

*Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe*



**NALAS**

**Network of Associations  
of Local Authorities of  
South-East Europe**

**SEE Digital Transition at local level**

Jana Belcheva Andreevska  
[belchevaandreevska@nalas.eu](mailto:belchevaandreevska@nalas.eu)



# Topics

- Introduction of NALAS. Who we are, what we do, why we do it
- NALAS in Digitalization: activities, Digitalization Working Group, draft results of the survey, RDO on smart cities.
- Needs and challenges of Local Governments related to digitalization, potentials for SEE local governments, incl. LG in Danube Region.
- Identify potential links and benefits for cooperation with Priority Area 10 “Institutional Capacity and Cooperation”



# NALAS Introduction

Who we are, what we do, why we do it

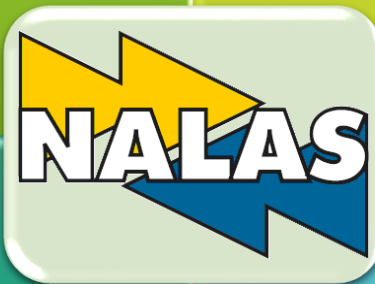




# We are the unique SEE network

**14 national or regional  
local government  
associations LGA**

**12 South East Europe  
(SEE) Countries,**



**5,000 local governments  
representing, directly  
elected by around 80  
million people.**

**voice of members LGAs  
and local governments in  
SEE on contemporary  
issues of LG's importance**



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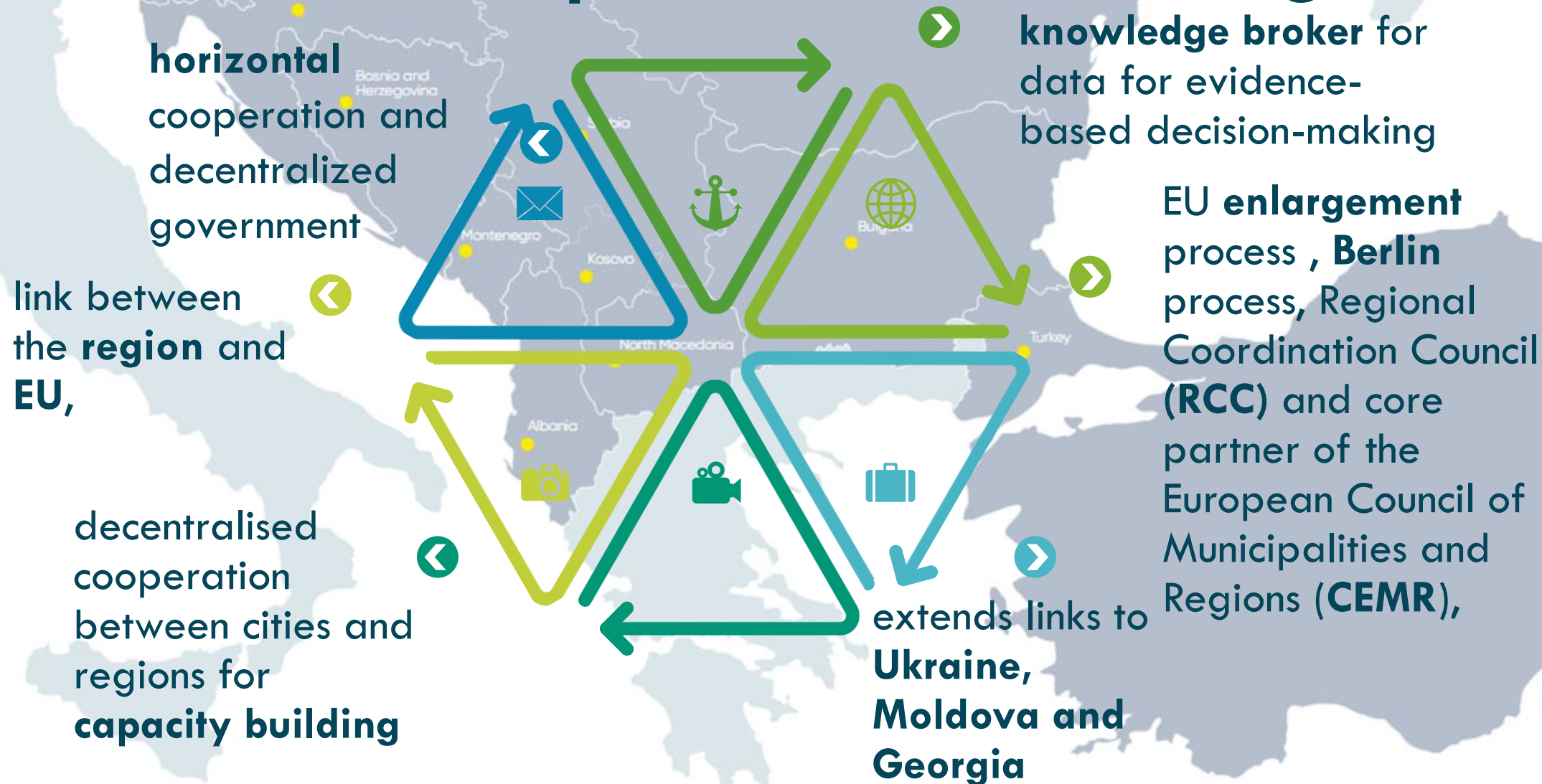
# Regional voice for decentralization and local/regional autonomy



