

## PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECT

Decentralized cooperation between the Region Lower Normandy (France) and Macedonia started in 2006. This institutional cooperation is based on an action plan of activities between stakeholders from both territories. Formally conceived as a three-year project (2007 – 2010), this cooperation is planned to extend beyond this period. The activities are financially supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France and the region Lower Normandy.

### Objectives

This cooperation is a product of a joint effort of the two partner entities to open themselves up to the world and to encourage their population to engage in active citizenship at local and European levels in the spirit of reciprocity and change. The project leads the establishment of a platform for continuous change and will contribute to the creation of long-lasting relations among the populations of the two entities.

The main aim is to strengthen the local governance in all areas of co-operation, as each action will aim to develop the capacity of the local populations (in both Lower Normandy and Macedonia) by exchange of best practices. The main objectives are to reinforce the capacity of local authorities to implement decentralization, to mobilize citizens, to ensure that the development is sustainable.

### Activities and participants

In this institutional cooperation between the Regional Council of Lower Normandy and the Macedonian Ministry of local government, the activities are grouped in 6 components and they are implemented by tandem – organization from France and Macedonia. They run this programme by leveraging support and interest in the local communities, trying to mobilize and involve citizens and organisations at various levels: public institutions, NGOs, professional bodies (such as Chambers of commerce), the media as well as other relevant parties. The lead coordinator is the Association of the Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA).

#### The 6 components of cooperation are:

##### 1. Local governance and new information and communication technologies (ICT)

*Training and use of new technologies for better local governance*

- Regional Council of Lower Normandy – France

<http://www.cr-basse-normandie.fr>

- Metamorphosis - Macedonia

<http://www.metamorphosis.org.mk>

##### 1. Youth, education, local and European citizenship

*Youth active citizenship on local level*

- House of Europe in Caen, Lower Normandy - France

<http://maisoneuropecaen.free.fr>

- Coalition of Youth organisations SEGA – Macedonia

<http://www.sega.org.mk>

## 1. Medias and Information society

*The information in service of the citizens and the cooperation*

- Courrier des Balkans – France

<http://balkans.courriers.info>

- Glasnikot - Courrier de la Macedoine -Macedonia

### 1. Culture

*Setting up of a culture policies and a platform for a dialogue and artist mobility*

- Regional Council of Lower Normandy – France
- <http://www.cr-basse-normandie.fr>
- Lokomotiva – Macedonia

<http://www.lokomotiva.org.mk>

### 1. Cultural heritage and sustainable tourism

*Protection of a cultural heritage and support for sustainable tourism*

- Savoir-faire et decouvert - Lower Normandy

<http://lesavoirfaire.fr>

- Center for institutional cooperation development – CIRA – Macedonia

<http://cira.org.mk>

### 1. Agriculture and Economic Development

*Exchange of experience in organizing farmers*

- AFDI – France
- Federation of Farmers from Republic of Macedonia – Macedonia

<http://www.ffrm.org.mk>

## **Cooperation of municipalities: the way to European citizenship**

One of the objectives of the project is to straighten the cooperation between municipalities in Macedonia and France. The direct cooperation between the local authorities allows citizens from Macedonia and France to meet each other, which will strengthen the sense of European identity and citizenship.