

Association of Local Democracy Agencies

Activity Report 2011



supported by



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Table of contents

President's Foreword - ALDA Walking the Talk	7
Region Friuli Venezia Giulia, a key stakeholder in promoting local governance, together with ALDA	9
Participatory democracy and local governance: our agenda for change	10
A. ALDA'S ACTIVITIES	13
1. Strategies, goals and partners in 2011	14
2. ALDA members in 2011	18
3. Institutional activities	22
4. Capacity building activities for LDAs and ALDA	23
5. Technical assistance: ALDA is your provider!	24
6. ALDA as international stakeholder	26
7. Media and communication strategy	29
8. ALDA's projects in 2011	30
8.1 Cooperation Office of the "Città di Brindisi"	31
8.2 CARAVAN: artists on the road	33
8.3 Citizen participation and local development: the role of local authorities	34
8.4 Civil society in action for dialogue and partnerships	35
8.5 Civil Trust Building. Find your way through the Enlargement Labyrinth	36
8.6 Decentralised cooperation between the Region Lower Normandy in France and the Republic of Macedonia	37
8.7 France/Balkans multilateral decentralized cooperation programme on good governance in South-East Europe	38
8.8 GOAL: Granting Opportunities for Active Learning	39
8.9 GRUNDTVIG: Network for Community Development with Marginalised Social Groups	41
8.10 INTACT: International Network of Towns - Active Citizenship and Twinning	42

8.11	Long term training course “Let’s train with our neighbours: civil society, participation, democracy”	43
8.12	Opening an LDA in Azerbaijan	44
8.13	PEACE: Education and Active Citizenship in Europe	45
8.14	NEXPO	46
8.15	STAND.UP: Strengthening Twinning Agreements and Networking for Development. United in Partnership	47
8.16	Support for the activities of the Civil Society Forum for Eastern Partnership	49
8.17	Support to further implementation of Local Administration Reform in Turkey (LAR Phase 2)	50
8.18	Support to Local and Regional Democracy in Southern Caucasus	51
8.19	TANDEM: Cooperation for citizen participation and community development in Belarus	52
8.20	VIT: Very Important Twinning, Volunteering In Town	53
8.21	WELCOME: Water: Element Linking Communities, Opportunity for Merging Europe	54
8.22	WTD: Working Together for Development - ALLIANCE	55
8.23	YwG: Youth wears Green!	57

B. LDAs' ACTIVITIES	59
1. Albania	
1.1 LDA Albania	60
2. Armenia	
2.1 LDA Armenia	62
3. Bosnia and Herzegovina	
3.1 LDA Mostar	64
3.2 LDA Prijedor	70
3.3 LDA Zavidovici	75
4. Croatia	
4.1 LDA Osijek	82
4.2 LDA Sisak	86
4.3 LDA Verteneglio/Brtonigla	90
5. Georgia	
5.1 LDA Georgia	95
6. Kosovo	
6.1 LDA Kosovo	98
7. Montenegro	
7.1 LDA Montenegro	101
8. Serbia	
8.1 LDA Centre South Serbia	105
8.2 LDA Subotica	116
C. JOIN ALDA!	121
1. ALDA Membership Form 2011	122
2. Services for Members	123
3. ALDA contacts	124
4. LDAs contacts	126

President's Foreword

ALDA Walking the Talk



Per Vinther, President of ALDA

Dear Readers,

It is an honour and pleasure for me to introduce once again the annual report about the activities of the Association of Local Democracy Agencies and of the individual Local Democracy Agencies. Throughout 2011 ALDA has continued to consolidate its position as a widely recognised promoter of local democracy, fundamental rights and civic participation across the European Continent.

The Euro-crisis and the many doomsday prophecies associated with it have diverted the attention of many – too many – from the true meaning of a united Europe. However, against the background of the media noise one should not forget what the European Union has meant for peace and prosperity in Europe over the last 60 years. That is what is important! The EU's efforts will surely continue and so will those of ALDA in promoting democracy, respect for human

and minority rights and the rule of law.

True to this commitment ALDA has in 2011 continued enlarging the LDA network. In October we opened the 13th LDA in Gyumri in Armenia, which is twinned with Kutaisi, the host city of LDA Georgia, and all the practical aspects are being sorted out so that the LDA should be fully operational in early 2012. Establishing a LDA Azerbaijan is next on ALDA's radar screen and the process to reach that goal has been initiated. The reorganised LDA Kosovo in Peja/Pec has been confirmed in its existence and is also fully operational since November.

I cannot but welcome the fact that the Republic of Croatia has been accepted to become the next member of the EU, signing the Accession Agreement in December, and confirmed by the population at a referendum in January 2012. The consequences for the three LDAs in Croatia once membership takes effect from July 2013 have been under consideration by the Governing Board and the LDAs for a while. Suffice it to say at this juncture that the extensive experience accumulated by these three LDAs will be fully exploited for the benefit of our network also in the future.

In addition, ALDA has been closely associated with the EU's Eastern Partnership and we are working directly with non-state-actors in Belarus to push for much needed democratisation of that country. This reflects our long-standing challenge from the Balkans: On the one hand you have ordinary citizens who based on past developments are suspicious of democratisation and on the other hand you have die-hard politicians who fear democratisation which will rob them of their power base. Helping to build functioning states requires a good deal of patience!

Our conviction that "walking the talk" is so much better than just "talking the talk" has resulted in a wide panoply of projects in 2011: On active citizenship we have been nothing but active. ALDA's General Assembly was held in Bydgoszcz, Poland, in conjunction with a well attended conference on

Volunteering; a project called Stand-Up has been promoting cooperation between local authorities and civil society from Latvia to Malta in facing the negative consequences of the financial crisis; and yet another has been addressing the issue of Remembrance as a means to preserve a peaceful future for Europe. You will find many more details about these and other projects in this report, which clearly show that democracy is not a spectator sport.

The coming years will be extraordinarily important for ALDA's long term development. Apart from our normal activities we will become more engaged with partners in the Mediterranean Region and try to offer our support and experience in assisting the civil society involved in the Arab Spring. To that end we have established a number of alliances with organisations having objectives similar to ours but we also expect to rely on continuing good cooperation with European Institutions and partners.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the entire ALDA and LDA staff for their contributions to our achievements this past year, our donors and partners for their collaboration and our members for their confidence and unfailing support.

I wish you an interesting read of this – once again – excellent report.

Per Vinther
President of ALDA


Region Friuli Venezia Giulia, a key stakeholder in promoting local governance, together with ALDA

Friuli Venezia Giulia is proud and happy to receive the members of the Association of the Local Democracy Agencies for their annual General Assembly in Udine, this June 2012! Our region has been among the founders of ALDA in 1999 and since then we have secured support and funding for its initiative, convinced that the instrument and the strategies were those shared by the our institutions and the whole community: peace at our borders, social, economic and political reconstruction, promotion of local governance and citizens participation.

Our engagement in ALDA has been relevant as member but also as partner of number of projects supported by our own resources or together with European Commission. We focused on sharing knowledge in promoting local authorities and citizens participation in the Interreg programmes and also in other initiatives towards the Balkans and the Adriatic area. Our regional law on cooperation supported our Municipalities to develop activities together with ALDA in Western Balkans, in South Caucasus, Georgia and Armenia, and recently also in Algeria and other Countries of Northern Africa, in the MED area.

The Region Friuli Venezia Giulia has been appointed vice President of ALDA since 2010. It leads the LDA Montenegro, based in Niksic, where number of activities to promote local economic development have taken place this year. We are partners of the LDA Verteneglio (Croatia) and of the LDA Armenia (following our agreement of cooperation with the region of Tavush).



Renzo Tondo, President of the Friuli Venezia Giulia, Vice President of ALDA

Our Region is at the border of Italy and we understand the needs of partnership and relationship with our friends and colleagues over the borders. We have experienced a lot of exchanges among our communities, so important to stabilize and grow together. Indeed, we were promoters and supporters of many interregional activities, like Euro-region, Adriatic-Ionian Macro Region and GECT (European Group of Territorial Cooperation). With our experience and our determined local authorities and citizens, we will stay committed also in the future!

We wish good luck to ALDA and its members for the upcoming, challenging, future!

Renzo Tondo
President of the Friuli Venezia Giulia
Vice President of ALDA

Participatory democracy and local governance: our agenda for change

All over Europe and in its Neighbouring countries, the crisis of these years does not affect only the economy but also the relationship between the citizens and the institutions. Both of these aspects of the crisis go together and can not be solved independently. Institutions are fundamental to represent citizens, to provide them with collective services and to coordinate goods and support, which need to be given to every citizen. Economy and fair and sustainable development depend from institutions and good governance. Nowadays, in a widely globalised world, a special focus on the local dimension needs to be found as well, as a guarantee for successful overcome of the crisis.

For all of this, we – in ALDA – are working to strengthen both the dimension of civil society and local authorities to build stability, peace and prosperity in Europe and around it. And we see that there is an every growing demand for understanding and improving good governance at the local level. Our members need guidance, innovative ideas, practical experience and resources. ALDA tries to be an answer and a support in this direction.

The European dimension is a fundamental aspect of our work in 2011 and will be in 2012. Times are difficult – as we know. But in any crisis, we should find the seed for a change. ALDA, its member and the LDAs believe in the European project not only like a dogma but want to improve it and make it more useful to citizens, for now and the future. Our practices in local governance and civil society empowerment are useful to strengthen European Identity, which still need to be built together and not acquired only through a legislative and administrative process. We have been wor-



king, with the support of the European Commission – and in particular the programme Europe for Citizens – to discuss and contribute to the European project with citizens and local authorities. Only through deep understanding, debate and strong arguments, we will be able to support the European project, united in the diversity.

For the Local Democracy Agencies, 2011 has been an important year. They have been strongly involved in the process of enlargement of the European Union in Western Balkans. We are happy and satisfied to work for the future accession of Croatia in July 2013. We feel it ... somehow, also as our "own" success! We worked with good results with the great support of the Region Lower Normandie in Macedonia but also with many other partners. Our programmes, within the IPA programmes, are important and numerous. We also welcome and look forward to working within the framework of the programme Europe for Citizens all over Western Balkans soon. Our work in Southern Caucasus (with LDA Armenia opened) and in Eastern Europe (with our projects in Belarus) is progressing and will put all our efforts into it.

We look ahead for 2012 and 2013 (which might be soon confirmed as the European Year for Citizens) to be stronger and bring results and outcome.

In 2011, we prepared the ground for the implementation of a new project, which will be demanding and very important for all of us, in the field of development, engaging Local Authorities and Civil Society, our Working Together for Development.

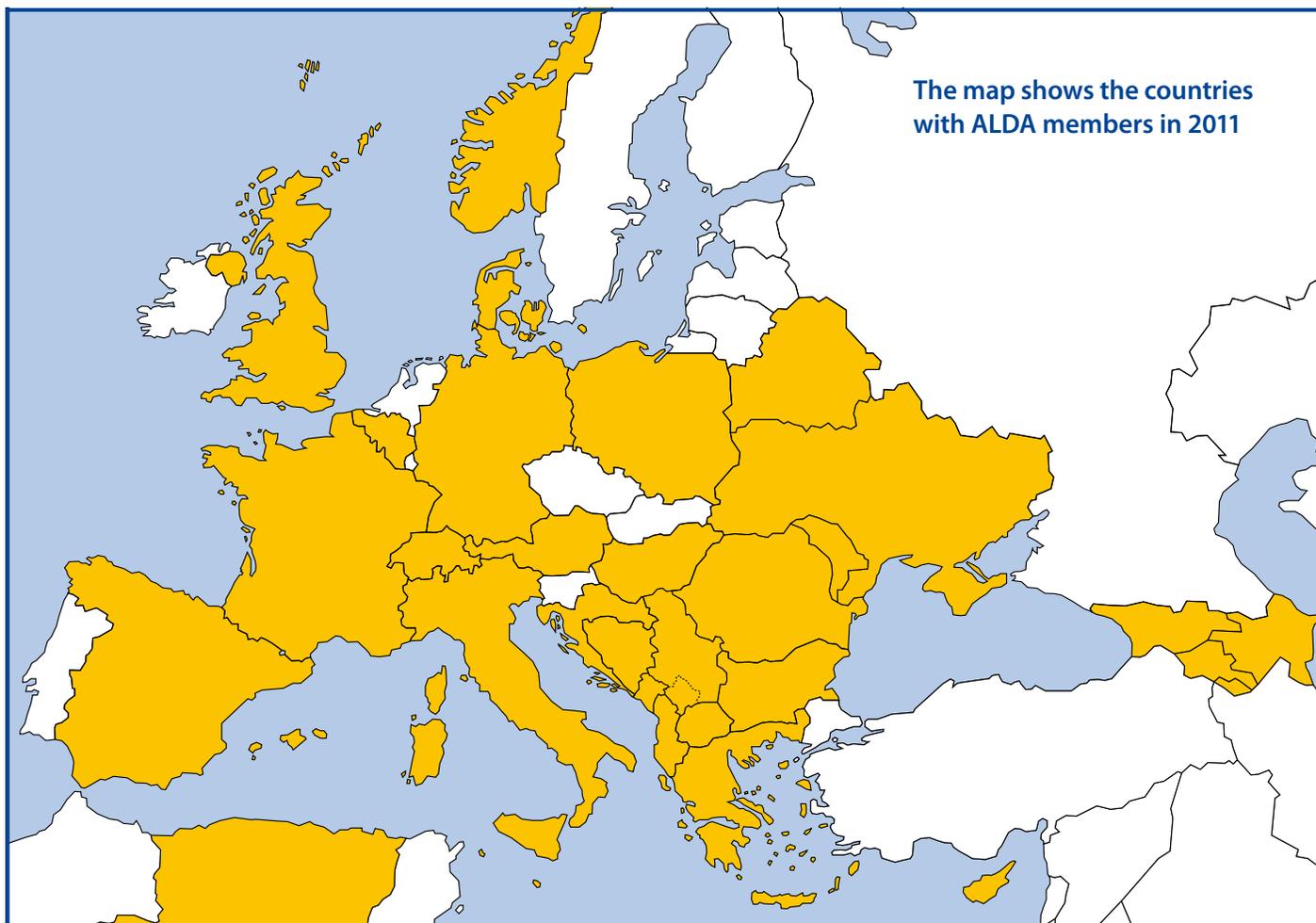
All our team, staff and Local Democracy Agencies, confirmed their strong commitment in the mandate of ALDA, at the service of our members!

Antonella Valmorbida

Director of ALDA

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'A. Valmorbida', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

A. ALDA'S ACTIVITIES



1. Strategies, goals and partners in 2011

In 2011, ALDA further developed the main strategies decided in its Position Paper in 2009, namely the support to the Local Democracy Agencies, the enlargement of the network in Southern Caucasus. We worked extensively with our members to promote Citizens' participation, local democracy and a wide debate on the present and future of Europe. A special attention was dedicated to the activities giving full support to the European Year on Volunteering.

Citizens' participation, European Year on Volunteering and Local Democracy

In particular, thanks to the supporting programme Europe for Citizens, ALDA developed many projects and activities to strengthen the common sense of European identity, with our LDAs and with our members. We developed programmes for supporting the innovative forms of twinning between municipalities, the full involvement of civil society in Eu-

ropean policies and a shared remembrance of the past with our programme PEACE. The debate on the present and future Europe, heavily affected by the economic crisis, was open with our members through debates all over Europe and in the future Europe, like in Croatia and in South East Europe.



ALDA was active part of the Alliance for the Year on Volunteering and dedicated its annual conference to the topics.

Many activities on new forms of volunteering were presented during activities.

A strong lobbying has been realized in 2011 in order to promote the opening of the programme Europe for Citizens for all the countries of South Eastern Europe. This might have results already visible in 2012. ALDA became, even more, a support for its members – with trainings, dissemination activities and conferences – to get acquainted to the different programmes of Active Citizenship.

Development of our strategy in South Eastern Europe in their way to the accession to the European Union. Support to LDAs and strengthening of the office in Skopje

ALDA and the LDAs have been playing a major role in South Eastern Europe in these last 10 years, through a process of peace consolidation and relaunch of communities and dialogue between civil society and local authorities. Last year ALDA and the LDAs worked even stronger to promote local democracy, youth and civil society empowerment with a set of activities supported by the European Commission – and the Instrument for PreAccession – and by the programme Europe for Citizens (eligible countries Albania, Macedonia and Croatia).

Decentralisation, good governance and citizens' participation are today essential elements for the stabilisation and development of the area of South Eastern Europe.



European Local Democracy Week: the City of Sisak awarded with the "12 Star Label"

The LDAs focused on strengthening the capacities of the Local Authorities to address the local needs and also to further engage citizens in the decision making process at the local level. In July 2013, Croatia will complete its accession to the European Union and this represents a great satisfaction for our network.

Thanks to the work on local governance and promotion of decentralisation of the programme Lower Normandie/ Macedonia, ALDA has consolidated the presence of its office in Skopje with the opening of its own office.

Experience of decentralised cooperation, local democracy and citizens' participation

In 2011, ALDA further consolidated its partnership with members and stakeholders. In particular, the organisation tried – with success - to develop activities where the methodology of citizens' cooperation showed results for good governance and improved services to citizens, relaunch of development and inclusive communities. Our experience has been brought to the attention of various networks and institutions.

The experiences were therefore studied with projects and integrated into Position papers and various consultations, where ALDA could be considered a major point of reference in this field.



ALDA joined the network of CONCORD, a consortium of European NGOs focusing on Policies for Development. A particular work with them is undertaken so that to address the future Agenda for Change in the field of Development, which will be following up the Structured Dialogue on Development of the EC, our intention being to include the dimension of work between civil society and local authorities in the development policies.

www.concordeurope.org



Representative of Italian Municipalities during a meeting with Representative of Turkish Municipalities

ALDA continues to be fully involved in the Structured Dialogue of the programme Europe for Citizens, as a major point of reference for our policies promoting citizens' participation throughout Europe and among our members.

A constant dialogue with all the stakeholders on Active Citizens is taking place, to focus on priorities, understand the needs and how to address the difficulties existing between citizens and Europe, today.

http://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/about-the-europe-for-citizens-programme/dialogue-with-civil-society/structured-dialogue-members/index_en.htm



CONFERENCE OF INGOs
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONFERENCE DES OING DU
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

In the framework of the activities of the Conference of the INGOs of the Council of Europe, ALDA disseminated the Code of Good Practices for civil Participation in the decision making process. www.coe.int/T/NGO/code_good_prac_en.asp



In order to have a global approach to the issue of citizens' participation and share our experiences at the international level, ALDA joined the network of CIVICUS. www.civicus.org

ALDA is also member of the European Movement International. Together with ALDA, EMI promotes European values and identity through projects and mobilisation of



European Movement Mouvement Européen

its members, both institutions and civil society groups. ALDA participated in some common events, contributing with ideas and the participation of the LDAs, like in Istanbul and in Armenia. www.europeanmovement.eu



ALDA is involved in the French network of Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF), the major NGO network active in the MED area. ALDA participated in numbers of ALF's initiatives both in France and in the Med. ALF will certainly be the support for the ALDA's commitment in the area. www.euromedalex.org

Eastern Partnership and Southern Caucasus



EASTERN PARTNERSHIP Civil Society Forum

ALDA was focused and engaged in Eastern Partnership countries and in particular Southern Caucasus in 2011. Our Director was appointed co-Chair of the Civil Society Forum for Eastern Partnership from January to November 2011 and actively participated to enlarge its influence in the decision making process at European level. Our mandate in the area is the support of civil society and local authorities and local governance. ALDA focused also on supporting its activities for empowerment of civil society in Belarus. www.eap-csf.eu

In Southern Caucasus, our focus was to develop and strengthen the LDA in Georgia as well as setting up the LDA Armenia, based in Gyumri. The opening was celebrated in October 2011. This opens further possibilities to be engaged at the regional level.

Our activities in Southern Caucasus are implemented closely with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe.

Approach to Med area

With new projects in Algeria and Tunisia in 2010, the past year further developed ideas of cooperation in the Med area, also in coincidence with the recent "Arab spring".

The role of local authorities and decentralised activities, with the support of civil society, is certainly one of the most important progress to make in this area. In 2011, we have therefore concluded some of our activities and initiated new contacts and partnership, which will hope will be also continued in 2012. Our strategy in the area is to use our expertise and role of LDAs as for the democratic transition in Med region.



LDA Armenia Opening Ceremony, Partners sign the agreement, Gyumri, Armenia, 28th October 2011

Engaged in Development

The partnership between local authorities and civil society, in policy making and projects implementation, represents a fundamental asset for development. We have experienced it through the long lasting presence of the Local Democracy Agencies but also in many activities run under the programme Europe for Citizens, in Europe. The evolution of the concept of Decentralised Cooperation and the new programme for Non State Actors are giving ALDA the opportunity to apply most of its already experienced best practices, in a challenging field, Development and international cooperation.

With the programme WTD (Working Together for Development), ALDA is launching an Alliance (started in 2011 and continuing in 2012) between local authorities and civil societies, which will give us the opportunity to strengthen capacities of our partners and members and propose new solution for Aid effectiveness.

A membership oriented organisation

Considering the difficulties that our members (local authorities and civil society organisations) have faced in 2011, ALDA dedicated even more energy to support its services to them. We offered support in lobbying towards European institutions and policy making processes as well as frequent projects and call for proposal to join.

Our members are ALDA's main partners in projects both in the EU and in the Neighbouring countries, interested in sharing and gaining experience in local governance and citizens' participation.

ALDA supported the members also with specific assistance and with the premises in Vicenza, Strasbourg and Brussels. It provided members also with support for partnership and European contacts for their own policy making. Despite some of our members left the organisation, becau-



ALDA presents its network at the "Open Days" of the European Parliament, May 2011

se of general shift in the international approach, ALDA globally gained new members and secured its basis.

2. ALDA members in 2011

MUNICIPALITIES

Albania

- Shkodra Municipality

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Mostar Municipality

Croatia

- Sisak Municipality
- Verteneglio Municipality
- Osijek Municipality

Denmark

- Vejle Municipality

France

- Kingersheim Municipality
- Nevers Municipality
- Strasbourg Municipality
- Sainte Foy Lés Lyon Municipality

Greece

- Patras Municipality

Italy

- Bari Municipality
- Borgo Valsugana Municipality
- Brindisi Municipality
- Erchie Municipality
- Lainate Municipality
- Lavis Municipality
- Lecce Municipality
- Monfalcone Municipality
- Morigerati Municipality
- Porto Cesareo Municipality
- Portogruaro Municipality
- Ravenna Municipality
- Reggio Emilia Municipality/Reggio nel Mondo
- Ribera Municipality
- Sacile Municipality
- Schio Municipality
- Thiene Municipality
- Trento Municipality
- Trieste Municipality
- Valderice Municipality
- Vibonati Municipality
- Vicenza Municipality

Norway

- Saltdal Municipality
- Sund Municipality
- Vefsen Municipality

Poland

- Bydgoszcz Municipality

Republic of Macedonia

- Skopje Municipality

Serbia

- Kragujevac Municipality
- Nis Municipality



Mr. Rafal Bruksy, Mayor of Bydgoszcz, at the International Conference "Volunteering for Democracy", 8th July 2011

- Subotica Municipality

Switzerland

- Bellinzona Municipality
- Lausanne Municipality
- Lugano Municipality
- Neuchâtel Municipality
- Yverdon-les-Bains Municipality

UK

- Wolverhampton Municipality

PROVINCES OR COUNTIES

Italy

- Bari Province
- Trento Autonomous Province

Romania

- Prahova County

REGIONS

Croatia

- Istria Region

France

- Auvergne Region
- Lower Normandy Region

Italy

- Apulia Region
- Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region
- Sicily Autonomous Region
- Veneto Region

ASSOCIATIONS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Belgium

- AER, Assembly of European Regions

France

- AFCCRE, Association Française du Conseil des Communes et Régions d'Europe

- ENTO
- Pays Vichy-Auvergne

Italy

- AICCCE, Associazione Italiana del Consiglio dei Comuni e delle Regioni d'Europa
- Associazione dei Comuni della Marca Trevigiana
- Consorzio dei comuni trentini
- CONSVIPO, Consorzio per lo Sviluppo del Polesine
- Tecla, Associazione di province Italiane

Kosovo

- AMK - Ass. of Municipalities of Kosovo

Malta

- Local Councils Association

Poland

- Douzelage association

Republic of Macedonia

- NALAS, Network of Associations of Local Authorities in South-East Europe
- ZELS, Association of the units of local-self government

Romania

- AMR, Romanian Association of Municipalities

Serbia

- Standing conference of towns and municipalities

Switzerland

- Causes Communes Ticino

NGOS, ASSOCIATIONS, ONLUS, NON PROFIT

Albania

- CRCD Center
- Horizont NGO

Algeria

- FACM

Austria

- Europazentrum Wien (EZW)
- Foster Europe

Azerbaijan

- ERC - Economic Research Centre

Belarus

- Lev Sapieha Foundation

Bulgaria

- Association for European Partnership - AEP
- Balkan Assist Association
- National Forum API (Alternatives, Practice, Initiatives)

Cyprus

- The Management Centre

France

- ALFA Formation
- CIDEFE
- Maison de l'Europe Caen, Basse-Normandie

Greece

- Institute of Entrepreneurship Development
- KMOP (Kendro Merimnas Oikoyenias kai Pediou)

Hungary

- NeTe, Centre Internationale de Formation Européenne

Italy

- A.R.E.S. scarl
- Aequinet
- Associazione per l'Ambasciata della Democrazia Locale
- Associazione Progetto Prijedor
- Centro Studi Sociali "Luigi Scrosoppi"
- CISP
- Cosmo s.c.s.
- Fondazione Opera Campana dei Caduti
- Identità e Dialogo
- IPRES
- Isbem
- Istituto Euromediterraneo

- Leonardo
- Progettarte
- Putignanonelmondo
- SUD, Solo Uguali Diritti
- Studio Progetto Società Cooperativa Sociale ONLUS
- Tavolo Trentino con Kraljevo
- UNISCO - Network per lo sviluppo locale
- Vibo Sviluppo SpA

Macedonia

- Center Sustainable Community Development - Debar

Moldova

- TERRA 1530 - Asociația obștească

Republic of Macedonia

- CIRA
- Community Development Institute
- CRPRC, Centre for Regional Policy Research and Cooperation "Studiorum"
- Sega

Spain

- Documenta



Meeting between Mrs. Antonella Valmorbida, ALDA Director, and Mr. Sasa Vucinic, Mayor of Subotica, Serbia

UK

- Newport Kutaisi Association

Ukraine

- Ukrainian Agency for Democracy and Local Self-Government

UNIVERSITIES**Italy**

- IUAV Venice University
- Padua University

Ukraine

- Ukrainian School of Political Studies

SINGLE MEMBERS**Belgium**

- Van Damme Lukas
- Vinther Per

France

- Affholder Sylvie
- Beck Colette
- Bohner Ulrich
- Fouconnier Alain
- Friederich François
- Locatelli Rinaldo

Germany

- Schley Michael

Italy

- Bottacin Diego
- Cuonzo Maria Teresa
- Franco Lara
- Martini Gianfranco
- Rizzo Sebastiano
- Tenore Luigi

Serbia

- Kern Imre

Spain

- Fischer Dorothee

Switzerland

- Tschudi Hans-Martin

UK

- Mayer David
- Boorer Malcom
- Master Owen

Ukraine

- Zaychykova Vitalina

LDAs**Albania**

- LDA Albania

Armenia

- LDA Armenia

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- LDA Mostar
- Lda Prijedor
- LDA Zavidovici

Croatia

- LDA Osijek
- LDA Sisak
- LDA Verteneglio

Georgia

- LDA Georgia

Kosovo

- LDA Kosovo

Montenegro

- LDA Montenegro

Serbia

- LDA Center South Serbia (LDA CSS)
- LDA Subotica

3. Institutional activities

ALDA emphasises the role of the institutional meetings in order to secure guidance and governance to its activities.