**NALAS: Advancing the Role of Local Governments in South-East Europe**



# Promotion of local democracy and decentralization, cooperation and EU integration





# NALAS Knowledge Centre

The power of our Network are our members

**Our basic principle:** the knowledge is there and we have access to it, as well as the mechanisms to collect, organize and disseminate it!

Tools and channels of the NALAS Knowledge System and NALAS communications

Dissemination

Identifying issues/topics

Committee of Liaison Officers  
Task Forces, Advisory Concilium, Working Group, Networks

Our mechanisms

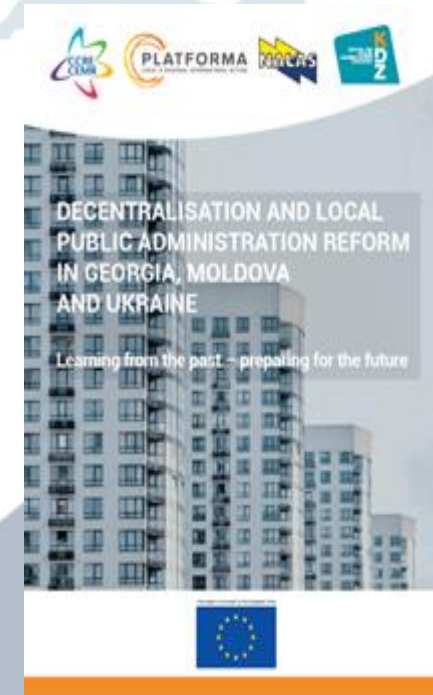
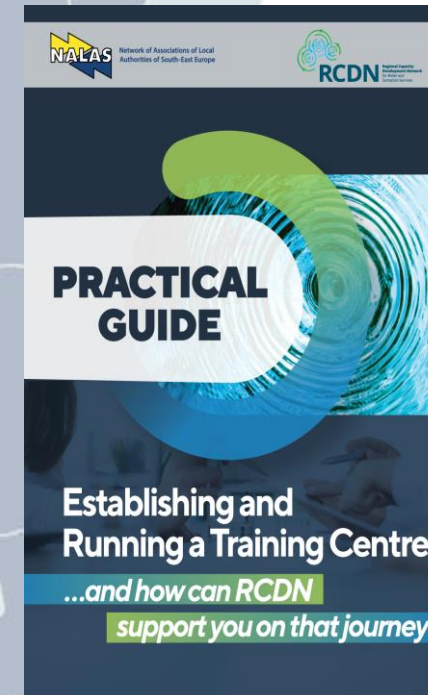
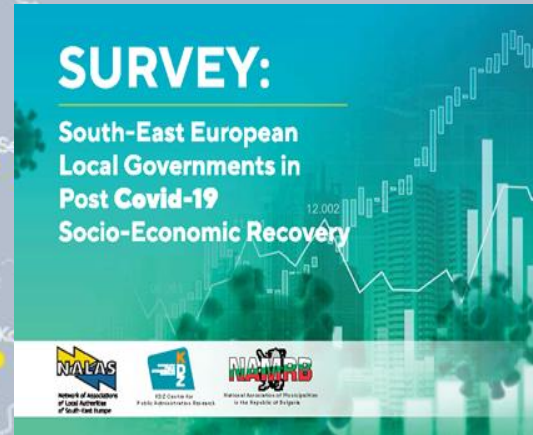
Collection

Knowledge Management Assistants, Task Forces, Advisory Concilium, Groups and Networks other experts

Organising

NALAS Secretariat staff, other experts





**NALAS products on open issues relevant at regional level:**  
Fiscal Decentralization Indicators, Reports, Surveys, Guides, RDO



# Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe

## Conference Panel Discussions: Exchange of good practices

As a knowledge centre for local government development in South-East Europe, NALAS has the power to collect, formulate, disseminate and scale-up good local government practices. In this capacity, with the support of its Advisory Concilium, NALAS collected 40 good municipal practices and selected six of them to be presented at the conference, in three panels/thematic areas: 1) Community mobilisation in dealing with COVID-19, 2) Improving access and opportunities and 3) Support to local economy. Short introductory videos were developed and presented during the conference, describing each of the practices.

