

Activity Report of the LDAs for the Year 2004

Croatia *LDA Osijek*
LDA Sisak
LDA Verteneglio

Serbia and Montenegro *LDA Subotica*
LDA Central and Southern Serbia
LDA Montenegro

Kosovo-UNMIK *LDA Kosovo*

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia *LDA Ohrid*

Bosnia and Herzegovina *LDA Prijedor*
LDA Zavidovici
LDA Mostar



**LOCAL
DEMOCRACY
AGENCY
OSIJEK
CROATIA**



Delegate - Miljenko Turniski
Address - K.F. Sepera
HR-31000 OSIJEK
Tel. 00385 31 203 088
Fax 00385 31 203 087
E-mail LDAOsijek@aldaintranet.org

Partners: City of Lausanne, Switzerland (lead partner); City of Osijek, Croatia; Causes Communes Vaid Leman, Switzerland; Utrecht Platform, Netherlands; Centre for Peace Non-violence and Human Rights, Osijek, Croatia, Association of Regional Training Centres (Nitra, Slovakia).

Projects 2004:

Transborder Cooperation in the Euroregion Danube-Drava-Sava
Supported by the Swiss Development Agency, Finland, Liechtenstein, and Canton Basel

This project is a follow-up of a series of three previous projects dealing with the Euroregion Danube -Drava-Sava and therefore continued the activities of the previous projects. The overall aim of this project was to further develop the co-operation in various fields within the Euroregion Danube-Drava-Sava and it was accomplished through specific objectives: educating target groups on transitional processes, the EU integration process and establishing a network of cooperation between the participants.

The target groups of this

project comprised representatives of local authorities, NGOs, the media, national minorities as well as organisations and individuals active in the production of organic food and continental tourism. Four countries took part in the programme, namely Hungary, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro and Croatia.

The project was organized in round table

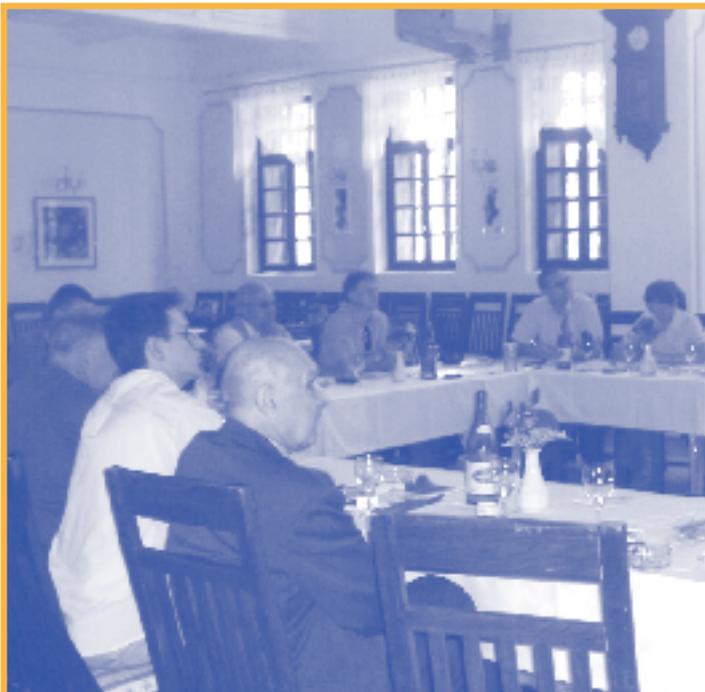
discussions which were very fruitful and educating since the topics were presented in detail and best practices were exchanged.

The following activities were implemented:

- 7 round tables
- 1 seminar
- 1 study trip
- Evaluation
- Newsletter

General outcome:

The continuation of the trans-border cooperation project met all its goals and objectives. The project contributed to the consolidation of contacts between the participants in the Euroregion and helped to best profit from each other's experiences.



Round table: "Manufacturing of organic food as a mutual potential and reason for cooperation in the Euroregion"
Osijek, 18 June 2004



Seminar on communication skills



Round table debate, Osijek, 27 January 2004

Training Seminar on Communication Skills

Supported by Local Government Initiative and Public Reform Initiative Budapest

The main objective of the training:

- > awareness-raising on the importance of communication as a powerful tool in the field of democratization;
- > developing of communication skills and competences in this field;
- > helping the participants to communicate their results and achievements to the public in a more efficient way.

Target group:

- > Local authorities and civil society representatives from Osjecko-Barnjska County.

Activities implemented:

- > Translating and adapting of a part of the material and preparing the manuals for participants;
- > One-day training.

Topics covered:

- > introduction to communication;
- > internal communication;
- > external communication;
- > reaching the media.

Sustainable Development and Protection of Environment in South-Eastern Europe

Supported by Canton Geneva, Switzerland

The main objective of the project:

To assess the situation in South and Eastern Europe concerning environmental protection and waste management and to analyse the interests and competencies of local authorities, institutions and organizations. Through this a case study based on concrete suggestions will be created.

Target group:

- > Environmental representatives of the City of Osijek and Vinkovci and Osjecko-baranjska and Vukovarsko-srijemska County;

- > NGOs that are dealing with environmental issues from Osjecko-baranjska County;
- > Eco Schools and Eco kindergarten representatives from Osijek.

Activities implemented:

- > assessment of the situation;
- > preparation of leaflets and promotional materials;
- > a round table discussion on environmental protection;
- > a round table discussion on waste management;
- > a series of consultation sessions with experts;
- > formation of the expert teams for developing the case studies;
- > awareness-raising campaign.

Actions for local development in the Balkans

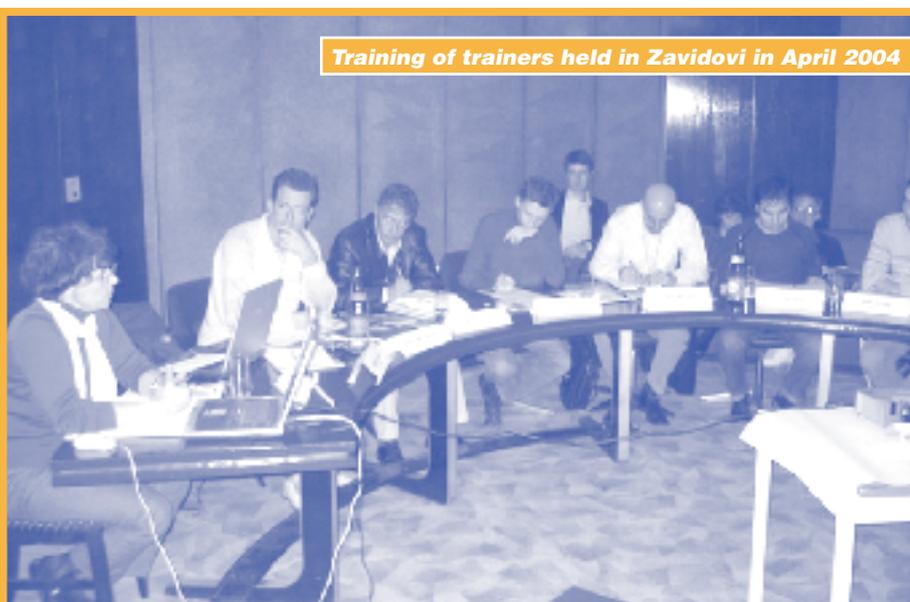
Supported by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Objective

The aim of this project, funded by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is to train two animators from each LDA in economic development in order to strengthen their skills and to build up a study of their territory. This one-year project strengthened the network between the Association of Local Democracy Agencies and the LDAs and promoted the role of the latter in the field of economic development.

Trainings

The goal of the trainings was to prepare the participants to become trainers themselves in their community. The objective of those working groups was to develop several projects which are requested by the citizens of the different regions. By the end of the year 2004, those groups presented



Training of trainers held in Zavidovi in April 2004

solid projects proposals on economic development for which the funding can be found.

Actions for Capacity Building of Local Authorities and Civil Society in Southern and Eastern Europe

Supported by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Summary

The general objective of this project is to strengthen the democratic process in Southern and Eastern Europe. Democratization can be achieved through the active participation of citizens and interests groups in the decision-making process. It is considered a fundamental element of the consolidation of the peace process in the Balkans. Through decentralized decision-making, stability is achieved in the area and conflicts resolved or prevented. Subsequently, human rights are promoted.