The **Governing Boards** took place in 2011:

- 4th February 2011 in Strasbourg (France), Council of Europe;
- 17th June 2011 (Governing Board on line for the approval of the accounts);
- 7th July 2011 in Bydgoszcz (Poland);
- 18th November 2011, in Rome (Italy).

The Governing Board of ALDA is composed of:

- Per Vinther, (Individual member), President (Bureau);
- Dobrica Milovanovic (City of Kagujevac, Serbia), Vice President (Bureau);
- Alessandro Perelli (Region Friuli Venezia Giulia, Italy), Vice President (Bureau);
- Roger Lawrence (City of Wolverhampton, UK), Treasurer (Bureau);
- Joanna Zataj-Ross (City of Bydgoszcz, Poland, Secretary of the Bureau);
- Lucio Gregoretti (City of Monfalcone, Italy);
- Oriano Otocan (Region Istria, Croatia);
- Bernardo Notarangelo (Region Apulia, Italy);
- Jean Claude Mairal (Pays Vichy Auvergne, France);
- Mario De Donatis (Association Identità e Dialogo, Italy);
- Umbero Ademollo (LDA Verteneglio, Croatia);

Institutional representatives:

- Representatives of the Congress (CoE);
- Mrs. Dusica Davidovic, City of Nis, Serbia;
- M. Refik Rrueja, President association of municipalities

Albania;

Substitutes:

- Mrs. Claudette Abela Baldacchino, from Malta;
- M. Mamuka Abuladze, President of Association of Local Authorities of Georgia;
- Representative of the Council of Europe Committee of Ministers;
- Representative of the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

The General Assembly took place in Bydgoszcz (Poland) on the 8th of July 2011 with the participants of 100 members of ALDA. It was connected with the International conference on the Role of Volunteers to promote Democracy and Citizens' Participation, in the framework of the European Year on Volunteering. It was included among the Launching Events of the Polish Presidency of the European Union.



ALDA Governing Board, Bydgoszcz, Poland, July 2011

4. Capacity building activities for LDAs and ALDA

ALDA strengthens the capacities of the Local Democracy Agencies and its own staff in order to implement with better efficiency and impact the mandate of our Association. The task is demanding (in energy and financial resources) because the LDAs and the ALDA staff are located in different countries.

The first training and networking meeting took place in Subotica (Serbia) on the 25th and 29th of January 2011. The ALDA staff and the LDAs participated in a training session, and exchanges, as for the project implementation (programmes, synergies, funding reporting, networking, etc). A special session was dedicated to financial issues. Another session was dedicated to visibility and communication of our activities.

Other staff meetings and training activities for senior and junior staff of ALDA took place on the 23rd of March and

21st of September 2011.

A specific capacity building session took place in November 3rd to 5th 2011, with the celebration of the 15th anniversary of the LDA Sisak. The Delegates focused on the main strategic elements for their work in particular for the coordination of common activities.

Other issues:

- Joint communication strategy: how to promote the LDAs in ALDA network and outside the network - seeking innovative, prompt and efficient solutions for improved visibility of each LDA.
- Strengthening the partnership of LDAs: developing a new concept of partnership to meet Local Authorities needs and to face the economic crisis. Definition of a new concept to be presented to ALDA's Governing Board and to the Partner Leaders.
- Brainstorming on Local Economic Development. Joint discussion to define a common perspective for a possible further engagement of LDAs in this direction.
- Croatian entering EU: the future of Croatian LDAs. Open discussion of the future role of LDAs in the EU.



ALDA Staff meeting in Subotica, Serbia, 25th-28th January 2011

5. Technical assistance: ALDA is your provider!

ALDA is active in the field of technical assistance and provides to its members and partners training services, consultancy, project management support, fundraising services, etc.. The action of ALDA as technical assistance provider is addressed to different kinds of stakeholders: local authorities, civil society organizations, private companies.

What do we offer?

1. Consulting and think tank services

- Briefings on EU Programmes, funds and application procedures
- Analysis, research and support on specialized topics: e.g. active citizenship, democracy and local governance, European integration, civil society, local economic development, communication issues

2. Project/Tender drafting, management and fundraising

- Development and management of EU and non-EU projects and tenders on different topics: local governance, active citizenship, youth, development
- Management of complex project activities such as Europe-wide surveys, organisation of conference, seminars and workshops

3. Technical assistance

- Identification of potential donors and setting up consortia for European projects and tenders
- Technical assistance, especially (but not only) in the area of local governance and active citizenship, with a geographical scope in South East Europe and the whole ENPI area



Workshop "Water, an economic agent", Berettyóújfalu, Hungary, October 2011

- Organisation of study visits focused on different topics: local governance, active citizenship issues, economic development
 - Assisting transitional countries to apply European standards on their way to European integration
- #### 4. Capacity building and awareness raising
- Tailor-made trainings on different issues: local governance, active citizenship, European affairs, project cycle management and EU funds, fundraising at the European level, communication issues
 - Permanent training module on active citizenship issues
 - Organization of international conferences, seminars, workshops and study visits
 - Exchange of best practices among European local/regional authorities and civil society organisations
 - Focused information sessions on specific issues: ALDA and LDA offices are information points on active European citizenship as well as European integration and the respective EU programmes

Main services offered in 2011

- Management of the Cooperation Office of the Municipality of Brindisi (Apulia Region, Italy) – See page 31
- Technical assistance for the implementation of the project WELCOME: Water: Element Linking Communities, Opportunities for Merging Europe. This project, led by the Municipality of Sacile (Italy), has been granted by the Europe for Citizens Programme in the framework of the measure “Thematic Networking of Twinned Towns”. It aims at strengthening cooperation among 10 towns of 6 different EU and non-EU pre-accession countries, tackling water as a linking element among communities. ALDA has provided technical assistance both for the drafting and the implementation of the action, especially focusing on workshops and on drafting the Memorandum of Understanding signed by all the involved partners.
- Project drafting of a Youth Seminar: ALDA has supported the Association Krap, from Schio, in Italy, in planning and drafting a youth seminar addressed to youth workers dealing with sport and education in order to promote and foster partnerships and cooperation in this field. The project has been submitted in the framework of the European Programme Youth in Action.
- Training course for Studio Progetto, a social cooperative from Valdagno, in Italy. ALDA has delivered a tailored training course addressed to the social workers of Studio Progetto, a social cooperative dealing with youth and children, disabilities, healthcare, elderly people. The training was focused on project cycle management and on the European direct Programme particularly relevant for the fields of intervention of the cooperative.



The opening event of the project WELCOME about water management, Sacile, Italy, May 2011

6. ALDA as international stakeholder

ALDA is today well positioned at international level as an organization active to promote active citizenship, local democracy and cooperation to development. This has been possible also thanks to the meeting ALDA Governing Board representatives and ALDA staff members attended during 2011. Here below are the most relevant meetings where ALDA actively participated:

Civil Society Forum for Eastern Partnership

- Contact with all the EU institutions to promote the work of the CSF, Specific lobbying activity with the Council of Europe and the Secretary General, Minsk meeting, 4th of April
- Planning meeting with Committee of the Regions, 30th of March



Corleap event, 8-9 September 2011 in Poznan, Poland

- Meeting 31st of March with Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Presence to the meeting in Baku of the Azeri National Platform, April 2011
- Participation in the meeting in Strasbourg on electoral procedures, 19th/20th of June 2011
- Working for a coordination meeting with the NGOs' networks in Brussels, 16th of September 2011
- Corleap event, 8th-9th of Sept in Poznan, Poland
- Organisation of the European platforms meeting with EU NGO networks, 16th of Sept, Brussels,
- Working Group 6, People to People, 16th of September
- Civil society event of the Warsaw Summit on EaP, 29th and 30th of Sept
- Participation of the event in Khrakov of the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 12th of October 2011
- Steering Committee of the EaP CSF 16th and 17th of Oct Brussels
- Meeting in Yerevan, ICHD, 10th and 11th of Nov 2011
- Preparation of the CSF EaP in Poznan, 28th/30th of Nov in Poland. Election Antonella Valmorbida as coordinator of the subgroup of the Local Government and Public Administration Reform of the CSF

Structured Dialogue Active Citizenship at the EC

- Participation Structured Dialogue, 10th of February 2011
- Lisbon Treaty delivering for citizens, 18th of March, Brussels
- Meeting Structural Dialogue, 21st of June 2011
- European Civic Days in Budapest, 6th and 7th of June 2011
- Fixed a meeting with the coordinators on the 16th of September 2011

- Meeting with Deputy Head, Joackim Ott, Unit Active Citizenship, 16th of Oct Brussels
- Meeting on the 6th of Dec, Brussels, preparation of 2012 and opening the dialogue for an Alliance of the Year of Citizenship 2013

Conference of the International Non Governmental Organisations of the Council of Europe

- Steering Committee in Strasbourg, 17th of January 2011
- Meeting with Salar, Association of Municipalities of Sweden, presentation of the Code on Good Practices, Standing Committee 13th and 14th of April 2011
- Final meeting 20th of June 2011, Strasbourg
- Forum for the Future of Democracy, Limassol, Cyprus, 13th/14th of October 2011
- Meeting with Raymond Svensson at the Congress Session

Anna Lindh Foundation

- Coordination meeting on 23rd and 24th of June 2011, Tunis

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

- Meeting with staff on the 13th of April 2011, Stand in March 2011
- Congress session 19th of Oct
- Full participation in the European Local Democracy Week October 2011

Civicus

- Membership
- Meeting Civicus, at the UN New York, August 2011

Concord

- Membership, presentation 21st of June 2011
- Follow up and full participation to activities and events

European Federal Movement

- Participation event in October 2011, Armenia

Meeting with Members

- Meeting with Subotica Municipality 28th of January 2011
- 16th of March, meeting with Thiene for follow up training
- 19th of April, meeting with Sicily and municipalities
- 16th of February, meeting with Region Veneto
- 1st of June, meeting with Region Sicily in Brussels
- 28th of July, visiting Trieste

Committee of the Regions

- Preparation of the 2nd Assises of the Decentralised Cooperation, 29th-30th March 2011, Brussels and joint proposal with Ter Res
- Meeting and presence at the European Development Days, 6th-7th of December 2011
- Civex Meeting, 13th of Dec 2010
- Stand for the Assises of the Decentralised Cooperation
- Meeting with Van Den Brande on the 30th June
- Participation in the plenary session 30th June
- Participation at the Open Days Oct 2011
- Close cooperation in the framework of the Neighbouring programme
- Participation in the structure dialogue with EC, 13th Dec

Various

- Contacts with DG 4 Council of Europe for a programme on Intercultural issues and Cultural Heritage in the Balkans, meeting in Strasbourg on the 18th of January 2011
- Written contribution to ENPI review
- Easea meeting promoting European Association in Brussels, 10th of January 2011
- Meeting with MEP Debora Serracchiani in Strasbourg for the event in Thiene in February 2011
- Funding and external Affairs, Brussels, 19th of January
- Organisation of the Fair in Sarajevo for Nalas, agreement with the Director, 20th of January 2011
- Working Together, FPD, work on Anti corruption in Budapest, 27th-28th January
- Meeting CEECN in Belgrade, 20th April 2011
- Meeting on voluntarism, Venice 31st of March
- Participation European Movement Initiative, 11th and 12th of February, Istanbul, sent membership
- Visit Union of Municipalities of Marmara 11th Febr. 2011
- Meeting at the Senat France, with AFCCRE, 18th February 2011
- Tacso training in Montenegro, 23rd of February
- 2nd March 2011, meeting in Rome with Mario De Dedonatis Identità e Dialogo
- Meeting with MFA France, 17th June
- Meeting in Malta, with Union of municipalities, 7th-8th June 2011
- Meeting for potential membership with Balticfem, Sweden, 31st March 2011
- Meeting with Poznan for membership and LDA Georgia, 8th June 2011
- Meeting in Sicily on the programme United in the Mediterranean, 16th May 2011
- Meeting with ENNA, 14th and 20th of April 2011, Brussels
- Meeting with the Office for European Active Citizenship, Rome, 4th July 2011
- Meeting with the Secretary General of CEMR, Frederic Vallier, in Budapest, 7th June 2011
- Meeting Art Gold, Umbria, 17th of June 2011
- Meeting Monfalcone for Turkish Municipalities, 17th June 2011
- Participation in Foix, UNI Ters, with ALDA's staff and LDACSS, 25th and 26th of May 2011
- Participation in the evaluation session in Paris of the company monitoring the work of Europe for Citizens, Ecorys, May 2011
- Meeting with Soros Foundation and project desk for Caucasus and Western Balkans
- Meeting with UN Democracy funds, in NY, August
- Meeting with Carnegie Corporation, NY, August
- Meeting United for the Med, 9th and 10th Dec, Catania, Sicily
- Meeting AFFCRE in Croatia, Zagreb, 10th of Dec
- Joint the Human Rights and Democracy Network
- Meeting with the European Bank of Development, Luxembourg, 16th of Dec
- Meeting Union of Rural municipalities, 19th of Oct, Poland
- Meeting D'Alessandro, office CoE in Venice, 7th of Nov
- LDAs meeting with PBZ in Zagreb, 27th of Sept
- Forum Seviglia on Local Authorities and Decentralised cooperation, Alfonso, 5th and 7th of Oct

7. Media and communication strategy

Communication is the key tool for ALDA to undertake its mission of disseminating European values, promoting active citizenship and facilitating cooperation among local authorities and civil society. ALDA reaches a wide audience thanks to the network of its members and their partners: hundreds of local authorities and civil society organizations, tens of thousands of people in Europe and worldwide who share and work for the same values.

In 2011 ALDA focused its efforts on its website, renovating it and making it always updated with news, and documents released throughout the world and strengthening international relations. For many people, especially the young, the Web is the best way to access information. It is also the way many potential supporters begin their investigations of a mission-based organization they are thinking to work with.

Potential partners, press people, politicians and European officers who look for in-depth information usually surf through Internet websites. Indeed, the core of an organization's online presence is its Web site! Secondly, in 2011 ALDA worked on a new attractive layout of its Newsletter, which reaches over than 12 thousands of people.

Last, but not least, ALDA launched and reorganized its press office, keeping to promote its work among international and local media, communicating its initiatives, projects, priorities to journalists accredited at the European institutions and at local level. Print media, television networks and information on the web are the channels through which ALDA complete the dissemination of its activities.

Several important moments of external communication received good media coverage in 2011. A press conferen-



ALDA website was renovated in 2011. ALDA Newsletter now reaches over 12 thousands of people in three languages.

ce in Zaragoza, a conference on strategies for MED area in Palermo, the General Assembly in Bydgoszcz, the opening of the new LDA Armenia in Gyumri, the celebration for the 15th anniversary of LDA Sisak and final events of some major projects developed by ALDA.

The Association focused on publishing activities, which aims at capitalizing its experiences, especially on citizens' participation issues and at disseminating new knowledge and promotion of new capacities.

The main publications of this year are the Activity Report 2010, a new brochure of ALDA and leaflets of current projects, the Final Report of the International Conference on "How Civil Society and local governments are fighting the global crisis. A joint active citizenship: a launch pad for a new future?" held in Skopje in May 2010, a booklet on Decentralization and Local Governance in South Eastern Europe and Southern Caucasus.

Develop these tools and improve the use of social networks will be the next step of the communication activities of ALDA.

8. ALDA's projects in 2011



8.1 Cooperation Office of the “Città di Brindisi”

Lead partner: *Municipality of Brindisi, Italy*

Other partner: *ALDA*

Donor: *Municipality of Brindisi, Italy*

Timing: *01/01/2011 – 31/12/2011*

Purposes

In 2011 the cooperation office of the Municipality of Brindisi aimed at:

1. Identifying European and international funding opportunities in order to support various departments of the Municipality to present project proposals and to implement international programmes
2. Increasing the opportunities of international cooperation between the City of Brindisi and other international stakeholders
3. Enhancing the visibility of the Municipality of Brindisi at European and international level

Activities

- Draft of Project proposals for the following budget lines: European Fund for Fisheries, IPA Transadriatic, SEE Programme, ENPI MED, CBC Italy Greece, funding lines launched by various Italian Ministries concerning social issues and infrastructures, FEP 2007-2013 Puglia programme and e-participation programme of Apulia Region, Eastern Partnership programme, Youth in action programme

- Implementation of exchanges among Turkish and European Municipalities in the framework of the Programme “Support to Further Implementation of Local Administration Project” (LAR II) of UNDP Turkey
- Support to activities and technical assistance for the realization of the project “Path to training-Action Active Citizens”
- Participation to the programme INTACT
- Promotion of the Municipality of Brindisi through meetings with the President of Young Koreans in Europe, 23rd- 24th November 2011
- Participation to the Forum of Adriatic and Ionian Cities
- Support to the Delegate of the LDA Albania and to the LDA Albania activities.

Successes Stories

The presence of ALDA in Brindisi, in its province and across the region, has led many benefits to the area. ALDA has improved its visibility and worked together with the



INTACT event in Brindisi, Italy, 16th December 2011



INTACT event in Brindisi, Italy, 16th December 2011

Municipality to increase awareness about active citizenship.

In particular, the project “Europe for Citizens” 2007-2013 was excellent in promoting European citizenship and active commitment of citizens and civil society organizations in the process of European integration. The project focused on increasing the motivation of citizens to be active in policy and to not reduce civic participation on voting. The project intended also to make the citizens aware of the importance of the participation of each individual in order to be effective in solving problems, inform about violations of rights, contribute to their protection and promote partnerships as an instrument to enhance social cohesion.



City of Brindisi

8.2 CARAVAN: artists on the road

Lead partner: *Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Torino, Fondazione CRT, Torino, Italy*

Other partners: *Bulgaria: ObsinskiTeatarVirazdanje, Sofia; France: ALDA; Denmark: Nordisk Teaterlaboratorium/Odin Teatret, Holstebro; Germany: Projekte, Aktion, Kunst, Theater P.A.K.T eingetragener Verein, Freiburg; Italy: Movimento delle Associazioni di Volontariato Italiano Onlus, Università di Torino; Poland: Wydział, SztukPięknychProjektowychWyzseyjSzko-leInformatyki, Lodz, Poland; Slovenia: Association for Culture and Education KIBLA, Maribor; Spain: Teatro Atalaya; Sweden: TeaterSpira, Goteborg*

Donor: *European Commission*

Timing: *May 2011 – May 2014*

Purposes

- To create experimental and innovative theater and art activities originating from a close contact with local communities and developed on wide participation and interaction with the audience
- To circulate the artistic products in several European countries promoting dialogue and exchange
- To create a network across Europe among cultural professionals and organizations to help improve reciprocal information and communication so as to facilitate transnational mobility of artists and other cultural operators; to provide an opportunity for different regions and local communities to interact and contribute to the promotion of the European Union cultural values, richness and diversity

Activities

The whole project builds on the centuries' long heritage of community theater, as a form of social-cultural intervention. The community theater has been proven as one of the most effective and efficient way to integrate, develop and enhance the relations of a community. Unique theatric form seeing the whole community as the stage where the public is having a role to play, contributing to the performance.

The community theater is designed and developed by a team with various competencies in the theater and social-cultural field and a high experience within communication, complex relations and symbolic reconstruction of reality.

Successes Stories

The Caravan will make almost 40 stops in 11 countries in Europe, including Western Balkans, staging more than 50 performances completely free to the public. The shows will take place in public places (outside of historic houses, squares, schools, hospitals, railway stations) in order to involve the local population, and in this way help promote participation and confidence building in multicultural communities.



The Caravan truck, more than 50 performances across Europe in 11 countries

8.3 Citizen participation and local development: the role of local authorities

Lead partner: *Municipality of Thiene, Italy*

Other partners: *France: ALDA, Strasbourg; Armenia: Municipality of Ijevan*

Donor: *Veneto Region, Italy*

Timing: *01/10/2011 – 30/09/2012*

Purposes

The project tackles the issues of strengthening democratic institutions and local administrations to consolidate the role and the capacities of the municipalities, as actors of development and promoters of local participation.

The Municipality of Thiene intends to promote a cooperation plan with the Municipality of Ijevan in Armenia, focused on citizens' participation and the role of the local authority in promoting the development of the municipality.

General objectives: To develop a decentralized cooperation path with the Municipality of Ijevan (Armenia) able to evolve to a long-lasting relationship on which building up project initiatives in several fields; To contribute to the strengthening of the local authority's role in the participative policies and practices, through the exchange of experiences and the establishment of an equal relationship between the municipalities involved, following the typical methodology of the "twinning"; To promote the participative development of the city, through the active involvement and the establishment of a constructive relationship among the local stakeholders.

Activities

- Training activity, based on the "twinning" methodology (Ijevan, October 2011), to enhance the administrative capacities of the Municipality of Ijevan
- Training activity for both the local authorities and the civil society on the issues of active citizenship, participation and cooperation between local authorities and civil society for community development (Ijevan, October 2011)
- Study visit in Thiene (Italy) to know and deepen the understanding of actions, projects and tools concretely developed and provided to the city by the Municipality of Thiene, in order to promote a participative city (foreseen in April 2012)

Successes Stories

Promoted successful cooperation between Venetian local authorities and Armenia, involving also the Union of Armenians in Italy, contributing to further strengthen the historical relation and between Italy and Armenia.



Meeting between the Municipalities of Ijevan and Thiene, Ijevan, Armenia, October 2011

8.4 Civil society in action for dialogue and partnerships

Lead partner: ALDA

Other partners: Bosnia and Herzegovina: LDA Mostar, LDA Zavidovici, Don, Prijedor, Citizens' Forum Tuzla, Nove Nade Bihac, Local Development Centre Breza; Croatia: LDA Osijek; Serbia: LDA Subotica

Donors: European Commission, IPA Support to Civil Society

Timing: 01/05/2011 – 01/05/2013



Participants of the meeting about local governance in Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina, October 2011

Purposes

Promote civil dialogue in local communities in Bosnia Herzegovina and establish sustainable mechanisms of public consultation through effective implementation of municipal co-operation memorandums.

Activities

- **5th July 2011 Steering group meeting, Mostar:** Formation of the thematic working groups 1) Capacity building and training needs; 2) municipal co-operation/partnership structures. Creation of pool of international and local trainers
- **Awareness raising component:**
Opening conference: 7-9 October 2011, Tuzla, BiH: Good local governance in Bosnia and Herzegovina – present status and future perspectives. 60 participants from the entire country, neighbouring IPA countries: local governance experts, researchers, NGO practitioners, NGO local and regional network members, local authorities and their associations, repre-

sentatives of cantons, respective ministries, policy and opinion makers, think-tanks, media representatives. Specific attention has been given to a balanced representation of civil society organisations and their networks, so as to provide enough space for promoting issues such as: local democracy development, citizen participation in policy decision making, gender equality agenda, anti-discrimination, youth empowerment, social and cultural rights, environment protection.

- **Awareness raising component – local actions September 2011/April 2012**

- Round tables, information campaigns in Tuzla and Prijedor, Bosnia Herzegovina
- Internet campaigns comprising thematic electronic newsletters, promotion leaflets (300 copies of leaflets per action), posters (50 per action). The Partner organisations in six respective municipalities have been active as contact/information points in support to the awareness raising action and for communication of the project objectives to the local target groups and stakeholders. The main result of each of the information

campaign is the support to establishment of transparent procedures for implementing co-operation agreement between civil society and local self-government.

- Publishing of the local NGO-s address book (300 copies per municipality) comprising the basic information on the work of civil society organisations, their mission statements, contact details. The address book will also contain chapters on key aspects of the local co-operation agreement, collection of already achieved good local practice and will serve as an important communication/visibility tool for the follow-up actions and promotion of local target groups.

Overall results/outcomes of the local awareness raising actions will be presented at the final conference and NGO Fair in Mostar which will be organised at the end of the project.

- **Capacity building component:**
1/05/2011 – 1/05/2013 September 2011- April 2012

1 Training seminar for NGO-s on Strategic planning skills in Prijedor: 10/12 December 2011.

Participants: 15-20 civil society representatives from five municipalities included in the action.

Activities foreseen in 2012:

- **Capacity building component:**
Training seminar 2: Zavidovici on Project cycle management skills
- **Exchange of Good local practice component: September 2011/April 2012**
Filming the documentaries - Good local governance zone 2 Documentaries filming in Tuzla, Zavidovici, Prijedor
- **Steering group meeting evaluation session**

Successes Stories

Partnership established with CSO-s in Bosnia and Herzegovina will bring a new quality to LDAs as potential resource centres for NGOs capacity building.

