

European
Local
Democracy
Week



Assessment of the European Local Democracy Week 2016

Dear ELDW partners,

The 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.

The ELDW is intended to provide an international framework for cities and municipalities across 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. The ELDW offers opportunities for its 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 2016 edition of the ELDW, let me congratulate all 83 local and regional authorities, their associations and the civil society organisations from 23 countries which celebrated European Local Democracy Week with us. I look forward to welcoming them, and many other old and new partners, at the 2017 edition, which will also mark the 10th Anniversary of the ELDW. I warmly encourage all partners to celebrate this anniversary by organising high visibility events for the ELDW 2017.

Andreas Kiefer
Secretary General of the Congress

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Figures and data¹

In 2016, the European Local Democracy Week officially took place between *10 and 16 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 around October, 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 2016 theme through their networks.

As a result of this joint effort, *83 partners from 23 countries (see Appendix 1)* registered on the official website to take part in the 2016 Democracy Week. More than *260 activities* were organised in the ELDW framework, covering either the main theme “Living together in culturally diverse societies: respect, dialogue, interaction” or other issues of current interest.

Of the 83 registered partners, *56 were local authorities and 27 were associations* of local and regional authorities and NGOs. Out of the 23 partner countries represented, 12 have participated in all nine editions, while Norway took part for the first time, represented by the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (*see Appendix 2*).

The country with the largest number of participating cities in 2016 was Turkey with 8 cities, closely followed by Greece (7 cities), Russia (6 cities) and Ukraine (6 cities). As for the contribution by associations, the strongest commitment was shown by France, where 5 associations took part in the initiative, in addition to four cities, 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 26 partners representing 11 countries chose the “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 2016, ‘12-Star’ status was taken up by: *Amadora (PT), Association of the City and the Municipalities of the Brussels-Capital Region (BE), Besiktas (TR), Bischwiller (FR), Buyukcekmece (TR), Bydgoszcz (PL), Chania (GR), Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (UK), Fastiv (UA), Huddinge (SE), Iasi (RO), Izmit (TR), Kadikoy (TR), Karsiyaka (TR), Katowice (PL), Kazan (TR), Kharkiv, (UA), Luleburgaz (TR), Medgidia (RO), Mioveni (PL), Plataniias (GR), Reggio Calabria (IT), Stockton on Tees (UK), Strasbourg (FR), Valongo (PT), Vasytkiv (UA).*

Main theme of the 2016 edition

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 2015-2016 in several cities of Europe and beyond, as well as the growing phenomenon of xenophobia coupled with social exclusion. Radicalism and extremism 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, with 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 keep the main theme of the ELDW 2015 for a second year and devote the 2016 edition to the theme *“Living together in culturally diverse societies: respect, dialogue, interaction”*.

The three central aspects reflected in this theme can be explained as follows:

RESPECT: The first step towards living together in culturally diverse societies is mutual respect. Respect for each other's culture, religion and traditions, on the common basis which unites us all: universal human rights. Respect for each other's rights and differences.

DIALOGUE: The second step is dialogue. People who live together in the same city should have the opportunity to exchange their

experiences so that we can make the best possible use of our cultural diversity. Education for human rights and democratic citizenship plays a crucial role in this respect.

INTERACTION: The third step is interaction. Local and regional authorities should find common paths and areas of action to involve diverse groups within their communities, in order to build together a more tolerant society. Examples of best practice should be identified and promoted throughout Europe.

Respect, dialogue and interaction for a peaceful living together are ultimately based on our knowledge about the fundamental values of democracy and human rights, and the ability to critically examine the vast amount of information and different opinions that reach us every day. Neither can the participation of citizens in decision-making be effective without educating them about their rights and responsibilities as members of a community. For this reason and for honouring the growing interest of schools in taking part in the ELDW, the Congress decided to place special focus on education for democratic citizenship and human rights, under the theme of living together.