Trainings implemented by LDA Osijek

Training and workshop on conflict management

Objectives of the training:

- > to deepen participants' understanding of what conflict is;
- > to raise awareness on conflict;
- > to learn how to approach conflict;
- > to manage and control a conflict situation;
- > to deepen the knowledge about conflict management techniques: facilitation, mediation, negotiation, role negotiation.

Target groups:

- > Representatives of civil society from Osjecko-baranjska County;
- > Representatives of local authorities from Osjecko-baranjska County.

Topics covered:

- > introduction to conflict (causes of conflict and strategies how to deal with conflict);
- > mediation;
- > negotiation;
- > role negotiation.



Trainings on participatory planning process

Objectives of the training:

- > to introduce participants to all the elements of the participatory planning process by using different case studies;
- > to improve participants' understanding of the effect and benefit which participatory planning is producing for the whole community process;
- > to improve participants' understanding of the importance of involving stakeholders from the community in decision-making processes and to introduce them to participatory planning methods.

Target groups:

- > Representatives of civil society from Osjecko-baranjska County;
- > Representatives of local authorities from Osjecko-baranjska County;

The training used different case studies

through which participants could experience the participatory planning process.

Outcomes of the trainings:

During the trainings the participants learned how to use the methods of participatory planning for their everyday work. This will strengthen civil society and raise awareness on how to include different stakeholder groups in the decision-making.

Strengthening partnership and cooperation

(supported by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe)

Objectives of the partner meetings:

- > to widen and strengthen the partner network;
- > to discuss on-going and future projects
- > to improve weak aspects;
- > to introduce partners to our local situation (town, county, region);
- > to widen the scope of activities;
- > to draw synergies and develop ideas for our future work.

All of the mentioned objectives were met at the following meetings:

- > Meeting with Regional Training Centre Nitra and Association of Regional Training Centres, held in Beladice (Nitra), Slovakia on 16th September 2004.
- > Meeting with our partners from Lausanne: City of Lausanne and Cause Communes Vaud, held in Lausanne, Switzerland on 1st October 2004.
- > Meeting with our local partners: the town of Osijek and some municipalities in Osjecko-baranjska and Vukovarsko-srijemska Counties, held in Karanac on 22nd October 2004.

Outcomes of the meetings:

- > Different contacts were made during these meetings and best practices exchanged.
- > In 2005, particular emphasis will be given to the promotion of rural development and agro-tourism in cooperation with Swiss partners and small municipalities from the region, since only with

mutual efforts economic prosperity can be brought to the region.

- > LDA Osijek future activities will focus on the further analysis of mutual interests of municipalities which will be taken into consideration for future project proposals.
- > LDA Osijek will further continue with projects aiming at local authorities' capacity-building.
- > Representatives of small municipalities are highly motivated to participate and act as partners in some of the future projects of the LDA in Osijek.

Training "How to communicate with the media?", December 2004

(supported by the OSCE Mission to the Republic of Croatia)

Objectives of the training:

- > to raise awareness among the participants as to the importance of effective communication;
- > to increase participants' knowledge and competences in managing information;
- > to use communication instruments in a more efficient way;
- > to give special focus on internal and external communication when communicating with the media.

Target groups:

- > Representatives of local authorities from Osječko-baranjska and Vukovarsko-srijemska County.
- > Representatives of civil society from Osječko-baranjska and Vukovarsko-srijemska County.

Activities implemented:

- > Preparation of manuals.
- > Two-day training.
- > Preparation and publishing of a newsletter.

Topics covered:

- > the role of the media in creating social reality today;
- > internal communication;
- > external communication;



Training: "How to communicate with the media?"



- > basic rules for the communication with the media;
- > "tools" for communicating with the media.



**LOCAL
DEMOCRACY
AGENCY
SISAK
CROATIA**

Delegate - **Tatjana Puskaric**
Office and project assistant - **Sonja Bogeljic**
Project managers - **Irena Barisic, Paula Rauzan**
Volunteer - **Branislav Grubic**
Web master - **Igor Milic**
Address - **Stjepana i Antuna Radica 2a
44000 Sisak**

Tel. **00385 44 521 227, 00385 44 523 526**
Fax **00385 44 521 231**
E-mail **ldasisak@aldaintranet.org**
ldesk-si@sk.htnet.hr
Website **www.lda-sisak.hr**

Partners: Mogliano Veneto, Italy (lead partner); Lainate, Arese, Veneto Region, Roncade, Marcon Preganzio, Province of Venice, Italy; Sisak, Hrvatska Kostajnica, Croatia; Town of Martin, Slovakia; "Peace and Development Association"; Charities - "The Bridge" and "Welcome for Families from the former Yugoslavia"

Projects 2004:

A. Promoting Effective Local Level Democracy in Croatia, sponsored by CARDS Democratic Stabilisation Programme/Support to the rule of law, good governance, public accountability and freedom of opinion in the Western Balkans, in partnership with IRC-International Rescue Committee and SDF-Serbian Democratic Forum.

Location: Daruvar, Sirac, Petrinja, and Sunja municipalities in Western Slavonia and Banovina regions of Croatia.



Summary

The project aims at contributing to effective democracy building at the local level in Croatia by strengthening co-operation between citizens and government; by facilitating local governments' transparency; and by building citizen capacity to advocate and address local needs. Thus, IRC and its partners, the Local Democracy Agency - Sisak (LDA) and the Serbian Democratic Forum (SDF) have implemented an integrated programme of support in four municipalities. Key to the project has been the organisation of Community Working Groups as a transitional mechanism for encouraging inter-ethnic dialogue on community priorities. Other major activities included extensive training and an introduction to local government issues, for example on how to develop mechanisms for effective and transparent grant-awarding; providing advocacy, mobilisation, and human rights training & grants to local civic associations, Village Boards, and Minority Councils. Moreover, the organisation of national and cross-border excursions, conferences, and co-ordination meetings was discussed.

Human Rights Calendar

Sponsored by European Youth Foundation

The project was implemented during the period March 2004 - August 2004 in Sisak and Hrvatska Kostajnica (Sisak-Moslavina county), Croatia

Aims:

- > to strengthen the respect for human and fundamental rights;
- > to train, disseminate and inform about human rights;
- > to foster the attitude of tolerance, respect and solidarity inherent in human rights;
- > to provide knowledge about human rights in both their national and international dimensions;
- > to raise awareness as to the ways and means by which human rights can be translated into social and political reality.

The main educational methods used in the project were based on non-formal education.

During the eight implemented workshops the participants compared their knowledge and experiences on human rights. The workshops were run according to the preferred methods, i.e. using small group work, listening skills, recognising the relevance of individual experience and identity to doing work on combating racism, ethnic discrimination and xenophobia and identifying strategies for moving beyond ethnic conflict.

The project has both practiced and supported human rights education giving to participants and to schools themselves the framework and practical model for further implementation.

The project met all the objectives set, that is it has strengthened the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It has also trained, and informed the participants about human rights. The project has fostered the participants' attitude of tolerance, respect and solidarity inherent in human rights. It has provided knowledge about human rights, in both their national and international dimensions.

Thus, human rights were promoted in general in the Sisak-Banovina area, a former war zone and area of ethnic conflicts and tensions. A series of workshops were implemented which promoted and fostered the understanding and tolerance between different ethnic and social groups. In addition, a human rights calendar has been created with statements on human rights, dates of celebration and participants' graphics elaborated during the workshops.

The LDA Sisak has received the Human Rights Prize "Liberté - Egalité - Fraternité" of the Republic of France for the Human Rights Calendar Project in December 2004.