8.5 Civil Trust Building Find your way through the Enlargement Labyrinth

Lead partner: *The European House, Budapest, Hungary*

Other partners: *Austria: The World of NGOs; France: ALDA; Italy: ARCI; Romania: Pro Democracy Association; Slovenia: CNVOS; Slovakia: Slovak Foreign Policy Association*

Donor: *European Commission*

Timing: *December 2011 – December 2012*

Purposes

The project aims to spread relevant and specific information on the European integration issues including enlargement in an interactive manner. The target group are civil society organisations and citizens in EU member states in general.

Activities

The information tools developed and the public actions in the open space (through a "Labyrinth" installation) will contribute to the promotion of the enlargement strategy and to help raise awareness among the citizens of EU on sharing the common European values with the Western Balkans.

Successes Stories

The LDAs in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, Kosovo, Albania and the partner organisation CDI from Tetovo, Macedonia will continue operate as the focal points in the region to disseminate results and best practice exchange programme.

8.6 Decentralised cooperation between the Region Lower Normandy in France and the Republic of Macedonia

Lead partner: *Regional Council of Lower Normandy*

Other partners: *ALDA, central and local authorities, NGOs, educational and cultural institutions, associations of local authorities and other stakeholders from both Lower Normandy and Republic of Macedonia*

Donors: *Region Lower Normandy and the French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs*

Timing: *2007-2013*



Steering Committee in Ohrid, Macedonia, September 2011

Purposes

Joint effort of the two partner entities to open up to the world and to encourage their population to engage in active citizenship at local and European levels by reciprocity and exchange.

Activities

The project aims to facilitate both territories mainly through the activities in 6 different components: Digital technologies; Youth, local and European citizenship; Inventory of cultural heritage; Regional cultural policies; Tourism; Agriculture development. The core of the programme is implementing activities in tandem with non-governmental organisations, under the auspices of the Macedonian Ministry of Local Self-governance and the Regional Council of Lower Normandy. They run this programme by leveraging support and interest in the local communities, involving ci-

tizens and organisations at various levels: public institutions, NGOs, professional bodies, such as Chamber of Commerce, the media as well as other relevant parties.

Having that structure in mind, the activities of this fifth year of cooperation are introducing innovations and reinforcement in all six components, such as reinventing of the component of tourism or establishing the new component of human rights. The project also encourages the equitable regional development process in Macedonia and European integration in both territories.

Twinning is also strengthened this fifth year of the cooperation and so far seven municipalities from the two territories are working closely. Their cooperation continues with exchange of best practices in several fields such as tourism, youth and culture. Working groups are created in both territories in order to promote the common approach towards international cooperation both in Macedonia and in Lower Normandy.

Marching towards equitable regional development in Macedonia, Lower Normandy and Macedonia are offering their institutional support, experience and training.

The mutual work and exchange will continue to build stronger international relations, dynamic environments and active citizenship towards democracy and friendship.

Successes Stories

The Programme for decentralised cooperation between the Region Lower Normandy and Republic of Macedonia is constantly showing the commitment of both territories in developing opportunities for international cooperation while promoting the local governance by reinforcement of local authorities' capacities to implement decentralisation.

The international perspective, in the form of decentralised cooperation between the European region (Lower Normandy) and a Balkan Republic (Macedonia) has produced a decisive increase in the presence of local governments and the associations on the international scene of global sustainable development.



The Macedonian agriculture team visited several farms, and products laboratories in Lower Normandy, March 2011

8.7 France/Balkans multilateral decentralized cooperation programme on good governance in South-East Europe

Lead partners: *Regional Council of Auvergne and ALDA, both in France*

Other partners: *Albania: Cities of Lezhë and Berat; Bulgaria: Cities of Roussé and Lyaskovets; France: City of Dijon, City of Épinal, City of Nevers, General Council of territory Belfort, Intermunicipal Association of Development of Loire, Municipality of Saint-Ouen, Regional Council of Lower-Normandy, Pays Vichy Auvergne, Training Centre of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Hautes-Alpes; Kosovo: City of Prizren; Macedonia: City of Bitola, City of Skopje, City of Tetovo; Romania: City of Cluj/Napoca; Serbia: City of Sremska Mitrovica, City of Novi Beograd*

Donor: *French Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

Timing: *2010-2013*

Purposes

- Strengthening and stabilizing the democratic process in Balkans' region
- Stabilizing and pacifying the Balkans' region
- Supporting the European integration process
- On the French side, opening the French territories to the Balkan countries, EU members, candidate and potential candidate countries to EU membership



Participants of the Conference "Cyberspace and Human Rights", Caen, France, June 2011

about the methods of selection and participation of beneficiaries to bilateral programs.

Successes Stories

This multilateral project gives an opportunity for partners to exchange their expertise and knowledge, by allowing them to reach a consensus in the various regional actions that may result later in the prospect of a connection with other regional programs. It gives a European dimension to decentralized cooperation activities. Finally, it provides the necessary weight for the lobbying between national and European institutions.

Activities

Coordination activities in 2011:

1. Coordination meeting (Paris, 21st January 2011)
Remind to partners objectives and program activities within the framework of their bilateral cooperation; confirmation of activities for 2010-2011.
2. Preparation meeting (Paris, 14th March 2011)
This preparatory meeting was held in order to develop a concept for implementation and funding of the proposed seminar.

Local activities:

1. Workshop about "new technologies", Caen, 7-8th June 2011 (Conference "Cyberspace and Human Rights"). This workshop has created a network Franco-Balkan, which currently depends on two programs in question, but eventually hopes to be spread to other European countries.
2. Workshop "Youth", Vichy, 17th June 2011. The event an opportunity to raise awareness and to open discussion

8.8 GOAL: Granting Opportunities for Active Learning

Lead partner: ALDA

Other partners: *Albania: LDA Shkoder, NGO Horizont; Bulgaria: National Forum API, Regional Association of Municipalities Central Stara Planina; Greece: Active Creative and Reforming Organisation; Italy: Municipality of Reggio Emilia, Association Learning Cities, Apulia Region; Republic of Macedonia: Coalition of Youth Organisations SEGA, Municipality of Berovo; Romania: Qvorum – European Institute for Participative Democracy, Regional Association of Rural Development*

Donor: European Commission

Timing: 10th January 2011 – 9th January 2012

Purposes

The project GOAL (Granting Opportunities for Active Learning) aims at promoting citizen participation in the construction of a tighter-knit, democratic, world-oriented and united Europe, tackling the challenge of immigration and emigration as opportunities to develop active citizenship and sense of ownership of the EU, whilst enhancing tolerance, solidarity and mutual understanding improving the methodology of “citizens’ panels”.

These panels are groups of citizens who would not have spontaneously participated in projects of a European nature involving people of different demographic, social and professional background. These groups meet regularly to discuss matters of migration and submit recommendations on this issue to relevant political actors at local and European level.

Activities

GOAL foreseen 9 steps of activity, having an impact both at the local and at the European level:

1. Training for citizens’ panels activators
2. Set-up of local citizens’ panels
3. Local panels and workshops
4. International meeting of citizens’ panels (mid-term): Kastoria (Greece), 17-19 June 2011
5. Open days at the local level
6. Production phase
7. International final workshop: Bucharest (Romania), November 2011
8. Final publication

Successes Stories

The project led the LDA Albania together with local citizens to participate to draft recommendations on how improve the situation of migrants in Europe to the European decision makers. These recommendations were structured in 5 major issues: intercultural dialogue, administrative procedures, labour market, political participation and housing.



GOAL project training session in Strasbourg, France, with partners coming from seven European countries

8.9 GRUNDTVIG: Network for Community Development with Marginalised Social Groups

Lead partners: *Hungarian Association of Community Development, Hungary*

Other partners: *France: ALDA; Spain: ETCS- Estratègies de Transformació Comunitària Sostenible; UK: Scottish Community Development Centre*

Donor: *European Commission*

Timing: *01/08/2011 – 31/07/2013*



Workshop of the GRUNDTVIG project, a network for community development with marginalised social groups

Purposes

The project “Network for Community Development with Marginalised Social Groups”, part of the Lifelong Learning Programme - GRUNDTVIG – Learning Partnership, aims at facilitating the mutual learning of innovative tools of community development that tackle the problems of marginalized social groups. The main aim of the project will be sharing knowledge and experiences gained from experimental, innovative, interdisciplinary community based methods effective in combating poverty.

The aim is to bring methodological innovation cutting across professional boundaries, combining elements of community development and social work, to introduce new approaches of development in seriously marginalized, deprived, often ghettoized localities, facilitating progress that does not only bring anti-poverty measures but also social integration.

The partnership brings together organisations that deal with similar social issues and different methodologies of community development. The cooperation can lead to long-term work based on learning about the different national contexts,

methodological approaches and adaptable, good practices. The project will be based, in a large extent, on collecting valuable experiences by fieldwork, by visiting projects dealing with community development of marginalised groups.

Activities

Workshops and learning exchanges with the partner organisations at three different localities with different problems, showing alternative approaches of community building, took place in Strasbourg, Glasgow, Barcelona and Budapest.

Implemented so far:

- Workshop on multilateral decentralized cooperation and community development, introducing participants to ALDA's networking methodology, to the concrete experience of the Municipality of Strasbourg.
- Workshop on methodologies of citizens' empowerment, participatory and community work (field visit in Scotland).

Successes Stories

As concerns the activities implemented so far, the project successfully strengthened the relations among the partners.

8.10 INTACT: International Network of Towns - Active Citizenship and Twinning

Lead partner: ALDA

Other partners: *Bulgaria: Municipality of Silistra; Croatia: Municipality of Dvor, Municipality of Hrvatska Kostajnica, Sisak-Moslavina County, Local Democracy Agency Sisak; France: Pays Vichy-Auvergne; Malta: Local Councils' Association; Republic of Macedonia: Municipality of Aerodrom, Municipality of Bogovinje, Municipality of Chashka, Municipality of Delchevo, Municipality of Veles, Municipality of Vinica; Italy: Municipality of Brindisi, Municipality of Monfalcone, Municipality of Nardò, IPRES - Istituto Pugliese di Ricerche Economiche e Sociali; Romania: Municipality of Braila; Municipality of Slobozia, Municipality of Vulcan*

Donor: European Commission

Timing: 1st January 2010 31st December 2011

Purposes

To create and develop an Interregional Network whose overall objectives are to exchange good practices, to promote innovation and know-how by multiplying relations between towns across Europe in the context of the Local Democracy Agencies' network.

Activities

INTACT project was designed around three international activities and 18 local events organized by partners.

The first international event was held in Sisak, Hrvatska Kostajnica, and Dvor, Croatia, on Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th June 2010.

The second entitled "Getting involved. Participate for Europe and your Town" was held in Strasbourg from 20th to 23th July 2011.

The final event was a conference entitled "The International Presence of Local Authorities: Town Twinning, City Diplomacy and the Private Sector" and was held in Venice, on 16th and 17th November 2011.

Successes Stories

The project strengthened the links between 20 associations from 7 countries participating towns that are particularly involved in citizens' participation issue and the promotion of EU values in the process of EU integration.



INTACT Final International Conference in Venice, Italy, 17th November 2011

8.11 Long term training course “Let’s train with our neighbours: civil society, participation, democracy”

Promoters: SALTO EuroMed, SALTO Participation, National Agency France AFPEJA

Partner: ALDA as training provider

Donors: Inter-regional Cooperation – SALTO EuroMed, SALTO Participation, National Agency France AFPEJA

Timing: September 2010 – November 2011

Purposes

The aim of this long term training course is two-fold: on one hand, it aims at promoting reflection, debate, exchange and action on democracy and participation issues and, on the other hand, it seeks to support the development of qualitative youth cooperation and networking on the specific issues addressed. The training course presents an innovative perspective of democracy in the European Neighbouring Policy Initiative (ENPI) area, starting from participants’ experiences, offering them tools and coaching during the whole project.

Activities

The training course is based on a “learning by doing” approach and divided on 3 different steps:

- 1st step: Training course – Franceville Merville (France), 5-12 October 2010
- 2nd step: Coaching Phase – from October 2010 (after the training course) to the evaluation phase in October 2011
- 3rd step: Evaluation Phase of all the “Let’s Train” – Warsaw (Poland), 6-12 October 2011



Group photo of the training course in Merville, France, first step of the project “Let’s train with our neighbours”

The evaluation was based on the “tree analogy” methodology, which gave to the participants the opportunity to reflect, discuss and exchange on three different levels, sharing their experiences, projects, outcomes and feelings:

- **personal level** on the basis of the key words: personal growth, learning achievements, youth pass key competencies, content knowledge;
- **process** on the basis of the key words: direction, training, projects, coaching;
- **products** on the basis of the key words: outcomes, achievements, results.

Successes Stories

“This training gave me the chance to go back to the learning process as a ‘participant’ with the chance of developing new competencies. And it has been a path full of joy, friendship building, critical thinking, a bit of frustration and a lot of fun.”
Sever Dzigurski (All different - All equal, Belgrade, Serbia)

“Thanks to the Let’s Train process I had the chance to influence the strategic plan of my organisation, putting active citizenship and participation in the centre of our action.”
Gurgen Balasanyan (Youth Initiative Centre, Gyumri, Armenia)

8.12 Opening an LDA in Azerbaijan

During 2011 ALDA took initial steps and started to build support for the establishment of an LDA in Azerbaijan. ALDA held two meetings with the Representation of Azerbaijan at the Council of Europe to explain the objectives and idea of an LDA in Azerbaijan, including a meeting with the Ambassador Mr. Arif Mammadov.

Furthermore ALDA, with the support of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, organised a Seminar on best practice for Strengthening local government and good governance at the local level in Azerbaijan and also discussed the idea of an LDA in Azerbaijan.

ALDA also strengthened its cooperation with other actors in Azerbaijan and in particular worked closely with BINA – the NGO Alliance for Municipality Development, which publishes yearly monitoring reports on the development of local democracy in Azerbaijan.

NGOs from Azerbaijan became members of ALDA during 2011, which also increased ALDA's activities and focus on Azerbaijan.

These steps taken in 2011 supported the preparations of the potential partners' meeting for LDA Azerbaijan that ALDA will organise in March 2012 to gather potential partners for the LDA and discuss the possibilities for opening an LDA in Azerbaijan. This meeting will take place in connection with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities plenary spring session.



Workshop in Baku, Azerbaijan, May 2011

8.13 PEACE: Education and Active Citizenship in Europe

Lead partner: ALDA

Other partners: France: *Mémorial Cité de l'Histoire Caen-Normandie, Pays Vichy-Auvergne*; Croatia: *LDA Sisak, Jasenovac Memorial Site*; Italy: *Associazione quarantasettezeroquattro*; North Ireland: *The Junction – Towards Healing and Understanding*; Republic of Macedonia: *Institute for National History*

Donors: *European Commission*

Timing: *01/10/2010 – 30/11/2011*



Study visit to Jasenovac Memorial Site, Croatia

Purposes

The overall goal of PEACE is the creation of a network of structures working on Peace Education, Citizenship and Human rights with the intent of using the 20th Century European History as a tool for Active Remembrance.

Activities

The project PEACE was structured in 6 local events organized by partners and one international conference. Partners involved different groups of the local population and professionals at local level on the following subjects for: teaching Peace, review History with participants and understand how can partners' theoretical methods improve from these field's experiences.

Successes Stories

The Local Democracy Agencies in Sisak and Osijek were involved in the project PEACE. They respectively organised, together with the Memorial in Janesovac, an interactive

workshop on the history of the Croatian Ustasha regime during the Second World War and a seminar on civil courage, taking German resistant priest Dietrich Bonhoeffer as departure point for a discussion on the role of civil courage in Croatia and beyond.

These events succeeded in involving the different types of target groups (peace educators, students, university teachers) and in confronting participants with views on historical events that do not correspond to their usual perceptions, and thus led to question their biased views.

The partners decided to continue cooperation. Many of them are interested in joining the project THIEC on the treatment of painful pasts in school education. A joint project could give way to a more intense cooperation between different types of providers of historical education.

8.14 NEXPO

Lead partner: NALAs

Other partner: *with the participation and stand of ALDA*

Donor: *own resources of ALDA*

Timing: *10-11 March 2011*

Purposes

The three days of debates had the intent of focusing on possibilities of cooperation as for social, political and economic development of the region and the role of Local Authorities into it.

Activities

The event – organised in Sarajevo - gathered hundreds of Local Authorities, Association of Local Authorities and

programmes/initiatives supporting local governance of the whole Balkans area.

Successes Stories

ALDA contributed extensively to the whole event with a stand in the Fair, which was visited by thousands of visitors. We could therefore present and exchange best practices of the Local Democracy Agencies and the programme of Decentralised Cooperation France/Balkans, extensively illustrated at the stand.

ALDA supported also the participation of the LDAs Delegates from the area and some its members and partners. The initiative certainly strengthened the cooperation with Nalas for future synergies and common activities.



ALDA stand at NEXPO, Sarajevo, BiH, March 2011

8.15 STAND.UP: Strengthening Twinning Agreements and Networking for Development. United in Partnership

Lead partner: ALDA

Other partners: *Albania: LDA Albania, NGO Horizonz; Bulgaria: Balkan Assist - Association for citizen activity support, NFAPI - National Forum API, RAM - Regional Association of Municipalities "Central Stara Planina"; UBBSLA, Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities; Croatia: LDA Osijek, Local Democracy Agency; France: CIDEFE - Centre d'information, de documentation, d'études et de formation, Comité de Jumelage de Démouville, MECBN - Maison de l'Europe de Caen Basse-Normandie; Greece: ACRO, Active Creative and Reforming Organisation; Italy: IPRES - Istituto Pugliese di Ricerche Sociali; Latvia: LALRG, Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments; Republic of Macedonia: ZELS, Association of the units of local self-government; Malta: LCA, Local Councils' Association; Poland: URGRP (ZGW RP), Union of Rural Communes of the Republic of Poland; Romania: AMR, Romanian Municipalities Associations*

Donor: European Commission

Timing: 01/02/2011 - 31/01/2012



STAND.UP project, group photo of the Final International Conference in Malta

Authorities and Civil Society Organizations, Public-Private Partnership to fight against economic and social crisis, to promote mobility for democracy and awareness on European identity. The focus area is Eastern Europe recognised as a weaker area in terms of citizens' participation.

STAND.UP involved more than 500 persons directly and many others through the website and the partners' networks. Partnership includes NGOs and Associations of Local Authorities which are able to represent Local Authorities interests and citizens' needs. The overall goal was to use networking agreements between Local Authorities as an inclusive agora in which citizens' voice is heard and as basis for creating a reactive partnership in front on economic difficulties and development goals.

Activities

- International Workshop in Latvia on Fighting poverty and Promoting innovative Socio-economic activities involving a Private-Public Partnership with 39 international and 20 local participants.

Purposes

STAND.UP aimed at strengthening Civil Society Organizations' involvement in the overall framework of EU twinning in order to enhance cooperation among Local

- International Conference in Venice on Mobility and Volunteering in Town Twinning and how to create a human resources' exchange methodology for Local Authorities and Civil Society Organizations
- Final International Conference in Malta on Social integration of vulnerable groups and Promoting Gender equality through a Good local governmental system
- 17 Local preparatory meetings and events during which local stakeholders discussed the priorities in terms of citizen and civic participation

Several recommendations were presented during the events and follow-up activities were proposed in the partners' areas of interest.

Successes Stories

Seen the nature of the project and the large partnership involved, some of the partners developed joint activities in the framework of the Europe for Citizens programme. Moreover, seen the success of the project, UBBSLA, RAM and URCRP decided to become members of ALDA and to keep cooperating with its members to promote active citizenship and local democracy.



International Workshop on fighting poverty, Riga, Latvia, in the frame of STAND.UP project

8.16 Support for the activities of the Civil Society Forum for Eastern Partnership

Lead partner: ALDA with CSF EaP

Other partner: EuroBelarus (Lithuania)

Donor: Denmark

Timing: 01/12/2011 - 31/12/2011

Purposes

The Director of ALDA, Antonella Valmorbida, was co-Chair of the Civil Society Forum for Eastern Partnership from February 2011 to November 2012.

A specific contribution to support some of the activities of the CSF was attributed to ALDA, from Denmark.



International Conference on Eastern Partnership, Warsaw, Poland, 29th September 2011

Activities

- Visit of M. Vialichka to potential partners in Warsaw and EaP Community website coordinator and visit to the MFA for the upcoming Forum.
- Participation of Mrs. Iris Kempe and Mrs. Valmorbida to the NGO event at the Warsaw Summit of EaP, Sept 2011.
- Mission of Mrs. Valmorbida in Brussels meeting the EESC and discussion on the strategy of cooperation.
- Mission of Mrs. Valmorbida to the Corleap event, Sept 2011.

Successes Stories

The contribution allowed:

- A better participation and involvement of Belarusian civil society with the possibility given to the Co-Chair, M. Lad Vialichka, to travel and to represent the views and interests of the CSF. In case of non possible participation of M. Vialichka, Mrs. Valmorbida, co-chaired as well, representing the CSF. In some occasion, another representative of the Steering Committee was appointed because more appropriate.
- The lack of Secretariat and related funds had an important impact as for the visibility of activities of the CSF. The funds from Denmark here provided enhanced the visibility by updating the website and facilitating communication among the CSF participation and in particular within the Belarusian National Platform. The whole visibility and communication strategy was managed directly from Belarus.

8.17 Support to further implementation of Local Administration Reform in Turkey (LAR Phase 2)

Lead partners: *United Nations Development Programme – UNDP Turkey*

Other partners: *Turkey: Ministry of Interior, Governorates, Turkish Union of Municipalities, District Governorates, many Municipalities, Special Provincial Administrations, many Civil Society Organisations (for details: www.lar.org.tr//"http://www.lar.org.tr/"); France: ALDA as subcontractor*

Donor: *European Commission*

Timing: *September 2009 - November 2011*

Purposes

The overall objective of the Project was to ensure effective, transparent, inclusive and participatory local government in Turkey, in particular through full implementation of a new legislation adopted in 2003-2005. It intends to develop and strengthen the administrative cooperation capacities of Turkish Ministry of Interior, particularly General Directorate for Local Authorities, Governorships and District Governorships, of the Unions of Local Authorities and Local Authorities.

Activities

1. Capacity Building of the Local Administration
2. Capacity Building of the Unions of Local Administration
3. Strengthening Local Participatory Mechanisms
4. Improvement of Municipal Coordination and Cooperation
5. Capacity Enhancement of the Ministry of Interior

Successes Stories

ALDA together with Union of Turkish Municipalities was in charge of the technical assistance and as supervisor organizations of two cooperation protocols between Turkish and Italian Municipalities, Brindisi-Karadeniz Ereğli-Monfalcone-Zonguldak and Kirşehir-Sciaccia-Mustafakemalpaşa.

An excellent outcome for the LDAs and for ALDA's members was the possibility to develop relations and projects with these twinned Italian-Turkish Municipalities and their local stakeholders like Chambers of Commerce and Regional Development Agencies. Fields of possible future cooperation have been identified as:

1. Local Economic Development;
2. Culture and Tourism;
3. Municipal Capacity Building;
4. EU Funds and Project Management;
5. Urban regeneration practices in the fields of: water, solid waste, air quality, natural hazards; urban regeneration and environmental conservation.



Project LAR II, the signature of a twinning agreement between Italian and Turkish Municipalities

8.18 Support to Local and Regional Democracy in Southern Caucasus

Lead partner: ALDA

Other partners: Armenia: *Communities Association of Armenia (CAA)*; Azerbaijan: *NGO Alliance for Municipal Development in Azerbaijan (BINA)*; Georgia: *LDA Georgia, National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia (NALAG)*; Republic of Macedonia: *Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS)*

Donor: *Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe*

Timing: *September 2009 - November 2011*



ALDA workshop on Local Self-government and citizen participation in Armenia, Yerevan, 12th July 2011

Purposes

To strengthen local and regional democracy in South Caucasus and support the work of LDA Georgia.

Activities

The Kutaisi II Conference with Local Authorities Associations and civil society organisations from South Caucasus was held in Kutaisi, Georgia in November 2010. Seminars were held in each of the three South Caucasus countries during spring 2011 aiming at discussing the strengthening of local government and good governance at the local level and methods to increase citizens participation and cooperation with civil society. The seminars in Armenia and Azerbaijan were also used to support the establishment of LDAs in Armenia and in Azerbaijan by intensifying and consolidating new and existing partnerships in the two countries.

Successes Stories

The project strengthened the cooperation between the Associations of Municipalities in South Caucasus by gathering them for the conference in Kutaisi, which allowed them to discuss common challenges and exchange information on the situation in their respective countries.

It was significant to gather the associations from all three countries in South Caucasus in order to discuss and exchange views on development of local democracy and the situation in their countries. The conference in Kutaisi and all three national seminars included detailed discussions on the question of cooperation between Local Authorities and civil society and examples of good practice from other countries.

8.19 TANDEM: Cooperation for citizen participation and community development in Belarus

Lead partner: ALDA

Other partners: *Lev Sapieha Foundation and the Belarusian Organisation for Working Women (Belarus)*

Donor: *European Commission*

Timing: *September 2011- April 2013*

Purposes

The project supports the development of local communities and civil society organisations and their cooperation with local authorities through technical and financial support.



Official launch of the Tandem project in Belarus, Minsk, 16th-17th December 2011

Activities

Community groups will participate in trainings and receive information on the role played by local authorities and the possibilities for citizens and civil society organisations to cooperate more actively with them. Furthermore the project will provide sub-grants to around ten civic community initiatives.

These grants will be awarded to community groups that propose concrete activities to ensure sustainable development in cooperation with local authorities. Two of these initiatives will be partnership projects and will involve cooperation with local authorities from other countries, which will bring their experience on cooperation with citizens into the project.

Successes Stories

So far the TANDEM project has been successful in mobilising civil society organisations and local authorities from all over Belarus to apply for sub-grants. 10 projects have been selected to receive funding under TANDEM.

The project of a bicyclist organisation in Minsk intends to improve the quality of bike paths in the Belarusian Capital. The Association of Gomel children and young people (ASDEMO) will create, in cooperation with the local authorities, a leisure place for young people in Gomel's district number 19.

The Information and Regional Studies Center at Golshanskaya Rural Library District Oshmyany in Northwestern Belarus will set up a virtual museum of the Struve Geodetic Arc, a chain of commemorative plaques and obelisks, which were built along the meridian line from Norway to Moldova in the 19th century. The project will be implemented with the support of the Latvian municipality Gulbene.

