

WITH THE SUPPORT OF

2000



# ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES

*Established on the initiative of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe*

## Newsletter

*The word of the President of the LDA Association*

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### Time for action

These past months, several elections were organised throughout South-eastern Europe : newly elected local, regional and even national authorities have today the task to ensure the stabilisation of this region. Local authorities can contribute in a extensive way to promote local and regional democracy by encouraging confidence-building measures, bringing their citizens closer to Europe, allowing a peaceful co-existence between all communities, ensuring a favourable ground for economic growth at local level. The involvement of European municipalities and regions is more than ever needed to give a new impetus to economic development, cultural exchanges and promotion of mutual understanding. The Forum of Cities and Regions of South-east Europe organised by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe in Skopje in November 2000 constitutes a useful contribution to this process.

The issue at stake remains the integration of these countries into greater Europe. Local Democracy Agencies were created under the auspices of the Congress of local and Regional Authorities of Europe, thanks to the support of the Council of Europe and the European Commission, and with the essential contribution of the local and regional authorities, which fostered partnerships. They have been present since 1993 in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", and they have been co-operating with the local authorities on the spot, even in the most difficult times. They have managed to involve elected representatives, but also a wide range of non-governmental organisations, universities, schools, enterprises, etc in this comprehensive project. Today, there is room for hope ...and action. Cities and regions in Europe can now make a positive step to help their counterparts in Southern–Eastern Europe. Twinning, partnerships or ad hoc bilateral or multilateral activities are possible ways to encourage this process. Local Democracy Agencies are tools to make this potentiality become reality.

Gianfranco MARTINI

President of the LDA Association

### Coming up

FIRST Annual Seminar and the General Assembly of the Association of Local Democracy Agencies  
Strasbourg, 11-12 December 2000 (see page 7)

# Highlight

## Information and training session for the LDA actors in Skopje, November 2000

*In Skopje, the Delegates of the Local Democracy Agencies and their collaborators will meet from 15 to 18 November 2000 to exchange their experience and strengthen their working methods*

The Association of the Local Democracy Agencies organises a seminar for all the Delegates and their local assistant in Skopje, Macedonia, from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> of November 2000. The sessions are dedicated to receive further information about the programmes in the Balkans and in Southern and Eastern Europe dedicated to Democratisation and Civil Society and to have a general overview about the situation in the area. Those kind of information would be extremely useful for all of us for a further planning of our activities and for finding new common way of acting. The seminar will host, also the first Steering Committee dedicated to the Quick Start Projects of the Stability Pact funded for the Local Democracy Agencies by the Swiss Agency of Development.

The event organised by the Association will be held during and close the Economical Forum of Cities and Regions of Europe of South Eastern Europe. In this Forum will take part many cities of Europe and their Associations and represent a great opportunity for the LDAs to meet them and to build new contacts for the partnership for our LDAs.

During the Forum, the LDA's Association will present a stand with documents and information about their activities. Moreover, the FEDRE offered the Association to present some information about the LDAs in their website.

The 15<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of November are two days dedicated to the Association and the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of November are dedicated to attend the Forum and meet the representatives.

The whole event will be supported attended by all the Local Democracy Agencies' Delegates and members of the Association. The training and information session will take place at the Information Council of Europe of Skopje. The Forum of Cities and Regions of South-East Europe, organised jointly by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe, the City of Skopje and the FEDRE will take place at the Hotel Alexander Palace in Skopje.

The objectives of the meeting are :

- ✍ the steering committee for the start of the projects of civil society submitted by each LDAs to the Swiss Agency of Development in the framework of the Quick Start Projects of the Stability Pact. The steering committee should be attended by all the LDAs which are going to receive funds. A representative of the Swiss Agency of Development will take part in the Steering Committee.
- ✍ To meet international sponsors and organisations (for fundraising and for having further information related to the actions for civil society and democratisation in the area)
- ✍ To meet possible future partners for the LDAs (cities and associations of cities which are going to take part in the Forum)
- ✍ To organise our presence in the Forum of the Cities and Regions of Southern and Eastern Europe (contacts, documentation, stand)
- ✍ To strengthen the synergies among the LDAs
- ✍ To present the issue regarding the Advisory committee of the Delegates and their representative who is going to be chosen during the next General Assembly of the Association

The seminar of the Association will be attended by the representative of the programme of the Confidence Building Measures of the Council of Europe, Mr. Max Gilbert. Have been invited to attend the session the representatives of the Association of the German Cities and the representatives of the Association of cities of the Province of Treviso (Italy) for the interested already shown in our programme. The meeting will include also the participation of other international organisations, cities and associations for further contacts of work on the field of for planning programmes together.