The choice of the 2016 theme of the ELDW is also in line with the new Congress Strategy to combat radicalisation at grassroots level approved in 2015, an integral part of which is a toolkit for use by local elected representatives for organising intercultural and interreligious activities.

Examples of activities organised by the ELDW partners²

Promoting peaceful “living together” in diverse societies

Given its high relevance to the everyday life of citizens, many participating municipalities decided to reflect on the main theme of “Living together in culturally diverse societies: respect, dialogue, interaction” chosen for the ELDW 2016. Seminars, debates and round tables devoted to this very issue took place around the same time in different points of Europe, cumulating efforts to raise awareness of the importance of peaceful living together, solidarity and the positive sides of diversity in local communities.

To highlight some examples, the *Association of the City and the Municipalities of the Brussels-Capital Region (Belgium)* proposed 10 round tables on living together and social cohesion in its partner cities, with the involvement of elected representatives, civil society organisations and the public in general; *Bischwiller city (France)* organised a public debate on the meaning of diversity in the city and a united Europe; citizens of *Mioveni (Romania)* discussed the advantages of cultural diversity and its impact on social development; and members of the Youth Parliament of *Monchegorsk (Russia)* city touched upon different aspects of intercultural dialogue from the point of view of young people.

Furthermore, a high-level conference entitled “Living Together in Diverse Local Communities: Leading, Developing and Empowering Municipalities in Europe” was organised by the *Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (United Kingdom)* to highlight its fresh commitment to the ELDW – with the participation of the current President and the Secretary General of the Congress and other international guests.

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. In this connection, the municipality of *Patras (Greece)* launched the campaign “Fear of those who are different” with the aim of establishing a local

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

network of schools which will raise awareness of the danger of stereotypes and rumours, as well as the values of solidarity and equality among students through campaigns and seminars in the coming school year. An art contest “I am Polish and European” and a related exhibition were organised in *Bydgoszcz (Poland)*, which aimed to show a diverse Europe through the eyes of the children.

Others attempted to enhance intercultural understanding by promoting other cultures and the fundamental values of democracy through festivals, exhibitions, film screenings and other leisure activities. For example, a theatre’s play “A Daydream about democracy” was introduced in *Valongo (Portugal)*, a play on the essential value of respect for others was shown in *Buyukcekmece (Turkey)*, a photo contest on living together with people from different cultural backgrounds was organised in *Iasi (Romania)* and a festival celebrating the traditional Yoruk culture was held in *Karsyiaka (Turkey)*. In addition, a tale reading evening for children was organised in *Chania (Greece)* from books about the phenomena of racism, xenophobia and migration, and children in *Kadikoy (Turkey)* could learn about the principles of the freedom of expression and respect for others during cartoon workshops and short animation movies. In an essay contest, the high school students of *Mioveni (Romania)* were given the task to imagine moving to another country and describe the way they will behave there and what attitude they will have regarding food, culture, traditions of that country.

Some of the activities organised during the ELDW 2016 dealt with the role of media in intercultural communication, recognising the importance of passing the right message to citizens in the media and ensuring a more balanced communication of the challenges and positive aspects of diversity. *Patras (Greece)* and *Bydgoszcz (Poland)* held live broadcasts on intercultural dialogue and the intercultural aspects of their cities. *Chemnitz (Germany)* dedicated a conference to this very topic, namely the role of media in integration. In *Huddinge (Sweden)*, a well-known photographer and gender-activist held a lecture about equal communication, as well as the norm-breaking and world-changing power of pictures. Furthermore, the city organised a cultural event, animated with music, on how the media can change the image of the

suburbs, addressing the problematic of the strong presence of prejudices and misunderstandings when reporting on life in the suburbs.

Educating citizens about their fundamental rights

As in previous years, schools have been very important contributors to the success of the Local Democracy Week, having participated in co-operation with their local administrations. A wide range of school seminars, lessons and debates were organised on equality, diversity and interreligious dialogue, as well as essay competitions, art contests and musical events.