**Panel 1: Community mobilisation in dealing with COVID-19** featured the good municipal practices by Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, Turkey - 'Pay It Forward' Campaign and Colibashi, Moldova - Mobilisation of diaspora and upscaling the local brand "With love from Colibasi".



**Community Mobilisation in dealing with COVID**

Mr. Ibrahim Orhan Demir  
Deputy Secretary General  
Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, Turkey

Mr. Naim Erol Özgüner  
Head of IT Dpt.  
Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, Turkey

Mr. Ion Dolganuc  
Mayor  
Colibashi Municipality, Moldova

Ms. Alexandra Vutic  
Municipal expert  
Colibashi Municipality, Moldova

Istanbul's 'Pay-It-Forward' campaign builds upon community's long-lasting tradition of the municipality, to support vulnerable groups affected by COVID-19 and in the of the public utility companies in difficult times. Learn more about it from the video

 Istanbul video

Home / News / NALAS Survey: SEE Local Socio-Economic Recovery

**SURVEY:**  
South-East European Local Governments in Post Covid-19 Socio-Economic Recovery

The purpose of this survey is to help improve the local government level in South-East Europe, identify and ultimately helping formulating concrete Government Associations.

As of February 2020, COVID-19 has become a global crisis for governments (LGs) throughout the region, protecting community health and wellbeing during the biggest economic recession since the World War II.

SEE local governments have been and will continue to address these challenges in the most effective and efficient manner.

**THE LOCAL LEVEL CAN CONTRIBUTE TO A MORE EQUAL AND BETTER WORLD**

**98% GENDER EQUALITY AT LOCAL LEVEL: THEORY AND PRACTICE**

79% of the countries of South-East Europe have adopted Gender Equality and strategic documents.

58% of the countries of South-East Europe have adopted Gender Equality and strategic documents at local level.

42% of the countries of South-East Europe have adopted Gender Equality and strategic documents at local level.

**BUT, THE RESULTS ARE STILL TO COME.**

84% of the Mayors in South-East Europe are women.

15% of the Mayors in South-East Europe are women.

20% of the Mayors in South-East Europe are women.

29.9% of the Mayors in South-East Europe are women.

**98% GENDER EQUALITY IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATIONS**

2/3 OF THE MEMBER LGs DO NOT HAVE A PERSON DESIGNATED AS GENDER FOCAL POINT.

86% OF THE PRESIDENTS OF NALAS MEMBER LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATIONS ARE MEN.

**57% OF THE LGs DO NOT HAVE A PERSON DESIGNATED AS GENDER FOCAL POINT.**

**In 57% of NALAS member LGs the administrative staff is predominantly women.**

**98% GENDER EQUALITY IN THE NETWORK**

HIGHEST PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IS NOTED IN THE KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT ASSISTANTS TEAM 60% NALAS SECRETARIAT AND THE TASK FORCE ON SUSTAINABLE TOURISM 60%.

THE BIGGEST DISPROPORTION IS NOTED WITHIN THE NALAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, WHERE ONLY 33.3% OF THE DELEGATES ARE WOMEN.

**WE MUST AND CAN DO MORE!**

**EMPOWERING WOMEN EMPOWERS THE WHOLE SOCIETY**

Home

Explore

Notifications

Immediate impact of COVID-19 on local government revenues for the period January - June 2020 in comparison with the same period of 2019

Revenue Source	Large decrease > 20%	Moderate decrease 10-20%	Small decrease <10%	No Impact & Increase	n.a.
Own Revenue	53%	28%	12%	5%	2%
Intergovernmental transfers	25%	20%	20%	31%	4%
Capital Investments	37%	15%	21%	24%	3%

percentage of respondents (100% = 146)

**News**

**COVID-19 SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY AT THE LOCAL LEVEL IN SOUTH-EAST EUROPE**

CEMR Retreat - Session Leaving no one behind: tackling the social impact of COVID-19

Elton Stafa, NALAS

NALAS @nalas\_eu

#Covid\_19 causes unprecedented financial pressure for SEE LGs. At the peak, in 81 % of SEE, LGs' own revenues decreased by more than 10% and 20% in annual terms. As a result, local capital investments fell by more than 20% in more than a third of SEE LGs. [bit.ly/3diEtOx](https://bit.ly/3diEtOx)

3:24 PM · Oct 7, 2020 · Twitter Web App

View Tweet activity

NALAS @nalas\_eu

Our colleague @elton\_stafa is currently presenting the findings of #NALAS study at @CCRECEMR retreat. You can access the study here: [nalas.eu/Publications/B...](https://nalas.eu/Publications/B...)

