Local Democracy Agency for Central and Southern Serbia - LDACSS

Activity Report 2010.

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Lead Partner - International Office, Department of Employment, Municipality of Aarhus, Denmark
Host City – City of Nis, Serbia
Partners - City of Saltdal, Norway; Tavolo Trentino con Kraljevo, Italy; City of Kragujevac, Serbia; City of Kraljevo, Serbia; Association for Local Democracy Agency Zavidovici, Italy; Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities Serbia SKGO

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1.
Microcredit scheme for start-up activities for young entrepreneurs in South East Europe, supported by Norwegian Government, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Council of Europe Bank and Intesa SanPaolo

2010. was a final year of this multi annual project. Our main activities were focused on the bridging activities: further negotiations with local, national and international stakeholders and defining of potential follow up projects.

2.
Reconciliation for the future – European perspectives for Western Balkans,
supported by European Commission

The main aim of this project was to contribute to the analysis of key aspects of regional dialogue on reconciliation as well as key political, social and economic challenges in achieving cross-border and regional cooperation in the processes of reconciliation between the competent institutions and their improved coordination with other parties.
A series of three round tables and a regional conference brought together representatives of state bodies, civil society, experts and media from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia to foster dialogue on reconciliation at the regional level, as one of the key prerequisites for the future of European integration.
LDA was ALDA's local partner for the activities in Serbia. We organized the first round table and managed a call for essays on this topic in Serbia.

3.
Marking the Day of Europe

On the 9th of May our young activists organized a birthday celebration for Europe. Celebration took place in the park of the old fortress of Nis, favorite relaxing spot of the citizens of Nis. Most of the activities organized for this occasion were aimed at the youngest citizens of Nis, to celebrate the birthday of Europe while increasing children's knowledge about Europe at the same time.
In specially decorated area and with a birthday cake, youngsters had opportunity to participate in composing a Europe, made as a puzzle, where each peace presented one European country. Children and other citizens also had the opportunity to left a birthday message for Europe, on the panels presented in the park of the old fortress of Nis. In return for their participation children received color-books with European countries and their flags.
Our activists also distributed to the citizens different promotional materials prepared especially for this occasion and publications kindly donated to LDA by the Council of Europe.

B) LDA fundraised projects

1.
NGO Economy and Management,
supported by SLOVAK AID, throught the cooperation program "Beograd-Bratislava Fund", realized in the partnership with Centrum vzdelávania neziskových organizácií - CVNO, Banjska Bistrica, Slovakia, the Faculty of Economy "Matej Bel" in Banjska Bistrica and the Faculty of Economy in Niš.

Economy & Management of NGO is a project funded by SLOVAKIAD which deals in rising the capacities of NGO to deal with their own management and financial resources. Perhaps the biggest gain in the whole process is the fact that the on-line course will be prepared which will serve as a module for possible future accredited masters course on one of the universities in Serbia. If that happens it will be the first time to involve NGO in formal process of education in Serbia. The whole process is a transfer of knowledge from Economic faculty of the University of Matej Bel from Banska Bystrica, Slovakia. The process also involves cooperation of Economic faculty in Niš and Matej Bel, as well as mobility of students where 5 students will visit Slovakia during the project implementation period.
In this pilot phase, the formal process involves 10 organization from Southern Serbia with one representative who will go to this course, which is going to last one semester (February-Jun 2011). Six subjects will be a part of the course: Management of NGO, Marketing of NGO, Global economy, Human resources, Finances of NGO and New trends in NGO. Currently, as the first course are taking place, we have 15 students from the leading NGOs in Southern Serbia.

2.