For this reason, human rights and citizenship education under the theme of living together was an important part of the ELDW in 2016, also honouring the long-standing co-operation between the Congress and the Education Department of the Council of Europe. In particular, the Council of Europe's newly developed educational game entitled "Europe Matters – A Question of Values" and the European Charter on Education for Democratic Citizenship and Human Rights Education had been promoted through the ELDW's website and communication channels.

The city of *Bischwiller (France)* used this game to teach 8-12 years old pupils about freedom of expression, a fair justice system, gender equality, diversity and other core values represented by the Council of Europe. Some cities used similar interactive games to teach children about human rights in a joyful and entertaining way. *Chania (Greece)*, for instance, organised a story telling game on difference and equality, whereby children had to tell about their friends which they found different from themselves. In *Kahramankazan (Turkey)*, an interactive human rights seminar was held for primary school pupils, whilst the Borough Council of *Stockton on Tees (United Kingdom)* targeted 11-49 years old citizens with diverse educational seminars about different cultures with the aim of reducing ignorance about race and religion and promoting integration in the community. Besides, a conference on "Educating refugee children: intercultural education at crossroads" was organised in *Patras (Greece)* for the general public, as part of the Second Forum on Intercultural Dialogue and Learning.

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

Inspired by the theme of “living together in culturally diverse societies”, some of the ELDW events targeted the integration of minorities and the empowerment of those groups of society which are less represented in local decision-making. In light of the current migrant crisis, several activities were organised especially for asylum seekers and migrants. The city administration of *Kahramankazan (Turkey)* invited representatives from the 200 refugee families living in the city to the town hall to discuss their situation and needs. The *Association of the City and the Municipalities of the Brussels-Capital Region (Belgium)* organised a conference on citizens’ engagement in facing the challenges of migration in Brussels, which intended to analyse the state of play on welcoming and accompanying refugees in the Brussels region, following the related large scale mobilisation of citizens in the Maximilian Park in the city. *Neuchatel (Switzerland)* organised tours for asylum seekers in the city to help them getting familiarised with their new environment. *Platania (Greece)* addressed the topic of integration into the labour market through an experimental learning seminar for the development of professional skills of the unemployed and newcomers, with particular emphasis on young people who feel socially excluded or have a migrant background.

The mayors of *Shkodra (Albania)* and *Chania (Greece)* took the initiative to discuss challenges and needs of Roma people with young representatives of the community. The local administration of *Besiktas (Turkey)* addressed the respect and promotion of LGBTI rights among the local staff, whilst *Patras (Greece)* targeted specific groups of society in need of intercultural training, such as police officers in the framework of a workshop on anti-discrimination and solidarity, and prisoners who gained an insight into how to tackle stereotypes and rumours.

Involving citizens in local decision-making

Many activities organised during the ELDW 2016 reflected on the core mission of the initiative: 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.

Following a special consultation process that involved all relevant stakeholders into the re-construction of the Danube eco-neighbourhood, the city of *Strasbourg (France)* organised open days during the ELDW to allow citizens to discover this area and to present the related citizen participation process and its tangible benefits. The city also held a public meeting on the re-development of the quays. Similarly, *Huddinge (Sweden)* launched dialogue with its citizens on the development of the new city centre area and organised activities for the public introducing a new approach to architecture and design for a co-operative reconstruction of Huddinge.

Many cities, such as *Gavar (Armenia)*, *Buyukcekmece (Turkey)*, *Brussels (Belgium)*, *Kharkiv (Ukraine)*, *Strasbourg (France)* and *Kahramankazan (Turkey)*, held special meetings of their city councils, youth councils and neighbourhood councils on the occasion of the ELDW, devoting a discussion to the theme of living together and the state of citizen participation in general. Others organised public meetings between politicians and residents or students to discuss on issues of interest for their communities and tell about the role of local councillors, such as the Turkish cities of *Karsiyaka* and *Izmit*, and *Brent (United Kingdom)*, latter of which also organised “Question Time Brent” inspired by the well-known BBC Question Time programme, during which panellists discussed local issues submitted by their constituents. Open days of the city halls were held, among others, in *Bristol (United Kingdom)*, *Poikovsky (Russia)*, and *Mena (Ukraine)* to learn about the different services provided by the municipality.