10:36 AM · Sep 30, 2020 · Twitter Web App

View Tweet activity

6 Retweets 11 Likes

**Dissemination channels:** website, Digest, social media, traditional media, direct mailing, events, infographics, conferences...

**Objective:** reach those that need the knowledge and can change things



# BACID III Project Digitalization

support in creating smart, sustainable, inclusive  
and resilient communities, based on innovative  
solutions



# WB6 and Moldova Digital Transformation

**BACID III** (Building Administrative Capacities of the Western Balkans and the Republic of Moldova), together with RESPA, Austrian Association of Cities and Towns (AACT) and Public Administration Research Centre (KDZ)

**improving the capacities** in decentralization and local autonomy as key elements of the “Western European Democracy Model”

**for** the provision of **high-quality local services** in the Western Balkan and Moldova.



# BACID III steps in support of smart digitalization

Analyze  
challenges and  
potentials

NALAS  
Digitalization  
expert, KDZ  
and AACT

Survey: Current  
level of  
digitalization of  
local  
government  
services in SEE

Evaluating EU  
programs for  
support

Best practice  
collection  
publish



# Working Group of Digitalization





## Capacity Building

## Networking

## Workshops

## Webinars

## Learning programs

## Study visits

## Learning by doing with 2 pilots







Network of Associations of Local  
Authorities of South-East Europe

# NALAS RDO composite index

NALAS OBSERVATORY  
<https://nalas-observatory.eu/>

7/24/2023

D1 Autonomy of  
Local Governments

D11 Legal Setup

D12 Policy and  
Administrative  
Autonomy of  
Local  
Governments

D13 Fiscal and  
Financial  
Autonomy of  
Local  
Governments

D2 Quality of Local  
Services

D21 Communal  
Services

D22 Local  
Economic  
Development

D23 Social Affairs  
(Education,  
Culture, Health,  
Social Welfare)