The selected projects have now started the rather complicated registration process in Belarus, which is necessary in order to be allowed to receive financial support from international donors.

8.20 VIT: Very Important Twinning, Volunteering In Town

Lead partner: ALDA

Other partners: *Albania: LDA Shkodra, Albanian Association of Municipalities; Bulgaria: Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities, Balkan Assist Association, National Forum Alternatives, Practice, Initiatives (Plovdiv); Croatia: Municipality of Novigrad; Denmark: Municipality of Vejle; France: Association Française du Conseil des Communes et Régions d'Europe (AFCCRE); Greece: Kendro Merimnas Oikoyenias kai Pediou; Ireland: Donegal County Council; Italy: Associazione Solo Uguali Diritti (SUD), Consortium for Development of Polesine, Municipality of Brindisi, Municipality of Monfalcone, Municipality of Reggio Emilia, Province of Milano; Latvia: Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments; Lithuania: Municipal Training Centre at Kaunas University of Technology; Malta: Local Councils' Association; Republic of Macedonia: Municipality of Tetovo; Poland: Municipality of Bydgoszcz; Romania: Romanian Municipalities Association; Slovakia: Centre for Community Organizing (Bratislava); Slovenia: Association for Developing Voluntary Work Novo Mesto; Spain: RECREATURA arts&culture (Valencia); United Kingdom: Wolverhampton City Council*

Donor: European Commission

Timing: 1st of July 2011 to the 30th of June 2013



International Conference "Volunteering for Democracy", Bydgoszcz, Poland, 8th July 2011

Activities

- 18 two-days workshops in the partner towns to involve international participants and address the topics of volunteering and governance through the local perspective.
- 3 international conferences, providing opportunities to exchange experiences and develop networking and cooperation. The 1st conference took place in Bydgoszcz on 8th July 2011. The 2nd will take place in Udine on 8th June 2012.
- A methodological publication and a DVD will be produced, collecting and disseminating the outcomes.

Successes Stories

The international conference "Volunteering for Democracy", organised as part of the European Year of Volunteering 2011, jointly by ALDA and the Bydgoszcz City Hall, was held in Bydgoszcz, Poland (8th of July). It was the launching event of the first Polish Presidency of the EU for Kujavy and Pomerania Region. It was attended by 150 representatives from civil society groups and local governments from all over Europe. Representatives of several European Ngo's and Institutions illustrated the experiences of their organisations and countries.

Purposes

The project VIT focuses on volunteering and democracy in the enlarged Europe. It aims at promoting volunteering in towns, addressing this issue from a participatory perspective.

8.21 WELCOME: Water: Element Linking Communities, Opportunity for Merging Europe

Lead partner: *Municipality of Sacile, Italy*

Other partners: *Austria: Municipalities of Spittal an der Drau; Croatia: Municipalities of Novigrad-Cittanova; France: ALDA as technical assistance provider; Twinning Committee of La Réole-Sacile; Hungary: Municipality of Berettyòùjfalu; Italy: Municipalities of Brugnera, Caneva, Fontanafredda and Porcia; Romania: Municipalities of Marghita*

Donor: *European Commission*

Timing: *01/01/2011 – 31/12/2012*



Participants at the 1st event of WELCOME project, Brugnera, Italy, May 2011

Purposes

Local Authorities are regularly confronted with environmental issues, which have a direct impact on people's well-being and on citizens' everyday life. Municipalities, the closest entities to citizens, are therefore evermore engaged in the implementation of environmental policies, adopted both at a national and European level. The proposal, encouraging dialogue and exchange of best practices in a long-term perspective, aims at tackling the issue of water management.

Water is the the "file rouge" of the initiative. The project aims at promoting reflection, debate and action around the topic of "water", focusing on its sustainable management. The action seeks to have a multiplier effect in Europe, leading to the setting up of a thematic network of twinned towns.

Activities

The action plan foresees 3 major events, focused on 3 different dimensions of water:

- 1. Water, a cultural value** (Sacile, Brugnera and Porcia, IT), May 2011
- 2. Water, an economic agent** (Berettyòùjfalu, HU), October 2011
- 3. Water, a territorial partner** (Novigrad-Cittanova, HR), foreseen in March 2012

The main objective of the events is to increase the citizens' awareness of the need of a sustainable use of water in all its dimensions.

Successes Stories

A bottom-up approach has been employed for the development of the Memorandum of Understanding that will be signed by the 9 partners involved: it will not represent a political agreement, but on the contrary a real commitment of the whole community. It will serve as basis for the sustainability and the long-term perspective of the institutional relations created and strengthened during the project.

8.22 WTD: Working Together for Development - ALLIANCE

Lead partner: ALDA, France

Other partners: *Bulgaria: RAM - Regional Association of Municipalities "Central Stara Planina", UBBSLA - Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities; France: CIDEM – Civisme et Démocratie; Italy: FISPMED - International Federation for Sustainable Development and Fight Against Poverty in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea area; TECLA Associazione per la cooperazione transregionale, locale e europea; Latvia: LALRG - Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments; Lithuania: LSA - Association of Local Authorities in Lithuania; Malta: LCA - Local Councils' Association; Slovakia: CEECN - Central Eastern and European Citizens Network, UTC - The Union of Towns and Cities of Slovakia*

Associates partners: *Albania: Albanian Association of Municipalities; Armenia: Communities Association of Armenia; Croatia: Croatian Institute for Local Government; Georgia: NALAG - National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia; Israel: New Israel Fund – Shatil; Kosovo: Association of Kosovo Municipalities; Republic of Macedonia: ZELS - Association of the Units of Local Self-government, BCSDN - Balkan Civil Society Development Network; Serbia: The Citizens' Pact for South Eastern Europe; Turkey: YÖNDER - Association of Local Government Managers; Union of Municipalities of Marmara*

Donor: European Commission

Timing: 01/01/2012 – 30/06/2014



WTD Steering Committee, Brussels, Belgium

Purposes

Working Together for Development is a multi-annual development project which aims at improving their capacities to act as development agents in and outside Europe, in partnership with European and national institutions.

WTD is based on ALDA's long term vision of development and the method of multilateral decentralised cooperation. The project uses a multi-stakeholder approach and focuses on creating strong partnerships between Local Authorities and NGOs. Local Authorities and NGOs have extensive knowledge of their local communities, and their joint activities and cooperation play an important role in the field of development.

WTD aims at giving a real contribution to the empowerment of local stakeholders to act as development agents. All the activities in the project will address local actors who already play a role, or have the potential to play, in local development. The project will target development NGOs and Local Authorities and will reach participants through the members and networks of the partners and associates in the project.

Activities

International seminars and conferences will be organised to share best practices on local development issues, such as women and youth empowerment, sustainable tourism and rural development. Moreover, international and regional thematic workshops will be organised to exchange experience and provide the participants with further expertise on these issues.

During the project eight national and regional working groups will operate as platforms to discuss development issues related to their region and plan activities to be carried out at the local level in partnership with private and public actors.

More than 30 local activities will be directly funded by the WTD project through sub-grants. Local Authorities with up to 30.000 inhabitants and local development NGOs will be invited to submit project proposals with activities focusing on issues such as:

- trainings on local development;
- network building activities at the local level;
- information campaigns on local development issues;
- exchange of good practices;
- youth and voluntary activities in the field of development.

Successes Stories

With this project ALDA, together with the 21 partners and associates, launches a new joint Alliance aimed at capitalizing and improving the joint experience and methods of actions developed during the last two decades by Local Authorities and Civil Society Organizations in development cooperation. The WTD Alliance aims at fostering the joint role of Local Authorities and Civil Society Organizations as promoters of democracy, social justice and human rights. It also favours cooperation among all types of LAs and CSOs in order to

bring their best practices of cooperation to European, national and regional institutions, focusing on influencing their development policies consequently.

The Alliance aims at playing a relevant political role at the EU level, as well as at the national and regional level when it comes to the promotion of good collaboration among LAs and CSOs in cooperation to development.



WTD Launching Conference, Brussels, Belgium

8.23 YwG: Youth wears Green!

Lead partner: ALDA, France

Other partners: Croatia: Local Democracy Agency Sisak; France: ALFA Vernon; Ireland: Newtowncunningham Community Development Initiative; Kosovo: Organizata Rinore Hareja Vushtrri, Association of Kosovo Municipalities; Georgia: Local Democracy Agency Georgia; Italy/Kosovo: Reggio Terzo Mondo – RTM, Associazione Trentino con il Kossovo; Italy: Associazione SUD – Solo Uguali Diritti; Serbia: Local Democracy Agency Subotica

Donor: European Commission

Timing: 02/12/2011 – 29/04/2012



Celebration of the “Earth Day” in Peja/Pec, Kosovo, within the “Youth wears Green” project

Purposes

Youth wears Green is a multilateral youth Exchange project, bringing together young people from France, Italy, Ireland, Georgia, Croatia, Serbia and Kosovo, and aiming at promoting active citizenship and volunteering at the local and European level, mainly on environmental issues.

This project is placed in the framework of the European Year of Volunteering as well as the global environmental challenges and Europe’s 2020 strategy. The European Year of Volunteering is emphasized as a way to contribute to the development of societies in all respects. The specific objective of this project is to raise young people’s awareness regarding environmental issues. But it aims at going further: through different activities focused on environmental issues, this project aims at increasing young people’s civic consciousness and commitment to protect the environment and contribute to the development of their societies, being active shapers of the future of their own communities and of Europe.

Activities

The whole implementation of the project will help young people to develop skills and competencies that they will be able to use in the long run in order to participate actively in the public life at the local and European level. The venue of this youth exchange is the municipality of Peja/Pec, Kosovo.

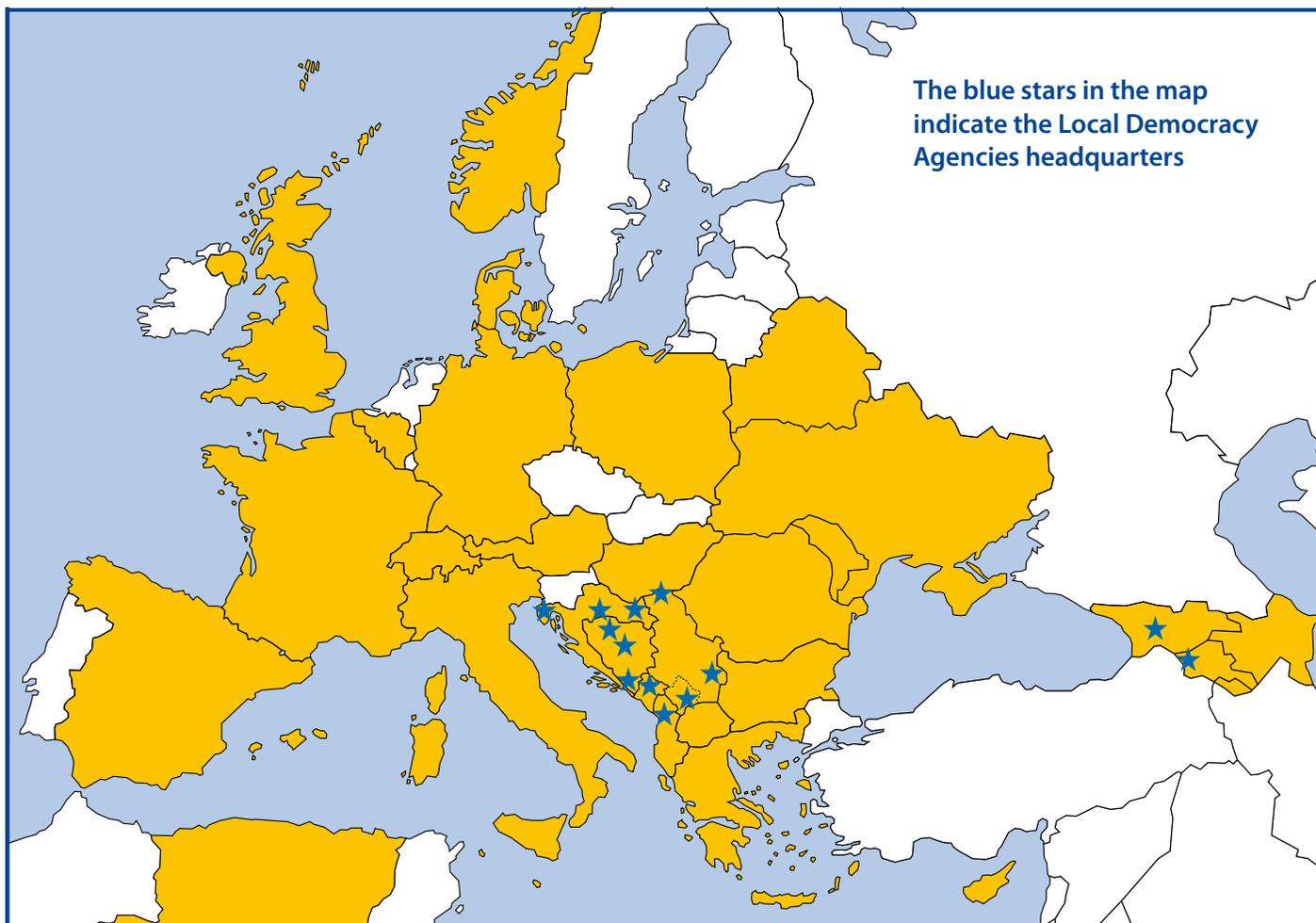
The main activity will last 10 days and will involve 41 people including the group leaders. Role plays, intercultural activities, working groups and excursions in the nature which will permit the active involvement of the participants, are foreseen during this exchange.

Successes Stories

The project just started and is destined to be a success, especially thanks to its methodology of non-formal education, which has the advantage of being voluntary and counts on the intrinsic motivation of its participants.

In addition, through non-formal education the participants acquire a life-long learning habit, which motivates them to be full citizens and to promote Democracy.

B. LDAs' ACTIVITIES



1. LDA Albania



Established in 2007

Lead partner: *Municipality of Brindisi, Italy*

Other partners: *Albania: Municipality of Shkodra, Association of Albanian Municipalities; Italy: Apulia Region, IPRES - Pugliese Institute of Social and Economic Research; Switzerland: Municipality of Yverdon les Bains*

Main priorities

- Strengthening cross-border and regional cooperation
- Supporting capacity building for local authorities NGOs
- Supporting citizens' participations
- Involving citizens to decision-making processes



- Supporting youth or women empowerment to micro-credits
- Supporting European Union integration

Purposes

In 2011 the LDA Albania focused on the following areas:

- Cross-border and regional co-operation
- Promoting EU integration and European values at local level through support and development of civil society and participation of all community elements in decision-making process on the local level
- Promotion of intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding in multiethnic local communities, focusing on human rights, education to peace, confidence building between different ethnic groups at local/regional level;
- Local democracy and local economic development;
- Capacity building and training programmes for local civil society and local self-government especially on EU integration, economic empowerment of marginalized groups, youth and women empowerment on micro-credits
- Cooperation with local and foreign Universities.

Activities

The LDA participated to two projects promoted by ALDA: "Stand Up" and "Goal". The LDA was the leader also of a project called BE.YEP.

Successes Stories

The LDA Albania focused on promoting activities in Shkodra and its province. The whole territory benefited of awareness activity, which are preparing the country to a future integration in the European Union. The LDA successfully cooperated with the young who grew in their awareness about EU values and the concept of European citizenship. The number of people who got acquainted of the existence of the LDA and its activities increased significantly across the year.

BE.YEP: Building Europe through Youth Empowerment and Partnership

Lead partner: LDA Albania

Other partners: Albania: *Intelektualet e rinj, Shprese (IRSH)*; Bosnia and Herzegovina: *LDA Mostar, LDA Zavidovici*; Bulgaria: *Balkan Assist Association, National Forum API*; France: *ALDA*; Greece: *ACRO NGO, ADEP S.A.- Patras Municipal Enterprise for Planning & Development S.*; Italy: *Progettarte, Municipality of Monfalcone*; Serbia: *City of Nis, LDA CSS*

Donor: European Commission, Youth in Action

Timing: 01/02/2011 – 31/06/2011



Two-days workshop about GOAL project, Shkodra, Albania, 11th-12th October 2011

Purposes

The project aimed at enhancing participation of young people in their own community as well as in the general framework of the European community, reduce youth unemployment, promote European Citizenship and Cultural diversity. The participants had the opportunity to interact and share their opinions, to improve their capacities of respecting the point of view of the others and to learn best practices.

Activities

The core of the project took place in Shkodra, Albania, through a 7days-event which focused on:

- establishing long-lasting relationship among partners;
- promoting tolerance and mutual understanding among the participants;
- creating a network to share ideas and knowledge;
- enhancing synergies among Balkan organizations and their counterparts in EU;

- strengthening the involvement of the local authorities in youth issues;
- put the basis for future projects (EVS other projects addressing youth, active citizenship and networking) among the participants and other stakeholders.

Successes Stories

The high level of youth participation produced the following main results:

- networking activities enhanced youth cooperation and participants' capacities;
- strengthened relations among youth organisations from European Union and South East Europe with an long term impact on civil society in Albania;
- raised participants' knowledge and skills on the Youth in Action Programme and the European Voluntary Service;
- improved participants' awareness on the key role of voluntarism to build a better and more participative Europe;
- stimulated intercultural exchanges, cultural understanding and improved sense of tolerance.

2. LDA Armenia

Established in 2011

Lead partner: *Region Rhône Alpes, France, to be confirmed by a vote in the regional parliament in Spring 2012*

Other partners: *Armenia: City of Gyumri (Host city, Union of Municipalities of Armenia, Association Shirak Gyumri, Association Journalist Club Asparez of Gyumri, Urban Foundation Armenia, ICHD - International Center for Human Development; Italy: Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region*

Donors: *Various, still TBC*

Timing: *Was opened with the signature of the Memorandum of understanding on October 28, 2011 in Gyumri, Armenia*



LDA Armenia Opening Ceremony, the ribbon cutting at the LDA Headquarters, Gyumri, Armenia, 28th October 2011

Main priorities

- Supporting the capacity building of local authorities and civil society in citizens' participation.
- Supporting the practises of citizens' participation in promoting sustainable tourism.



- Strengthening and developing regional cooperation and training activities for local staff.

Purposes

The purposes of the Local Democracy Agency in Armenia have been identified by partners as the following:

- The promotion of concrete initiatives to consolidate democracy at the local level.
- The development of institutions at the local level thanks to the exchange of know-how, training of the local councillors and territorial civil servants.
- The development of a pluralist civil society and the participation of all the components of society.
- The promotion of intercultural and interethnic dialogue.
- The promotion of respect of Human Rights.
- The promotion of regional and European cooperation.

Activities

The LDA was established with the official opening in Gyumri in October 2011. During the autumn of 2011 the partners conducted interviews and a selection process and by the end of the year Mr. David Sarkis Dolmadjian was confirmed as the delegate of the LDA.

The LDA is starting in 2012 and the partners are identifying its strategic plan.

Successes Stories

The LDA is already a success in terms of having a number of strong and very active partners – including partners who don't have a tradition for close cooperation.

Therefore the process of establishing the LDA has been an intense and complicated, but for sure also enriching process and experience.

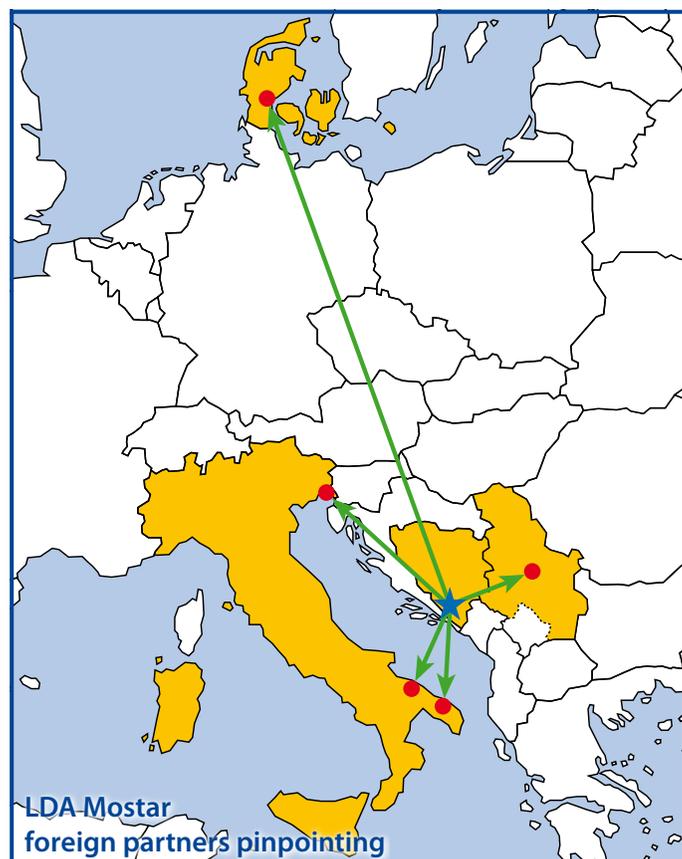


LDA Armenia Opening Ceremony, Press Conference, Gyumri, Armenia, 28th October 2011

3. LDA Mostar



Established in 2004
Lead partner: *Apulia Region, Italy*
Other partners: *BiH: City of Mostar (Host city); Denmark: Municipality of Vejle; Italy: City of Monfalcone, Province of Brindisi, NGO IPSIA; Serbia: City of Kragujevac*



Main priorities

- Creating active citizenship by involving citizens to decision-making processes
- Building up the capacities of local authorities for better local self government
- Supporting youth activism and position of women
- Strengthening the partnership networks (national and international) to develop strong national and regional cooperation programmes

Civil society in action for dialogue and partnerships

Lead partner: ALDA

Other partners: *Bosnia and Herzegovina: LDA Mostar, Forum of Citizens Tuzla, Democracy-Organizing-Progress (DON), Centre for Local development Breza, Democratic centre Nove nade Bihac; Croatia: LDA Osijek; Italy: Associazione Ambasciata della Democrazia Locale in Zavidovici; Serbia: LDA Subotica*

Donor: *Delegation of the EU to BiH*

Timing: *May 2011 – May 2013*

Purposes

The action is designed to strengthen the democratic role of NGOs in enhancing the citizens' participation in local policy and decision-making through promoting cooperation agreements and networking measures.

Activities

CSO's capacity building, awareness rising, exchange of good local practices.

Successes Stories

LDA Mostar benefited from this project through the development of its own resources, building larger and stronger networks and connections among the involved organizations and institutions.

MO.START-V: MOstar.STrategies and Activities to Realize Training in Video journalism

Lead partner: *Province of Gorizia, Italy*

Other partners: *Bosnia and Herzegovina: LDA Mostar, LiNK Mostar; Italy: KALLIPOLIS – associazione non profit per uno sviluppo urbano sostenibile; Fondazione Luchetta Ota D'Angelo Hrovatin O.N.L.U.S.*

Donor: *Friulia Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region, Italy*

Timing: *March 2010 – March 2011*



Public tribune, project MOstar.STrategies and Activities to Realize Training in Videojournalism, Mostar, BiH

Purposes

To improve the economic development of Mostar increasing opportunities for job placement of young people.

Activities

Professional training course on independent video journalism in Mostar; Professional training course on start-up business focused on culture and communication; Participatory planning Workshop; Start up the centre of video independent production; Organization of events in the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia for the awareness and promotion of the video documentaries produced by the project.

Successes Stories

By implementing this project LDA Mostar improved its connections and communication with the Italian Region Friulia Venezia Giulia, made new connections and cooperation with new partner organizations from Italy, and use the opportunity for creating new potential ideas of cooperation. LDA Mostar made good promotion of the project, and improve its visibility towards young people form City of Mostar.

Young beneficiaries of this project created a film about opened public spaces in the city, named "The shadows of the City of Mostar" (<http://vimeo.com/23319417>). They also made a film of the Neighbour's day event organised by LDA Mostar (www.youtube.com/watch?v=msxUPKCxDrw).

World Neighbours Day 2011

Lead partner: *LDA Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina*

Other partner: *City of Mostar (BiH)*

Donors: *France: ALDA; BiH: City of Mostar*

Timing: *May 2011*



World Neighbours Day 2011 in Mostar, BiH, 24th May 2011

Purposes

Strengthening the relationship among the neighbours.

Activities

LDA Mostar in cooperation with the local Administration and the City Council organized celebration of the World neighbours' day in two city locations with the participation of 6 local communities. This is the 3rd year that LDA Mostar celebrates this day as the first Bosnian member of the European Federation of Local Solidarity (more than 1.200 cities from over 20 countries all over the world). Every year one day in the last week of May more than 10 million citizens of the partner cities celebrates this festivity of neighbourhood and solidarity. In 2011 citizens of Mostar had the opportunity to talk with their political representatives and local officials, but also with the ambassadors and consuls of other countries.

Successes Stories

By implementing this project LDA Mostar established new and strengthened existing relationships with local authorities and citizens. It was a very good opportunity to promote de-

mocratic values, citizens' participation and the importance of the international networking. The event was promoted thanks to 7 local and BH TV and radio programs and many web portals published the information. The film was created by Mostar TV group (www.youtube.com/watch?v=msxUPKcXDrw).

POPoWO: People Organize Prevention from Water Overflowing

Lead partner: *Entrepreneurship and Business Association LiNK Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina*

Other partners: *Centre for Development of Herzegovina Trebinje, LDA Mostar, BiH*

Donor: *European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)*

Timing: *January 2010 – June 2012*

Purposes

Strengthening the role of civil society in initiating dialogue in the field of Popowo to consolidate political participation and representation of farmers, women and men.

Activities

Capacity building training workshops; training needs assessment of municipal officials, farmers, cooperatives and NGOs; establishment of informal network; sub-granting; small-scale projects implementation; conferences; roundtables.

Successes Stories

By implementing project POPOWO were established new contacts and potential partners in the surroundings of Mostar. By implementing activities, and working directly on the field, representatives of LDA Mostar had a chance to understand the problems of local citizens, and got from the grassroots new ideas for the potential new actions in the future.

