



Running the Local Democracy Agency for Central and Southern Serbia - LDACSS

Report 2011.

Prepared by Sasa Marinkov, Delegate of the LDACSS

Local Democracy Agency for Central and Southern Serbia LDACSS

Address: Obrenoviceva no18, Nis 18000, Serbia

Tel/Fax: +381 (0)18 523853

E-mail: ldacss@aldaintranet.org

Web: www.ldacss.tumblr.com

Delegate: Sasa Marinkov

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; Association for Local Democracy Agency Zavidovici, Italy;

Content

Summary

Projects implemented in 2011

A) Supported by ALDA

B) Supported by Tavolo Trentino con Kraljevo

C) LDA fundraised projects

Summary

Running of the Local Democracy Agency for Central and Southern Serbia in 2011 has been funded by the Association of Local Democracy Agencies ALDA and the following partners of LDACSS: City of Aarhus (Denmark), Municipality of Saltdal (Norway), City of Nis and Association Tavolo Trentino con Kraljevo (Italy)

Personnel engaged: Ms. Maja Uscumlic, Mr. Ilija Petronijevic, Mr. Sasa Marinkov



Projects implemented in 2011

LDA managed total of 23 projects in 2011.

A) Supported by ALDA

1.

Partner meeting 2011.

Supported by the Association of Local Democracy Agencies - ALDA and LDACSS partners: City of Aarhus, Saltdal, Tavolo Trentino con Kraljevo and Nis.

Seizing the opportunity of ALDAs General Assembly, LDACSS' Partner meeting took place in Bydgoszcz, Poland, on 7th of July.

During the meeting partners discussed current state and new directions in developing LDA. Following points were concluded:

- LDA has managed, for now, to adapt its functioning to reduced financial resources. However it is necessary to develop new strategy that will enable sustainability of LDA for a longer term. That strategy should involve aiming for maybe less projects but projects that will have longer implementing period; it should also aim at securing programme support for LDA.
- Motivating existing and attracting new partners is a challenging but essential job. It is necessary to define further the expectations and role of LDA partners; it is necessary to develop new strategy for partnerships that will be based on project involvement of partners with clear financial benefit to them. We need to bring some (EU) funds and new projects to partners.
- It is necessary to define more clearly relation between LDA and ALDA (roles, mutual expectations, needs, etc.)
- Cooperation between LDAs themselves needs to be raised on a higher level. Balkan network is a resource that needs to be utilized in a better way.
- These recommendations are to be presented to ALDA, director and president, as official joint statement from LDA Nis' partner network.

B) Supported by Tavolo Trentino con Kraljevo

1.

Memories & Conflict elaboration

realized in partnership with Tavolo Trentino con Kraljevo and Progeto Prijedor

This was a final year of project implementation. A final documentary with interviews of people of all ages from the region (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Kosovo) was produced and presented during a series of events in the cities of Nis, Kraljevo, Prijedor, Pec. Documentary focused on individual perspectives of major historic and politic events in the region during past two decades.

The objective of the project was to promote conflict elaboration and transformation actions within different communities facilitating a gradual movement of work from smaller groups to public and visible actions with the involvement of local institutions.

2.

Projects realized by NGO Positive Youth

Manifesto: a set of activities targeting young people of Kraljevo and included organization of cultural events (concerts, forums etc), marking the 14th of October - Remembrance Day – antifascist action and promotion of volunteerism in the Balkans.

Memories and conflict elaboration: series of debates dealing with memories about recent violent clashes in the Balkans and promotion of a documentary "Public history as privat history".

Socially engaged investigative journalism: course of investigative journalism, public debate on investigative journalism in Serbia 2011, publishing of the articles of 5 participants of the course in local media (local weeklies and local youth magazine).

3.

Projects realized by NGO Viktorija

Developing 'help in home' social service in cooperation with Centre for social welfare Kraljevo and Retirement home Mataruska banja.

Cooperation with Retirement home Rovereto.