D24 Resilience

D25 Smart Cities

D3 Participation and  
Responsiveness

D31 Participation

D32  
Responsiveness

D33 Transparency

D34  
Accountability

D4 LGA Involvement  
in the Policy  
Dialogue

D41 LGA  
positioning for  
dialogue

D42 LGA  
consultation with  
members

D43 Inter-  
governmental  
Consultation  
Practices

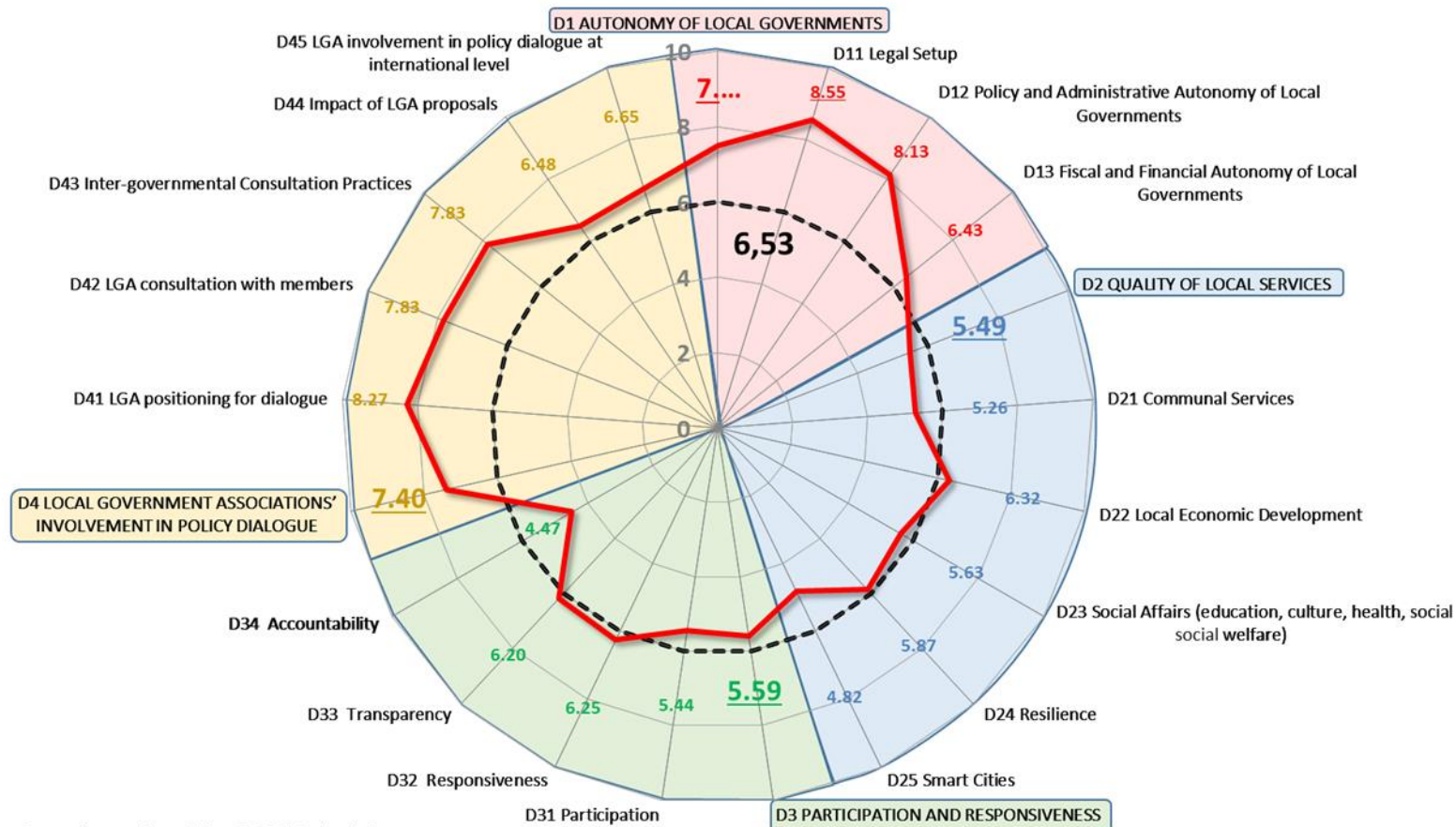
D44 Impact of  
LGAs proposals

D45 LGA  
involvement in  
policy dialogue at  
international level



# RDO Observatory

## The Overall RDO Index\* across RDO Dimensions and Indices



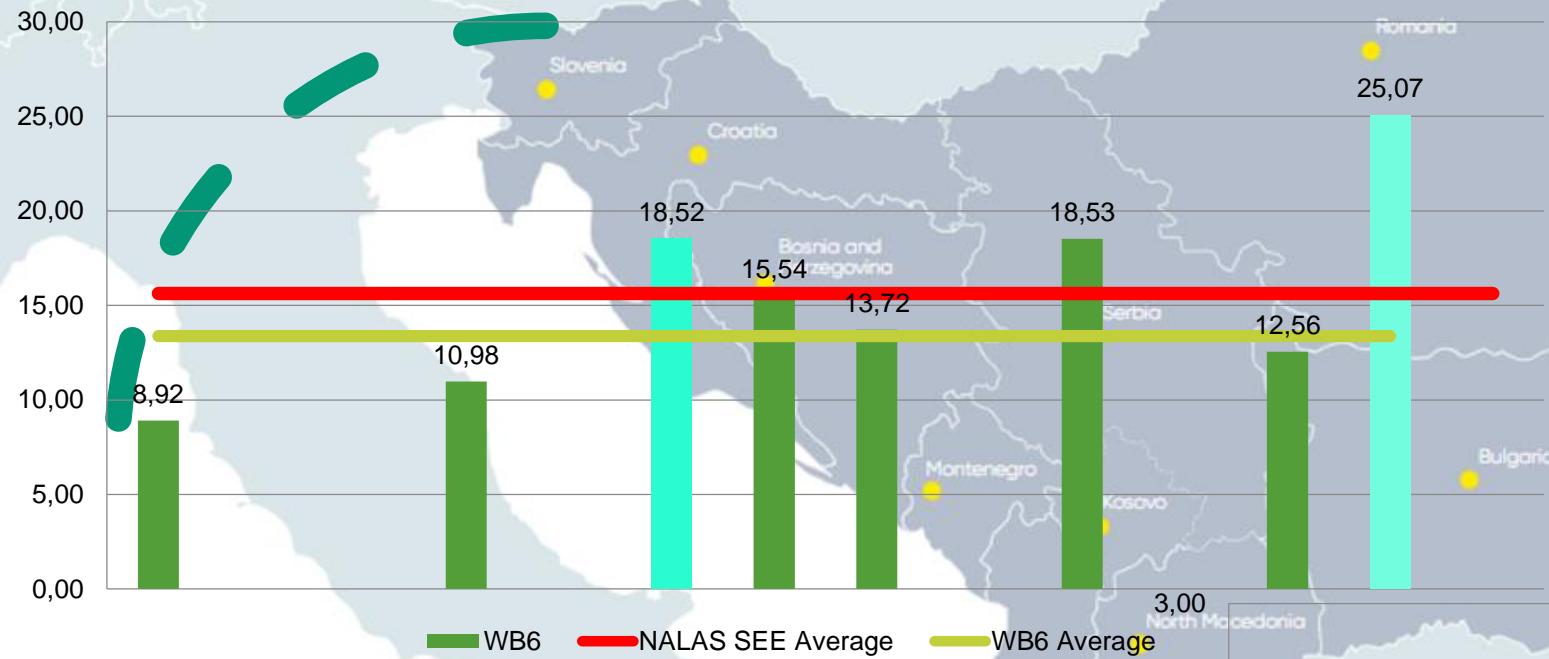
\* Preliminary findings from the testing of the RDO Methodology