As a pertinent tool for citizens’ participation in decision-making, participatory budgeting activities were organised in *Katowice (Poland)* involving the 22 districts of the city with the presentation of successful projects during the ELDW, and in *Valongo (Portugal)* particularly targeting youth and empowering them to decide about future projects in the city.

The right to vote and participating in elections was the topic of several activities during the ELDW 2016, as being one of the central tools for

citizens to influence politics. For instance, citizens could learn about the electoral roll at a workshop in *Bischoffwiller (France)*, while students of *Fastiv (Ukraine)* could apply the electoral law and processes in practice through mock elections of the local government. A practical approach of participation was followed by the city of *Brent (United Kingdom)* as well, where four secondary schools had gone head to head to debate issues relevant to young people in the city, during the “Great Youth Debate”.

As part of the programme “Young people should be seen and heard”, the Borough Council of *Stockton on Tees (United Kingdom)* offered young people the opportunity to be in decision-making positions for a certain period and work directly with the mayor, thus giving them a unique insight into his role in the city. The youth of *Luleburgaz (Turkey)* could take part in a workshop assessing the perception of the concept of democracy, while students in *Kharkiv (Ukraine)* assessed and discussed the impact of youth on everyday city life. In addition to holding information sessions for young people, the city of *Telita (Moldova)* also organised leadership trainings for women to develop their intercultural competences and enhance their participation in local life.

It is to be noted that while many ELDW activities especially targeted young people, very few drew special attention to the elderly – these activities mainly focused on enhancing their computer and internet skills, as in *Fastiv (Ukraine)* and *Bydgoszcz (Poland)*.

Finally, some of the activities focused on the state of citizen participation and took stock of the achievements and challenges ahead in this respect. In *Shkodra (Albania)*, a public debate was held on active citizenship, in *Medgidia (Romania)* an evaluation of citizens’ participation in decision making was conducted by the city administration, and the city of *Strasbourg (France)* held a discussion on “Citizen participation in Strasbourg: where do we stand, where do we want to go?”. Furthermore, a workshop on participatory democracy was organised for interns coming from 22 countries to Turkey in *Buyukcekmece* municipality, and a public debate on “participatory democracy: from belonging to engagement” was held in *Valongo (Portugal)*, supported by an exhibition on the last 42 years’ history regarding civic engagement and democratic participation in the city.

Promoting the work of international organisations

Several ELDW partners used the occasion of the European Local Democracy Week 2016 to raise awareness of the work of the Council of Europe, its Congress and other international organisations.

The city of *Bischoffville (France)*, for instance, put together an exhibition on “The countries of the Council of Europe”. Another French city, *Le Mas* hosted an exhibition during the ELDW showing portraits, articles and interviews of mayors who represent the municipal level at different European institutions – as part of an extensive project in the Alpes-Maritimes region of France which aims to make citizens know more about their elected representatives.

A round table was held in *Kahramankazan (Turkey)* on the European Charter of Local Self-Government, the core reference document for European Local Democracy Week, and its implementation in Turkey, with the participation of students and the deputy mayor. Using the ELDW’s proximity in time to the Universal Children’s Day promoted by the United Nations (20 November), some of the participating cities chose to raise awareness of children’s rights. Workshops on this topic were held in *Karsiyaka (Turkey)*, and in *Platanias (Greece)* where librarians and educators visited primary schools and discussed the rights of children through simple educational stories. Residents of *Huddinge (Sweden)* also examined in a public hearing the consequences of the entry into force of the law on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child due in 2018 and discussed the need for a local co-ordinator on children’s rights in the city.

