information submitted by the ELDW partners, either on the official website or by e-mail.

challenges currently faced by our societies, such as increasing radicalisation, terrorism and the greatest refugee flow since World War II.

Using the great potential of their proximity to citizens, local authorities directly addressed these issues on the occasion of ELDW by organising exchanges with migrants and visits to refugee camps, interviews with foreigners, exhibitions on recent armed conflicts and seminars on solidarity. More specifically, the city of *Ilion (Greece)* organised a simulation exercise involving the calling of a special meeting of the municipal council to consider an official request for the reception of refugees, in view of the increased challenge posed by migration to Greece as a first receiving country in the EU. The Delphi Intercultural Summit, organised by the *University Network for Intercultural Dialogue and Learning (Greece)*, held a discussion on “Migration policies in a globalising context”, whilst the *International Federation for Housing and Planning (Denmark)* brought together experts in a think-tank on refugee housing, in order to produce recommendations for regional and local decision-makers and submit suggestions to the European institutions in this regard.

Other ELDW partners focused on the question of how to successfully integrate migrants in local communities. The city of *Bydgoszcz (Poland)* held a debate on this very topic, while *Huddinge (Sweden)* and *Antalya (Turkey)* offered free courses for asylum-seekers and other foreigners to learn the national language. *Neuchâtel (Switzerland)* aimed to highlight the co-presence of many foreigners and foreign languages in the city by organising a literary evening with readings from 7 different cultures, in 7 different languages.

Educating citizens about their fundamental rights

In the context of the refugee crisis, many participating cities and associations took the opportunity during their Democracy Week to raise awareness of the Council of Europe’s values – democracy, human rights and the rule of law – by educating citizens about their fundamental rights and freedoms and the importance of equality in enjoying them.

To this end, the cities of *Creil (France)* and *Katowice (Poland)* organised a presentation and workshop on fundamental human rights. *Le Mas (France)* organised a screening of the well-known film “Human”, focusing on the question “What is it that makes us human?”, followed by a debate on humanity and solidarity. *Izmit municipality (Turkey)* held an information and training session on children’s rights, linking this with the forthcoming celebration of Universal Children’s Day (20 November). On the same lines, *Huddinge (Sweden)* implemented a preventive project entitled “Love is free” against honour-related violence and oppression, emphasising that all children and young people have the right to a life free from threats. Finally, the *Greek city of Iraklio Attikis* organised a seminar to raise awareness about the right to Internet access and about e-democracy as a powerful tool for enhancing citizen involvement in public policy-making.

Enhancing intercultural understanding and competences

On the occasion of European Local Democracy Week 2015, many events were dedicated to ensuring that all members of the community have the knowledge, skills and competences for respecting and handling diversity and different opinions and beliefs – thus establishing a direct link to the theme of living together in multicultural societies.

High school students of *Chania (Greece)*, for instance, were invited to talk about the growing phenomenon of xenophobia and its threat to peaceful multicultural societies. *Medgidia (Romania)* launched the “BiblioVoluntarii” movement to mobilise citizens against hate speech by promoting tolerance and fighting all forms of discrimination. The municipality of *Ribeira Grande (Italy)* held a lecture on “Globalisation and multiculturalism: new challenges for the development of local democracy?”, while the transnational event entitled “Paesi a Confronto”, organised by the association ‘*Darsana Teranga*’ jointly with *Reggio Calabria (Italy)*, included a range of events on active citizenship, tolerance, inclusiveness and mutual understanding of different cultures in the Euro-Mediterranean area. Driven by the same principles, *Cluj-Napoca (Romania)* and *Izmit (Turkey)* set up a “Democracy Wall” as an interactive way of building social cohesion. With the aim of promoting intercultural and interfaith dialogue, the association ‘*Maison de l’Europe de Provence*’ (*France*) organised visits to places of worship of three

different religions in Aix-en-Provence, as well as a debate on “Living together in the Mediterranean”, moderated by the Minister for Culture of Morocco.

Many ELDW partners organised events specifically targeting children, based on the premise that racism is an acquired attitude and that, therefore, education for peaceful co-existence, tolerance and respect for other people’s cultures and traditions starts at a very early age. To learn about children’s perception of diversity and multiculturalism, several participating cities, such as *Büyükçekmece (Turkey)*, *Skydra (Greece)*, *Finlyandsky municipal district (Russia)* and *Peterborough (UK)*, organised drawing competitions and creative workshops accompanied by music, dancing or singing, where children were able to illustrate such notions as tolerance and respect in a graphic form, draw their friends from other countries or talk about their image of a multicultural city.