4.

Projects realized by NGO MNRL

Protected apartment: supporting independent living of people with mental disabilities.

Work therapy for people with mental disabilities in the printing company MAGDI.

Daily centre for children with disabilities: special program for developing life skills and creativity thru workshops.

5.

Projects realized by NGO Fenomena

Public campaign and fundraising for building of Safe house for women in Kraljevo.

Establishing the Association of Women Entrepreneurs and creation of data base on women entrepreneurs in Kraljevo.

Production of a manual of a Group for self-help "The Power of Change" for women victims of domestic violence; Official accreditation of a program "The Power of Change" with the Serbian Ministry of Labor and Social Policy.

6.

Projects realized by Center for Social Welfare

ADOTO: program of financial support to elderly people in Kraljevo.

7.

Projects realized by NGO Sodalis

SEENET: Restoration of Maglic fortress near Kraljevo and the establishment of the Eco Museum.

C) LDA fundraised projects

1.

NGO Economy and Management,

Supported by SLOVAK AID, through 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.

This was the final year of project implementation. Project aimed at raising the capacities of NGO to deal with their own management and financial resources. The whole process was a transfer of knowledge from Economic faculty of the University of Matej Bel from Banska Bystrica, Slovakia. The process also involves cooperation.

During 2011. 15 students from 10 leading NGOs in Southern Serbia attended six on-line courses led by the professors from the Faculty of Economy, Nis University (Management of NGO, Marketing of NGO, Global economy, Human resources, Finances of NGO and New trends in NGO). All 15 students graduated with honours and received their certificates during closing conference that took place in July in Nis. Cooperation between Economic faculties in Niš and Matej Bel was established and 5 students from Nis visited Slovakia, University Matej Bel.

2.

Youth Cultural Club,

Supported by the City of Nis

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

21 young people answered open call for unpublished writers with over 100 works, 13 writers were selected for publishing in the Literary almanac. 280 copies of Almanac were printed and 3 successful public presentations were organized.

3.

Youth exchange "Back to the future"

Supported by the European Commission thru Youth in Action programme

Group of 6 youngsters from Nis and surrounding cities participated to a week long youth exchange in Alba, Italy. Topic of the exchange was the right of citizens to the future with special emphasis on the analysis of the role of youth in the implementation and protection of these rights. Together with their peer from Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lithuania, France and Italy our youngsters worked to establish understanding of individual and collective dimensions of the concept of "rights to the future".

In the upcoming period, participants are expected to design and implement actions that will build on this exchange.



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

During 2011 interns of the International Office of the City of Aarhus cooperated with LDA staff on developing 4 projects that were submitted for potential funding to LEDIB – Local Economic Development in the Balkans programme of Danish Ministry of Foreign affairs, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation – SDC Serbia and Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Serbia. A programme of Danish modern film has also been realized with support from the Office of European affairs of the City of Nis and Danish Embassy in Belgrade. This programme introduced citizens of Nis with modern Danish society.

5- **Share Yourself,**
 Supported by the European Commission thru European Voluntary Service programme, realized with Associação Mais Cidadania, Portugal

Project's goal was to promote volunteering experiences with following aims: To promote solidarity and tolerance; to increase social cohesion among European youngsters; to promote active citizenship and contacts between youngsters of different countries; to offer opportunities of non-formal education to 15 youngsters with low opportunities.

Two young people from Lisbon spent two months in LDA and designed and implemented a week long program that presented Portugal, its history and culture to the citizens of Nis. It consisted of an exhibition, movies presentation and theatre workshops.

This project also promoted the Youth in Action programme, Action 2 in particular, to young people of Nis during two specially organized events.

6.

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

During 2011 final week long seminar within this project took place in Nis. Youth groups from Serbia, Germany and France visited memorial complexes in Nis and Kragujevac and learned about the history of Serbia during the Second World War. During workshops with experts on the topic they questioned the relationship between propaganda, the Second World War conflict and the gos conflict in the former Yugoslavia and investigated transnational historiography of Serbia, Germany and France.