The Integration of women in the Croatian society through the establishment of a support centre: SOS phone line for the victims of family violence and social exclusion

(sponsored by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Liechtenstein, Canton Basel, City of Sisak, Municipality of Dvor, Sisak-Moslavina county, Zagreb bank)

Aims:

Social support for women who have become victims of violence and social exclusion including members of various ethnic and social groups

Active participating of women in community life and problem solving

Raising the public awareness on the problems of victims of violence within families

Psycho-social and legal advices help to the women victims of violence and social exclusion

Results:

In one year the defined objectives were achieved:

- > to a certain extent the public was informed and made aware of the problems of the victims of violence within families, primarily women;
- > the SOS telephone has been operating continuously;
- > through the media the women victims of violence were given the possibility to receive support;
- > sociological research was performed on sample citizens of the Sisak-Moslavina County concerning violence;
- > trainings were held for the volunteers of the SOS telephone and for the experts from relevant institutions that deal with family violence issues;
- > together with psycho-social support, the SOS telephone started with legal advices help

to the victims of family violence;

- > leaflets, stickers and posters were printed for the use of all persons concerned to be informed who and at what time they may ask for help;
- > leaflets, stickers and posters have been distributed all over the Sisak-Moslavina County, on which people in need for such support were addressed on whom and in what time they can ask for help;
- > the Regional Conference was held with the topic "Violence among the peers", in which the participants got better inspection in well-functioning family structure and its importance in terms of violence prevention.

SOS phone-line:

The phone line was operating every Friday and Saturday in the past few months, providing psychosocial help, and every Wednesday by providing legal advices. More than 150 calls for help have been received from the Sisak-Moslavina County area (Sisak, Petrinja, Glina, Gvozd, Hrvatska Kostajnica, Dvor, Hrvatska Dubica, Kutina). However, through the promotion of our programme through promotional



material, we also received phone calls from Zagreb, Pazin and Gospic. The majority of the phone calls came from urban areas, and about 15% from rural ones.

80% of the victims are women who suffered physical, mental/emotional and economic violence.

In these cases, physical violence means slapping, punching, pushing away, hitting with objects, spitting...; mental and emotional maltreatment is referring to derogatory and insulting remarks about someone's appearance, habits, friends..., isolation from friends or other members of one's family, threats with child taking, threats with throwing somebody out of one's house, threats with institutionalisation, forbidding possession of things of great importance for someone...; economic violence is mostly about finance withholding from the other partner.

10% of the SOS calls are made by men. Mostly fathers who suffer violence from children addicted to alcohol or drugs. Significant in these cases is a combination of physical and mental violence. Some of the calls are made by middle-aged men who unfortunately lost their jobs and live with a partner who still works, so there emerges economic and emotional violence that they suffer. Recently there have been calls from men concerning guardianship of their children during the divorce period. The other 10% of calls are made by adolescents who mostly suffer from emotional/mental and economic violence, and sometimes from physical violence. Calls received from the victims on SOS phone line express the necessity and justification of its existence. The very functioning of such phone line indicates that the victims of family violence are able to be encouraged, and in this way we give them a possibility to react, to stop the violence and make changes in their lives.

ACTIONS OF CAPACITY BUILDING FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND NGOS IN SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

Training for civil society on Conflict Management

Aim of the training

> to deepen participants' understanding of CONFLICT (causes, dynamic & stages);

> to improve participants' knowledge and skills of ALTERNATIVE STRATEGIES for Conflict Resolution;

> to improve participants' knowledge and skills of mediation;

> to improve participants' knowledge and skills of facilitation, communication.

Training for local authorities on Participatory Planning Process

Aim of the training

> To improve participants knowledge about planning techniques;

> To emphasize the importance of problems' identification and differentiation between causes and consequences;

> To improve participants' knowledge and skills on defining the possible interventions inside the community.

Info point in the LDA Sisak

Open every Tuesday and Thursday from 10-15 with the following **content:**

Free Internet access

Croatian daily newspapers "Vecernji list", "Jutarnji list"

Croatian weekly local magazines "Glas Siska", "Novi sisacki tjednik"

Croatian weekly political magazines "Gloбус", "Nacional", "Feral Tribune"

Foreign weekly magazines "Time", "Newsweek".

Books, handbooks and manuals on psycho-social issues, human rights protection, minority rights protection etc. published by the Council of Europe, EU, OSCE and UN, Croatian Ministry for the European integration and Croatian association for psycho-social support.

Results achieved so far

> Promotion of the importance of capacity building for local authorities and civil society.

> Strengthening of the relations and communication between the LDA and participating local authorities and NGOs.

> Strengthening of the relations and communication among participating local authorities and NGOs.

> Opening of the Info point.

> Media coverage - TV NET news (broad-

casted on the 29th of November 2004); Published 3 articles in daily and weekly newspapers; Radio Sisak news (broadcasted 2 times). Special broadcast (15 minutes) has been done with youth group from Mogliano Veneto.

> Improving knowledge of planning techniques on the side of the participating NGOs and local authorities.

> Emphasizing importance of problems' identification and differentiation between causes and consequences.

> Improving participants' knowledge and skills on defining possible interventions inside the community.

> Presenting different cultures and youth cultural activities and interests

> Gathering a group of 17 young people from Sisak and the Mogliano Veneto area.

> Exchanging experiences on human rights promotion and protection between young people.

> Exchanging experiences and knowledge on YNGO activities.

Promotion of Inter-ethnic dialogue

CBM (2003)23

May 2003-May 2004

The project "Promotion of inter-ethnic dialogue" consisted of 30 seminars and workshops for opinion multipliers (representatives of ethnic or national minorities' organisations, representatives of local authorities, representatives of religion communities and representatives of international organisation) and the general public and has been concentrated on the following topics: inter-ethnic relations, human and minority rights, inter-religious dialogue, overcoming of stereotypes and prejudices, the role of civil society, media and conflict.

The project aimed at improving relations between ethnic minorities (Serbs, Roma, Jew, Czech) and majority (Croats), to promote inter-ethnic dialogue and to facilitate education for human and minorities' rights in the Banovina region of Sisak-Moslavina county, Croatia.

Activities (workshops and seminars) took place within the actual area where the majority-minority problems are to be addressed, that is on Banovina area – cities of Glina, Gvozd and Dvor.

The exchange of best practices and support for the development of Nature park Lonjsko polje

(sponsored by Veneto Region)

The project “The exchange of best practices and the support to the development of the Nature park Lonjsko polje”, has been sponsored by Veneto Region and implemented in cooperation with local partner authorities and institutions from Italy and Croatia (coordinated by the City of Mogliano Veneto).

Purpose of the project:

- > To promote the twinning between the “Parco del Delta del Po” area, in Italy, and the “Park Prirode Lonjsko Polje” natural park area, in Croatia, County of Sisak, which are very similar.
- > To promote the economic development of the natural park area by exchanging best practices.
- > To link Italian and Croatian local communities, looking at the EU enlargement.

Results of the 18-month project:

An introductory seminar held in October 2002 in Sisak «The exchange of experiences and best practices: Nature Park Lonjsko polje - Regional nature park of the Po' river delta». The seminar gathered numerous representatives from Italy and Croatia who exchanged their experiences on resources management and who agreed on a future cooperation.

A group of students and professors from the Faculty of Architecture at the University of Venice (IUAV) developed a restoration and reconstruction study for traditional wooden houses in the village Cigoc inside the Nature park Lonjsko polje in 2003 and 2004. Special emphasis was laid on the preservation of traditions and cultural heritage.

Local Democracy Agency Sisak translated the promotional material on the Nature park Lonjsko polje into Italian. The Master plan has been printed as well as a guide through Cigoc and the leaflet «Nature park Lonjsko polje». At the same time, LDA Sisak translated two web pages into Italian: www.pp-lonjsko-polje.hr (the official site of the Nature park Lonjsko polje) and www.cigoc.hr (the web site of the Touristic society Cigoc)

Evaluation during a partners' meeting held in Porto Viro (Italy) on the 18th of March 2004.



Through the mentioned activities, the Nature park Lonjsko polje could be promoted at various levels, which contributed to its reconstruction and protection of the traditional architecture. Moreover, ecotourism was promoted in Lonjsko polje through the dissemination of promotional material by the Italian partner cities.

All the representatives have expressed their will to continue the project and further plan activities such as the actual conservation and reconstruction, the writing of a handbook on the restoration of wooden houses, an exhibition about the two nature parks – Lonjsko polje and Delta of the river Po' that will be organised in the partner cities.