On the occasion of the ELDW 2016, some of the participating cities raised awareness of global challenges that are high on the European agenda and, at the same time, directly concern the local level. In an attempt to discussing and finding local responses to the current migration crisis, *Strasbourg (France)* held a citizens’ debate on migration challenges on the Mediterranean Sea, while the city of *Izmit (Turkey)* organised a conference on the situation of refugees in Turkey and the world.

Climate change and the importance of environmental protection was the main theme of a students’ discussion in *Mena (Ukraine)* and an

exhibition in *Huddinge (Sweden)* which has shown the challenges of climate change through the eyes of well-known Swedish and other cartoonists.

Finally, the Romanian city of *Medgidia* chose to promote another crucial Council of Europe campaign during the ELDW 2016, the No Hate Speech Movement, aimed at combating hate speech, racism and discrimination in online media.

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/demoweeek) provided key information on the Week. *Logos, posters and leaflets* (in several languages), *thematic ideas, concept papers and reference texts* geared to the 2016 theme have been available and can be downloaded from the site.

While all information on the website is available in the two official languages of the Council of Europe, English and French, the “google translate” option was introduced in 2016, in order to provide easier access for the visitors in their own language.

In addition to the general website of the ELDW, a separate web platform is set up for local and regional authorities and their associations 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. This visibility is further enhanced by an interactive map developed in 2016, which allows a more modern visual overview of the ELDW partners. 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.

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 ELDW is also present on social media platforms, such as Twitter and Facebook.

Special partnerships of the ELDW initiative

Along with longstanding partners of ELDW, such as the European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA), the Education Department and the Europe Prize initiative of the Council of Europe, which have actively supported and promoted European Local Democracy Week, other fruitful partnerships have been established in the hope that this will bring mutual benefits in the future.

The Intercultural Cities Programme

Driven by its 2015-16 theme “Living together in culturally diverse societies: respect, dialogue, interaction” ELDW has 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 100 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. Thanks to this co-operation, the cities of Malaga (ES), Melitopol (UA), Neuchatel (CH) and Patras (GR) have recently joined the ELDW initiative, in addition to our long-standing common partners Amadora (PT) and Strasbourg (FR).

Members of the Secretariat of the two initiatives have mutually participated in their annual co-ordination meetings – that of the ELDW held in Paris on 1 February 2016 and that of the ICC held in Reykjavik on 15 September 2016 – to create opportunities for the presentation and further promotion of the two projects.

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” (SADL) 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 fifth Arab Local Democracy Week took place between 10 and 16 October

2016 and focused on the topic “Local development is the responsibility of all: from awareness-raising through participation towards change”.

The programme of SADL featured seminars on ways and consultative forms for elaborating projects of common interest, the use of public spaces, a seminar on the role of civil society in the management of urban mobility, on women’s participation in social economic and political life, as well as a debate on “Decentralisation and local democracy”. Furthermore, the traditional open day in the Town Hall, a forum of young “Euromaghrébins” and a workshop for children on the topics of human rights and local democracy ensured a colourful Democracy Week with the participation of citizens of all ages in Kairouan.

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

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: List of all partners of the 2016 edition of the ELDW

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

Albania	Shkoder
	EU Information Centre Shkodra
	EU Information Centre Tirana
	EU Information Centre Vlore
Armenia	Artik
	Dilijan
	Electoral Systems Center
	Gavar
Azerbaijan	Aran Humanitarian Regional Development Public Union
Belgium	Association of the City and the Municipalities of the Brussels-Capital Region 
Finland	Lasipalatsi Mediacentre Ltd
	Art D'Etre En Paix (ADEEP)
	Bischwiller 
	Centre d'Etudes du Vivant de l'Océan Indien (CEVOI)
	European Association for Local Democracy
	Idées Nouvelles Europe
	Lyon
	Le Mas
	Maison de l'Europe de Provence
	Strasbourg 
	Territories and Digital Local Democracy (TDLD)
Germany	Chemnitz
Greece	Chania 
	Farkadona