PULS: Improvement of Local Government Services

Lead partner: LDA Mostar, BiH

Donor: Open Society Fund, BiH

Timing: December 2011 – December 2012

Purposes

Improving accountability and efficiency of local authorities in Bosnia Herzegovina in the provision of public services and meet the real needs of citizens through a more active role of civil society.

Activities

Application of PULSE methodology in 25 cities of Bosnia Herzegovina to improve public services, which will allow representatives of civil society to influence the effective operation of local government accountability.



Project Councillor-Citizen, Training for councillors, Mostar, BiH, 18th March 2011

LDA Mostar implemented this project in 3 cities of Bosnia Herzegovina: through questionnaire; processing of results; data processing and reporting; communication of results; media campaign.

Successes Stories

By implementing this project LDA Mostar improved its communication with the donor, improve its position in local community and gain more exact data from the field, about the problems and needs in local community.

Councillor-Citizen

Lead partner: LDA Mostar, BiH

Donors: Italy: Apulia Region; BiH: Open Society Fund

Timing: December 2009 – December 2011

Purposes

Direct inclusion of citizens into the decision-making process, which is an indispensable foundation for the development and stability of the local community.

Activities

Training for the councillors; researches and action of raising awareness of authorities to identify and meet the real citizen's needs; organization of 7 public tribunals; centre for legal aid; promotional campaign.

Successes Stories

By implementing this project LDA Mostar established new relations and strengthened existing partnership with local authorities and citizens.

The Promotion of European Charter for equality of women and men in local life

Lead partner: Fenomena Association, Serbia

Other partners: Bosnia Herzegovina: LDA Mostar; Montenegro: Anima – Centre for women's and peace education; Serbia: LDA Nis; Sweden: The Kvinna till Kvinna foundation (branch office in Belgrade)

Donor: European Commission

Timing: December 2011 – December 2012



European Charter for equality of women and men in local life, Opening conference Kraljevo, Serbia

Purposes

Contribution to development of the local gender sensitive policies, measures and budgeting in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro.

Activities

- Publishing in local language the publications: "European Charter for equality of women and men in local life", "Guide for the implementation of European Charter for equality of women and men in local life" and "Town for equality";
- Kick off Conference "Equality of women and men in local life" for representatives of local authorities. Topic addressed: European gender equality standards, content and values of European Charter for equality of women and men in local life;
- Creation of a team to prepare the Local Action Plans for the implementation of the Charter in the partner cities (Mostar, Niš Municipality Mediana, Kotor and Kraljevo);
- Training on how to develop an action plan about gender equality (target: representatives of each involved town);
- Establishing working teams in charge of Local Action Plans;

- Public presentation of a final Equality Action Plan;
- Signing the protocol on cooperation between organizations and institutions participating in teams;
- Signing the European Charter for equality of women and men in local life;
- Launching an Internet website www.gradovi-za-ravno-pravnost.org;
- Media and on-line gender equality campaign;
- Local researches and analyses of the gender based statistic data relevant for creation of local action plans;
- Closing conference.

Successes Stories

LDA Mostar improved its connections and communication with the LDA Centre South Serbia, made new connections and cooperation with new partner organizations from Serbia and Montenegro, and used the opportunity for creating new potential ideas for the future cooperation. Thanks this project LDA Mostar will have a direct influence to the decision making processes in the City of Mostar.

Volunteering in Human Rights Education

Lead partner: LDA Mostar, BiH

Other partners: Albania: LDA Albania; Croatia: LDA Osijek; Hungary: Szimbiózis; Italy: Associazione TDM 2000; Montenegro: LDA Montenegro; Portugal: Ananda Cooperativa Cultural; Romania: Asociatia TDM2000; Serbia: LDA Subotica; Turkey: Kocaeli Higher Education Group

Donor: Youth in Action EACEA

Timing: August 2011 – December 2011

Purposes

To promote the inclusion and to increase participation of marginalized young people to the development of the society and in building the future Europe, to increase up the awareness on the importance of mutual understanding

and cultural diversity for a better life conditions of European citizens.

Activities

Intercultural training course “Volunteering in Human rights education” on Human Rights Education addressed to youth leaders or for active young people that wish to work further on their self-development in the youth sector. 7 days training gathered 30 participants from partner countries.

Successes Stories

LDA Mostar improved its visibility towards young people from the City of Mostar. LDA Mostar staff improved its knowledge and skills in writing project proposals for YiA program, as this was first project approved by this donor for the LDA Mostar.



Intercultural training course “Volunteering in Human rights education”, Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina

4. LDA Prijedor



Established in 2000

Lead partner: Association Project Prijedor, Italy. It includes: Italian Municipalities of Aldeno, Baselga di Pinè, Borgo Valsugana, Caderzone, Caldonazzo, Cavalese, Grumes,

Lavis, Levico, Massimeno, Pergine Valsugana, Pinzolo, Predazzo, Ronzo Chienis, Spiazzo, Tassullo, Trento and Varena; Districts of Valle dell'Adige and of Alta Valsugana; Cooperative of Social promotion L'Anкора, Association Trentino in the World, Association The Mosaic, Association The Joy, Association CISV, Association Yugo 94

Other partners: BiH: Municipality of Prijedor (Host city); Italy: ALDA Office in Vicenza, SPI-CGIL Friuli Venezia Giulia

Main priorities

- Supporting citizens' participation
- Supporting the democratic process at the local level
- Fostering the social network between citizens, organizations and institutions
- Supporting social inclusion and local development
- Contribution to the work on memory

Youth journalism 2011

Lead partner: Trentino con i Balcani, Italy

Other partners: BiH: LDA of Prijedor; Kosovo: LDA Kosovo; Serbia: LDA CSS - Kraljevo Office; Italy: Association Project Prijedor

Donor: Autonomous Province of Trento

Timing: October 2011 – January 2012

Purposes

Learning about journalism and its tools and making reportage on social issue; raising awareness about the social issues for young people.

Activities

- 4 two-days learning and practicing seminars
- follow up meeting
- final seminar

A preparatory work on collecting material on life of disabled people in Prijedor was implemented. Bunch of information, statistics and other useful material were presented during the seminar in Prijedor.

During the seminars following steps were also set, as well as concrete information about how to make an interview. The final activity is the meeting in Kraljevo foreseen for January 2012.



Successes Stories

A group of young people was successfully trained on how to recognize and record good and important elements of news to be promoted through mass media.

Personal (hi)stories

Lead partner: *Trentino con i Balcani, Italy*

Other partners: *Kosovo: LDA Kosovo; Serbia: LDA CSS*

Donor: *Autonomous Province of Trento, Italy*

Timing: *January – December 2011*

Purposes

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



Seminar of the project "Youth journalism 2011", Prijedor, BiH

Activities

Its purpose is to tell and give voice to the personal histories and experiences related to some of the major events that marked the history of the last decades. A final documentary with interviews of people of all ages from different regions (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Kosovo) was produced and presented during a series of events in the cities of Nis, Kraljevo, Prijedor, Peja/Pec.

Successes Stories

Project brought closer people from different communities in the region and offered a new and not obvious perspective on a common recent history to the broader public.

Bekim Fehmiu: Richness lost in silence

Lead partner: *Trentino con i Balcani, Italy*

Other partners: *Kosovo: LDA Kosovo; Serbia: LDA CSS*

Donor: *Autonomous Province of Trento, Italy*

Timing: *April – December 2011*

Purposes

The objective of the project was to promote the cultural heritage common to the three territories involved within a perspective of fostering a positive knowledge and elaboration of the memory of the past with different communities

Activities

The idea of the exhibition "Bekim Fehmiu – Richness lost in silence" developed from a group of youth coming from the three territories involved in the project - Bosnia Herzegovina, Kosovo and Serbia – territories which played a key role in the life of the Yugoslavian and international actor Bekim Fehmiu.

Successes Stories

Besides creating a youth working group at the regional level the project allowed to participating youth to rediscover a key figure of their common history.

Memory and conflict elaboration and transformation area

Lead partners: BiH: LDA Prijedor; Italy: Trentino con i Balcani; Kosovo: LDA Kosovo; Serbia: LDA CSS

Other partners: BiH: Civic Forum Prijedor, Youth organisations from Prijedor; Italy: Fondazione Museo Storico del Trentino, Forum Trentino per la Pace e i Diritti Umani, Osservatorio Balcani e Caucaso, Università di Bologna – Centri interdipartimentali TraMe e CUBE, ARCI Cooperazione e Sviluppo; Serbia: Dokukino – Belgrado

Donor: Autonomous Province of Trento, Italy

Timing: 2011

Purposes

Foster opportunities of dialogue, improving coexistence among communities through a shared reflection on past, present and future in a perspective of conflict elaboration.

Activities

- Training and exchanges among volunteers and operators.
- Establishment of local associations and informal groups dealing with conflict elaboration or the involvement of partners already working in other areas.
- Public initiatives promoting debate: meeting with the authors, cineforums, testimonies, synergy with youth issues.
- Comparative research on monuments and their histories.

Successes Stories

- Implemented opportunities of exchange and dialogue on

the memory of the past in the three selected territories.

- Stimulated visible actions involving the local institutions.
- Created platforms of exchange and research on the history and memory with groups and communities at the local and regional level and with Trentino
- Raised awareness on the dimension of conflict transformation in the areas of intervention of the Tavoli organizations.

International youth fair 2011

Lead partner: Association Project Prijedor, Italy

Other partners: BiH: Ministry for family, youth and sport of Republic of Srpska through the youth organization "Stop drugs" Prijedor and Arcelor Mittal Prijedor

Donors: BiH: Arcelor Mittal Foundation Prijedor and Ministry for family, youth and sport of Republic of Srpska; Italy: Autonomous Province of Trento

Timing: May 2011



International youth fair 2011 involved a network of twenty-seven youth organizations from four countries

Purposes

To promote youth activism through the networking of youth organizations in South-Eastern Europe and in the EU with local and national institutions through joint projects.

Activities

- Fair with 27 youth organizations from 4 countries;
- Sports competition;
- Round table on "Youth policy at the local level and exchange of experiences on fundraising for youth projects";
- Live music concert: 2 rock band from Prijedor and Trento.

Successes Stories

The fair allowed to enhance networking among the involved organizations. A new partner joined the LDA Prijedor: Ministry for family, youth and sport of Republic of Srpska.

Local Area Development: promotion of tourism and territory manager

Lead partners: *BiH: Association Promotur; Italy: Trentino con i Balcani*

Other partners: *Kosovo: Association "Rugova Experience" Pec/Peja; Serbia: Association "Sodalis" Kraljevo*

Donor: *Autonomous Province of Trento, Italy*

Timing: *1/01/2011- 31/12/2011*

Purposes

Enhancement and protection of wealth and potential of the territories in Prijedor, Kraljevo and Peja/Pec. In particular:

1. Increasing the sensitivity of local citizens and promoting synergies of action on sustainable development;
2. Encouraging the tourism and the promotion of the three territories at the local, regional and international level;
3. Enriching the tourist offer of lands involving a larger

number of subjects and local experiences;

4. Strengthening local organizations and operators' capacities on technical expertise and market.

Activities

1. Processing new itineraries and cultural tours;
2. Development Network Promotur BiH;
3. Research on traditional dishes of national minorities in Prijedor and in the area of Stivor;
4. Research on the tourism potentiality of the municipalities of Prijedor, Ljubija Stivor, Martin Brod
5. Drafting educational materials
6. Creation of the Website : www.promoturpd.org
7. Attendance at local fairs
8. Organization of the "Responsible tourism" fair in Prijedor "Zlatne ruke Potkozarja"

Successes Stories

The project was appreciated at local level and the activities were well attended.

- Increased number of tourists in the area of Prijedor
- An original research was carried out on traditional dishes.



Promotion of tourism: traditional dishes of national minorities in Prijedor and in the area of Stivor

Improving the quality of life of old people in the territory of Prijedor

Lead partner: Association Project Prijedor, Italy

Other partners: BiH: Retirement home of Prijedor, Social Services Centre in Prijedor; Club of the Elders of Ljubija, Association of women widows "Bridges of Friendship" by Rizvanovici

Donors: Italy: Municipality of Trento, Autonomous Province of Trento, Association Progetto Prijedor and other towns of Trento and private donors

Timing: 1/01/2011- 31/12/2011



Monitoring of social sector for elderly people quality of life, Prijedor, BiH, February 2011

Purposes

To improve the life quality of old people in Prijedor, decrease their isolation and poverty, increase their social inclusion.

Activities

The project involves the financing of activities in three day centres for older people in Ljubija, Rizvanovici and Prijedor.

1. Leisure activities

- Employment and creative activities: development of laboratories for the creation of art crafts;
- Recreational activities;
- Gymnastic activities.

2. Humanitarian activities (Ljubija and Prijedor)

- Purchase and distribution of second-hand clothes (Ljubija);
- Provision of humanitarian packages (Ljubija);
- Preparation and distribution of hot meals (Prijedor).

3. Medical assistance and home

- Measurement of pressure and blood glucose, purchase and distribution of drugs needed;
- Monthly Consulting Service by a psychologist;
- Home visits by care assistants (Ljubija and Rizvanovici).

4. Promotion

- Presentation for the three day centres in local media;
- Distribution of promotional brochures.

5. Motivating older people attending day centres

- A round table and distributing information materials.

6. Guardianship from the distance

Successes Stories

1. A large proportion of older people participating actively.
2. Humanitarian packages and hot meals for at least 35 elderly members of the day care centre Ljubija and Prijedor.
3. Provided home care for 20 elderly members of the day care and Ljubija Rizvanovici.
4. Older people receiving centres Ljubija Rizvanovici Prijedor are better informed on the preservation of their health.
5. More awareness on the elderly and non-institutional care.
6. Increased older people interested in attending day centres.
7. The economic and social situation of 400 families has been improved: at the beginning 700 families from Prijedor were "adopted" on distance by families from Trentino

5. LDA Zavidovići



Established in 1997

Lead partner: Association for Local Democracy Embassy in Zavidovići, composed of: Italy: Association of Local Authorities of Brescia, Municipality of Alba, Municipality of Roncadelle, Municipality of Torre de Picanardi, Trade Union SPI-CGIL, Inter-University Consortium (Venice), NGO Liberacion Carpenedolo, Local Coordination for Peace of Cremona, Arci New Organization, NGO CGIL, NGO SPI-CGIL, UISP Brescia, UISP Cremona, Friends of Emmaus, Association Strani Vari, Association Donne in nero (Alba); Bosnia and Herzegovina: Municipality of Zavidovici (Host city)



Main priorities

- Strengthening activities in the key sectors youth policies, social welfare and sustainable economic development
- Increasing in each sector the net of local actors involved, promoting their role, animating and supporting them through LDA's Italian partners and network
- Enlarging the relationship with local and international NGOs, Bosnian institutions and foreign authorities
- Supporting local NGOs, active in social/educative fields

Development of local economies in the Zenica-Doboj Canton

Lead partner: LDA Zavidovići

Other partners: BiH: Local Associations of farmers from Zavidovići and Zepce; Italy: Association Buona Terra, University of Padua, Cinsa (Italian Universities Consortium on Environmental Sciences), CRPV of Cesena

Donors: Italy: Lombardia Region, CGIL of Crema, Municipality of Roncadelle, Province of Cremona

Timing: 2010-2012

Purposes

The project aims at fostering local economic development, supporting agricultural and hand-crafted production. Besides, the project is focused on developing a strong local food culture through educational programs, networking opportunities and increased availability of locally grown food.

Activities

- Definition of the farming plans for each farmer
- Production of small plants and seeding of the first new varieties; distribution among selected farmers
- Setting up of a selling point
- Scholarships for two students from agriculture Faculty in Sarajevo

Successes Stories

The first goal has been achieved through demonstrating diversification of agricultural products in the selected areas of each involved farm. In 2011 LDA Zavidovići succeeded in diversifying products and increasing the household incomes of the 25 targeted farmer families through training, consultancy, technical support and the creation of a market linkages with buyer and in creating opportunities to grow and sell locally.

Development of competitive production model for sustainable agriculture

Lead partner: *Municipality of Zavidovići, BiH*

Other partners: *BiH: LDA Zavidovići, Local Development Agency Zavidovići*

Donors: *Italy: MFA of Italy - SeeNet II, Piedmont Region*

Timing: *2010-2012*



Development of local economies in the Zenica-Doboj Canton, the president of LDA Zavidovići with a local farmer

Purposes

Objective of the project is to contribute to reduce poverty and improve socio-economic situation in the territory of municipality Zavidovići. It is designed to increase income in rural households whose basic activity is agriculture.

Activities

- Diversification of agricultural production
- Strengthening farmers' skills activities
- Provide some equipment and means for improvement of production (green houses, cultivators) and of quality of products

Successes Stories

The relation with local authority as partner leader was great and put the basis of strengthening future joint activities.

Cremona meets Zavidovići

Lead partner: *LDA Zavidovići*

Other partners: *BiH: Municipality of Zavidovići; Italy ARCI Cremona, CGIL Cremona, CGIL Crema, UISP Cremona*

Donor: *Italy: Coordinamento Provinciale degli Enti Locali per la Pace e la Cooperazione Internazionale*

Timing: *2011*

Purposes

Expanding cooperation and solidarity between the involved stakeholders.

Activities

A delegation from the Province of Cremona, represented by its Network of Municipalities for Peace and civil society organizations, visited Zavidovići.

Successes Stories

Friendship and solidarity relations between two territories have been confirmed and planned future actions on decentralized cooperation and social field, thanks also to the new established contacts.

Town-Twinning between Roncadelle and Zavidovići Municipalities

Lead partner: LDA Zavidovići

Other partner: BiH: Municipality of Zavidovići

Donor: Italy: Municipality of Roncadelle

Timing: 1/01/2011 – 31/12/2011

Purposes

- Promote a culture of peace within the local communities.
- Favour international cooperation to support the development of marginalized regions.
- Promote the development of economic exchanges.



Enlargement of the separate waste collection system in the urban area of Zavidovići

Activities

Several sport exchanges, such as volleyball and basketball tournament, and institutional visits have been organized all over the year.

Successes Stories

The relation between the two communities of Zavidovići, Bosnia Herzegovina, and Roncadelle, Italy, was enhanced and mutually enriched the two areas.

Enlargement of the separate waste collection system in the urban area of Zavidovići

Lead partner: LDA Zavidovići

Other partners: BiH: Municipality of Zavidovići, JKP "Radnik" Zavidovići; Italy: Municipality of Alba, ERICA Alba, Cetamb Brescia

Donors: Italy: Piedmont Region, Municipality of Alba

Timing: 2010-2011

Purposes

The project aims to increase cooperation between Italian and Bosnian stakeholders in the field of waste management.

Activities

- Realization of a pilot action on recycling.
- Implementation of an ecological area for the separation of recyclable materials.
- Study visit in Italy on occasion of international conference "young builders of a sustainable world of appropriate technology, and international voluntary".
- Wide educational program in the schools and an informative campaign.

- Exchange of best practices between the Municipality of Alba and of Zavidovići.
- Socio-economic analysis of roma informal waste collection in Zavidovići.

Successes Stories

Raised awareness on waste management among public and private stakeholders, reinforced level of competences of administrators and technicians from Zavidovići Municipality; initiated separation of recyclable materials in cooperation with local Roma community and schools.

A safe place for victims of domestic violence: accompaniment to autonomy and development of local resources

Lead partner: LDA Zavidovići

Other partners: BiH: Municipality of Zavidovići, Ass. "Sigurno mjesto", several primary and high schools, Association "Žena-Ženi", Kindergarten Zavidovići; Italy: Ser.T. Asl CN 2 – Alba Bra, Social Welfare Center of Alba Langhe Roero, University of South-East Piedmont – Department of Social Research, Association Mai piu sole

Donors: Italy: Piedmont Region, Municipality of Alba

Timing: 2011-2012

Purposes

The project aims at developing initiatives to support victims of domestic violence and to enhance awareness of the culture that produces and legitimizes violence itself, through the action of the local network active for over three and a half years and of the "Sigurno Mjesto" (A safe place), a newly established association.

Activities

- Implement measures to prevent domestic violence and raise awareness about the gender relations.
- Provide services to accompany the victims of violence and to support the economic independence of them.
- The strengthening and development of the local network against domestic violence involving inside the Association "Sigurno Mjesto".

Successes Stories

Reinforced actions to strengthen activities in the field of prevention of domestic violence and raising awareness on gender issues in cooperation with partners from Alba, Italy.



A safe place for victims of domestic violence: accompaniment to autonomy and development of local resources

Youth exchange: "Back to future"

Lead partner: Coop. O.R.So - Torino and Alba, Italy

Other partners: Croatia: LDA Osijek; France: Ligue de l'Enseignement de Bourgogne, Antenne de Saône et Loire; Lithuania: Vilnius SOS children village; Serbia: LDA Niš

Donor: European Commission – Youth in Action

Timing: 2011

Purposes

To support participants, especially young, to think about and analyse which is their role in the construction of their future and protection of their "right" to have minimum conditions to realize themselves.

Activities

The 9-days exchange "Back to the future" has been implemented in December 2011, in Alba, Italy. It involved 6 countries: Italy, Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, France, Lithuania and Serbia and participants were 36 youngsters and 12 youth leaders.

Successes Stories

The exchange helped the participants to understand the existing tight connection between individual and collective dimension of the concept of "right to future". They learnt to get responsibility of social wellness and to be aware of the fact that represents the best way to protect personal wellness.

Strani-vari 2011: summer activities for children

Lead partner: LDA Zavidovići

Other partners: BiH: Municipality of Zavidovići, Association "Ceker"; Italy: Association "Strani Vari" - Alba, "Il Ciabotto" - Alba, Baccano Balcanico, Firenze

Donors: Italy: Municipality of Alba, Association "Strani Vari"

Timing: 1st January – 31st December 2011

Purposes

The project had past editions since 2003 and its goal is the organisation of summer training activities for children, involving Italian and Bosnian young

Activities

The main results achieved was the growing autonomy



Strani-Vari 2011, summer training activities involving Italian and Bosnian children since 2003, Zavidovići, BiH

of the Bosnian animators from the Italian ones. Since 2008 they have been successfully independently in charge of the organisation and implementation of the activities in two urban schools.

The Italians carried out the ones planned in the rural areas. Besides that increasing number of children, animators in villages have been involved.

Successes Stories

Strengthening capacity of working together of Italian and Bosnian volunteers: Exchange of knowledge and skills among Italian and Bosnian partners

Educational services for children and young people in rural areas of Zavidovići

Lead partner: LDA Zavidovići

Other partner: BiH: Association "Ceker" Zavidovići

Donors: Italy: Consulta per la pace – Brescia, Fondazione della Comunità Bresciana

Timing: 2011-2012

Purposes

The Ludobus promotes citizens' participation, the respect of the dignity and differences of each human being.

Activities

Lda Zavidovići in cooperation with local youth association "Ceker" offered animation for children of four distant rural areas. The Ludobus is a real bus which provides animation, cultural and educational activities, and on the other hand opportunities to meet and be involved to young volunteers.



Ludobus, educational services for children and young people in rural areas of Zavidovići, BiH

Successes Stories

In 2011 LDA Zavidovići has been present in all rural schools in territory of Zavidovići. 20 young animators were involved and over 1.000 children participated.

Exchange between kindergarten teachers in Alba and Zavidovići

Lead partner: LDA Zavidovići

Other partners: BiH: Kindergarten of Zavidovići, Municipality of Zavidovići; Italy: 3 primary schools in Alba

Donor: Italy: Municipality of Alba

Timing: 2011

Purposes

The project focused on transferring to Zavidovići teachers an educational approach used by the Alba teachers, based

on transmission of contents from teacher to child through collection knowledge from children, developing of cognitive maps and work on plan organization with logical connection.

Activities

Thanks to the cooperation with the primary schools of Alba, the teachers of the kindergarten of Zavidovići have developed a common action plan to be realized both in Zavidovići and Alba. The actors involved compared the methodology and the results achieved during the trip to Italy and designed a follow up for the following period.

Successes Stories

Successful transfer of a new work methodology and experience from Italian to Bosnian kindergarten.

The 14th edition of “Vivicittà” (Live your town!)

Lead partner: LDA Zavidovići

Other partners: BiH: Municipality of Zavidovići, Association of Zavidovići sport teachers, Association of Athletics “Krivaja”, Basketball Club “Krivaja”, Female Volleyball Club from Zavidovići; Italy: UISP Brescia, UISP Cremona, high schools from Brescia and Cremona

Donor: Italy: UISP Brescia and Cremona

Timing: 2011

Purposes

This is an international race, which takes place in many countries around the world. The aim is to promote friendship, solidarity and peace.



Vivicittà, 14th edition, international street race to promote friendship, solidarity and peace, Zavidovići, BiH, April 2011

Activities

In April 2011 the 14th edition of the foot run “Vivicittà” took place, with the participation of students from the high schools of Brescia, Cremona and Zavidovići.

Besides, several sport events, volleyball, basket and football matches, were held.

Successes Stories

More than 500 persons attended these events and raised their awareness on common values of friendship, solidarity and peace. Fruitful exchange between Italian and Bosnian community took place.