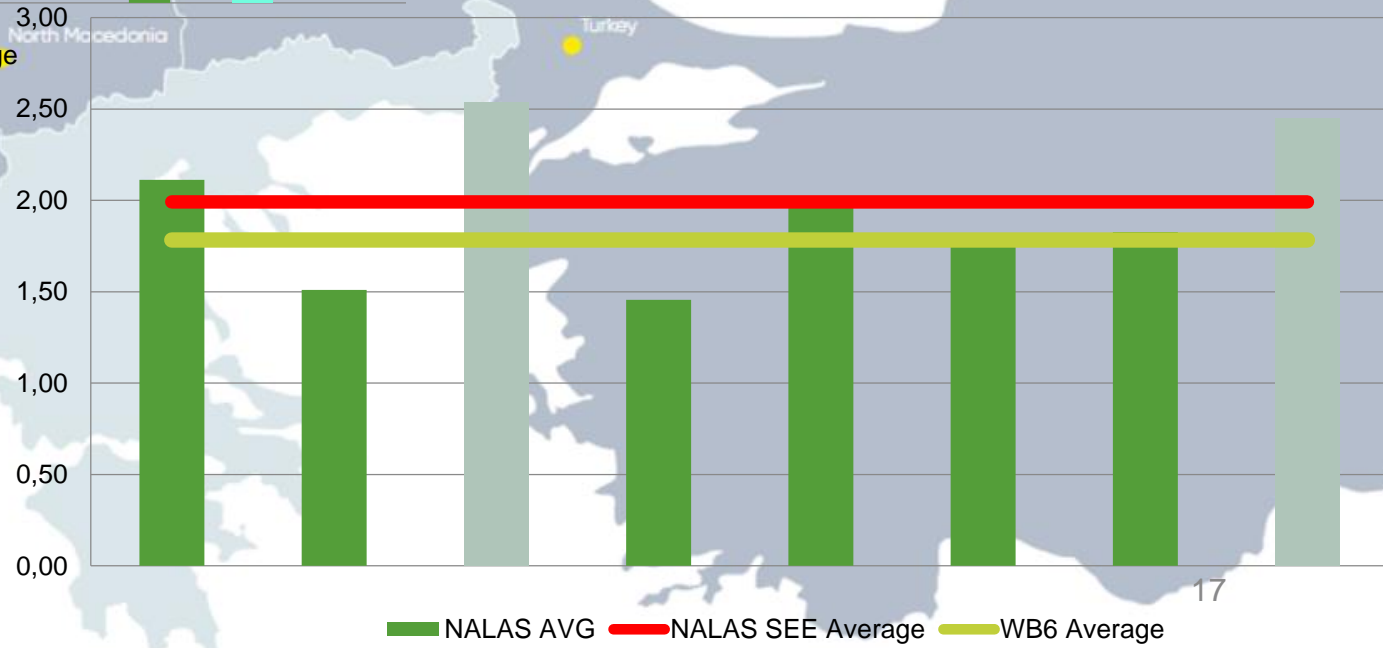
**4 dimensions**  
**17 indices**  
**9 sub-indices**  
**97 indicators:**  
32 quantitative  
65 qualitative



