

“SMART, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN SEE”

EU Initiatives and Programs for Local Digital Transformation, BACID Results and Promotion of COVALEX Project, LibLab, IT Toolbox and DRR IT Tool in development "

AGENDA

DATE	17. October 2024 10:00 – 12:30
OVERALL OBJECTIVE	<u>Digital and green agenda, focus on partnership, innovation and good practices and our strengths</u>
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhancing the understanding and awareness of the benefits of local green and digital transformation among South-East European (SEE) local governments and presenting the results of BACID III projects in digitalization, COVALEX project results and EU programs and initiatives. - Providing up-to-date information on available initiatives, declarations, and funding for local governments. - Fostering partnerships with EU cities and LGUs. - The event aims to bridge knowledge gaps, promote active participation in EU initiatives, and leverage the collaborative efforts of NALAS, KDZ and EU to support digitization and exchange of experiences. - Dissemination on activities under COVALEX project and results prepared: trainings, guides, IT Toolbox, LibLab and IT Tool in development
PLACE	Innovation Center “Klaster”, Kosovska 2, 25000 SOMBOR, SERBIA
PARTICIPANTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Representatives from Local governments in WB6 and SEE; Local Experts - NALAS member Associations’ Representatives; - NALAS Secretariat Team, EU institutions and organizations, International experts
EVENT TYPE	HYBRID Onsite in Sombor and via MS Teams link: https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ODA0MmE0ODUtOWNkMy00M2YwLTk1NjUtNWRhMTljYTZkYzMz%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22fe7bd716-6ee2-4887-aa12-def7719c8556%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22b8f0660a-e53e-40fa-b12d-91116ebe90bc%22%7d

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AGENDA 17.10.2024, 10:00 – 12:30

Sombor

#	Session name	
1	Welcome and Introduction Introduce attendees and welcome everyone to the meeting	10:00-10:05
2	Discussion on conclusions and recommendations from Digitalization Report II <i>BACID IV possible activities</i> Jana Belcheva Andreevska, NALAS Secretariat Christian Rupp, KDZ consultant in Local government Digital transformation	10:05-10:15
3	NALAS perspectives on supporting Local Government in applying EU initiatives for Digital transformation and Smart Cities Living-in.EU LORDIMAS Digital Europe Help desk supporting Local Government Units Gabriela Ruseva, EUROCITIES	10:20-11:00
	Coffee Break	11:00-11:15
4	COVALEX Project Project introduction and capacity development measures Training on “Effective application of DRR IT tools for hydrometeorological hazards at local level” – Miodrag Kolic, NALAS Secretariat Guides for practitioners at LG level – Vasko Popovski, DRR expert	11:15- 11:45
5	COVALEX Project Innovative solutions DRR IT Toolbox and Liblab – Jasmina Schmidt, DCNA Austria DRR IT Tool functionalities and benefits – Miodrag Kolic, NALAS Secretariat	11:50-12:20
6	Closing the meeting	12:20-12:30

About COVALEX

<https://civil-protection-knowledge-network.europa.eu/projects/covalex>

Europe has experienced devastating hydrometeorological hazards in the past and, with the current climate change prospects, will do so even more in the future. An interconnected world and systems make disaster governance a key issue in dealing with different risks as hydrometeorological hazards can potentially also affect technological infrastructure and be the trigger for further hazards.

Europe faces challenges due to diverse governance structures, varying risk perceptions, and different levels of vulnerability across countries. Effective disaster governance requires collaboration among stakeholders at all levels and investment in research and innovation.

Disaster governance actors include public agencies, emergency and rescue services, academia, NGOs and CSOs, industries, and operators of critical infrastructure. A survey conducted among COVALEX stakeholders revealed that public authorities are the most prominent actors in the network at the moment. Their main concerns are floods, torrential rain, and storms.

Risk perception is an important factor in disaster governance. The participants expect a shift in relevance towards risks such as heat waves, droughts, and wildfires in the next 10 years. In terms of requirements for the COVALEX network, the participants expressed interest in the exchange of best practices and experiences, learning about different disaster governance strategies, and collaboration and education.

COVALEX aims to establish a common and extended community of experts on the experience, geographical coverage and diverse sectoral networks in hydro-meteorological multi-hazards events. Science can practically challenge the phenomena, science can practically challenge those phenomena and foster the processes of prevention, preparation and testing. It pools four DG ECHO networks and project-driven first responders' communities, mainstreams the evidence- and science-based risk governances and interoperability communications approach to decision-makers, rescue and humanitarian actors.

The Community will build capacity by engaging 11 partners from 10 countries and their networked members. Though we bring together, promote and strengthen the capacities and knowledge of experts, decisionmakers, politicians and multipliers as public service providers, media, NGOs. We build a databank of experts that can be further engaged and involved in international and local case studies and events. We bring academia, practitioners, and decision-makers for multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral cooperation to apply scientific knowledge to disaster risk management (DRM), accentuating hydrometeorological and technological driven disasters.

Main outputs: pipeline with scenario-based exercises, living-learning content combined with open-source support tools for decision-makers, scientific community events, including hackathons, themed discussions and boost of science for resilience, activated over 200 experts in the COVALEX database, delivered three scenario-based experiences trained over 200 persons, one common framework for engaging all actors, scientists and IT developers for greater use of human-centered scientific approach to resilience and civil protection.

Living-in.EU

[Declaration on joining forces to boost sustainable digital transformation in cities and communities in the EU | Living in EU \(living-in.eu\)](#)

The Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS) is a proud supporter of the Living-in.EU movement. Given its direct connection to the activities of the Digitalization Officer at NALAS, there is a significant opportunity to promote the Living-in.EU movement to non-EU member associations—specifically, municipal associations in the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership countries.

Brief Description of the Living-in.EU Movement

Living-in.EU is an EU initiative for local and regional leaders who believe that digital technology can improve their towns, cities, or regions. It fosters European cooperation and values by enabling collaboration among cities, ensuring that they don't work in isolation and can share and reuse smart city strategies.

By joining the Living-in.EU Movement, cities and communities gain access to tools and examples for developing data strategies, setting up digital platforms, and building local digital twins. Members can explore digital service interoperability, contribute to technical standards mapping, or assess their digitalization with the LORDIMAS tool. The network's greatest asset is the opportunity to connect with others facing similar challenges.

Living-in.EU isn't just another initiative requiring reports or a network with membership fees. It's a platform designed to accelerate your work, provide useful tools, showcase successful solutions, and bridge the gap between European, national, regional, and local levels. Join us today to stay connected and updated on data spaces, interoperability, local digital twins, and more.

By implementing these activities, NALAS can effectively promote the Living-in.EU initiative, empowering local and regional leaders in the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership countries to leverage digital technology for the betterment of their communities.

LORDIMAS Digital Maturity Assessment

LORDIMAS - Local and Regional Digital Maturity Assessment:

LORDIMAS is an annual self-assessment tool designed for local, metropolitan, and regional governments. It covers aspects related to governance, service design, data management, interoperability, service delivery, technology, and networking.

Interactive Dashboard: Provides real-time visualization and analysis of assessment results.

- Tracking and Benchmarking: Allows users to track their digital transformation progress, benchmark against others, and access tailored policy recommendations.

Policy Support: Aims to inform policy decisions and improve digital maturity at the local level.

- EU Policy Alignment: Linked to wider EU-led policy initiatives and provides relevant strategic funding support.

By taking part in LORDIMAS, local governments can better understand their digital maturity, identify areas for improvement, and leverage support and funding from EU initiatives like the Digital Europe Programme.