For further information about this Forum, it is possible to visit the FEDRE website ([www.fedre.org](http://www.fedre.org)) or the CLRAE Website ([www.coe.int/cplre](http://www.coe.int/cplre))

# Some Information about the newly created Association of Local Democracy Agencies

*The Local Democracy Agencies (LDAs) and their Association are instruments at the disposal of local and regional authorities to contribute as effectively as possible to the promotion of local democracy in*

## *South-East Europe*

In the wake of the events which have shaken the former Yugoslavia and the transition process in central and east European countries, local and regional authorities all over Europe have a key role to play in:

- promoting practical initiatives to consolidate democracy at local level;
- developing a Europe-wide network of citizens committed to respect for human and minority rights;
- fostering the development of a civil society in which all sections of the community participate.

The Association was set up in December 1999 at the initiative of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (CLRAE) and the LDA partners. Its administrative headquarters are in Strasbourg (France).

It is composed of representatives from all participants in LDA networks: the Council of Europe, the CLRAE, partner towns and regions, LDA host towns, LDA Delegates, partner NGOs and, generally speaking, all individuals and institutions interested or involved in LDA projects.

It co-ordinates the overall activity of LDAs, raises funds to develop common projects and provides LDAs and Delegates with technical and administrative support. It is empowered to receive voluntary contributions from local and regional authorities, foundations and other bodies for the purpose of developing general or specific LDA projects. It acts as the LDAs' representative in dealings with institutions and sponsors and is responsible for the proper use of funds under its management.

It works to promote LDA activities and the international role of European local authorities in promoting local democracy, human rights and minority rights.

## *Some figures*

- 8 Local Democracy Agencies currently operating
- 4 South-East European countries concerned
- 60 partner towns and regions in 13 European countries
- 40 partner NGOs

## *Reinforcing regional co-operation among LDAs*

The Local Democracy Agencies have the purpose to promote local democracy, the reconstruction of civil society and intercultural dialogue. It comprises a host authority, at least three other European local or regional authorities, the European institutions and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).

The Agencies of Local Democracy receive the support of international organisations such as the **Council of Europe**: (since 1993 through the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe and the Confidence-Building Measures Programme), the **European Union**: since 1994, LDAs have enjoyed considerable support through the European Commission's programmes for Democratisation and Human Rights.

The LDAs work is a network to strengthen regional co-operation in the framework of the Stability Pact.

## *Some examples of activities*

- Training for local elected representatives and officials
- Schools of Civil society (with the support of the Council of Europe's Confidence-Building Measures Programme)
- Pre-election public information activities
- Training for young journalists in local democracy and intercommunity dialogue
- Workshops on transfrontier co-operation
- Activities to develop civil society and participation by young people
- Programmes to integrate minorities into the community

## *Managing the Association*

The Association elected in December 1999 a **provisional Bureau** which will be operational until the designation of the Association's Governing Board in December 2000. The Bureau is currently composed of :

- ✉ Gianfranco MARTINI, President of the Association
- ✉ Claude CASAGRANDE, Vice-President
- ✉ Antonella VALMORBI DA, Executive Secretary
- ✉ Léon SAUR, Treasurer

All correspondence and request of information can be addressed to the Secretariat of the Association, c/o Mrs Sylvie Affholder, CLRAE Secretariat, Office B532, 67 075 Strasbourg Cedex, fax : + 33 3 88 41 37 47, sylvie.affholder@coe.int

## Under the aegis of the Association ...

*"The Local Democracy Agencies:*

*a regional programme for the development and the stability in Southern and Eastern Europe"*

### **A presentation of the Association organised by the Italian Partners of the LDA Association on 15 July 2000 in Marcon (Venice, Italy)**

**This conferences, focusing on international role of local and regional authorities as instruments for the promotion of democracy and participation of civil society for building a Europe based on Human Rights and respect for minorities was organised and funded by the City of Marcon, the city of Mogliano Veneto, the Veneto Region under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy and with the support of the Association of Local Democracy Agencies.**

This first international conference was dedicated to make public the work of the LDAs and their network and the challenge and potentiality of the new established Association. The session was co-ordinated by **Prof. Diego Bottacin**, Mayor of Mogliano Veneto, Partner Leader LDA Sisak

**The panel of the speakers was composed of**

**Mr. Fiorenzo Davanzo**, Mayor of Marcon (partner of the LDA in Sisak)

**On. Umberto Ranieri**, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Italy

*"The role of the Decentralised International Co-operation in the Italian policies for In Southern and Eastern Europe"*

The Deputy Minister made an extensive contribution to the session referring to the role of the different countries of the region in the framework of the Stability Pact. In particular, he focused on the always growing role of Italy in this process. The answer for the tragedy of the Balkans is the construction under the European Umbrella thanks to 1) democratisation 2) reconstruction 3) security. Those are also the pillars of the Stability Pact. He stated the important role of Croatia that with the latest elections showed the way

of a possible democratic change. Concerning the role of the LDA, he mentioned the substantial help that Italy gave to these structures and the fundamental aspect of their work in the general process. Italy has been especially interested in the process of the decentralised international co-operation.