LDA Osijek



Established in 1993

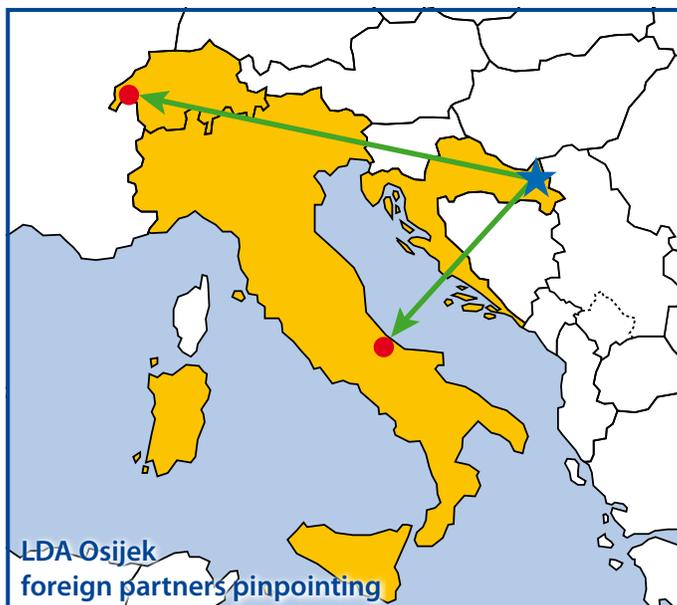
Lead partner: City of Lausanne, Switzerland

Other partners: Croatia: City of Osijek (Host city), Erdut Municipality; Italy: Municipality of Montenero di Bisaccia

Montenero di Bisaccia

Main priorities

- Democratic governance and active European citizenship
- Social inclusion and intercultural dialogue
- Local Sustainable Development



Local Cooperation and Intercultural Training

Lead partners: France: *Peuple et Culture*; Germany: *Interkulturelles Netzwerk*

Other partners: Croatia: *Local Democracy Agency Osijek*; Serbia: *Volonterski centar Vojvodine*

Donor: France/Germany: *French German Youth Office*

Timing: March 2011 – June 2012

Purposes

- To develop informal network of youth workers from France, Germany, Croatia and Serbia to serve as intercultural exchange platform between involved countries
- To train 20 participants to design and implement intercultural youth exchanges
- To support intercultural dialogue among young people from 4 countries
- To support regional cooperation

Activities

- Training for youth leaders of intercultural youth exchanges, Neuruppin, Germany, 17th-24th June 2011 (first part)
- Preparation of the second training to take place in Sete, France, which will be held in January 2012

Successes Stories

The participants acquired new skills, knowledge and experience on intercultural dialogue and they put the basis for develop intercultural youth exchanges.

Volunteering in human rights education

Lead partner: *LDA Mostar, BiH*

Other partners: *Albania: LDA Shkoder; Croatia: LDA Osijek; Hungary: Koceali Higher Education Group-Turkey, Szimbiozis; Italy: Association TDM; Montenegro: LDA Niksic; Portugal: Annanda Cooperativa; Romania: Association TDM; Serbia: Centar lokalne demokratije Subotica*

Donor: *European Commission*

Timing: *September 2011 – December 2011*

Purposes

- To empower youth leaders, workers and trainers to develop strategies to address racism, xenophobia, discrimination and gender-based intolerance
- To prepare young people to plan and run youth activities on Human Rights Education
- To give to the participants new tools to work with youth especially on the topic of respecting other people rights.
- To familiarise participants with human rights education and discuss how to adapt them to their local contexts.
- To establish “bridges” of relations among the partners and other organizations active in promoting human rights education and therefore to foster cooperation
- To facilitate intercultural dialogue

Activities

- Intercultural training course on Human Rights Education in Mostar, BiH (3rd-10th November 2011)
- Preparation of follow up workshops on human rights to take place in local community

Successes Stories

The intercultural training as the central activity of this project was a perfect opportunity for intercultural learning, networking and capacity building of involved volunteers interested in developing activities and projects on the topic of human rights. It inspired the participants from the European Union to share their creativity and experience and transfer them to young people in the town of Osijek, Croatia.

Euromob 1957-2011

Lead partner: *France: Euroculture en Pays Gentian*

Other partners: *Croatia: Local Democracy Agency Osijek; Italy: Associazione di promozione sociale Joint, Milano; Slovenia: Centre for free time activities, Ptuj*

Donor: *European Commission, Youth in Action Programme*

Timing: *May 2011 – December 2011*



Local cooperation and intercultural training, Neuruppin, Germany, June 2011

Purposes

- To facilitate intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding
- To discover cultures from different countries through arts
- To give opportunity to young people to discover mobility in its different forms: physical mobility, mobility through culture, space and time

Activities

- Recruiting participants from Croatia
- Intercultural youth exchange in Cantal, France (23rd July 2011 – 14th August 2011)
- Preparation and dissemination of a thematic newsletter about the youth exchange

Successes Stories

Croatian participants not only experienced and discovered some of their new artistic talents but they also improved their foreign language competences.



Euromob 1957-2011 - youth exchange, Youth in Action, France, Summer 2011

Back to the future

Lead partner: *Cooperativa sociale O.R.SO, Italy*

Other partners: *BiH: LDA Zavidovići; Croatia: LDA Osijek; France: Ligue de l'Enseignement de Bourgogne – Antenne de Saône et Loire; Lithuania: SOS Children's Villages; Serbia: Local Democracy Centre – LDA Niš*

Donor: *European Commission, Youth in Action Programme*

Timing: *October 2011 – March 2012*

Purposes

- To promote active citizenship and community participation and help youth participants to better understand their responsibilities towards the future
- To improve participants build their self-confidence
- To guide youth into a peer-education/peer-information process

Activities

- Recruiting participants from Croatia
- Advanced planning visit to Alba, Italy
- Youth exchange in Alba, Italy (3rd -11th December 2011)
- Preparation and dissemination of a thematic newsletter about the youth exchange

Successes Stories

Croatian participants assisted the LDA Osijek in promotion of this youth exchange by writing their stories for the thematic newsletter that was developed after the exchange. One of the participants – Josipa, wrote "If you want to change the world, you need to change yourself": that is one of the lessons young people learned through this project.

Marking of the European Week in the town of Osijek

Lead partner: LDA Osijek, Croatia

Other partners: Croatia: primary school Tenja; Regional Development Agency of Slavonia and Baranja Ltd.; Council for European Integrations of Osijek-Baranja County, Osijek-Baranja County

Timing: April – May 2011

Purposes

- To mark Day of Europe and European week in Osijek
- To inform citizens about European issues and values and about the process of Croatia's accession to EU
- To teach primary school children about EU symbols, values and countries

Activities

- Preparation of a public information activity



Project "Back to the future", Youth exchange in Alba, Italy, December 2011

- Dissemination of information material on EU
- EU workshops for primary school pupils

Successes Stories

Primary school teachers as well as pupils welcomed and were enthusiastic about the cooperation with LDA Osijek in the implementation of EU workshops. Creative and interactive workshops were pilot activities and they will be further developed and upgraded in the future.

Partners Meeting 2011

Lead partner: LDA Osijek, Croatia

Other partners: Croatia: LDA Brtonigla/Verteneglio; France: Peuple et Culture; Germany: Interkulturelles Netzwerk; Serbia: Volonterski centar Vojvodine; Switzerland: City of Lausanne

Donor: European Commission

Timing: January 2011 – December 2011

Purposes

Strengthening of existing relations and initiating of new partnerships and cooperation opportunities for LDA Osijek.

Activities

- Partners meeting in Osijek, Croatia
- Partners meeting in Dalj, Croatia
- Partners meeting in Neuruppin, Germany

Successes Stories

During this year's partners meetings LDA Osijek successfully identified new partners and new cooperation opportunities especially within the Life Long Learning Programme of the EC (Grundtvig). The new partners will allow the LDA to enlarge its activities and be more effective in good results in the country.

7. LDA Sisak



Established in 1996

Lead partner: ALDA, France

Other partners: Croatia: Municipality of Sisak (Host city), Municipality of Hrvatska Kostajnica, Municipality of Petrinja, Municipality

of Kutina, Municipality of Dvor; Italy: NGO "Going to Europe", Modena; Northern Ireland: International School for Peace Studies

Main priorities

- Fostering voluntarism and active citizenship
- Contribution to the local economic development
- Fostering local democracy and twinning
- Raising awareness about Human rights, gender issues

Volunteering for cross-border Local Community Development

Lead partners: Croatia: LDA Sisak; Bosnia and Herzegovina: Youth Communication Centre Banja Luka

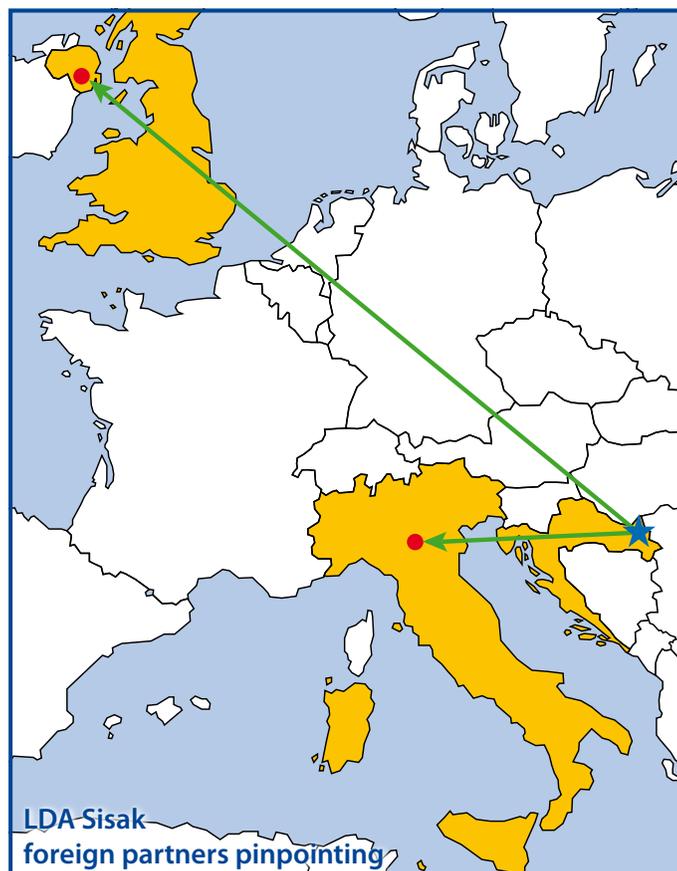
Other partners: BiH: Association Women form Una (Bihać) and Association BiosPlus (Derventa); Croatia: Association Iks (Petrinja), Disabled persons' Association OSI (Kutina), City of Sisak, City of Kutina, City of Petrinja

Donors: European Commission, Office for Civil Society Organisations of Republic of Croatia Government

Timing: February 2011 – February 2013

Purposes

The project is contributing to creation of innovative community-based services in border area through establishment of five voluntary services - three in Croatia, Sisak, Kutina and Petrinja, and two in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bihać and Derventa. The project will contribute to establishment of cross-border networking between local authorities, civil society and social partners by defining six local voluntary policies in the towns included in the project. These policies will define measures for improving economical and social development of targeted local communities.



Moreover, it will help enhancing quality of life and social cohesion in border area by forming cross-border voluntary network in six towns. Two voluntary work camps will be organized, one in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and one in Croatia, gathering 60 volunteers to discuss relevant cross-border social issues and initiate change oriented activities.

Successes Stories

The project is not finished yet but 3 volunteer' centres (Sisak, Bihać and Derventa) have been already opened and 2 more will be opened in 2012 (Petrinja and Sisak). A process of development of local voluntary policies has been started up and this is a great success since it is the first policy of this kind in Croatia.

Citizens' participation in Rural Development

Lead partner: Croatia: Croatian Institute for Local Self-government, Osijek

Other partners: Croatia: LDA Sisak, European House Slavonki Brod, European House Vukovar, S.O.S. Poziv u pomoc Virovitica

Donor: Croatia: Croatian National Foundation for Civil Society Development

Timing: January 2011 – December 2011

Purposes

The project is dealing with informing, motivating and educating civil and public sector representatives, aiming at capacity building for democratic and multi-sartorial creation of local rural development public policies. General objective is to increase local self-government democratic level in Croatia according to European principles of good practice, multi-stakeholder public government and partici-

pative democracy in five Croatian Counties.

Activities

Awareness rising activities in five Croatian Counties on IPARD Program of the EU; 10 educational seminars on IPARD Program gathering all community stakeholders; Networking meeting for Local Action groups from five Croatian Counties; six local stakeholders meetings; exchange study visit.

Enabling Local Democracy

Lead partner: Croatia: Association Iks, Petrinja

Other partner: Croatia: LDA Sisak

Donor: Croatia: Croatian National Foundation for Civil Society Development

Associates: Croatia: Cities of Petrinja and Glina, Municipality of Dvor

Timing: December 2009 – April 2011



Cross-border voluntary camp Croatia-Bosnia and Herzegovina, August 2011

Purpose

To help build consensus, reconciliation and peace building in Petrinja, Glina and Dvor, by fostering active participation of women belonging to different ethnic groups.

Activities

Target groups were women belonging to different ethnic backgrounds, non-governmental organisations, institutions and citizens from the targeted and neighbouring communities.

The project objective was met through implementation of different activities: training of community women leaders, setting up and functioning of three multicultural women's action groups, certificated computers courses, English language courses, creative workshops, radiobroadcasts and other promotional activities aiming at awareness raising of targeted communities' citizens and big multicultural fair BANfest where for the first time economy and cultural heritage of Banovina area was presented.



NGO Fair in occasion of International Volunteers' Day and International Human Rights Day, Sisak, Croatia

Successes Stories

The project resulted in an increased number of trained women acting as local community leaders, active work of three multicultural women's groups, awareness rising on cultural and ethnic diversity of targeted communities and development of a good practice manual that can be easily used by all interested parties.

For Community without Domestic Violence

Lead partner: Croatia: LDA Sisak

Other partner: Croatia: City of Sisak

Timing: January 2011 – December 2011

Purposes

To reduce domestic violence in Sisak-Moslavina County area by giving first aid and strengthening the victims of domestic violence, achieving more quality protection of domestic violence victims in and out of the institutions and sensitising the public on issues of domestic violence and society's responsibility in providing help for the victims.

Activities

Hot line for victims of domestic violence and Virtual self help group, supervisions for the hot line volunteers and public awareness campaign on domestic violence issues.

Successes Stories

The project resulted in improved services for domestic violence victims and in bigger sensitivity of the wider community on domestic violence issues.

Smile for Smile

Lead partner: Croatia: LDA Sisak

Other partners: Croatia: Association Carpe Diem;
Italy: Association Viviamo in Positivo

Donors: Different private sponsors

Timing: January 2011 – December 2011

Purposes

The project intends to promote non-discrimination, tolerance and breaking down the prejudices by developing volunteerism in local community throughout 1) Conducting clown therapy in Sisak area in order to help people living in disadvantage physical and mental surroundings; 2) Promoting voluntarism and creative usage of free time.

Activities

7 shows of clowns-volunteers in institutions, hospitals and social associations, public event on the celebration of Planet Earth Day, NGO Fair in Karlovac, and regular weekly meetings and rehearsals. Over 450 citizens of Sisak and surrounding towns participated at the clowns' performances.

Celebration of the 15 years of the LDA Sisak

Local Democracy Agency Sisak celebrated its 15th Anniversary in November 2011. During its 15 years of working, the LDA Sisak implemented more than 100 projects that have directly involved over 15.000 people.

The LDA celebrated its Vision ...

Society at what every individual has equal opportunities for using one's own potentials. Peace, human rights, tolerance,



Celebration of the 15 years of the LDA Sisak, high representatives of international community and national partners

mobility and richness of diversity are characteristics of that society.

... and its Mission

LDA Sisak by promoting human rights, preserving peace and strengthening local democracy contributes to local community development and active citizenship.

By implementing non-profit programs, connecting and networking responds to the needs of individuals, local government and wider community.

The celebration was held in occasion of European local democracy week of Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, who supported the event together with ALDA. LDA Sisak and the Town of Sisak organised international conference on the future of Croatian LDAs once Croatia enters the EU in July 2013 and NGO Fair in occasion of International Volunteers' Day (December 5) and International Human Rights Day (December 10). Therefore, for its special efforts, Town of Sisak got the status of "12 star city" from the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe.

8. LDA Verteneglio/Brtonigla

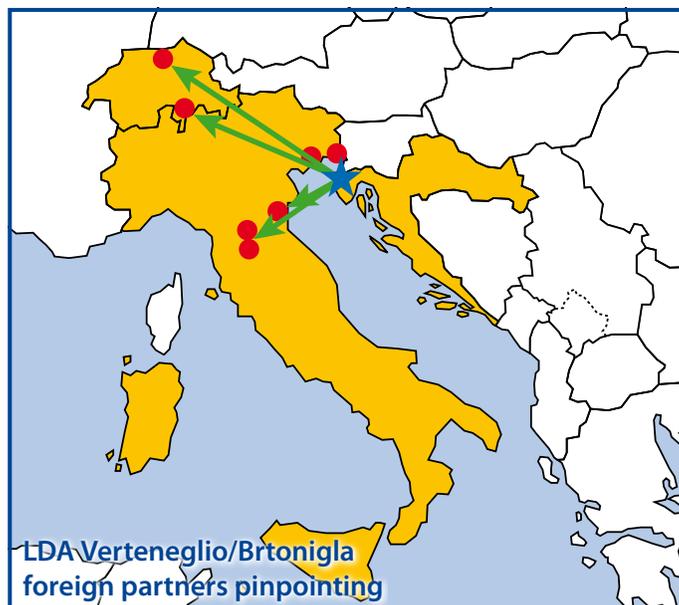


Established in 1996

Lead partner: Municipality of Bellinzona, Switzerland

Other partners: Croatia: Municipality of Verteneglio/Brtonigla (Host city), Istria Region; Italy:

Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region, Province of Florence, Municipality of Portogruaro, Municipality of Ravenna, Municipality of Greve in Chianti, Municipality of Russi, Municipality of Duino-Aurisina, Association "Marevivo", Association Circle of Culture Istria; Switzerland: Association Causes Communes Switzerland



Main priorities

- Supporting the development of local democracy
- Supporting the European integration of the Region
- Fostering cross-border cooperation
- Raising awareness on human rights, minority rights and youth active participation

B.R.I.D.G.E. for Youth Futures Building Resources In Democracy and Global Environment for Youth Futures

Lead partner: LDA Brtonigla/Verteneglio, Croatia

Other partners: Bulgaria: National Centre for Youth information and International Youth Mobility; France: Bureau information Junesse; Macedonia: Volunteers Centre Skopje; Spain: Asociación para la Integración y Progreso de las Culturas, Pandora

Donor: European Commission

Timing: July 2011 – September 2012

Purposes

1. Support the region's sustainable and rural growth
2. Support rural tourism
3. Develop active youth building and participation in policy making issues in the Istria region
4. Develop an idea of multiculturalism
5. Help active citizenship among young Istria people

Activities

1. Collaborate with local institutions: Italian Community, Tourist office, Municipality and nursery "Calimero", High

Schools in the region of Istria – Buje, Umag, Pula, Cittanova, local NGO's

2. Draft and issue two-monthly "Youth Magazine" addressed to the young people on the topics: mobility, media, communications, Youth in Action projects, youth policies
3. Organize language and communication lessons for children and local people
4. Collaborate with the elementary school of Buie in order to support pupils with disability

Successes Stories

1. Even if the project B.R.I.D.G.E., it was fruitful in expanding the LDA's network of partners;
2. Thanks to the international projects of the LDA, volunteers from Croatia had the chance to participate to international events and to benefit from several opportunities from Europe. Among them our volunteers participated in the celebration of the International day of volunteers organized by Euro Direct in Trieste on 5th December 2011.
3. The LDA thanks to the project received proposals of future cooperation with partners from Slovenia and Italy

4. The newsletter is very much appreciated and considered useful by our partners.

Together we grow

Lead partner: *ExisT. Ex Italian SVE, Trieste, Italy*

Other partners: *Austria: Amt der Steiermärkischen Landesregierung (Graz), ARGE Jugend gegen Gewalt und Rassismus (Graz); Croatia: LDA Verteneglio/Brtonigla, Municipality of Buje; Italy: Circolo di Cultura Istrioveneta (Trieste), Istituto Regionale per la storia del movimento di Liberazione (Trieste), Provincia di Gorizia, Municipality of Monfalcone, Tenda per la pace e i diritti (Staranzano); Slovenia: Zavod za izobraževanje, raziskovanje in kulturo (Ljubliana); Mladinski Center Nova Gorica, Società di studi storici e geografici (Piran), Landesverband Steiermark der AntifaschistInnen (Graz)*

Donor: *European Commission*

Timing: *December/2010 – November 2012*



A seminars of the project "Together we grow", involving partners from four countries

Purposes

1. Enhance the knowledge and awareness on the concentration camps and the reasons that led to these events
2. Promote the remembrance of the victims of totalitarianism
3. Unite different generations of the local European community focusing on a unique goal of exchanging experiences, opinions and values about historical events
4. Promote dialogue on issues of democracy and European citizenship
5. Spread the idea of "Europe of citizens" by promoting Europe's values and preserving the memory of the past.

Activities

1. Visit to concentration and labour camps in Trieste (Italy), Rab (Croatia), Goli Otok (Croatia), Graz (Austria).
2. Seminars to commemorate the victims of totalitarianism and discrimination.
3. Seminars on human rights protection and overcoming cultural differences in order to promote European values.

Successes Stories

1. Thanks to the participation in this project the LDA expanded its own horizons and established useful contacts with new organizations from Slovenia, Austria and Italy.
2. The successful implementation of the project and the good cooperation among all partners put good basis for a fruitful follow-up of the project.

Adria III – Reinforcement and development of the cooperation with the East Adriatic Countries

Lead partner: *Informest, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Italy*

Other partners: *Albania: Association "Shoqata e paraplegjikeve shprese dhe dashuri" (Tirana); Croatia: LDA Verteneglio/Brtonigla, Istria Region, Pazin; Montenegro: Direkcija Za Razvoj Malih i Srednjih Preduzecca - NASME (Podgorica); Italy: Associazione Parco della Concordia (Muggia), HATTIVA - S.c.s. Onlus (Udine); Unione delle Camere di Commercio del Friuli Venezia Giulia*

Donor: *Italy: Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia*

Timing: *January 2011 – July 2012*

Purposes

- Protection of the nature and biodiversity in the Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia and Istria, in accordance with the criteria established by the International Convention in Rio De Janeiro in 1992.
- Support the economic international cooperation between Friuli Venezia Giulia and Montenegro.
- Promoting the establishment of effective measures about the labour market.

Activities

- Protection of the biodiversity in Friuli Venezia Giulia and Istria by encouraging the preservation and development of the ecotypes of honeybees "pannonica-mediterranea".
- Strengthen economic cooperation between Friuli Venezia Giulia and Montenegro.
- Enhancing the inclusion in the work market of marginalized people.
- Exchange of the best practices in Albania



Project Adria III – Reinforcement and development of the cooperation with the East Adriatic Countries

Successes Stories

Even if the project is at an initial stage of implementation, the preparation phase showed good coordination among the partners, which preannounces excellent results.

MaNTT

Lead partner: *SERN - Sweden Emilia-Romagna Network, Italy*

Other partners: *Croatia: LDA Verteneglio/Brtonigla; Spain: Province of La Coruna; Sweden: Association of Municipalities of Norrbotten*

Donor: *European Commission*

Timing: *January 2011 – September 2011*

Purposes

- Support the involved municipalities in networking among each others
- To improve the understanding and capacities of the participants about management and implementation of European Projects
- To improve the knowledge of the political institutions representatives about planning European projects

Activities

Seminars with the following topics:

- Management of Projects
- Establishment and strengthening a network of partners
- Involvement of local authorities

Successes Stories

The improved capacities in the field of European funds for sure will prepare Croatia to enter in the EU in 2013.



Project Adria III – Reinforcement and development of the cooperation with the East Adriatic Countries

G.R.O.W.T.H. for Europe: Group Rising Opinions and Working Together Humbly for Europe

Lead partner: *LDA Verteneglio/Brtonigla, Croatia*

Other partners: *France: Bureau Information Jeunesse; Germany: eSw Ev. Schulerinnen-und Schularbeit in Westf. E V.*

Donor: *European Commission*

Timing: *August 2010 – November 2011*

Purposes

- Promote the “Youth in Action Programme” and active European citizenship
- Strengthen the collaboration between the European volunteers and the local institutions in Istria region
- Organize events aiming at enhancing the knowledge

of the local youth on the European Union institutional system, the diversity of the European regions. Special focus was given to the opportunities provided by different EU Programmes for youth: studying, traveling, voluntary service and exchanges.

Activities

- Collaboration among the LDA and the local municipality of Verteneglio, the Italian Community of Verteneglio, the kindergarden "Kalimero".
- Participate in activities, organized by the Touristic Office in Verteneglio and in many events organized in the local schools.
- Celebrations of important days in our common European history.

Successes Stories

The local community of Verteneglio welcomed three new foreign young people, who have been an excellent occasion for the citizens to improve their understanding about different European regions, cultures, languages and traditions. Moreover their active participation in many different projects has also affected in positive way the perception of the youngest citizens of the local community.



EVS activity in a primary school about the International Day of Peace

9. LDA Georgia



Established in 2006

Lead partner: *City of Strasbourg, France*

Other partners: *France: City of Nantes; Georgia: City of Kutaisi, City of Tbilisi, National Association*

of Local Authorities, Kutaisi Branch of Georgian Young Lawyers' Association, Georgia Partners-Georgia, Kutaisi Newport International Association; Italy: Municipality of Monfalcone; United Kingdom: Newport Kutaisi Twinning Association

- Promoting active citizenship and good governance
- Promotion of women and youth rights
- Supporting and initiating cross-border and regional co-operation
- Promoting European integration and values at local level

Georgian Diaspora for Developments in Kutaisi

Lead partner: *Georgia Foundation/Georgian Diaspora in Netherlands, Netherlands*

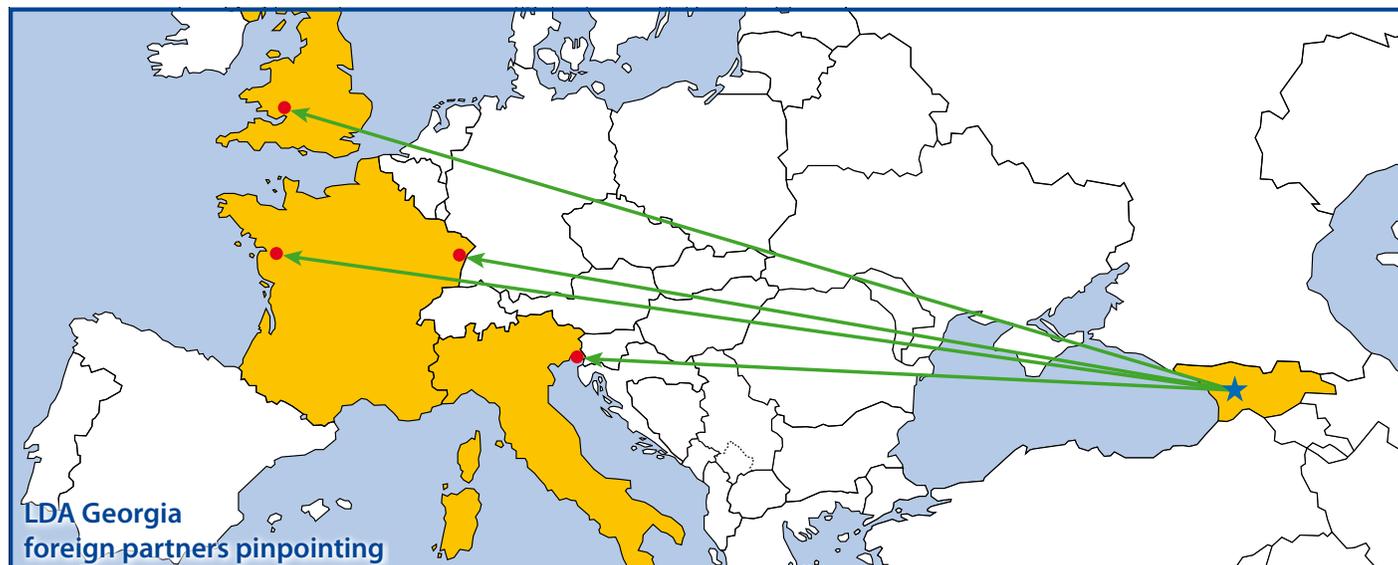
Other partners: *Georgia: LDA Georgia, City of Kutaisi, Kutaisi Regional Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Netherlands: Fontys University*

Donor: *EC-UN Joint Migration & Development Initiative*

Timing: *October 2009 – May 2011*

Main priorities

- Capacity building programmes for local authorities and Non-Government Organizations





LDA Georgia Partners Meeting in Strasbourg, France

Purposes

The project aims to transform the “Brain Drain” into a “Brain Gain”, based on migrants’ capacities to support the development of Small and Middle Size Businesses and to improve the life-long training of the business sector in Georgia.