D2 QUALITY OF LOCAL SERVICES



D25 SMART CITIES



Smart city indicators with results from 2019



# Digitalization study in preparation

draft results of the survey May 2023

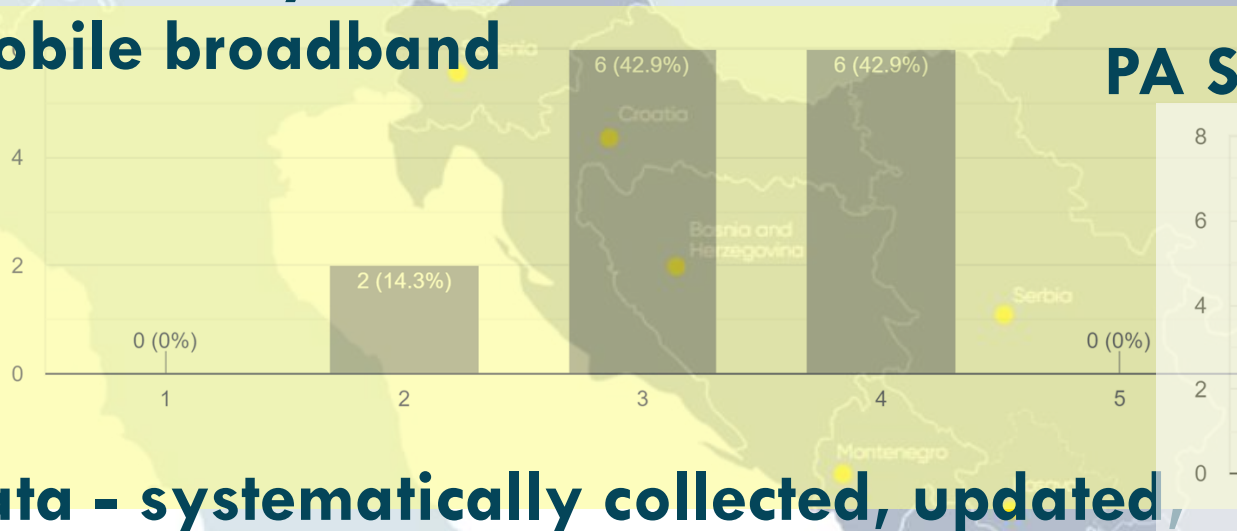


# Key Benefits of Digital Transformation Recognized by Local Authorities

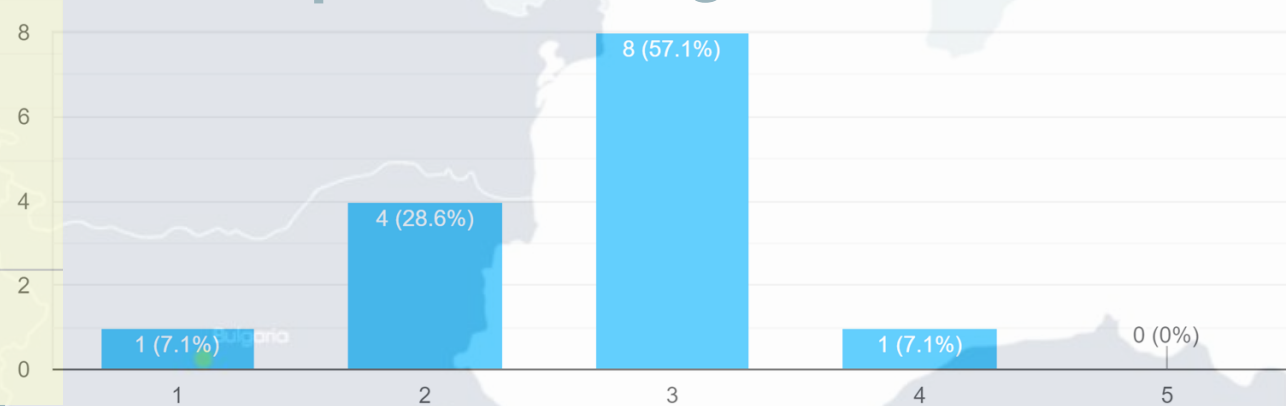
- Evidence based decision making
- Consultation with citizens in selection of priorities
- Improved service delivery for the business and citizens
- Smart, innovative but sustainable and resilient growth
- Improving good governance principles: transparency, participation, openness, accountability and integrity
- Ensuring Infrastructure for quick responses and crisis management