Other activities

- > Celebration of the "Day of Europe", press conference about the work of the Council of Europe, 5/5/2004, Sisak.
- > Regional conference „ Violence among peers" 31/5/2004, Sisak.
- > Seminars for ethnic minorities' representatives - organized 30 seminars in 3 municipalities (Glina, Dvor, Gvozd) during 2003 and 2004 - gathered 200 participants.
- > Local authorities meetings - Mayor-to-Mayor meetings for representatives from Sunja, Petrinja, Daruvar and Sirac

- with the governmental representatives.
- > Cross-border cooperation for local authorities representatives - Mayor-to-Mayor meetings and study visits to Tuzla (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and Mogliano Veneto (Italy).
- > Cross-border cooperation between NGOs and associations - organisation of the participation for Croatian NGOs on the fair "I made this" in Mogliano Veneto, Italy.
- > Created Economical and social diagnosis of the territory, strategical matrix and SWOT analysis for the City of Sisak.
- > Public opinion researches - implemented research about the level of citizens' satisfaction with communal and public services and the perception of the city hall functioning on the sample of 300 citizens in Sisak; implemented research about the training needs of local authorities in Sisak-Moslavina county.
- > International seminar, "Xenophobia and ethnic discrimination", Sisak, 25 i 26.9.2004 in cooperation with the University of Birmingham, United Kingdom.
- > Humanitarian aid distribution in Refugee camp «Dumace", 1./2004.

International contacts and presentation of LDA and partners

- > Project "I can de-mine one square meter", agreed cooperation with Switzerland and signed cooperation agreement with the City of Zagreb about fund-raising for the de-mining of areas in Sisak-Moslavina county.
- > Participation and partnership in the RIME project (Releasing Indigenous Multiculturalism through Education), 6/2004, Birmingham, UK.
- > Meeting with DIFID representatives, UK.
- > Meeting with the French Ambassador in Croatia.
- > Meeting with the representatives of the Norwegian association of towns and municipalities.
- > Participation in meetings organised within the project MA.H.L.D.E.NET - Interreg III A.
- > Trainers in trainings for youth -Budapest, European Youth Centre.
- > Trainers in youth education - EVS and human rights, Livno, Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- > Trainers in youth education - Mediation, Georgia.

- > Participation in the work of ALDA Annual assembly and seminar "Participation of civil society in the decision-making process at the local level", Barcelona.
- > Participation on the conference "Strengthening local democracy and democratic participation", 30/9-1/10/2004, Oslo, Norway.
- > Participation on the Regional Ministerial South-East Europe conference "Effective democratic governance at the local and regional level", Zagreb, 25/10/2004.

J. Sponsors in 2004

- > LDA Partners
- > European Commission
- > Council of Europe - CBM, CLRAE
- > EYF - European Youth Foundation
- > ALDA (Swiss Agency for Development and cooperation, Finland, Liechtenstein, Canton Basel, LGI Budapest, Canton of Geneva, ANCI, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs).
- > Zagreb bank
- > City of Sisak
- > Municipality of Dvor
- > Sisak-Moslavina county

M. Publications

- > Small guide "How to contribute to the environment protection?" - circulation 3.35.
- > Environment protection poster - circulation 240.
- > SOS phone line promotional sticker - circulation 1650.
- > Manual "Recognize the violence" - circulation 1600.
- > Human rights calendar for 2005 - circulation 600.
- > Publication of the ALD Sisak on English and Croatian - circulation 500.
- > Leaflet "Lonjsko polje" - 8000.
- > "Guide through paths of Cigoc" - 2.000.
- > Master plan Lonjsko polje - 50.



**LOCAL
DEMOCRACY
AGENCY
VERTENEGLIO
CROATIA**

Delegate - Tullio Fernetich
**Address - Trg Sv. Zenona Piazza S. Zenone, 4
HR-51474, BRTONIGLA VERTENEGLIO**
Tel. + 385 52 774 617
Fax + 385 52 720 424
**E-mail LDAVerteneglio@aldaintranet.org
info@lda-verteneglio.hr**
Website www.lda-verteneglio.hr



Partners: City of Bellinzona, Switzerland (lead partner); Causes Communes Switzerland and Province of Ravenna (Italy); Town of Brtonigla-Verteneglio and Region of Istria, Croatia; Province of Florence, Italy; Municipalities of Ravenna, Russi, Greve in Chianti, Portogruaro, Italy; Association Eurochianto, Italy; Marmande, France.



Strengthening of civil society and trans-border cooperation

(financed by the Swiss Agency for Development, Finland, Liechtenstein and Basel)

It was a one-year programme which started in September 2003 and concluded in August 2004. Within this programme, the LDA Verteneglio ran the programme **“The new European generation as the answer to the historical uneasiness of an earth of border.”**

Objective:

to develop the civil society, trans-border cooperation and the protection of minorities.

With this programme we wanted to encourage young people to participate in the strengthening of civil society, to make young people more of the European Union and its values and to include the future generation in the structures of local self-government.



31

Results:

- > Two conferences in Verteneglio - both in collaboration with the association “Circolo di cultura Istro-Veneta Istria” from Trieste and the association “Carta di Cividale”.
- > Conference in Monfalcone - in collaboration with the Commune of Monfalcone.
- > Six seminars dedicated to the youth from the South Eastern part of Istria, entitled “Development of the leadership capacity of youth”.

During the conferences in Verteneglio and Monfalcone the topic was discussed how

children of those who died during the war see the future. There is still a significant division between the people. The events were also successful since they took place in the eve of Slovenia’s accession to the European Union.

It should be avoided that the countries of the Balkans are left out of the European Union. The border of “Schengen” divides the Istria Region and its Italian national community from the rest of Europe. It is necessary to try everything to avoid that the positive process of integration, in our case of Slovenia, has a negative impact on the quality of life in this part of Croatia.

The communes and regions have to understand their role and the importance that they have in this process. Exchanges of information, meetings among mayors, local administrators, officers, experts, working tables, twin-ships are therefore indispensable means to raise awareness among the local actors.



Programme dedicated to the Transborder Partnership

Financed by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

Objective:

to strengthen the role and the action of the LDA of Verteneglio in a border territory - a historically united territory but today in sovereignty of three different countries, namely Croatia, Slovenia and Italy.

Term: **May - October 2004**

Results:

- > International Conference in Verteneglio entitled "**The Europe over the borders - how real is an Euroregion**" dedicated to the politicians and intellectuals and organized in collaboration with the media from the three different countries. The main guests of the event: were the President of the region Friuli Venezia Giulia, Riccardo Illy, the President of the Istria region, Ivan Jakovčić, and the Vice-President of the region Primorsko Goranska - Luka Denona.
- > Meeting in Monfalcone between the local administrators from Croatia, Slovenia and Italy.
- > Meeting in Verteneglio for the local administrators, managers, councillors and citizens from Monfalcone, with the aim to give a "follow-up" of this cooperation, to clarify the role and the activities of the LDA and the net of LDAs.

Programme on sustainable development

Financed by the City of Geneva, Tourist Association of Verteneglio, the LDA of Verteneglio

Objective:

to support sustainable development in the Verteneglio region and awareness raising on environmental issues

Term: **March - June 2004**

Results:

- > Inclusion of LDA in the regional project "Let my Istria shine".

- 
- 
- > "Ecology Familiarisation Day" with schools and kindergartens in cooperation with Tourist association of Verteneglio.
 - > Round table on the protection of the environment.
 - > Clean-up day - Let Save the "Florindo" Cave.

Programme dedicated to communication skills - Osijek

Financed by the Local Government Institute Budapest

Objective:

to improve the communication skills of LDA staff

Term: **March - July 2004**

Results:

- > Publication of the brochure of LDA Verteneglio.
- > Realization of a website for the LDA Verteneglio.

Programme "Local economic development in the Balkans"

Financed by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Objective:

Analysis of the current economic situation in Verteneglio and development of follow-up activities

Term: **April 2004 - January 2005**

Programme "Actions for Capacity Building of Local Authorities and Civil Society in Southern and Eastern Europe"

Financed by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs realized in cooperation with ANCI

Objective:

strengthen the democratic process in Southern and Eastern Europe

Term: **September - December 2004**

Results:

- > Participation in the Training of Trainers in Subotica and Ohrid.
- > Organization of a seminar on conflict management for local authorities and civil society organisations.
- > Organization of a seminar on Participatory Planning Process.
- > Opening of an Info Point for youth in Verteneglio.
- > Workshop for young people.