Activities

- SWOT analyses of Kutaisi labor market
- Educational programs for managers and employees
- Kutaisi Business Help Desk
- Data base of experts and local SMEs were created
- A business fair for local entrepreneurs
- Catalogue of local products and services
- Interactive web page www.kutaisi-bhd.org
- International Business fair and conference

Successes Stories

The LDA Georgia strengthened its support to Small and Medium Enterprises, it established the Business Help Desk

in Kutaisi, where entrepreneurs receive consultancy services.

About 2000 representatives of SMEs attended training courses on business planning and management.

LDA developed new contacts with project partners and donor organizations for future joint activities.

Platform for Development Cooperation of Georgia

Lead partner: *Municipality of Monfalcone, Italy*

Other partners: *Georgia: LDA Georgia, City of Kutaisi; France: ALDA*

Donor: *Region Friuli Venezia Giulia, Italy*

Timing: *May 2010 - July 2011*

Purposes

The project aims to support the revitalization and economic development of the Imereti Region in Georgia, through an approach of democratic participation.

Activities

- SWOT analyses of Small and Medium Enterprises and local business sector in Imereti Region.
- 25 trainings/seminars.
- Establishment of a support center for local SMEs.
- Initiating of cooperation between FVG and Imereti regions.
- Creation of a data base of different business activities in order to support the cooperation between Italian and Georgian partners.

Successes Stories

All the activities were successfully implemented, among which 25 trainings/seminars were attended by 284 participants. The cooperation with the Municipality of Monfalcone was strengthened and an agreement on a new project-proposal, which will provide a follow-up to the present project, was reached. Local SMEs benefited from opportunities of contact and exchange of experience with their colleagues from Italy.

Community Development and Environmental Protection

Lead partner: LDA Georgia

Donor: U.S. Embassy in Georgia

Timing: September 2011 - June 2012

Purposes

The project aims at promoting environmental protection in Imereti Region through organizing civic education campaigns and community-based projects. The project is also focused on increasing the level of knowledge and skills of population on how to protect environment and make villages more environment friendly and attractive for tourists. The project will focus also on theoretical information and practical skills on modern ways of production of bio products in order to enhance the productivity of agro businesses and have a positive financial impact on their business.

Activities

- Collection information in 6 pilot villages
- Trainings for administrators in 6 target municipalities and 89 villages about environmental issues



"EVS: the Way to European Understanding", partnership building activity funded by Youth in Action in Kutaisi, Georgia

- Organizing compost pits in pilot villages
- School lessons on environment protection in pilot village schools
- Establishing of action groups in pilot villages
- Events aiming at cleaning territories from harmful plants
- Actions in pilot villages to clean up rivers and springs

Successes Stories

The project will have a positive impact on farmers' awareness on environment and on modern technologies in agriculture.

The project will end in 2012, but until now the farmers gained already experience and skills regarding different environmental and agricultural issues, they learned to act as a team for solving common problems and for organizing cleaning actions in villages.

Farmers were also trained on their constitutional right to live in clean environment and learned about bio products.

10. LDA Kosovo



Established in 2011

Lead partner: *Associazione Tavolo Trentino con il Kosovo, Italy*

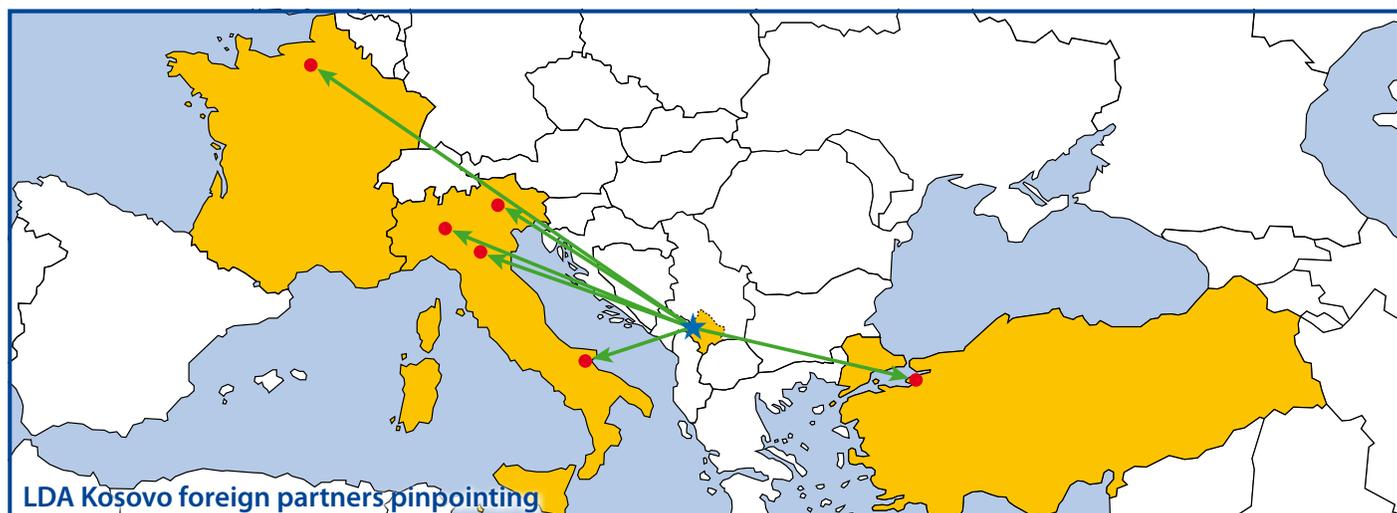
Other partners: *France: ALFA Formation; Italy: Only Equal Rights Association S.U.D., Amici dei bambini (Italy and Kosovo), RTM Region Third World (Italy and Kosovo); Kosovo: Municipality of Peja/Pec (Host city), Association of Municipalities of Kosovo AKM; Turkey: Municipality of Yalova*

Main priorities

- Promotion of local democracy and European integration.
- Promotion of culture, youth and equal opportunities.
- Promotion of dialogue among communities.
- Promotion of local economic development.

Purposes

- To strengthen partnerships of among local communities, to promote cross-border and interregional cooperation toward a permanent relationship among the partners and the Municipalities of Kosovo.
- To promote and strengthen local democracy, human rights, equal opportunities, active citizenship and exchange of best practices.
- To foster peaceful co-existence and the development of civil society through mutual acquaintance and understanding, dealing with conflict elaboration among communities in Kosovo, in South East Europe and in the partners' territories.
- To encourage the development of a multicultural and multi-religious society also throughout the development of unbiased and pluralistic information.
- To provide capacity building assistance to the local communities.
- To foster the development of a European perspective for Kosovo and South East Europe.



Activities

LDA Kosovo Partner Meeting in Yalova, Turkey, 11-12 February 2011: The meeting focused on planning future actions in order to reach the objectives fixed during the previous partner meeting, held in Peja/Pec in August 2010. In particular, the meeting was dedicated to share the knowledge on the international and local activities of the Municipality of Yalova about the local development, the European integration, youth empowerment and activities that the Municipality wants to carry out in Kosovo.

Furthermore, on the 29th of October, the Municipality of Yalova and the Municipality of Peja/Pec signed a twinning agreement that is the result of the bilateral relations between the two Municipalities started during the last LDA Kosovo partner meeting. The event was a precious opportunity to give visibility to the newly re-launched LDA Kosovo and to continue the discussion among all the partners.

The offices of the newly re-launched LDA Kosovo in Peja/Pec have been inaugurated on 21 and 22 November 2011.

The opening ceremony of the new offices of the LDA was held in Peja/Pec the 21st of November. The ribbon cutting for the new headquarters took place at the Shtepia e Kultures. The ceremony was attended, among others, by Mr. Ali Berisha, Mayor of Peja/Pec, the host city and local partner of the LDA, Mr. Maurizio Camin, President of Tavolo Trentino con il Kosovo, Colonel Andrea Borzaga new Commander of the Italian contingent in Kosovo and Commander of the Multinational Battle Group West KFOR (Kosovo Force), and Mrs. Antonella Valmorbidia, Director of ALDA, through web connection from Italy.

During the meeting the Agreement, which will be the operational basis of the LDA, was signed. The Association "Tavolo Trentino per il Kosovo" was confirmed as lead partner and Mr. Elbert Krasniqi was appointed Delegate of the LDA.



Inauguration of the newly re-launched LDA Kosovo with the Major of Peja/Pec, Kosovo, 21st November 2011

Personal (hi)stories

Lead partner: *Tavolo Trentino con i Balcani, Italy*

Other partners: *BiH: LDA Prijedor; Serbia: LDA Nis*

Donor: *Autonomous Province of Trento, Italy*

Timing: *January 2011 - December 2011*

Purposes

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

Activities

The inspiration to realize this documentary emerged from participants into a seminar held in Tivat during the summer 2010. Its purpose is to tell and give voice to the personal histories and experiences related to some of the

major events that marked the history of the last decades. A final documentary with interviews of people of all ages from different regions (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Kosovo) was produced and presented during a series of events in the cities of Nis, Kraljevo, Prijedor, Peja/Pec.

Successes Stories

Project brought closer people from different communities in the region and offered a new and not obvious perspective on a common recent history to the broader public.

Bekim Fehmiu Richness lost in silence

Lead partner: *Tavolo Trentino con i Balcani, Italy*

Other partners: *BiH: LDA Prijedor; Serbia: LDA Nis*

Donor: *Autonomous Province of Trento, Italy*

Timing: *April 2011 - December 2011*

Purposes

The objective of the project was to promote the cultural heritage common to the three territories involved within a perspective of fostering a positive knowledge and elaboration of the memory of the past with different communities

Activities

The idea of implementing the project about the exhibition "Bekim Fehmiu – Richness lost in silence" developed from a group of youth coming from the three territories involved in the project - Bosnia Herzegovina, Kosovo and Serbia – territories which played a key role in the life of the Yugoslavian and international actor Bekim Fehmiu. Through the elaboration of past, present and future this exhibition

represent the effort of all participants to establish a reciprocal dialogue and to foster an exchange of experiences among their different communities of belonging. The research, collection and the very elaboration of the idea of the exhibition are fully part of a process that has been implemented actively by the very participants thanks to the support of relevant consultants and experts.

Successes Stories

Besides creating a youth working group at the regional level the project allowed to participating youth to rediscover a key figure of their common history.



Opening ceremony of the new offices of the LDA, Peja/Pec, Kosovo, 21st November 2011

11. LDA Montenegro



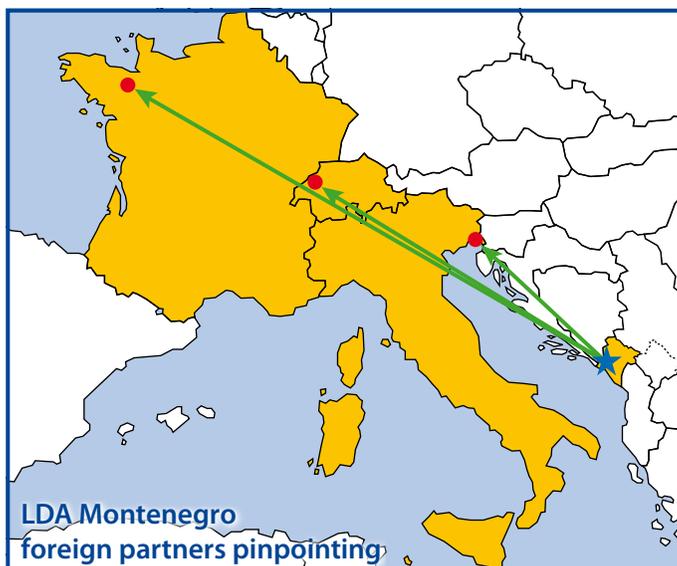
Established in 2001

Lead partner: Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region, Italy

Other partners: France: Association Betton-Montenegro; Montenegro: Municipality of Niksic (Host city), Municipality of Kotor, Municipality of Rozaje, Union of Municipalities of Montenegro, Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Montenegro; Switzerland: City of Neuchatel

Main priorities

- Local administration capacity development
- Human rights and peace building
- Youth participation



- Local economical development
- European Union integration processes

Development of Persons with Disabilities Employment Services in Niksic

Lead partners: Italy: Province of Pordenone, Azienda Sanitaria 6 Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region

Other partners: Montenegro: Municipality of Niksic, Union of Municipalities, Center for Social care Niksic, NGOs: "Plegije", Association for support to persons with problems in psycho-physical development, Union of associations of blind persons, Association of youth with disabilities

Donor: Italy: Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region

Timing: March 2011 – November 2011

Purposes

Analysis and creation of conditions to establish a service for professional mediation for persons with disabilities.

Activities

- Legislation research, collection and analysis of experiences in the field of employment of persons with disabilities and success stories in Montenegro.
- Partnership with relevant institutions and NGOs.
- Study visit to Italy (14 institutions).
- Educational program for professional.
- Plan for the creation of a service for mediation in Niksic.
- 3 workshops.
- Protocol of cooperation.

Successes Stories

LDA Montenegro established good relationships with Montenegrin Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare and strengthened existing ones with associations working with persons with disabilities.

Democratic participation processes development, multiethnic cohabitation, third sector and social inclusion in Montenegro

Lead partner: *Municipality of Monfalcone, Italy*

Other partners: *Montenegro: Municipality of Niksic, Union of Municipalities, Comunità Italiana - Kotor*

Donor: *Italy: Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region*

Timing: *May 2011 – June 2012*

Purposes

Support to youth activism and development of NGOs and democratic initiatives in Niksic

Activities

- Service for support to youth and NGOs.
- Trainings and workshops.
- Information sessions for youth regarding civil society in Montenegro, human rights. EU and its programs.
- Support to young people wishing to volunteer.

Successes Stories

Considering that youth in Niksic are in danger of losing direction in these times of post-transitional depression and economical crisis in Montenegro, the project was a great op-

portunity to give them a chance to many of their interests. The students' parliament, and teachers of the Grammar Scholl thanks to the project decided to invest their energies and work on the mentioned topics for the benefit of the community. Moreover the old relationship between LDA Niksic and the famous Niksic Grammar School is revived in a full glow.

Scientific and economic cooperation between Friuli Venezia Giulia and Montenegro in see products cultivation

Lead partner: *Italian federation of Maricoltori, Italy*

Other partners: *Montenegro: Institute for Marine Biology Kotor, Comunità Italiana - Kotor*

Donor: *Italy: Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region*

Timing: *February 2011 – September 2011*



Persons with disabilities employment service development, workshops in Niksic, Montenegro, 24th-25th June 2011



Climate response network, Public Advocacy Strategy Workshop, Podgorica, Montenegro, 16th December 2011

Purposes

- Economical and entrepreneurial potentials promotion.
- Innovative technologies and sustainable production with respect of European standards.
- Valorization of coastal gastronomical heritage.
- Production of first oysters in Montenegro after more than 100 years and creation of an oyster farm.

Activities

- Satellite monitoring and Boka Kotorska bay water quality analysis.
- Modernization of maritime “water-culture” and sea species
- Scientific conference.
- Seafood culinary course and culinary specialties presentation.

Successes Stories

Jonathan Swift said: “He was a brave man who was the first to taste an oyster”. For sure the project took the chance to contribute to modernization and development of Montenegro.

Climate response

Lead partner: Montenegrin Federation of Red Cross, Montenegro

Other partners: Montenegro: Hydrometeorological institute, Universities “Mediterranean” and “Donja Gorica”, Agency for environmental protection, Public health institute, NGOs Green Home, Ozon, European Movement Montenegro, Mediterranean Ecologic Center Juventas

Donor: European Commission

Timing: March 2011 – December 2012

Purposes

- Platform for cooperation and decision makers awareness rising regarding climate change and its consequences.
- Promotion and adoption of the highest standards in climate change protection, especially for the most vulnerable groups and contribution to sustainable development.

Activities

- Advocating and impact on decision makers about the need for the climate change adaptation.
- Climate change and need for adaptations awareness raising.
- Coordination and cooperation of civil society organizations with relevant governmental institutions working in the fields related to adaptation to climate change.

Successes Stories

Terrible floods in December 2010, the heaviest winter and biggest snow layer in history in Montenegro as extreme climate events warn us that climate is changing and that we have to adapt. In this context the project was modern and useful to the local communities in Montenegro.

Valorization of typical products and traditional arts in Friuli Venezia Giulia and Montenegro

Lead partner: *Comunità Italiana - Kotor, Montenegro*

Other partners: *Montenegro: Municipality of Kotor*

Donor: *Italy: Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region*

Timing: *September 2011 – June 2012*

Purposes

- Support to women employment.
- Contribution to the development of authentic tourist products.
- Revival of traditional art of Venetian lace in Boka Kotorska region.

Activities

- Training on the traditional art of Gorizia lace.



FVG Director for International relations at the writer's Giacomo Scotti presentation, Podgorica, 15th September 2011

- Creation of and marketing plan on development and promotion of a specific traditional product.
- Establishment of an proper type of business organization in order to increase opportunities for self-employment.
- Organization of and Exhibition of the realized product.

Successes Stories

For the first time Montenegro will have an original product to offer to visitors. It is not a mere souvenir, but it represents hundreds of years of tradition, cultivated by women preparing themselves for important moments in their lives. It represents art and craft which will contribute to employment and economic development of Boka Kotorska.

Potential for cooperation in economic sector between Italy and Montenegro

Lead partner: *Informest Consulting, Padova, Italy*

Donor: *ERA*

Timing: *March 2011 – November 2011*

Purposes

Analysis of the potentials for economic collaboration establishment between Italy and Montenegro

Activities

- Legislation analysis, collection and evaluation of experiences in economic cooperation and trade exchange
- Promotional activities
- Market research development

Successes Stories

Establishment of successful partnerships with: Ministries of transport and economy, companies in the sectors of transport, tourism, agriculture.

12. LDA Centre South Serbia



Established in 2001

Lead partner: *City of Aarhus (Denmark)*

Other partners: *Italy: Tavolo Trentino con Kraljevo, Association for LDA Zavidovici; Portugal: Associação Mais Cidadania, Lisbon; Serbia: City of Nis (Host city), City of Kragujevac, City of Kraljevo; Norway: City of Saltdal*

Main priorities

- Fostering democratic governance and citizen participation at local level
- Fostering youth empowerment
- Supporting the process of Serbia's EU integration

Economy and Management for CSOs

Lead partner: *LDA Niš, Serbia*

Other partners: *Serbia: Centrum vzdelávania neziskových organizácií - CVNO, Banjska Bistrica, Slovakia, the Faculty of Economy "Matej Bel" in Banjska Bistrica and the Faculty of Economy in Niš*

Donor: *Slovak Aid, through the cooperation program "Beograd-Bratislava Fund"*

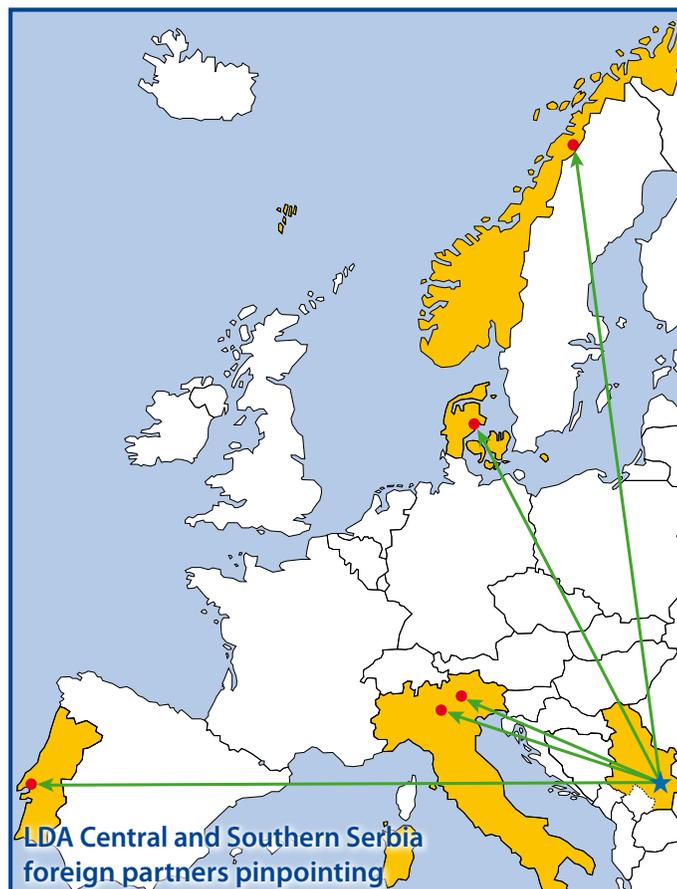
Timing: *December 2009 – July 2011*

Purposes

Raising the capacities of CSOs in Southern Serbia to deal with their own management and financial resources.

Activities

2011 was the final year of the project implementation. 15 students from 10 leading CSOs in Southern Serbia attended six on-line courses led by the professors from the Faculty of Economy, Nis University (Management of CSO, Marketing of CSO, Global economy, Human resources, Finances of CSO and New trends in CSO). 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.



Successes Stories

Besides to piloting a University course for CSOs in Serbia and raising capacities of 10 civil society organizations, this project established institutional cooperation between two faculties from universities from Serbia and Slovakia.

Youth Cultural Club

Lead partner: LDA Niš, Serbia

Other partners: Serbia: National library, Niš, Serbia

Donor: City of Niš, Serbia

Timing: January 2011 – October 2011

Purposes

Contribution to meeting the cultural needs of young people in Nis and motivating them to use their creative capacities.



Youth Cultural Club, public presentation of young writers, in partnership with the National library of Niš, Serbia

Activities

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

Successes Stories

This project introduced to a broader public a new generation of 13 writers and gave good example of how much practical support to creative expression of youth of Nis is needed. The project also started the initiative to establish a Literary almanac as a yearly event.

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

Lead partner: City of Aarhus, Denmark

Other partners: City of Niš, Serbia

Donor: Denmark: City of Aarhus; Serbia: City of Niš

Timing: January 2011 – December 2011

Purposes

Strengthening international cooperation between the cities of Nis and Aarhus.

Activities

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 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.

Successes Stories

This project raised the level of trilateral cooperation between cities of Nis and Aarhus and LDA and strengthened human resource capacities of LDA.

Share Yourself

Lead partner: *Associação Mais Cidadania, Portugal*

Other partners: *Portugal: Institute for Cinematography and Audiovisual Arts, Lisboa; Serbia: Embassy of Portugal in Belgrade, Municipality Medijana (Nis), Student's Cultural CVentra (Nis), Office for European Affairs of the City of Nis*

Donor: *European Commission*

Timing: *June 2011 – September 2011*

Purposes

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.

Activities

Two young people from Lisbon spent two months in LDA Nis and designed and implemented a week-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.

Successes Stories

Through this project the LDA established cooperation with the Embassy of Portugal in Serbia and Institute for Cinematography and the Audiovisual Arts in Lisbon. The LDA planned for 2012 a European Movie Festival to be held in Nis on the occasion of Day of Europe.

War and Propaganda: an approach to History in Europe

Lead partner: *Memorial Centre Oradur-sur-Glane, France*

Other partners: *Memorial Centre Dachau, Germany*

Donor: *Office franco-allemand pour la Jeunesse OFAJ*

Timing: *July 2010 – July 2011*



Share Yourself, to promote youngsters' experiences with exhibitions, movies, presentations and theatre workshops

Purposes

Contribution to the reconciliation process in post-conflict societies.

Activities

During the final year of this project, a week-seminar for youth 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 90s conflict in the former Yugoslavia and investigated transnational historiography of Serbia, Germany and France.

Successes Stories

This project created a group of volunteers interested in the topic of recent history of the region that will continue to work with the LDA Nis and develop projects in this field. Also, this project enabled LDA to establish valuable cooperation with the partners.

Poverty Reduction: Civil Society and Responsible Government

Lead partner: *Association for Protection and Promotion of Mental Health in Children and Youth, Niš, Serbia*

Donor: *Norway: Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Serbia: Institute for Sustainable Communities ISC*

Timing: *September 2011 – December 2011*

Purposes

Contribution to the improvement of the position of children as vulnerable group in Serbian society

Activities

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. Results of the research have been used for the advocacy campaign with local authorities to raise the specific allocations for children in their budgets.

Successes Stories

Through this project LDA became involved in The National Network of SCOs for Children MODS.

Europe for Us

Lead partner: *LDA Niš, Serbia*

Other partners: *City of Niš, Serbia*

Donor: *City of Niš, Serbia*

Timing: *March 2011 – December 2011*



War and Propaganda: an approach to History in Europe, a contribution to the reconciliation in post-conflict societies

Purposes

Project has been composed out of two programs:

- **Info Days:** 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.
- **Volunteer Service:** To support youth development through volunteer work, informal learning and experience and contribution to the local community.