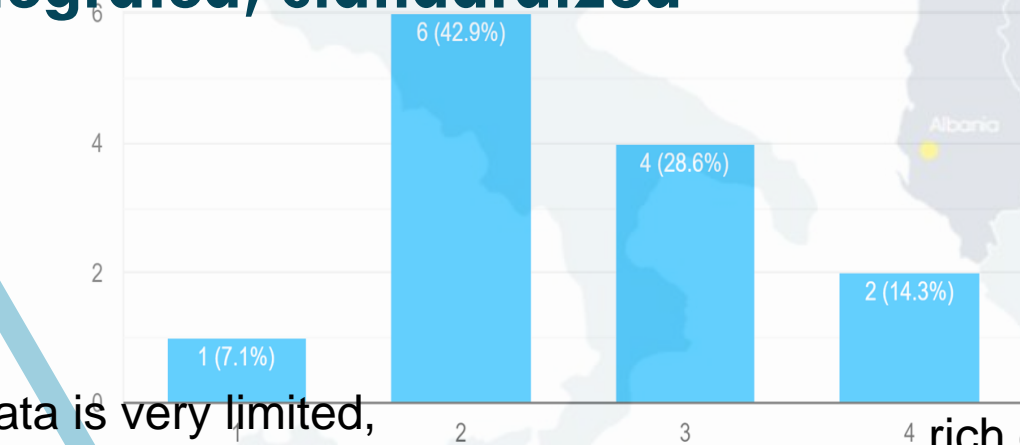
# Connectivity Infrastructure - fixed and mobile broadband



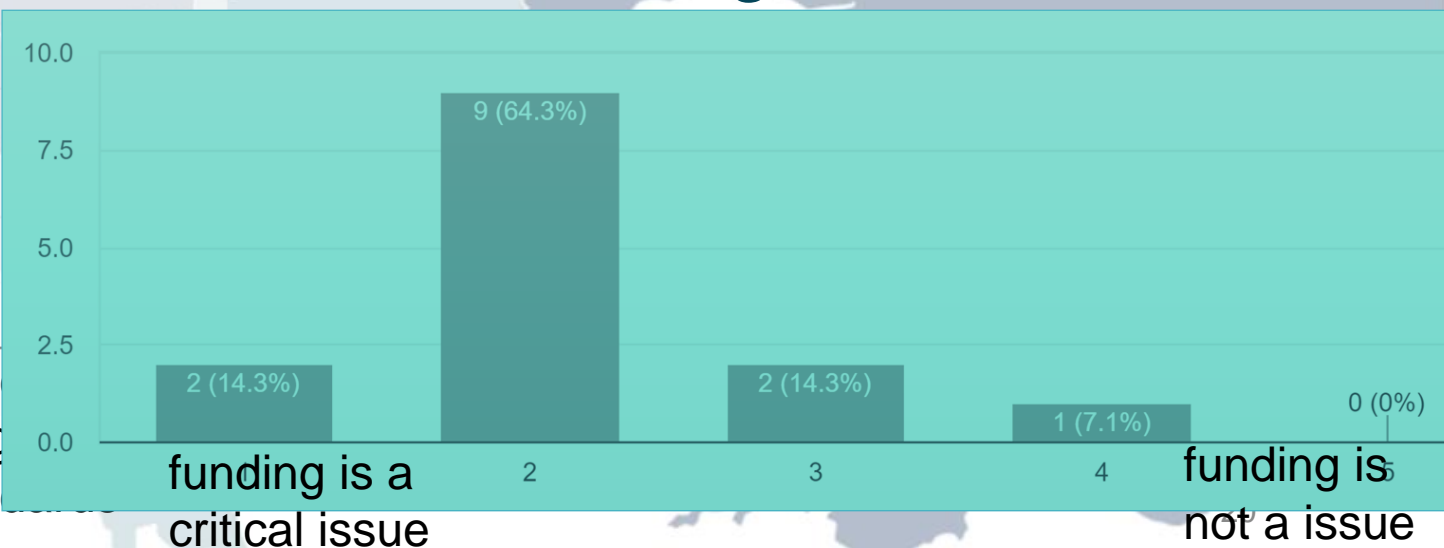
# PA Skills&Capacities in digital transformation



# Data - systematically collected, updated, integrated, standardized



# Funds for digital transformation



data is very limited, not sufficient, nor standardized and integrated

funding is a critical issue

funding is not a issue



# Linking NALAS and KDZ existing initiatives and projects with EUSDR Priority Area 10 “Institutional Capacity”

- ACTION 1: To improve institutional capacities in order to provide high-quality public services

ACTION 3: To review bottlenecks relating to the low absorption rate of EU Funds

ACTION 5: To test and support innovative funding solutions (for local actors and civil society)

ACTION 8: To enhance capacities of cities and municipalities to facilitate local and regional development / Cross-macro-regional Cooperation on Smart Communities

- to step up advocacy at European and national level as well as capacity building and mutual learning in the area of smart communities.





## Steering Group dialogue:

How to advance digitalization efforts in the region:

- ✓ Networking,
- ✓ Resources sharing,
- ✓ Identifying partners and stakeholders for funding applications or project implementations







Thank you!

[www.nalas.eu](http://www.nalas.eu)

<http://www.nalas.eu/>