	Hersonisos
	lasmos
	Patras
	Platanias 
	Skydra
	University Network for Intercultural Dialogue & Learning
Italy	Association Darsana Teranga
	Reggio Calabria – Metropolitan Area 
	Verona
Luxembourg	Office International du Coin de Terre des Jardins Familiaux
Moldova	Telita
Norway	Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities
Poland	Bydgoszcz 
	Katowice 
Portugal	Amadora 
	Valongo 
Romania	Iasi 
	Medgidia 
	Mioveni 
Russia	Association of the Council of municipalities of Belgorod region
	Kirovsky
	Monchegorsk
	Nizhnekamsk
	Poykovsky
	Smolensk
	Veliky Novgorod
Spain	Eudaimonia
	Intercultural Association NetEurope
	Malaga
	Union School of Formation Melchor Botella
	Huddinge 
	Södermöre

Switzerland	Neuchâtel
Tunisia	Kairouan
Turkey	Association for Promoting Local Participation
	Besiktas/Istanbul 
	Büyüçekmece 
	Izmit 
	Kadikoy 
	Kahramankazan 
	Karsiyaka 
	Lüleburgaz 
	Safranbolu
	Union of Municipalities of Turkey
Ukraine	Fastiv 
	Kharkiv 
	Mena
	Podylla
	“Silski Novunu” newspaper
	Vasykiv 
	Institute of Volunteering and Community Co-operation
	NGO “Liga Molodi”
	Bracknell
	Brent
	Bristol
	Central Bedfordshire
	Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) 
United Kingdom	Stockton-on-Tees 
	Wiltshire

Appendix 2: ELDW Representation of Countries 2010-2016

2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
23 countries	29 countries	24 countries	29 countries	29 countries	26 countries
Albania	Armenia	Armenia	Albania	Albania	Albania
Armenia	Belgium	Belgium	Azerbaijan	Armenia	Armenia
Azerbaijan	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bulgaria	Belgium	Belgium	Azerbaijan
Belgium*	Cyprus	Croatia	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Belgium
Finland	Czech Republic	Finland	Bulgaria	Bulgaria	Croatia
France*	Denmark	France	Finland	Croatia	Finland
Germany*	France	Georgia	France	Finland	France
Greece*	Georgia	Germany	Georgia	France	Georgia
Italy*	Germany	Greece	Germany	Germany	Germany
Luxembourg	Greece	Hungary	Greece	Greece	Greece
Moldova	Hungary	Italy	Iceland	Hungary	Italy
Norway	Italy	Moldova	Ireland	Ireland	Moldova
Poland*	Luxembourg	Netherlands	Netherlands	Italy	Montenegro
Portugal*	Moldova	Poland	Moldova	Lithuania	Netherlands
Romania*	Netherlands	Portugal	Morocco	Morocco	Poland
Russia*	Poland	Romania	Netherlands	Netherlands	Portugal
Spain*	Portugal	Russia	Poland	Poland	Romania
Sweden	Romania	Serbia	Portugal	Portugal	Russia
Switzerland	Russia	Slovakia	Romania	Romania	Serbia
Tunisia	Serbia	Spain	Russia	Russia	Slovakia
Turkey*	Slovakia	Sweden	Serbia	Serbia	Spain
Ukraine	Spain	Tunisia	Spain	Slovakia	Sweden
United Kingdom*	Sweden	Turkey	Sweden	Spain	Switzerland
	Switzerland	United Kingdom	Switzerland	Sweden	Turkey
	"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 which were represented in all editions of the ELDW

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 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. Composed of two chambers – the Chamber of Local Authorities and the Chamber of Regions – and three committees, it brings together 648 elected officials representing more than 200 000 local and regional authorities.

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