Programme "Best Practice"

Organized by the Association of the communes and cities from Croatia and supported by the Council of Europe and Croatian Government

Objective:

the improvement of the management capacities of local autonomies

Programme SEENET "Let's rebuilt the bridges with the Balkans"

Supported by the Region Toscana

Involvement of Istria and other communes, among the Commune of Verteneglio and regions of the European Southeast

Objective: local economic development

Programme "Città del vino" in collaboration with the Verteneglio Tourist Association

Objective:

to encourage local economic development, in particularly in the wine sector that represents the backbone of the economy of the territory

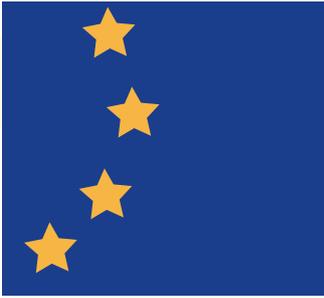
Inclusion of Verteneglio in the project VINTUR - "European Roads of Wine" which has been realized with the support of the programme Interreg 3C

Conclusions

Our relationships with the municipalities in the area, NGOs and with the Istria Region are constant and constructive and, in the case of the Commune of Verteneglio and the Region Istria, of notable support. The relationships with the media are fruitful and we can say that we have been very present in the local press, radio and television.



**LOCAL
DEMOCRACY
AGENCY
SUBOTICA
SERBIA**



Delegate - Stanka Parac Damjanovic
**Address - Trg cara Jovana Nenada 15,
24000 SUBOTICA - S&M**
Tel. 00381 24 554 587
Fax 00381 24554 587
E-mail ldasubotica@aldaintranet.org

Partners: Wolverhampton, UK (lead partner); City of Subotica; Minority Rights Group International, London, UK; Buskerud County Council, Norway; Center for Minorities' Rights Protection, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina; Dalmatian Solidarity Committee, Split, Croatia; Open University Subotica.

Summary:

The project activities implemented by LDA Subotica in 2004 were mainly concentrated around two main thematic areas related with local/regional democracy development and capacity-building through education and training. A number of initiatives aiming at establishing partnerships, both internationally and locally were taken last year and resulted in the appointment of the Wolverhampton City Council as lead partner of LDA Subotica. The partners' support and an active involvement of the host city authorities marked our overall activities, while a number of events were organized with their effective participation. Particular attention was given to intensifying cross-border and regional initiatives and awareness-raising on EU issues that is integration processes and the role of local authorities.

Training seminar for young political leaders

Time and place: Autumn 2003/ Spring 2004 in Subotica and Becej municipality
Participants: young political leaders (40)
Support: Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation

This one-year training was organized as a follow-up of the wider ALDA programme on inter-ethnic relations and trans-border co-operation and has been designed by LDA Subotica as a set of residential training seminars, thematic workshops and round tables intended for the group of young political leaders in the local municipality including participants from neighbouring Croatia.

Its main objective was to help educate a new profile of young local politicians in a completely restored system of local self-government and to support the modernization process in the local community. In addition, the intention was to get them acquainted with modern communication as well as political skills through different theoretic lectures and practical training sessions through which they could improve their overall leadership skills. Altogether 12 topics closely related with the local self-government system were presented by renowned experts such as Prof. Vladimir Goati, and Prof. Marijana Pajvancic legal experts, Prof. Jovan Komsic, Sociologist, Prof. Mihaly Secei, Strategic Planning expert, Ms. Ilona Mihaies, Director of Euro-regional centre for Democracy from Timisoara. Key-note speakers at the round table were the mayors of Becej and Subotica municipalities, Mr. and Mr. Geza Kucera.

Vivid discussion on different issues ranging from the everyday work of local administration to local development visioning and the participation of citizens and youth in the decision-making at the local level were of particular interest for the target group included

in the project. Most of the questions were in connection with the need for more effective decision making at the local level; particularly important were the local election scheduled for September, efforts aimed at urban development planning, construction of a proper water supply system and a waste water plant as well as the regional landfill. Participants were also interested in the implementation of a new legislation, particularly in regard with the new functions in the system of local self-government, such as the city manager, city architect and local Ombudsperson.

The multiethnic and multicultural composition of the local municipality was also a point of concern, especially in terms of intercultural education that had disappeared over the years of authoritarian regime and an increased ethnic distance between the ethnic communities.

The participants were mostly interested in possibilities for improvements in the performances of the local government or how it could become more efficient in meeting the needs of citizens, as well as in the potentials for further strategic planning and economic development of Subotica.

Additional value of the initiative was ensured through participation of young political leaders from the partner city of Osijek in Croatia. After several months of participation in this project, young members of different political parties represented in the local assembly acquired new skills and knowledge on the performances of local self-government, but even more importantly was the level of their mutual dialogue and co-operation established through project activities. Furthermore, LDA Subotica recruited the candidates for the Training Seminar on Democratic Leadership held in May 2004 in the Youth Centre of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. Selected was Ms. Zedi Ildiko from Becej municipality, member of Alliance of Voivodina Hungarians.

First Residential Training for Young Political Leaders, Becej, February 2004



Multiethnic Voivodina: A new region in euro-regional co-operation

Time and place: Autumn 2003/ Spring 2004

Participants: Around 150 representatives from local/regional authorities, minority NGOs, experts, media

Support: British Embassy Belgrade and the British Government

LDA Subotica designed this project as a coherent set of activities aimed at promoting inter-ethnic dialogue and tolerance in the region and to help foster trans-frontier and regional co-operation between Voivodina and neighbouring counties in Croatia, Hungary and Romania, as well as other regions across Europe. Its main objectives are to make LDA Subotica more visible as an instrument at the disposal of both local and regional authorities to work towards EU integration, local democracy-building through increased democratic participation and overall development.

The entire project consisted of three thematic round tables on issues referring to the current

a number of mayors and officials from local authorities across the region. One of the main messages conveyed within this project was related to the need for establishing a genuine system of local self-government which will guarantee the full implementation of democratic participation, the rule of law and subsidiarity as the ruling principles of further democratic development in Serbia. Furthermore, through fostering international decentralized co-operation sustainable democratic structures can be strengthened to complete interstate cooperation.

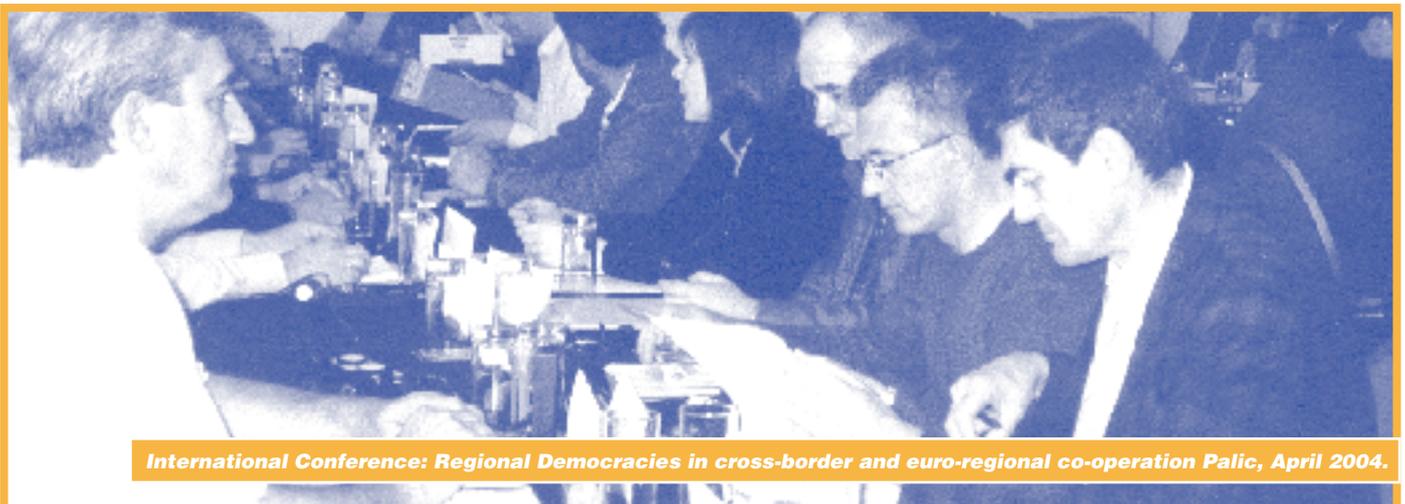
An additional value of the conference and round tables held in Subotica and Novi Sad was the opportunity to conduct a comparative analysis of approaches to local development strategies adopted in a number of municipalities in Serbia and neighbouring countries with the support of different international and local actors.