Improving the integration of groups of minorities and foreigners in local life

Inspired by the theme “Living together in multicultural societies”, many activities organised on the occasion of ELDW 2015 were focused on national minorities and foreigners already living in the local community and on recognition of the great need to facilitate the peaceful and respectful coexistence of different groups in society in order to avoid radicalisation, extremism and violence.

In this connection, foreigners in *Büyükçekmece (Turkey)* and *Bydgoszcz (Poland)* were asked about their experience of integrating into local life, including culture shock, housing and language problems. *Kharkiv (Ukraine)* organised special days dedicated to the different cultures represented by national minorities living in the city. The programme included photo exhibitions, documentaries, meetings and exchanges on their cultural traditions.

Associations of local and regional authorities and civil society organisations were also active in this field. The *National Associations of Local Authorities of Georgia* organised meetings with representatives of minorities living in different Georgian municipalities in order to foster intercultural dialogue. The association *‘Darsana Teranga’ (Italy)*, on the other hand, organised a training session entitled “Italy and Spain for

ROMA inclusion” aimed at creating a learning community based on training, with the focus on measures to prevent school failure and early school dropouts.

The events organised to celebrate Local Democracy Week also included numerous exhibitions, literary evenings, plays and other cultural activities introducing different cultures, traditions and languages. The folk dance show brought from the Bulgarian municipality of Lyubimets to *Lüleburgaz (Turkey)*, the concert with the participation of ethnic minority dancing groups organised in *Tbilisi (Georgia)*, the reading of the book “My 7000 neighbours” in a reading café in *Chemnitz (Germany)* and the meetings with famous authors writing about democracy in *Sundbyberg (Sweden)* are just a few examples of the colourful array of cultural events, which proved to be an effective means of attracting people and demonstrating the added value brought by diversity to social and human development.

Involving citizens in local decision-making

Several participating cities and associations seemed to go back to the core mission of ELDW: boosting citizen participation at the grassroots level by organising public events where local elected representatives can meet and engage with citizens on issues of current interest, and give them a broader understanding of the functioning of public institutions and ways of participating in local decision-making. Among others, *Izmit (Turkey)*, *Falun (Sweden)* and the *Association ‘Palo 5 Stelle’ (Italy)* organised public meetings with elected representatives, while *Södermöre (Sweden)*, *Medgidia (Romania)* and *Karsiyaka (Turkey)* carried out surveys on active citizenship. Improving citizen participation and good governance at local and regional level in Albania was the topic of a seminar organised by the *Association of Local and Regional Authorities (ALDA)* at the re-launch of the Local Democracy Agency in Vlorë (Albania).

Open days were held in *Bydgoszcz (Poland)* and several municipalities in the *Belgorod region (Russia)* to attract citizens who wanted to learn more about public services, as well as in the city of *Katowice (Poland)*, which, along with *Amadora (Portugal)*, continued its well-established activity on participatory budgeting. On its first participation in ELDW, the

National Assembly of Wales (UK) used the week to relocate some of its activities to the heart of Welsh communities to demonstrate how the Assembly works for the whole of Wales.

The concept of active citizenship was put into practice through the holding of school council elections in *Kharkiv (Ukraine)* and *Pitcheroak (UK)*, and through the co-design by young people of the municipal website of *Huddinge (Sweden)*, while students in *Mioveni (Romania)* and *Sundbyberg (Sweden)* were able to become politicians for one day. In the schools of *Melitopol (Ukraine)*, students discussed the main principles of local democracy and the importance of European Local Democracy Week.

Promoting the European Charter of Local Self-Government

The core reference document for European Local Democracy Week is the European Charter of Local Self-Government, which participating local authorities should take into consideration and promote when drawing up their ELDW programme. The Charter is the first internationally binding treaty that guarantees the rights of communities and their elected authorities by setting out common European standards for local democracy in a legal text and ensuring, through formal monitoring by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, that these principles are upheld in the 47 member states of the Council of Europe. It has now been ratified by all 47 member states and is thus of direct relevance to the functioning of local institutions in each municipality taking part in ELDW.

Opened for signature on 15 October 1985, the European Charter of Local Self-Government celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2015. The municipalities of *Valongo (Portugal)*, *Kharkiv (Ukraine)* and *Katowice (Poland)* contributed greatly to promoting the Charter and celebrating its anniversary by organising seminars, school activities and exhibitions on the subject.