**Minister Ivan Jakovcic**, Minister for the European Integration of the Republic of Croatia  
*"The challenge of European integration for Croatia"*

Minister Jakovcic mentioned the relevant changes happened in Croatia in those last months and the first results of these new data. The country is now on a different and more positive track towards the European integration.

Even it's realistic to consider the Balkan region as a whole, it's also important to make an individual approach to each county now. It's possible to have a general co-operation at the regional level. They are ready to co-operate with a democratic Serbia. But, they would request now from Europe an approach more individual. They would base their programme on 1) return of refugees 2) freedom of media 3) co-operation with the tribunal in Hague 4) rights of minorities.

He focused on the important role played by the three LDAs in Croatia even if he knows better the LDA in Verteneglio (since he run the Istrian regional Parties for years). This year, his Ministry will support also financially the activities of the LDAs. In Istria, the region will support the LDA by providing a local assistant. The other LDAs have submitted projects and they are under evaluation.

**Mr. Bellotti**, Member of the government of the Veneto Region in charge with Civil and Human Rights sector  
*"The Veneto Region facing the transition in Southern Eastern Europe"*

**Mr. Rinaldo Locatelli**, Head of the Secretariat of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe.

**Representatives of local authorities** of the Local Democracy Agencies of Bosnia Erzegovina (Zavidovici, Prijedor) and Macedonia (Ohrid)

**On. Nereo Laroni**, Member of the Task Force "Nord Est"  
*"The Stability Pact and the Task Force Nord Est for the reconstruction"*

**Mrs. Antonella Valmorbida**, Executive Secretary *ad interim* of the Association of Local Democracy Agencies  
*"The future of the Association of the LDAs and the work in front of us"*

**Avv. Gianfranco Martini**, Member of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, President of the Association

#### **Conclusions**

Mr. Martini reminded the role and the story of the LDA. He focused on the fact that now they acquired the capacity to make planning and projects at the regional level. Partnership is now, with this instrument, something concrete and not rhetorical. Thanks to it, Europe is less obscure and it is made more concrete to its citizens. He proposed to make a note to all the twinned cities for promoting their inclusion in the network of the LDAs.

The meeting usefully contributed to

- create a debate on the role of the LDAs and for the new established Association
- bring to the attention a new public the work of the LDAs
- find new partners for the LDAs and members for the Association
- fundraise for the Association and

# Under the aegis of the Association... .

## "Building Bridges", Sisak, Croatia 8/9 of September 2000 Training for Delegates and Local Assistants and preparatory meeting for the Association General Assembly

In June 2000, Antonella Valmorbida - project Manager of the Local Democracy Programme in the LDA in Sisak and Executive Secretary of the Association of the Local Democracy Agencies - attended a Training of Trainers organised by Partners Romania in the framework of the programme "Working Together". The TOT was dedicated to "Conflict resolution and Participatory Planning Process". This session was attended by Ana Vasilache, Director of Partners Foundation for Local Development - "Working Together", Fred Fisher, Director of International Development Institute for Organisation and Management, Representative of the Association of the Cities of the Province of Treviso and the Delegates of 8 LDAs and their collaborators.

This participation was part of the co-operation in network that the LDAs, co-ordinated by the LDA in Sisak, started to implement with "Working Together". This network was expressed by :

- ✍ making circulate all the information concerning Working Together among the network of the LDAs (especially the application form for the TOTs)
- ✍ propose the translation of material for the training into croatian (in order to make them available for the whole network of the LDAs)
- ✍ to organise session for all the LDAs where the knowledge which was given to one of the participants of our network could be transferred to the rest of the group.

This is the reason why, after the session at the TOT in Romania (in June), the LDA Sisak worked for the organisation of a session for the distribution of the knowledge and the material to all the LDAs.

Thanks to the financial contribution of the Association of the Cities of the Province of Treviso, the LDA in Sisak organised, in co-operation with the Association of the LDAs, the session the past 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of September.

On the other hand, since the work of the Association of the LDAs started to be implemented this year, this moment was also useful - as preparatory session to the seminar regarding the future of the session in December, to be held in Strasbourg - for a first discussion with the Delegates and their assistants. Without no doubt, the session was also extremely important for a further strengthening of the network of the LDAs and for sharing, in an informal manner, the different difficulties, opportunities and hopes.

### OBJECTIVES OF THE SESSION

1. To present to the participants the programme "Working Together" and answer their questions about it. To see the possible future co-operation between "Working Together" and the network of the LDAs.
2. To give the opportunity to the participants to receive sufficient information for planning a training on "conflict management" and "participatory planning process" in the LDA, based on the manuals distributed : collect their suggestions and comments. The manuals were sent before the session via email
3. To present the regional programme of the Association of the LDAs : discussion with the participants, collect their comment and suggestions, check and modify the proposal according to their suggestions.