A book titled "Essays on Regionalisation vol. 2" will contain contributions prepared by participants of three project activities and is designed as a comprehensive and valuable source of information related with regional identity, economic and developmental potentials and ethnic and cultural diversity of the region of Voivodina on its way to integration and modernization processes in Europe. This publication in English and Serbian consists of thematic chapters containing information and overviews closely related to regional identity features, recent research and public polls surveys data, civil sector and regional networking efforts, local self-governments, ethnic diversity and common cultural heritage of Voivodina and its economic potentials for euro-regional cooperation.



autonomous status of Voivodina, including multiethnicity as one of its main characteristics; one international conference on trans-frontier and regional co-operation and an essay collection of written contributions under the title "Essays on Regionalisation". The participants of the project were representatives of local/regional authorities of Voivodina, local/regional development agencies, NGOs, legal and economic experts and the media.

Particularly important was the International conference held in Palic, near Subotica from 22-24 April 2004 which gathered around 60 participants, including Mr. Roger Lawrence, the Wolverhampton City Councillor, Mr. Diego Bottacin, member of the Governing Board of ALDA, Mr. Dusko Radosavljevic, Vice- President of the Executive Council of AP Voivodina and



International Conference: Regional Democracies in cross-border and euro-regional co-operation Palic, April 2004.



LDA Subotica Partners' Meeting In Brussels

Date and place: 26th February 2004 in Brussels

Participants: Director of ALDA, delegate of LDA Subotica, representatives of Subotica local authorities and LDA Subotica partners

Support: Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

The main objective of the meeting was to make the representatives of local/regional authorities that have contributed to the development of this co-operation aware of the potential role that LDA Subotica may have within the municipality of Subotica.

The partner meeting was viewed as an opportunity for visioning the future development of the network of LDAs, while a particular emphasis was given to the objectives set out during the General Assembly of ALDA held in Subotica in July 2003 and the 10th Anniversary of the first Local Democracy Agency in SEE.

Following the adoption of the mid-term Plan of activities of LDA Subotica, the Wolverhampton City Council took up the role of lead partner and in this way confirmed its interest to maintain and further develop its active participation in the network of ALDA.

Round Table: Communication Strategy on EU

Time and place: 26th June, Subotica

Participants: Local decision makers, NGO-s, media representatives, public

Support: LGI Budapest

This round table was a follow-up activity of the Training of Trainers on communication issues in Osijek. It gathered around 40 participants from the local media, NGOs and local self-government and consisted of three main segments. The first part was dedicated to the work of the local media and their role in the public promotion of European standards. The keynote speaker was Ms. Jovanka Zlatkovic, journalist and editor-in-chief of Radio 021 from Novi Sad, known as producing programmes on human/minority rights in the Province of Voivodina. The second part was hosted by Mr. Bogdan Gavanski, the programme officer in the Delegation of European Commission in Belgrade who presented the new call for proposals initiated by the Delegation with respect to local democracy, the rule of law and human rights. The "Local level society development programme" offers to NGOs the opportunity to write project proposals in this particular sector.

The main guest of the event was **Mr. Geoffrey Barrett**, the Head of the European Commission's Delegation to Serbia and Montenegro. He underlined the importance of involving civil society in EU integration and mentioned the importance of all Serbian and Montenegrin stakeholders to achieve this. First, a high level of financial and substantial assistance to the country was provided by the European Union, but a general access to the EU market is necessary in order to make the companies able to compete and in line with European standards. However, a high level of political engagement (a democratic state following the rule of law and which respects minorities, human rights and international obligations) is also needed. Therefore, Serbia and Montenegro need to develop a larger European partnership. According to Mr. Barrett, establishing and maintaining partnerships is a very demanding process with a number of rules to be followed. The speed of this particular process depends on the country, but Serbia and Montenegro is still not sufficiently committed to this process and the only way to change it is to increase the number of people working on EU integration. In this particular context, the role of civil society is important because a continuous engagement is needed. Indeed, EU integration is a process which involves the whole society. In conclusion, Mr. Barrett emphasized that there is a direct correlation between transition and accession.

Among the other participants from the local media and NGO were the representatives of local authorities including Mr. Geza Kucera, the mayor, Mr. Stevan Vasiljev, the Dean of the Faculty of Economics, Mr. Zlatko Prcic the Head of the County Council, Mr. Dusan Guslov, Director of the local Fund for municipal construction.

The local media were both participating in and reporting about the event. Interviews were conducted with Mr. Barrett for the local media and a special one-hour interview was recorded by the YU Eco TV Station Subotica, which was later sent to the network of Serbian local TV stations.



EU Communication Strategy, Open University Subotica, 26th June 2004.

Actions for capacity building of local authorities and civil society in SEE

Time and place: 2004, Subotica and Novi Becej municipalities

Participants: Local authorities and civil society sector

Support: Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ALDA/ANCI Partenariato

The programme aimed at building local capacities and improving co-operation between local authorities and the civil sector in order to ensure a better participation and responsible decision-making at the local level. The LDA Subotica team of trainers which included Eamonn O'Kane, senior trainer from Wolverhampton University, organised training courses on conflict management and participatory planning with different groups of citizens in both Subotica and Novi Becej municipalities, neighbourhood communities as well as with the local administration.



Other Activities

Co-operation with the Standing Conference of Cities and Municipalities of Serbia

The first meeting with the working group and the project partners to launch the project called "National campaign for adoption and implementation of democratic Code of conducts for elected and appointed local officials in Serbia" was held in February 2004.

The working group consists of the local authorities' representatives nominated by the Standing Conference of towns and municipalities of S&M. Its task is to assist in the definition of a code of conduct, adjusting the European Code to the overall conditions in Serbia and Montenegro, as

Trainers in action: Seminar on Conflict Management Open University Subotica, November 2004



well as in setting up a political platform for this. LDA Subotica took part in the campaign held in Voivodina municipalities and contributed to its promotion in Subotica. The code of conduct was adopted at the Standing Conference's yearly Assembly in December 2004 and promotional activities will follow to make this document more known among local governments (Support: EU/CARDS Programme.)

Osijek and Subotica in cross-border co-operation initiatives

A series of bilateral meetings between different departments of the partner cities including the local civil sector were organised through which skills and knowledge were exchanged. Particular attention was given to the participation of citizens in the decision-making process and co-operation in providing services to citizens (support: Balkan Trust Foundation, Regional

office Belgrade). LDA Subotica took an active role in the design, organisation and implementation of the project in close co-operation with the local authorities from Subotica and its respective departments.

Inter-ethnic relations and minority rights protection

In this section co-operation continued with Minority Rights Protection International (MRG, London) within the Programme: Democracy and Diversity in SEE including capacity building training workshops on implementation of international standards of minority protection, integration of minority groups in development policies and improved participation at local level.

Releasing Indigenous Multiculturalism through Education (RIME) Project

Together with LDA Sisak, LDA Subotica is

the partner in a comprehensive four-year project initiated by the University of Birmingham (Centres for Russian and East European Studies) which addresses the issues of xenophobia and ethnic discrimination in the Balkans, Eastern and Central Europe, Southern Russian Federation and South Caucasus. The main objective is to identify the key problems and the range of activities undertaken in respective regions in order to use synergies. Particular emphasis is laid on young people both as perpetrators and victims of ethnically or religiously rooted violence or hatred as well as on good practices in this respect. Apart from training workshops and seminars, participants are actively included in preparing the background papers, video material and manual on fighting xenophobia.

Support: EU/CARDS Programme

Trainers in action: Participatory Planning, Novi Becej, December 2004.



**LOCAL
DEMOCRACY
AGENCY
CENTRAL AND
SOUTHERN
SERBIA**



Delegate - Emiliano Bertoldi
Address - LDCSS
Ulica Pobede 28, 1800 Nis
Tel/Fax + 381 18 523 853
E-mail LDACSS@aldaintranet.org

Field office - KRALJEVO

Acting delegate - Marija Petronijevic
Tel. + 381 64158 7878
E-mail Lda.Kv@ptt.yu

Partners (office in Nis):

Suresnes, France (lead partner); Carlow County Council, Ireland; Reggio Emilia, Italy; Municipality of Vefsen, Norway; Municipality of Saltdal, Norway; Tavolo Trentino per la Serbia, Association of the LDA Zavidovici, Citizen Committee of Ivrea, Codess Sociale Venezia, Institute for Public Administration, Dublin; Italian Consortium of Solidarity; Cités Unies France; Kent County Council; City of Barcelona, Balkan Assist Association, East West Institute; City of Nis, Kragujevac, Kraljevo and Leskovac, Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities.