The full list of events can be found on the official ELDW website, which not only advertises the events organised across Europe, but can also be used as a “knowledge base” to inspire and encourage future ideas and activities.

ELDW website and communication campaign

As in previous years, the European Local Democracy Week website (www.coe.int/demoweek) provided key information on the week in the two official languages of the Council of Europe, English and French. *Logos, posters and leaflets* (in several languages), *thematic ideas, concept papers and reference texts* geared to the 2015 theme are available and can be downloaded from the site.

In June 2012, a new web platform was set up to allow local and regional authorities to register their community and take part in the initiative in a more visible manner. Our partners can directly upload (and update) information about their events and activities which – after being translated and checked by the ELDW team – can be seen under their personal profiles and used for publicity and networking purposes. Events from previous editions back to 2010 are also available and can serve to illustrate good practices and generate new creative ideas. Our partners can learn about recent developments through regular newsletters and Congress news items relating to ELDW posted on the website.

The increasing use of online and offline media to publicise ELDW can be observed among participating local authorities. Apart from the dissemination of posters and flyers carrying the official ELDW logo, most partners have publicised their Democracy Week through special articles in local newspapers, radio broadcasts, TV interviews, and tweets and posts on social media platforms.

Associations of local and regional authorities, such as the *National Association of Portuguese Municipalities* and the *Union of Municipalities of Turkey*, greatly contributed to the promotion of the project in 2015, in their traditional role of raising awareness of ELDW at wider events, and disseminated information on ELDW to local authorities in their area using their national language.

Special partnerships of the ELDW initiative

Along with longstanding partners of ELDW, such as the European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA) and the Conference of INGOs, which have actively supported and promoted European Local Democracy Week since its inception, other fruitful partnerships have been established in the hope that this will bring mutual benefits in the future.

Europe Prize

Every year, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe confers four awards on cities committed to the promotion of European values: the European Diploma, the Flag of Honour, the Plaque of Honour and the Europe Prize – the highest distinction of all since its creation in 1955.

On the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the Europe Prize (2015), a letter by Congress President Jean-Claude Frécon was sent to all previous award winners to encourage them to take part in ELDW, stressing the natural link between the two initiatives. This action brought into the ELDW family two previous Europe Prize winners, Czestochowa (PL) and Kharkiv (UA), and three cities awarded the Plaque of Honour, Izmit (TR), Mioveni (RO) and Ternopil (UA), and hopefully this will allow further synergies with the Assembly's initiative.

World Forum for Democracy 2015

In the framework of the World Forum for Democracy 2015 (Strasbourg, 18-20 November), a Democracy Innovation Hackathon (participatory democracy workshop) took place with the aim of designing a Participatory Democracy Incubator. Two of the ELDW “12-Star” cities, Falun (Sweden) and Katowice (Poland) were also selected to participate in the hackathon, in order to brainstorm together on developing a framework for the network and concrete solutions for improving citizens' political involvement at local level.

All “off” events of this global forum, attracting around 2000 participants each year, have been labelled as an ELDW event by the “12-Star” city of Strasbourg.

The Intercultural Cities Programme

Driven by its 2015 theme ‘Living together in multicultural societies: respect, dialogue, interaction’, ELDW stepped up co-operation with the Intercultural Cities Programme (ICC) of the Council of Europe. The ICC supports cities in reviewing their policies through an intercultural lens and developing comprehensive intercultural strategies to help them manage diversity positively. Over 70 cities across Europe are currently enjoying Council of Europe support in developing, implementing and evaluating local diversity and inclusion strategies using the set of analytical and practical tools proposed by the programme. Municipalities participating in ELDW were invited to fill in the Intercultural Cities Index questionnaire on the occasion of the 2015 Democracy Week.

Arab Local Democracy Week in Kairouan

The Tunisian city of Kairouan is a committed partner of ELDW and has contributed to it since 2013 by organising an “Arab Week of Local Democracy” during which citizens can take part in debates, conferences and seminars on local democracy issues and have the opportunity to meet local decision-makers and express their opinion.

Geared to the specific priorities and circumstances of Kairouan, the fourth Arab Local Democracy Week took place between 14 and 20 December 2015 and focused on the topic “Local democracy, the application of responsibilities and ethics”. Several debates on multiculturalism were held during the week. A whole day was devoted to the role of women in building democracy, and another to youth participation. Several municipal services took the opportunity to open their doors and explain what they do for their community and how they function.

ELDW leaflets and posters were translated into Arabic and distributed in local communities.