Institutional support of the City of Suresnes to the City of Kragujevac in defining city social policies,

supported by French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the City of Suresnes, the City of Kragujevac, realized in partnership with the cities of Sursnes and Kragujevac

Thru workshops with experts and a study visit, managed by LDA and realized during 2009/2010. the French City of Suresnes has successfully transferred to the representatives and experts of the City of Kragujevac a specific transversal methodology of coordination of stakeholders in the field of pre-school children protection. One of the goals reached in this project, getting a real picture of the population of pre-school children in the territory of the city in order to better envisage its needs, is embodied in forming the coordinating body - Group for Social Cohesion dealing with protection of pre-school children in Kragujevac and a comprehensive data base on this population that is now owned by the local administration in Kragujevac but put on disposal to all relevant stakeholders.

3.

Poverty Reduction: Civil Society and Responsible Government,

supported by Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Institute for Sustainable Communities ISC, realized in partnership with The Association for Protection and Promotion of Mental Health in Children and Youth Nis

On the territory of Serbia, the coalition of civil society organizations in cooperation with the Institute for sustainable communities and with the support of the Ministry of external affairs of the Kingdom of Norway has been realizing a three-year- long programme *For less poverty: Civil society and responsible government*. The coalition of seven organizations has been formed that have been recognized as relevant on the basis of their experience in working with one of the seven most sensitive groups, which were defined in the Strategy for less poverty (children, youth, the elderly, women, people with disabilities, Roma people, refugees). Association for protection and promotion of mental health in children and youth from Niš has been chosen to act on behalf of children and has chosen LDA as a relevant partner from the city of Niš. During 2010. LDA representatives have been trained in budget monitoring and have completed the first round of the monitoring of the budget of the City of Nis. A report has been produced with a special focus on budget lines containing allocations for children. Report has been published and presented to media and public in a round table organized in October 2010.

4.

Institutional support of the City of Aarhus for the City of Niš and LDA,

supported by the City of Aarhus, realized in partnership with the cities of Aarhus and Nis

The Danish City of Aarhus has been actively involved both with the City of Nis and LDA for quite some time. During 2010. this cooperation has been raised to a higher level with the tripartite agreement on cooperation between these partners. Within that agreement the International Office of the City of Aarhus has been opened. This office, hosted by LDA, will employ young professionals that will be working closely with the Office for European Affairs and Office for Local Economic Development of the City of Nis and LDA in defining future joint projects. In 2010. a project of strengthening capacities of Business Innovation Centre in Kragujevac and Business Incubation Centre in Nis has been drafted and submitted for potential donations.

5.
Human rights education for youth,
supported by Norwegian Ministry for Foreign affairs, realized in partnership with the cities of Saltdal and Nis

2010. marked the start of a joint project of LDA and our partner cities, Nis and Saltdal. The project foresees forming, training and cooperation of two groups of peer educators on the topic of human rights and their protection, one in Nis and one in Saltdal.
During 2010. two teams that will be managing the project locally have been formed, joint time frame and activity plan has been defined. Introductory meeting, organized by the Norwegian Ministry for Foreign affairs, took place in Belgrade, in September.

6.
Little green people,
supported by the Municipality of Medijana, City of Nis, realized in partnership with preschool institution of the City of Nis "Pcelica" and television NTV

Aim of this project was to complement the formal education of pre-school children with non-formal education on the topic of ecology and environmental protection. Six-months long activities consisted of series of educational workshops where kids could learn how to protect their planet through games, putting on plays, and interaction with our educators, students of biology and drama. All kindergartens from Medijana Municipality hosted one workshop that had as a final product a short educational video where kids gave little tips to their peers on how to protect different aspects of their environment. These 10 short videos were distributed as educational material to the teachers of all kindergartens and also broadcasted on Nis Television so the broader public of Nis has been also educated by our youngest citizens.

7.