Partners (office in Kraljevo):

Tavolo trentino con la Serbia, Municipality of Rovereto, Autonomous Province of Trentino, retired Trade Unions and Elderly Associations of Trentino, LDA Zavidovici, Arci Cremona, Ansdipp, Laboratorio sul Moderno, Lunaria, ICS, Municipality of Villa Lagarina, KVART NGO.

**Sustainable development
and Protection of Environment.
Co-operation with local authorities**

Status: on-going (delay due to external factors)

Duration: Nov. 2003 -Dec 2004 (deadline postponed)

Location: Kragujevac

International Partners: ALDA, Cantone Geneva, LDA Subotica, Cooperativa Sociale CAUTO-Brescia

Local Partners: City of Kragujevac, Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities, LDA Subotica, Public Company 'Gradsko Zelenilo', High School

Brief Project Summary: Awareness Raising Campaign on Protection of Environment and Sustainable Development, Meetings, Seminar, TV Debates, Cleaning Day

Activities realized in 2004:

Meetings with local stakeholders, public campaigns, distribution of posters and leaflets, presentational conference and debate 'The National Waste Management Strategy – including the Program of the harmonization with EU'.

Sponsor: Canton Geneva (Switzerland)



**Actions of Capacity Building for Local Authorities and Civil Society/
Strengthening Local Authorities"**

Status: on-going

Duration: Sep-Dec 2004

Location: Kraljevo and Leskovac

Local Partners: Municipalities of Leskovac and Kraljevo, Educational Center Leskovac, Civic Forum Kraljevo

Activities 2004:

- > Training needs assessment
- > 2 trainings to Local Authorities on Conflict Management
- > 2 trainings to local NGOs on Conflict management
- > 2 trainings to Local Authorities and Local NGOs on Participated Planning

Sponsor: Irish Aid and Italian MFA (Anci/Aida)



**Regional Meeting of Youth Centres
Connected to LDAs (Central and
Southern Serbia, Kosovo, Prijedor,
Zavidovici**

Duration: 5 days, Oct 2004

International Partners: LDA Zavidovici (Italy/BiH), LDA Prijedor (Italy/BiH), Tavolo trentino con la Serbia (Italy), Tavolo trentino con il Kosovo (Italy), Pace Association Mitrovica (Kosovo/Italy), Krug Youth Association (Kosovo).

Local Partners: KVART - Youth Association, Volunterski Centar BG, Filantropia

Place: Kraljevo

Brief Project Summary: trainings and discussions on voluntary work, nonviolent communication, youth councils, local development, networking.

Sponsor: Italian MFA, Irish Aid

**Youth Info point and support
to a Youth Centre"**

Status: on-going

Duration: Aug 2004 - 2006

Place: Kraljevo

Local Partners: KVART - Youth Ngo

International Partners: Info point of Alba and Rovereto (Italy), LDA Zavidovici and LDA Prijedor. Tavolo trentino con la Serbia

Brief Project Summary: establishment and management of a youth Infopoint by the Youth Center of the local Ngo KVART and support to the Centre itself with exchanges and activities.

Activities in 2004: establishment of the Info point, buying of books and materials, study trip of 2 weeks in Italy for the managers of the Info point of Kraljevo, Zavidovici and Prijedor

Sponsor: Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Internships for young graduate experts within local governments and the LDA

Status: On-going

Duration: Sep 2003 – March 2005

Place: Kragujevac, Nis, Leskovac, Kraljevo

Local Partners: City of Kragujevac, Narodne Novine – Nis, Municipality of Leskovac, Ibarske Novosti - Kraljevo

Brief Project Summary: Internship programmes in local administration and the local media for 5 youngsters for 12, 4 or 3 months; 2 Internships in Serbia for Partner's youngsters (activated in 2005); short internships/study visits from Serbia to foreign partners (2005)

Activities in 2004: 4 local internships activated, 2 international internships foreseen in 2005

Sponsor: Irish Aid

Internships for young graduate experts within local governments and the LDA



Status: On-going

Duration: Sep 2003 - March 2005

Place: Kragujevac, Nis, Leskovac, Kraljevo

Local Partners: City of Kragujevac, Narodne Novine - Nis, Municipality of Leskovac, Ibarske Novosti - Kraljevo

Brief Project Summary: Internship programmes in local administration and the local media for 5 youngsters for 12, 4 or 3 months; 2 Internships in Serbia for Partner's youngsters (activated in 2005); short internships/study visits from Serbia to foreign partners (2005)

Activities in 2004: 4 local internships activated, 2 international internships foreseen in 2005

Sponsor: Irish Aid

Building relationship with the Local Authorities and the Community of Leskovac

Status: on-going

Duration: June 2004 - ?

International Partners: to be identified

Place: Leskovac

Brief Project Summary: re-establishment of the non-existing relationship with Leskovac - among the original founders of the LDACSS - as part of the mandate of the new Delegate in May 2004. The process goes through several activities that includes trainings to LA and NGOs, a working group to define needs and projects for the area, an internship activated (see below and up), several meetings and talks, a "study trip" to Monfalcone (Italy) within the start up of the INTEREG 3 - Mahldanet.

Leskovac Local Action Group

Status: on-going

Duration: Jun 2004 - ?

Place: Leskovac

International Partners: to be searched on the basis of identified needs.

Local Partners: Educational Center Leskovac, Megatrend University, Reeda (Regional Development Agency), Municipality of Leskovac

Brief Project Summary: working group with the aim of identifying needs and draft projects for the local development issues of the Jablanica District and to develop relationship with local stakeholders.

Sponsor: French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through ALDA

Transborder co-operation between Serbia, Bulgaria and Macedonia

Status: Finished

Duration: Oct-Dec 2004

International Partners: East-West Institute, Balkan Assist Association, EuroRegion EuroBalkans

Local Partners: Skgoj (Serbian Association of Municipalities)

Place: Vranjska Banja

Brief Project Summary: 3-days-long training to Local Administration and local NGOs within the Euroregion on Project Cycle Management and Project Drafting, specifically for the Neighborhood Program of the EU.

Sponsor: Irish Aid

Need Assessment on the conditions of Refugees, IDPs and minorities in Kraljevo, and Southern Serbia

Status: finished. Activities will be implemented between Jan and March 2005

Duration: Nov-Dec 2005

Place: Kraljevo, Nis, Leskovac, Pirot, Svrlijig

Local Partners: Women Info Center - Nis, Center for Employment, Craftsmen Association Local Institutions (for implementation)

Brief Project Summary: The assement aimed at a deeper understand of the conditions of minorities and refugees in the area and at the definition of small activities to be implanted. The activities that will be realized in the first 3 months of 2005 will be based on professional re-training and job creation (15.000,00 E)

Sponsor: Irish Aid

K. Partner Leader's Visit to the LDACSS

Status: finished

Duration: 3 days, 19-21 Nov 2004

Place: Beograd, Leskovac, Kragujevac, Kraljevo

Brief Summary: visit to the French Embassy, and meetings with the L.A.s of Leskovac, Kragujevac and Kraljevo. Short meeting with the beneficiaries of the project 11.

Sponsor: City of Suresnes



43





Projects of the Partners supported by LDACSS on the field

1. Tools for the establishment of Social enterprises in Central and Southern Serbia: training activities for the development of female economic initiative in the social services and support to public managers in transferring European models of Welfare State

Status: finished

Duration: Jul-Dec 2004

International Partners: Codess Sociale (Italy), Con.SOLIDA (Italy), ALDA (Italy)

Place: Niš, Kragujevac

Local Partners: Municipalities of Niš and Kragujevac, University of Niš

Brief Project Summary: 3 workshops and 1 study trip in Venice (Italy) for 6 women (3 from Niš and 3 from Kragujevac) and local administrators on the basic tools to establish and manage a social enterprises in Serbia.

