

Proposal for an immediate creation of a “Unité de crise” of the actors involved in the programme Europe for Citizens, and call for ideas

Brussels, 13th July 2016

Dear colleagues, friends, and active organisation working within the umbrella of the programme Europe for Citizens,

Participants at the Civil Dialogue of the programme Europe for Citizens (programmes beneficiaries and Operating Grant beneficiaries) clearly showed the added value of the programme and its extensive and transversal coverage. From a methodological point of view – promoting European citizenship and citizens’ mobilisation – it overcomes the party lines and it addresses a broad spectrum of citizens’ interest (cultural, environmental, youth representation, etc.). On this occasion, the Civil Dialogue also highlighted the extreme challenges facing the European Union project and the evident risks to it. The upcoming months and years will be crucial for changing the current dead-end path the European project is walking through, and strengthening the “even closer Europe” core principle and the European identity as such.

The participants of the **programme Europe for Citizens** – in contact every day with citizens, in a constant listening exercise – have the duty and responsibility to react and to act to face with new energy the current situation. We shall talk and act on behalf of several million European citizens, from Greece to Poland, from France to Estonia, that the programme represents. This message goes to all European networks, supported by the Operational Grants, but also to the hundreds of organisations supported for their own single projects.

ALDA is available here to steer a possible group – there is no need to mention that no resources are at stake other than what we do for the cause – that will further may be coordinated and aligned with all what our organisations are already doing on the topics of this communication. ALDA, after consultations with partners and members, would like to stress the need of a **quick and widely-supported reaction** by creating a “Unité de crise” aiming at:

- 1. Producing clear proposals for a strategic change**, to address the key challenges and threats to the European Union project. We claim the Europe for Citizens programme gives voice to million of European citizens’. It shall be empowered

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politically as representative of the European citizenship and be therefore the forum entitled to re-discuss the whole European project. Without rethinking the European project on its basis, “opening up Pandora boxes” and potentially identifying non-conventional and not necessarily “politically correct” changes, we risk to be stuck on the current destructive path.

- 2. Launching a very “communication oriented”** action to reach all the millions of European Citizens engaged, via all the activities of the programme (through projects and Operating Grant actions) to make the added value of the European project visible, fostering the level of engagement and offering a new narrative producing positive “emotions” and “mood” towards the EU programme.

What to do:

Point 1 -

European Parliament level - We are currently working hand in hand with the Rapporteur of the Europe for Citizens programme at the European Parliament, Mrs. Tereza Gimenez Barbat, who is actively working to support this proposal.

1.1 We are launching **a call for ideas** where your members and constituencies can have their say “out of the box” for a relaunch of the European project as a self evident added value for citizens.

Please send us your contributions and ideas by the end of August; we will collect them in a unique dossier to be presented. Please let us know in a max 1 page:

- Who you are representing (members, partners) and country
- What is your proposal “out of the box”. Please clearly identify the proposal with a title, bullet points, and explaining its operational implementation
- Whether you are ready to be part of this self-created “Unité de crise” of the programme Europe for Citizens
- Thank you for providing information about your contact person, details, and the organization logo.

Please send all materials to: irene.zanetti@aldaintranet.org

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2.2 We have launched the proposal for a **Hearing at the DG CULT in the upcoming months** where to convey all our proposal arising from our consultation and discussion of the network of Europe for Citizens. We hope to come there with proposals that are genuinely coming from your constituency (**see above**).

2.3 We are working for including our (all Europe for Citizens' group consultations) in the mid-term review of the MEP and we are working for regular inputs during the on going discussions at the European Parliament.

2.4 Regarding the communication side, we have approached the MEP Tereza Gimenez Barbara who is contact with the European Commission to find support and being able to table a professional and effective proposal by September.

2.4 In preparation of the setting up of the 'Unite de crise', and based on your first feedback, a physical meeting with possibility of online participation will be organised early September.

Point 2 –

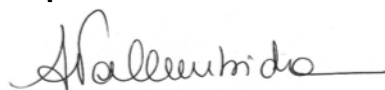
European Commission level – We have approached the coordinator of the programme with a request to set up a subgroup "Unité de crise" in order to accompany the development of the programme this year and to prepare the Civil Dialogue of next year. We are waiting for a reply and will let you know soon.

Despite the summer period, we feel it is our collective responsibility to participate with our thoughts and insights and give our solid contribution to shape the future of the European Union.

I am looking forward to working with you all.

Sincerely yours,

Antonella VALMORBIDA
Secretary General
ALDA – European Association for Local Democracy



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