7.

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

Throughout 2011 LDA conducted a research on state financial assistance to children and families. Research has been done in five Serbian cities with citizens from the most vulnerable social groups.

8.

Europe for Us

Supported by the City of Nis

Project has been composed out of two programs:

1. Info Days

The goal of this program was to provide relevant information to young people, and a wider group of citizens of Nis, based on the results of specific studies that will be implemented for this purpose. Within this segment 4 promotions of volunteer programs and other European programs for youth and a series of 5 documentaries dealing with European values has been realized.

2. Volunteer Service

The goal of this program saw to support youth development through volunteer work, informal learning and experience and contribution to the local community in which they engage. A group of 5 volunteers has been established and engaged as direct support to the activities in the European corner in Nis.

9.

Strategy of Sustainable Local Development of the Municipality of Medijana

Supported by the Delegation of the European Union in Serbia through the "Exchange 3" programme

Municipality of Medijana, central and biggest municipality in the City of Nis, started the process of developing a ten-year Local Sustainable Development Strategy, 2011 - 2021. Local Sustainable Development Strategy of the Municipality of Medijana will identify priorities for local community in the areas of environmental protection and infrastructure, economic and social development, involving as many local stakeholders and citizens as possible. It will include a ten-year period but will be flexible and will allow all necessary adjustments throughout the period of its implementation. As proved partner of Medijana Municipality, LDA has been actively involved with this process and facilitated a working group on EU integrations and active citizenship. SWOT analysis, vision, priorities, strategic and specific goals for this area have been identified and incorporated into the final document.

10.

Sustainable Local Development Project: Citizens participation and Youth empowerment

Supported by USAID

Sustainable Local Development is a five-year project designed to support the long term economic and social development of Serbian communities. Core Project activities will target inter-municipal initiatives in preparing major infrastructure and area-wide development projects, in improving local governments management of their finances and assets, in engaging more direct public involvement in municipal affairs, in reducing red tape for businesses, in supporting youth entrepreneurship and employment, and in fostering a more business friendly environment.

LDA has been participating in the project as one of key partners for two areas: Citizens participation and Youth empowerment. During 2011 a draft plan for citizens participation in the budgeting process of the City of Nis has been produced and first workshops on increasing employment of youth took place.

11.

Globalization: effect on our lives

The goal of this program is to inform citizens of Nis about the phenomenon of globalization in the areas of life most affected by it and to show all the basic forms of globalization - economic, political and cultural. A series of screenings of films and debates on globalization took place in the European Corner. Project has been realized in cooperation with the French Cultural Center Belgrade, French Information Center Nis and the Office for European Affairs of the City of Nis.

12.

European Local Democracy Week

On the occasion of the Local Democracy Week 2011, which was dedicated to human rights on the local level, LDA decided to introduce the citizens of Nis with the institution of the Local Ombudsman. Although this institution was established with the Serbian Constitution in 2006

citizens know very little about it and about the kind of support Ombudsman can provide. LDA successfully organized meeting of the citizens with the Ombudsman in Media centre Nis.

13.

Words Too Strong

In cooperation with the Centre for Development of Civil Resources, Alternative Cultural Centre and the Alternative Media Research Center (MIC) in collaboration with the Office for European Affairs of the City of Nis and the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) organized open call for photographs and an exhibition on recorded messages of hate on the walls of the City of Nis. The aim of this project was to draw attention of the citizens of Nis to the retrograde and anti-civilization character of the ideas behind hate speech graffiti and promote fight against such ideas and respect for human rights.

14.

Civil society against violence 2.0

In 2011 LDA has entered program "Civil Society Against Violence 2.0", organized by the Center for New Communications Dokukino in cooperation with USAID and ISC. Our activists participated to workshops on utilization of new media in public campaigns and will be implementing a campaign against hate speech on the internet in 2012.