Follow-up foreseen as enterprise start-up

Sponsor: Regione Veneto (Italy)



2. Support to the programme of Community Cooperation of the Tavolo trentino con la Serbia in Kraljevo

Status: on-going

Duration: March 2004 - ?

International partners: Tavolo trentino con la Serbia, ANCI, UN-Habitat, ITEA, ALDA, Ist. Agrario S. Michele, City of Rovereto, Coop. S. Orsola, Dep. Patti Territoriali of the Autonomous Province of Trento, CIVITAS, Tremebe,

Local Partners: Municipality of Kraljevo, Civic Forum of Kraljevo, KVART, Coop. Kolora, Center for Social Work, Ass. of Parents of Disable Children, Belgrade Women Center, Cesid,.....

Brief Project Summary: Activities of logistic support for on-going projects, public relations, assessment of needs,

projects drafting and all needed services in a program of Decentralized cooperation. Projects include, among other:

- > training for territorial operators and study trip to Trentino;
- > alternative tourism and "territorial pact" Put Vode - Route of Water";
- > creation and support of an agricultural cooperative;
- > Micro-credit (will start in 2005);
- > participation in CIVITAS Fair;
- > long-distance support of old refugees, IDPs and social cases;
- > elderly programmes;
- > social housing and exchange of expertise;
- > women studies;
- > sport exchanges;
- > youth exchanges.

Sponsor: Provincia Autonoma di Trento, City of Rovereto, Tavolo trentino con la Serbia, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.





**LOCAL
DEMOCRACY
AGENCY
NIKŠIĆ
MONTENEGRO**

Delegate - Kerim Medjedovic
**Address - Njegoseva 19, 81 400 Niksic,
Serbia & Montenegro**
Tel. +381 83 212 515
Fax +381 83 212 519
E-mail Idamontenegro@aldaintranet.org
Website www.lda-nk.org

Partners:

East Staffordshire Borough Council, UK; Association Betton-Montenegro, France; Region Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Italy; City of Neuchatel, Switzerland; City of Ancona, Italy; City of Lingen, Germany; City of Levanger, Norway; City of Niksic, City of Kotor, City of Rozaje, Union of Municipalities of Montenegro, Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Montenegro.

Strengthening of local authorities

This project aims are:

- > Reinforcing civil society;
- > Enhancing participation of minorities and young people in public life;
- > Establishing and stimulating trans-border co-operation;
- > Strengthening local authorities.

The programme has the objective to develop the capacities of local authorities in Montenegro in managing public affairs following the standards proposed by the Council of Europe and enhancing the level of co-operation between communities and socio-economic actors through partnership.

In 2004, three seminars with guest lecturers were held in three municipalities in the Northern, Central and Southern regions of Montenegro. The donor is Irish Aid.

Minority Rights and Confidence Building Measures among Different Ethnic Groups

The project aims are:

- > To promote the dialogue between the majority and the minority groups in Montenegro.
- > To support the capacity of advocacy of the minority groups.

Sensibilisation of majority toward minority rights

Six round tables in six communities were organised and advocacy training for civil society and international conference on the protection of minority rights on the local level are being prepared.

The donor is Irish Aid.

Trans-border Cooperation Issues between Montenegro, Croatia and Bosnia & Herzegovina

One seminar on trans-border cooperation was organized for youth, and two more meetings to come will be arranged for the representatives of civil society and local authorities - on the highest level possible.

The LDA is establishing an interactive data base web site, which will be used as tool for exchange of information between all three categories involved in this project, youth, local authorities and civil society. Site contains all relevant information about the LDA, partners, activities and local democracy in Montenegro. The donor is Irish Aid.

Participation of citizens in the decision-making at the local communities Funded by CHF Montenegro

The objective was to strengthen citizens' participation in the local decision-making in communities on the North of Montenegro through training and animation for using the newly passed Law on Local Self-government. Our trainers delivered 23 workshops with over 300 participants in local and rural areas in 11 municipalities.

Local Economic Development in the Balkans

Funded by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The aim of the project is to animate citizens and local authorities to get more actively involved in local development. The first phase which consisted of an analysis of the situation with local group and authorities is finished with the creation of specific projects.

The Mayor of Rozaje, the municipality in which this project is taking place, is supporting it and participating in its implementation, as well as citizens, NGOs and local media.

Capacity-building for Local Authorities and NGOs in South Eastern Europe

Financed by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The project supports the process of democratisation in Southern and Eastern Europe. The main lines of actions are:

- > capacity building and strengthening of institutions and organisations through training of trainers and training for local authorities and non-governmental organisations;



- > civil awareness and participation through the development of civil society: participation of youth in city councils of young people and information centres for youth.

It focuses on areas where the democratic process has to be built from the local level together with local authorities and the expressions of civil society, which are the target groups of our activities.

Within the scope of this project, 17 days of training for local authorities representatives and youth with the total of more than 220 participants was organised. Our youth group representatives visit our Info Point and electronic and library every day.

Follow-up of the programme communication skills

Financed by the LGI Budapest

Implemented jointly with LDA Central and Southern Serbia.

The objectives of the project

- > To increase participants' knowledge and awareness of professional communications.
- > To increase knowledge and awareness of the media and their ways of functioning,
- > To develop media presentation skills.
- > To improve communication between the seminar's participants from different geographical areas.

20 people participated in this seminar - 10 from Serbia and 10 from Montenegro from 6 towns, as a great step forward in cooperation between two Agencies, two republics and local authorities and citizens' representatives.

Sustainable Development and Environmental Protection

The LDA is realising this project with the support of the Canton of Geneva and on the Association level. The aim of the project is raising awareness of the local self-government employees and citizens about the protection of the environment and sustainable development. The realisation of the project for 2004 entailed:

- > Assessment of problems and needs.
- > Public campaign.
- > Training for local self-government.

LDA Montenegro has established good co-operation with Service for Protection of Environment of the city of Niksic. The Agency co-organized an Eco-quiz for representatives of all elementary schools in Niksic in March and organized a training on the "Protection of the Environment" for

the local self-government representatives. Financed by Canton Geneva.

Improving the Status of People with Disabilities in Montenegro and Highlighting the 2003 as the European Year of People with Disabilities

In the scope of the "Improving Status of People with Disabilities and Highlighting 2003 as a European Year of People with Disabilities" project, a team from Friuli Venezia Giulia region, international LDA partner, visited Montenegro and had a series of meetings with local NGOs and a representative of the Ministry of Labour and Social Care in order to make the assessment of the needs.

The team consisted of a regional official, Mr. Alessandro Perelli, communication officer, Mr. Brancati and the leader of the regional council of associations for disability issues, Mr. Vladimir Kosic.

The project refers to raising the profile of disability issues in Montenegro and it will continue in 2005 with a series of workshops for organizations of persons with disabilities and a public campaign.

Financed by Region Friuli Venezia Giulia.

Youth Exchange between the Youth Parliaments of Niksic and Neuchatel

The exchange between the Youth Parliaments of Niksic and Neuchatel was a result of the partnership and co-operation of the LDA and the city of Neuchatel. A one-day workshop was organized in Niksic in order to enable representatives of these parliaments to present the work, functioning and realisation of the project. The differences and problems that occurred during the parliaments' work were identified and also the possible ways for improvement through co-operation of the parliaments. The parliamentarians also had a meeting with local self-government representatives and discussed the relationships between the local self-government and the local parliament.

As for the continuation of co-operation, the Neuchatel parliamentarians invited a Niksic

delegation in order to acquaint them with their work thoroughly and help them to apply the good principles of their work to the functioning of Niksic parliaments and to the work of other youth organisations in Niksic.

Funded by the City of Neuchatel.

Summer School - Kolašin 2004

The Local Democracy Agency organised the Summer School in Kolašin in co-operation with the British Council from Podgorica in the period from 25 July to 4 August 2004. The participants of the Summer School were 80 students from high schools all over Montenegro. Five team-leaders of the LDA taught participants in a five-day training course how to write projects, took care of them and of the teamwork.

The team leaders of LDA also held presentations on following topics:

- > The Important Role of Young People,
- > Children's Rights and Prevention of Discrimination,
- > Hate-free Community,
- > NGO Sector and Volunteerism and Advocacy.

Funded by the British Council.