War and Propaganda: An Approach to History in Europe,
supported by OFAJ, realized in partnership with memorial centres Oradur-sur-Glane in France and Dachau in Germany

In cooperation with the organisation OFAJ from Germany and memorial centres Oradur-sur-Glane in France and Dachau in Germany, LDA started implementing three cycles of seminars "War and Propaganda: An Approach to History in Europe". One seminar took place in 2010, in Dachau, Germany and two more in 2011, in Oradour, France and Nis. The main goal of the cycle of seminars is to question the relationship between propaganda, the Second World War conflict and the 90s conflict in the former Yugoslavia. Youth from Serbia, Germany and France will also be given a chance of intercultural learning as well as a possibility to investigate transnational historiography.
Each seminar is led by well known historians, experts on the topic.

8.
Relating the public,
supported by the European Commission thru European Voluntary Service programme

The main goal of the project was to create conditions for active inclusion and participation of the young people in the process of development of the local community through the establishment of the functional presentation and informational system by using various activities.
The volunteer was, together with other volunteers, working to establish good mutual communication among volunteers, activists and media through implementation of different promotional and informational activities for wider audience: public debates, presentations, publications, newsletter.
The aim of the project was to raise intercultural awareness in both the beneficiaries of this project, host organization and wide public. This project also promoted the Youth in Action programme, Action 2 in particular and European Union in general.

The service of the volunteer lasted six months.

9.
Youth: the media – tor,
supported by the European Commission thru European Voluntary Service programme

The six months long project „Youth: the Media-tor" was focused on creating pathway for young people in Nis to obtain information. With this project we supported youth participation, both on local and international level, through mediating information on the rights of youth, possibilities for mobility, education etc, while applying peer to peer method. This voluntary service also included creating and organizing information workshops, several local events for youth and training on human rights.

Project has been realised in partnership with NGO YMCA na Slovensku from Banska Bistrica, Slovakia.

10.

Memories & Conflict elaboration,

supported by the Association Tavolo Trentino, realized in partnership with Tavolo Trentino con Kraljevo and Proggeto Prijedor

A documentary with interviews of around 100 people of all ages from the region (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Kosovo), cities of Nis, Kraljevo, Prijedor, Pec, Pristina, Gracanica and Gorazdevac. Focus was on their individual perspectives of major historic and politic events in the region during past two decades.

Eventually, the objectives targeted through this documentary is to promote conflict elaboration and transformation actions with the different communities facilitating a gradual movement of work from smaller groups to public and visible actions with the involvement of local institutions

11.

Youth Cultural Club,

supported by the City of Nis

Youth Cultural Club is a cultural program aimed at contributing to meeting the cultural needs of young people in Nis and motivating them to use their creative capacity. Club will draw attention

to creative work of young unpublished writers while promoting cultural events the city of Nis has to offer in an innovative way. An open call for young writers has been launched. Authors were able to apply with their poetry, prose, essay and drama work.
Selected works will be published in printed and online publication, after which it will be promoted in series of literary evenings.

12.
Partner Meeting

On the 26th of May, the LDA hosted annual partner meeting. The round table brought together representatives of ALDA, Danish City of Aarhus, Cities of Kragujevac and Niš, Kragujevac and Niš business incubators and Kraljevo and Niš LDA teams. After presentations of results accomplished in the previous year and lots of lively discussion, participants agreed to cooperate on several ideas during 2011, and the realization of the project to strengthen business incubators in Nis and Kragujevac was set as the first goal.

13.
Youth initiatives

As always LDA was glad to support young people and organize different events to promote their creativity and initiatives. During 2010. we have supported a series of four collective exibitions of the work of students of Art School from Nis, exibition of hand-made jewlery made by six young women and a charity clothes exchange. During the summer activities of LDA and our Youth Centre have been promoted in two international music festivals, Nisomnia and Nisville. LDA and Alternative cultural centre Nis also organized the accompanying programme of the music festival Nisomnia. Visitors could listen to various public discussions: *How has a law on prohibition of discrimination been put into action*, *The reality of alternative music scene in Niš*, *Youth mobility* and *Youth activism and voluntarism* – as well as ask questions to many experts. They could also pay a visit to promotional NGO fair and see what organisations in Niš are doing as well as enjoy a show of figurative theatre