APPENDICES

Chart 1: List of all partners of the 2015 edition of the ELDW

Total: 95 partners including 60 partner cities, 35 associations, 24 “12-Star” partners

Armenia	Dilijan
	Urtsadzor
	Union of Communities of Armenia
Belgium	Association of the City and the Municipalities of the Brussels-Capital Region 
Bosnia and Herzegovina	NGO TOPEER
Cyprus	Engomi
Czech Republic	European Association of Institutions of non-formal Education of Children and Youth
Denmark	International Federation for Housing and Planning
France	Strasbourg 
	Creil
	Le Mas
	European Association for Local Democracy
	Association Migration Solidarité & Echanges pour le Développement
	European Federation of Schools
	Idées Nouvelles Europe
	Intercultural Documentation Centre / Origi’Nantes
	La Passerelle Association
	La Maison de l'Europe de Provence
Georgia	Tbilisi 
	National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia
Germany	Chemnitz
Greece	Chania 
	Ilion
	Iraklio Attikis

	Levadeon
	Skydra
	Syros-Hermoupolis
	University Network for Intercultural Dialogue & Learning
Hungary	E-democracy Workshop
Italy	Reggio Calabria – Metropolitan Area 
	Association Palo 5 Stelle
	Association Darsana Teranga
Luxembourg	Office International du Coin de Terre des Jardins Familiaux
Moldova	Ialoveni
	Joint Integrated Local Development Programme – UNDP Moldova
Netherlands	Macadam MixTalent WebWorkshop and Foundation
Poland	Bydgoszcz 
	Katowice 
	Czestochowa
Portugal	Amadora 
	Peniche
	Ribeira Grande
	Valongo
	Associacao Nacional de Freguesias
	National Association of Portuguese Municipalities
Romania	Iasi 
	Medgidia 
	Mioveni 
	Turda
	Cultinet Cultural and Youth Association
	European Youth Capital – Cluj Napoca 2015
Russia	Administration of the Zyryansky District
	Dmitrievka
	Finlyandsky Municipal District of Saint Petersburg
	Mednogorsk
	Pechora

	Pervomayskoe
	Republic of Tatarstan
	Association of the Council of Municipalities of Belgorod Region
Serbia	Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities of Serbia
Slovakia	Obec Zabiedovo
Spain	Union School of Formation Melchor Botella
Sweden	Falun 
	Huddinge 
	Sundbyberg 
	Södermøre
Switzerland	Neuchâtel
	Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Grenzüberschreitenden Zusammenarbeit
Tunisia	Kairouan
Turkey	Antalya 
	Büyükçekmece 
	Izmit 
	Kadikoy 
	Karsiyaka 
	Lüleburgaz 
	Association for Promoting Local Participation
	Union of Municipalities of Turkey
Union of Provincial Services	
Ukraine	Ivano-Frankivsk 
	Kharkiv 
	Melitopol 
	Ternopil
	Zhytomyr
	Belgorod-Dniester
	Center of Public Activity "Result"
	European Youth Parliament - Ukraine
	Institute of Volunteering and Community Co-operation
	NGO "Liga Molodi"

United Kingdom	Stockton-on-Tees 
	Hertfordshire
	National Assembly of Wales
	Peterborough
	Redditch and Bromsgrove
	South Gloucestershire

Chart 2: ELDW Representation of Countries 2010-2015

2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
29 countries	24 countries	29 countries	29 countries	26 countries	24 countries
Armenia	Armenia	Albania	Albania	Albania	Albania
Belgium*	Belgium	Azerbaijan	Armenia	Armenia	Belgium
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bulgaria	Belgium	Belgium	Azerbaijan	Bulgaria
Cyprus	Croatia	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Belgium	Croatia
Czech Republic	Finland	Bulgaria	Bulgaria	Croatia	Estonia
Denmark	France	Finland	Croatia	Finland	France
France*	Georgia	France	Finland	France	Georgia
Georgia	Germany	Georgia	France	Georgia	Germany
Germany*	Greece	Germany	Germany	Germany	Greece
Greece*	Hungary	Greece	Greece	Greece	Italy
Hungary	Italy	Iceland	Hungary	Italy	Macedonia
Italy*	Moldova	Ireland	Ireland	Moldova	Malta
Luxembourg	Netherlands	Italy	Italy	Montenegro	Netherlands
Moldova	Poland	Moldova	Lithuania	Netherlands	Poland
Netherlands*	Portugal	Morocco	Morocco	Poland	Portugal
Poland*	Romania	Netherlands	Netherlands	Portugal	Romania
Portugal*	Russia	Poland	Poland	Romania	Russia
Romania*	Serbia	Portugal	Portugal	Russia	Serbia
Russia*	Slovakia	Romania	Romania	Serbia	Slovakia
Serbia*	Spain	Russia	Russia	Slovakia	Spain
Slovakia	Sweden	Serbia	Serbia	Spain	Switzerland
Spain*	Tunisia	Spain	Slovakia	Sweden	Turkey
Sweden	Turkey	Sweden	Spain	Switzerland	Ukraine
Switzerland	United Kingdom	Switzerland	Sweden	Turkey	United Kingdom
"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"		"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	Switzerland	Ukraine	
Tunisia		Tunisia	Tunisia	United Kingdom	
Turkey*		Turkey	Turkey		
Ukraine		Ukraine	Ukraine		
United Kingdom*		United Kingdom	United Kingdom		