Activities

Within two programs LDA has realised four promotions of volunteers' programs and other European programs for youth. A series of five documentaries dealing with European values has been screened. A group of 5 volunteers has been established and engaged as direct support to the activities in the European corner in Nis.

Successes Stories

This project further positioned LDA as one of the main organizations dedicated to promotion of local volunteerism.



Europe for Us project further positioned LDA as one of the main organizations for the promotion of local volunteerism

Strategy of Sustainable Local Development of the Municipality of Medijana

Lead partners: Municipality of Medijana, City of Niš, Serbia

Donor: Delegation of the European Union in Serbia through the "Exchange 3" programme

Timing: June 2011 – December 2011

Purposes

Contribution to sustainable development of local community.

Activities

Municipality of Medijana, central and biggest municipality in the City of Nis, developed a ten-year Local Sustainable Development Strategy, 2011 - 2021. This document identified priorities for local community in the areas of environmental protection and infrastructure, economic and social development.

As proved partner of Medijana Municipality, the LDA Nis has been actively involved in 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.

Successes Stories

This project further strengthened strategically important partnership and cooperation between LDA and local authorities of the Municipality of Medijana.

Globalization: effect on our lives

Lead partner: LDA Niš, Serbia

Other partners: Serbia: the French Cultural Centre Belgrade, French Information Center Niš and the Office for European Affairs of the City of Niš

Donor: Own resources

Timing: March 2011 – April 2011

Purposes

The goal of this program was to inform citizens of Niš about the phenomenon of globalization in the areas of life most affected by it and to enhance the knowledge about the basic forms of globalization - economic, political and cultural.

Activities

A series of film screenings and accompanying debates on globalization took place in the European Corner. Debates

were moderated by prominent experts on the topic of globalization in the field of law and economy.

Successes Stories

Realisation of this project was the concrete example of a successful voluntary activity and also attracted new volunteers to LDA Niš.

European Local Democracy Week

Lead partner: LDA Niš, Serbia

Other partners: Media centre Niš, Serbia

Donor: Own resources

Timing: October 2011

Purposes

Raising the level of knowledge of the citizens of Niš about local institutions that protect human rights.

Activities

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 Niš 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 meetings of the citizens with the Ombudsman in Media centre Niš.

Successes Stories

Volunteerism was successfully promoted among the citizens of Niš. Furthermore this project confirmed partnership between LDA Niš and the Office for European Affairs of the City of Niš and provided a new partner, Medija Center Niš.



Local Democracy Week 2011, citizens' meeting with the Local Ombudsman, Media centre, Niš, Serbia, October 2011

Words Too Strong

Lead partner: *Antifasist collective, Niš, Serbia*

Other partners: *Serbia: Centre for Development of Civil Resources, Alternative Cultural Centre, Alternative Media Research Center (MIC), Office for European Affairs of the City of Niš*

Donor: *National Endowment for Democracy*

Timing: *April 2011 – May 2011*

Purposes

The aim of this project was to draw attention of the citizens of Niš 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.

Activities

Open call for photographs of messages of hate on the walls of the City of Niš was launched and best photographs



WTS, Words Too Strong, a project to promote respect for human rights, Niš, Serbia, Spring 2011

were chosen for the exhibition. A large number of citizens visited this week long exhibition that took place in the central gallery of the main pedestrian street in Niš.

Successes Stories

This project provided first opportunity for newly established Anti-faschist Collective to present its ideas to a broader public. It's a group of local NGOs: Centre for Development of Civil Resources (CRCR/AKC), the Human Rights Committee Niš, Yurom Center, Women's Space, Center for Girls and LDA Niš.

Civil society against violence 2.0

Lead partner: *Centre for New Communications Dokukino, Serbia*

Donor: *USAID and ISC*

Timing: *October 2011 – December 2011*

Purposes

Raising capacities of CSOs on usage of internet in public campaigns against violence

Activities

Team of LDA Nis' activists participated to workshops on utilization of new media in public campaigns in order to raise its capacities to design a public campaign against different forms of violence in Serbian society. A campaign against hate speech on the internet is foreseen as the main activity for 2012.

Successes Stories

This project helped LDA to establish strategic partnership with Centre for New Communications Dokukino from Belgrade and become part of a national campaign against violence.

Personal (hi)stories

Lead partner: *Tavolo Trentino con i Balcani, Italy*

Other partners: *BiH: LDA Prijedor; Kosovo: LDA Kosovo*

Donor: *Autonomous Province of Trento, Italy*

Timing: *January 2011 – December 2011*

Purposes

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

Activities

The inspiration to realize this documentary emerged from participants into a seminar held in Tivat during the summer 2010. Its purpose is to tell and give voice to the personal histories and experiences related to some of the major events that

marked the history of the last decades. A final documentary with interviews of people of all ages from different regions (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Kosovo) was produced and presented in Nis, Kraljevo, Prijedor and Peja/Pec.

Successes Stories

Project brought closer people from different communities in the region and offered a new and not obvious perspective on a common recent history to the broader public.

Bekim Fehmiu: Richness lost in silence

Lead partner: *Tavolo Trentino con i Balcani, Italy*

Other partners: *BiH: LDA Prijedor; Kosovo: LDA Kosovo*

Donor: *Autonomous Province of Trento, Italy*

Timing: *April 2011 – December 2011*

Purposes

The objective of the project was to promote the cultural heritage common to the three territories involved within a perspective of fostering a positive knowledge and elaboration of the memory of the past with different communities

Activities

The idea of implementing the project about the exhibition "Bekim Fehmiu – Richness lost in silence" developed from a group of youth coming from the three territories involved in the project - Bosnia Herzegovina, Kosovo and Serbia – which played a key role in the life of the Yugoslavian and international actor Bekim Fehmiu. Through the elaboration of past, present and future this exhibition represent the effort of all participants to establish a reciprocal dialogue and to foster an exchange of experiences among their different communi-



LDA Nis' activists participated to workshops on utilization of new media in public campaigns against violence

ties of belonging. The research, collection and the very elaboration of the idea of the exhibition are fully part of a process that has been implemented actively by the very participants thanks to the support of relevant consultants and experts.

Successes Stories

Besides creating a youth working group at the regional level the project allowed to participating youth to rediscover a key figure of their common history.

Youth journalism 2011

Lead partner: *Tavolo Trentino con i Balcani, Italy*

Other partners: *BiH: LDA Prijedor; Kosovo: LDA Kosovo; Serbia: LDA CSS- Kraljevo office*

Donor: *Autonomous Province of Trento, Italy*

Timing: *October 2011 – January 2012*

Purposes

Learning about journalism and its tools and making reportage on social issue; raising awareness about the social issues for young people.

Activities

- 4 two-days learning and practicing seminars
- Follow up meeting
- Final seminar

A preparatory work on collecting material was implemented. Bunch of information, statistics and other useful material were presented during the seminar in Kraljevo. Following steps were also set, as well as how to make an interview (aim of reporting; story writing timeframe...). The final activity was a meeting in Kraljevo (January 2012) where all the actors will gather for a two-days event.

Successes Stories

A group of young people was successfully trained on how to recognize and record good and important elements of news to be promoted through mass media.

“Adotta un nonno”: Long distance support for elderly people

Lead partners: *Italy: Tavolo Trentino con i Balcani; Serbia: Center for social work, Kraljevo*

Donors: *Italian citizens (private donation)*

Timing: *January 2011 – December 2011*

Purposes

To help most vulnerable old people in the City of Kraljevo.

Activities

Every four month workers of Center for social work go to visit 20 beneficiaries of ADOTO program. They do distri-



“Back to the future”, a week-long youth exchange in Alba, Italy. Topic: the right of citizens to have a good future

bution directly in their houses in the same checking their physical and mental condition. Also they distribute 120 euro to every beneficiary for most urgent needs.

Successes Stories

This project have special status in our project portfolio, because it is result of direct solidarity of individual people not a institution. It is strictly privately founded and it is already 8 years that we implement this project.

Area of social integration

Lead partners: *Italy: Tavolo Trentino con Kraljevo; Serbia: Society for helping to mentally disabled children and youth of Kraljevo*

Other partners: *Italy: Villa Maria, Society Insieme; Serbia: Center for social work Kraljevo*

Donor: *Autonomous Province of Trento, Italy*

Timing: *February 2011– February 2012*

Purposes

The objective of the project was to help integration of mentally disabled person in local community, sensibility of local community on problems with which mentally disabled population is confronted and to develop new innovative social services for mentally disable person.

Activities

Inside this project, mentally disabled person have a protected apartment (every weekend two beneficiary stay with tutor in rented flat in Kraljevo); working therapy (20 beneficiary going on work in private printing company two time/week); daily staying Center for mentally disabled person (two time/week they have workshop in their premises).

Successes Stories

Project help to improve of deayle life of young mentally disabled person on territory of Kraljevo.

Manifesto

Lead partners: *Italy: Tavolo Trentino con Kraljevo; Serbia: Positive youth, Kraljevo*

Other partners: *Italy: Villa Invita; Serbia: Culture centre Ribnica, Kraljevo*

Donor: *Autonomous Province of Trento, Italy*

Timing: *February 2011– February 2012*

Purposes

To dinamise youth culture life in City of Kraljevo and through cultural activism to promote value of solidarity, tolerance and anti-fascism. Strengthen the active citizenship, the participation of the young people of Kraljevo (Prijedor, Peja/Pec) and Trento within a context of multiculturalism and pluralism.



Meeting at the Youth Cultural Club in Niš, Serbia, November 2011

Activities

Organizing concerts, theatre show, open forums about different youth issue, cinema and other activities.

Successes Stories

For one year of active work PY succeed to divers source of finance for their activities and to develop good youth culture program.

Gender equality

Lead partners: *Italy: Fenomena, Tavolo Trentino con Kraljevo*

Donor: *Autonomous Province of Trento, Italy*

Timing: *February 2011– February 2012*

Purposes

Promote the improvement of the life conditions of the women who witness discriminations (economic, social, cultural and physical) in the Municipality of Kraljevo.

Activities

General training: participati on in training of project cycle managment; fight against domestic and gender violence, increasing the awareness about the phenomena and promoting the gender empowerment; promotion of gender equality trough public events and awareness campaign; support the creation of new networks and promote meetings and exchanges between aware and active people

Successes Stories

Start to work regionally; recognized by EC like relevant for gender issue in Serbia; fast growth of organization.



Students from 10 leading CSOs in Southern Serbia attended six on-line courses led by teachers from Nis University

Micro credits

Lead partners: *Italy: Micro development fund, Tavolo Trentino con Kraljevo*

Donor: *Autonomous Province of Trento, Italy*

Timing: *January 2011– December 2011*

Purposes

Spread micro credits in rural development in areas on the border of City of Kraljevo.

Activities

Providing vocational training for starting small agricultural and responsible turistic business around Kraljevo and giving micro credits for business.

Help at house for old people

Lead partners: *Italy: Tavolo Trentino con Kraljevo; Serbia: Viktoria (Kraljevo)*

Other partners: *Italy: House for old people Rovereto; Serbia: House for old person Mataruska Banja*

Donors: *Italy: Autonomous Province of Trento, City of Rovereto*

Timing: *February 2011– February 2012*

Purposes

To develop new innovative social services for old people

Activities

Organizing professional study visit and conference about practices of help at house.

Youth exchange “Back to the future”

Lead partner: *Cooperativa Or.So., Italy*

Other partners: *Bosnia and Herzegovina: LDA Zavidovici; Croatia: LDA Osijek*

Donor: *European Commission*

Timing: *January 2011– December 2011*

Purposes

Supporting youth activism.

Activities

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 have a good future with special emphasis on the analysis of the role of youth in the implementation and protection of these rights.

Together with their peers from Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lithuania, France and Italy the youngsters from Serbia 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 based on the implemented exchange.

Successes Stories

This project broadened the horizons of youngsters that never had the opportunity to travel abroad.



“Back to the future”, exchange with youngsters from Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lithuania, France, Italy and Serbia

13. LDA Subotica



Established in 1993

Lead partner: *Wolverhampton City Council, UK*

Other partners: *Hungary: Minority Self-government*

Seged; Norway: Buskerud County Council, Narvik City Council; Serbia: City of Subotica (Host city), Centre for regionalism (Novi Sad), Philia – Association of Multiethnic Municipalities of SEE, Vojvodina Centre for Human Rights (Novi Sad); UK: Minority Groups International

Main priorities

- Fostering democratic governance and citizen participation at local level
- Strengthening socio-economic development
- Promoting youth volunteering
- Supporting the European Union integration

Participation!

Lead partner: *LDA Subotica, Serbia*

Other partners: *Croatia: LDA Osijek; Estonia: Continuous Action; Macedonia: Association Mana; Moldova: Milenium; Montenegro: Svetionik; Slovenia: Social welfare movement; Sweden: Competence for womens safety; Turkey: BursArt*

Donor: *European Commission*

Timing: *December 2011–May 2012*

Purposes

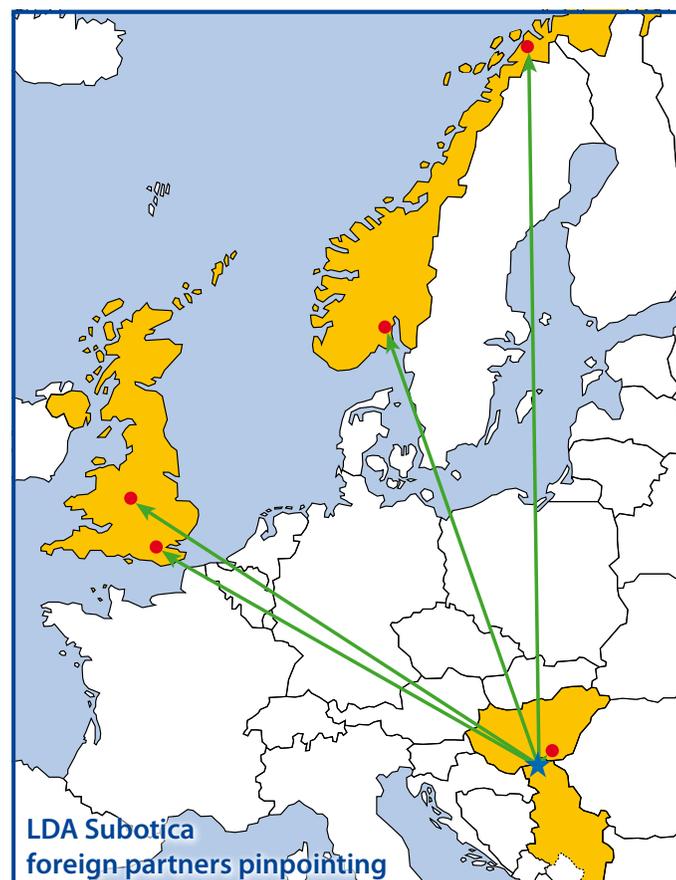
The project tackles the subject: informal learning in function of working with young people with fewer opportunities. The main target groups youth workers, people who are active in the NGO youth sector well as students.

Activities

6 residential training days in Subotica, 3 trip visits.

Successes Stories

Established new strong relations with new potential partners for the LDA for a new Youth in Action project de-



velopment and for developing a follow up in the youth field (www.facebook.com/groups/319867758073395/).

Two EVS Projects 2011/2012

- 2011, Année du Volontariat pour tous
- Proactive Community in Subotica

Lead partner: LDA Subotica, Serbia

Other partners: France: Mission Local de Ville Urbaine, Etudes ET chantiers espace central

Donor: EC and National Agency, France

Timing: October 2011 – June 2012

Purposes

Hosting two young volunteers from France, through the European Voluntary Service Programme.

Activities

Volunteers are involved in everyday activities of the LDA



The ribbon cutting at the Day of Europe 2011 with local authorities, Subotica, Serbia, 9th May 2011

working on Youth in Action project proposals, on the organization of the Day of Europe 2012 and on the implementation of Youth projects.

Successes Stories

The experience of hosting European Voluntary Service young people started in 2009 and it has been implemented again since it was very enriching not only for the volunteers but also for the LDA and for the Local Community in Subotica

The Day of Europe 2011

Lead partner: LDA Subotica, Serbia

Other partners: Serbia: City of Subotica and other Local NGOs active in promotion of European values

Donors: LDA Subotica and City of Subotica

Timing: May 2011

Purposes

Celebrating Day of Europe, the 9th of May 2011, gathering local NGOs willing to present their activities during the public event in the City's main square.

Activities

Communication with Embassies of EU member states resident in Serbia, collecting their promotional materials, coordination with local NGOs. Preparation of the stands and the public event.

Successes Stories

In 2011 the Days of Europe was perceived as a traditional event organized by LDA Subotica as the main promoter. Relations with Embassies, local NGOs and the City administration were strengthened. It was interesting that we had visit and opening of the event by Mr Vincent Degert (Ambassador, Head of EU Delegation to the Republic of Serbia), Mr Tamas Korsos and Ljerka Alajberg (Consuls of Hungary and Croatia).

International Youth Day 2011

Lead partners: Serbia: Three NGOs in Subotica: UG HERA, VIFO; SUBOTICANI, support of City of Subotica

Other partners: Serbia: LDA Subotica and other local NGOs and un-formal youth groups

Donors: LDA Subotica, local SME firms, City of Subotica, local NGOs

Timing: August 2011

Purposes

Promoting the LDA activities in the square and main park of Subotica.

Activities

EVS volunteers' activities to promote LDA Subotica as NGO committed at local level on youth issues



International Youth Day in the main public park of Subotica, Serbia, August 2011

Successes Stories

The cooperation between LDA Subotica, the City of Subotica and the local NGOs was very fruitful and put the basis of future joint projects (www.facebook.com/events/158617574212897/).

Sending EVS Projects 2011/2012

Lead partner: LDA Subotica (sending organization)

Other partner: Spain: CEMER

Donors: European Commission with EVS Programme and National Agency, Spain

Timing: February 2012 – August 2012, with preparation activities in 2011

Purposes

Sending volunteers from Subotica to Encinas Reales, in Spain; for a period of 6 months, through the EVS Programme.

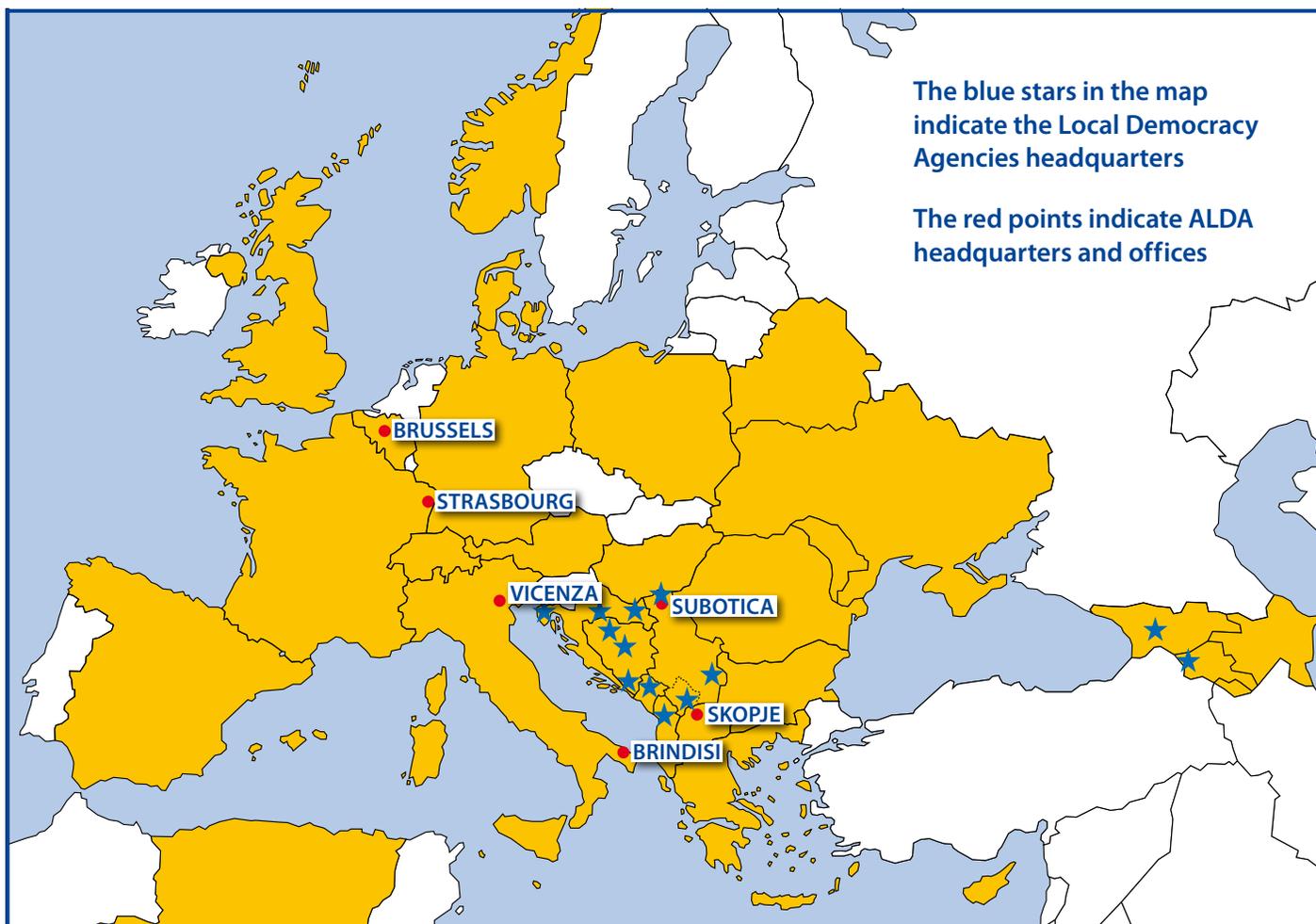
Activities

The activities are defined specifically tailored for each volunteer. This year the volunteer from Spain will be involved in the projects of CEMER organization. She will also develop ideas for new projects to be implemented in Encinas. Most of the activities have educational character. The activities implemented in Spain will be shared with volunteers in Serbia with a direct benefit for LDA Subotica.

Successes Stories

We expect to have similar results of the previous edition of EVS project since previous volunteers are still very active in the LDA since they can gain more and more experience. Some of them got solid working positions in Subotica area thanks to the experience with the LDA Subotica.

C. JOIN ALDA!



1. ALDA Membership Form 2011

Name of the organization asking to become member (or name of the person for individuals):

Type of organization (tick the appropriate cell)

Municipality County Region NGO OTHER Mr. or Ms. (if individual member)

Name and Surname of the contact person of the organization (only if it is not an individual member)

Address

Postal Code **Town** **Country**

Tel. **Fax** **E-mail**

You can choose among 3 different options:

1. MEMBER OF ALDA

It gets for free all ALDA members services (for further information, see the enclosed document on Services to Members). It will pay the following contribution:

Number of inhabitants (Municipality*, County, Region)	10-10.000	10.000-50.000	50.000-200.000	200.000-1.000.000	>1.000.000
Contribution/year (Euros)	300	600	1200	2400	4800
* For municipalities hosting an LDA, only half of the fees are requested			For NGOs and associations the annual fee is 300 Euros		

2. MEMBER OF ALDA + PARTNER OF LDAs

It will be member of ALDA (see payment fees above) AND will also be active and engaged on the field, by becoming partner of one or more LDAs (fees of LDAs defined by the LDAs).

3. FRIEND OF ALDA

It is an individual who wishes to support ALDA's mission by becoming part of an international network of people committed to active citizenship and human rights. The contribution per year is 60 Euros.

Members of ALDA who wish to be informed or actively participate to the association activities are kindly requested to select one or more than one working groups:

- EU Enlargement and Active Citizenship Situation in SEE
 Human rights' protection and awareness, including women's rights Situation in Caucasus
 Local development issues, good governance, decentralization Active citizenship in MED area
 Citizens participation and civil society empowerment

Bank details of the Association of Local Democracy Agencies:

Bank: Credit Mutuel CCM Strasbourg Gutenberg - Address: 2, Rue des Hallebardes, 67000 Strasbourg – France

IBAN: FR76 1027 8010 8400 0201 7650 153 - BIC: CMCIFR2A

Form to be returned to ALDA:

By post: Secretariat of the Association of Local Democracy Agencies - c/o Council of Europe - F - 67075 Strasbourg

or by e-mail: alda@aldaintranet.org

For more information: Tel. +33 3 90 21 45 93 - Fax +33 3 90 21 55 17

Thank you for your interest in the programme of the Association of Local Democracy Agencies!

2. Services for members

Access European funding opportunities

- Priority on opportunities offered to be partner of European projects or to join consortia built to apply for European tenders in various fields
- Support of ALDA multilingual staff in the project proposal development phase
- Identification of relevant international partners for specific areas and support to the partnership building process (dissemination of members' calls for partners)
- Identification of potential donors

As a member you will access the following services:

Networking European widely

- Support in the relation with EU, CoE, UN, Agencies and other public and private International institutions
- Support in the relation with National Governments in Italy, France and other countries
- Organization of meetings with European Officials, MEPs and other relevant international and European Authorities
- Promotion of Members' activities, initiatives and events at the European level (mainly through the website and the newsletter)
- Free links of Members' website within ALDA website to grant European wide visibility

Know more about EU related issues

- Briefings on EU Programmes, funds and procedures
- Right to attend working groups on different topics (local governance, active citizenship, human rights and democracy, civil society, etc.)
- Access to EU experts, professional and support networks, academic organizations
- Participation in international events (conferences, seminars, etc.) promoted by ALDA

Successfully manage your projects

- Support of ALDA multilingual staff in the project management
- Support of ALDA in sorting out of complex situations you might face during your autonomous management of your projects
- Free use of ALDA equipped offices and meeting rooms in Belgium (Brussels), upon approval of the Council of Europe, in Strasbourg, Italy (Vicenza), Subotica (Serbia), Skopje (Macedonia), upon approval of the Municipality of Brindisi (Italy)

Be constantly updated on topics of interest

- Constant updates via the periodical newsletter
- Access to ALDA and EU publications, information materials
- Access to the information points on EU and active citizenship (info-points based in Brussels and Vicenza)

3. ALDA contacts



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