* Countries participated in all editions of the ELDW

Chart 3: “12-Star” Partners 2010-2015

2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
24 cities	15 cities	20 cities	18 cities	19 cities	17 cities
Antalya (TR)	Amadora (PT)	Büyükçekmece (TR)	Amadora (PT)	Amadora (PT)	Aix-en-Provence (FR)
Amadora (PT)	Büyükçekmece (TR)	Brussels (BE)	Büyükçekmece (TR)	Angers (FR)	Amadora (PT)
Büyükçekmece (TR)	Brussels (BE)	Chania (GR)	Brussels (BE)	Belgrade (RS)	Antalya (TR)
Brussels *(BE)	Bydgoszcz (PL)	Dionysos (GR)	Candelaria (ES)	Brussels (BE)	Belgrade (RS)
Bydgoszcz (PL)	Chania (GR)	Festos (GR)	Chania (GR)	Chania (GR)	Brussels (BE)
Chania (GR)	Dionysos (GR)	Falun (SE)	Festos (GR)	Gaziantep (TR)	Candelaria (ES)
Falun (SE)	Junta de Andalucia (ES)	Huddinge (SE)	Huddinge (SE)	Gebze (TR)	Ierapetra(GR)
Huddinge (SE)	Karsyiaka (TR)	Iasi (RO)	Katowice (PL)	Katowice (PL)	Katowice (PL)
Iasi (RO)	Katowice (PL)	Katowice (PL)	Lüleburgaz (TR)	Lüleburgaz (TR)	Lausanne (CH)
Ivano-Frankivsk (UA)	Ortahisar (TR)	Kecioren (TR)	Malaga (ES)	Mola di Bari (IT)	Liège(BE)
Izmit (TR)	Örebro (SE)	Metz (FR)	Metz (FR)	Mugla (TR)	Mola di Bari (IT)
Kadikoy (TR)	Reggio Calabria (IT)	Mola di Bari (IT)†	Mola di Bari (IT)	Namur (BE)	Mugla (TR)
Karsyiaka (TR)	Stockton on Tees (GB)	Namur (BE)	Örebro (SE)	Phaistos (GR)	Odessa (UA)
Katowice *(PL)	Sultanbeyli (TR)	Ordu (TR)	Reggio Calabria (IT)	Sisak (HR)	Paris (FR)
Kharkiv (UA)	Sundbyberg (SE)	Reggio Calabria (IT)	Strasbourg (FR)	Stockton-on-Tees (GB)	Strasbourg (FR)
Lüleburgaz (TR)		Seville (ES)	Sundbyberg (SE)	Strasbourg (FR)	Tbilisi (GE)
Medgidia (RO)		Stockton on Tees (GB)	Stockton on Tees (GB)	Sundbyberg (SE)	Unione Terre di Po (IT)
Melitopol (UA)		Strasbourg (FR)	Utrecht (NL)	Tarsus (TR)	
Mioveni (RO)		Sundbyberg (SE)		Utrecht (NL)	
Reggio Calabria (IT)		Tbilisi (GE)			
Stockton on Tees (GB)					
Strasbourg (FR)					
Sundbyberg (SE)					
Tbilisi (GE)					

*Partners having participated as « 12 Stars » in all editions of ELDW since 2010

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It includes 47 member states, 28 of which are members of the European Union. The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities is an institution of the Council of Europe, responsible for strengthening local and regional democracy in its 47 member states. It comprises 636 elected representatives representing more than 200,000 local and regional authorities.

Contact:

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex

Tel: +33 (0) 33 88 41 59 94

E-mail: democracy.week@coe.int

Web: www.coe.int/demoweb



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