4. To present the different possible sources of financing for the regional programme (LGI - Swiss Agency for the Development). Collect the comments of the participants and new suggestions.

5. To have an overview of the situation of the different LDAs for the rest of the year and for the year 2001 (programmes, partnership, relationship with the host country).

6. To collect the expectations of each LDA's delegate regarding the work of the Association of the LDAs.

Presentation of the programme "Working Together", Ana Vasilache
Introduction to the CONFLICT MANAGEMENT MATERIAL, Antonella Valmorbida and Ana Vasilache, part I
<i>Definition of conflict management</i> <i>Our target groups</i> <i>Different training experiences among us</i> <i>Training needs for our different situations</i>
Presentation of a possible training on Conflict Management following the proposal of the manual (book I) and with proposed exercises :
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✍ Ice breaker</li> <li>✍ reflection about the sense and feeling of conflict</li> <li>✍ Understanding of the nature of the conflict</li> <li>✍ Causes of the conflict</li> <li>✍ Perceptions of the others</li> <li>✍ Conflict dynamics</li> <li>✍ Analysing the conflict</li> </ul>

Introduction to the CONFLICT MANAGEMENT MATERIAL, Antonella Valmorbida and Ana Vasilache, part II
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✍ Conflict management styles</li> <li>✍ Conflict outcomes</li> <li>✍ Negotiation</li> <li>✍ Mediation</li> </ul>
Presentation of the other books, distribution of a training

Discussion with the participants
Introduction to the PARTICIPATORY PLANNING PROCESS MATERIAL, Antonella Valmorbida and Ana Vasilache
<i>Definition of conflict management</i> <i>Our target groups</i> <i>Different training experiences among us</i> <i>Training needs for our different situations</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✍ Level of co-operation for the PPP</li> <li>✍ Presentation of the Phases</li> <li>✍ Role of facilitator</li> <li>✍ Issue identification</li> <li>✍ Vision and visioning</li> <li>✍ Problem diagnosis</li> <li>✍ Data Gathering</li> <li>✍ Problem analysis</li> <li>✍ Action planning</li> <li>✍ Implementation planning</li> </ul>
Discussion and suggestions with participants

# SPONSORING THE ASSOCIATION

*Local Democracy Agencies developed their activities thanks to the contribution of different sponsors. In this issue of the Newsletter, the Association would like to introduce two donors : the Local Government Initiative - Budapest and the Confidence Building Measures Programme of the Council of Europe*

## THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE - BUDAPEST

The Association established a contact with Local Government Initiative for the financing of a training of trainers for the Delegates and their Local Assistants as well as for a training for each LDA.

The support is connect to the work of WORKING TOGETHER, organised by the FPDL in Bucharest. The network of the Local Democracy Agencies are part of the network of WORKING TOGETHER since already many trainers have attended Training of Trainers organised by this organisation. The material distributed in this network has been circulated in our Agen-

### Summary of the proposal :

#### Objectives :

- ? to strengthen and improve the capacities and skills of the trainers already involved in training activities for local authorities of the network of the LDAs ;
- ? to strengthen the competencies and skills of local elected people and civil servants in the Balkans where the LDAs are already currently operating;
- ? to develop a regional programme, as a common basis, which will give the opportunity to all the countries involved to learn from each others and to exchange their experiences;
- ? To enhance the capacity of governance of the local authorities and local civil servants as a basis for further development and consolidation of local democracy in the target countries ;
- ? To implement criteria of decentralisation;
- ? To implement the European Charter on Self-Government;
- ? To improve local government and community efficiency in meeting the needs of citizens;

#### Beneficiaries

- ? the trainers of the Local Democracy Agencies : 16 people (two for each LDAs)
- ? the local authorities elected and officials of the countries included in the framework of activities of the LDAs (Croatia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) : evaluated 160 people

#### A. Training of trainers

- ≠ Each LDA will follow session of Training of Trainers (TOTs) dedicated to the training that they will implement in their own agencies.
- ? The TOT will be attended by two trainers of each LDAs (so far, for a target group of 16 people for 4 countries involved)
- ? Topics : Elected leadership
- ? Five days
- ? The material used will be the one already used by "Working Together" with the support of UNHabitat.
- ? Trainer : selected in the network of the programme "Working Together", Partner Roumania
- ? Location of the training : Sisak - Croatia

#### Training for local authorities and civil servants in each LDA

- ? The training will be prepared by a training need assessment (inquiries, reading, interviews)
  - ? The LDAs will organise, following the TOTs training for local authorities and civil servants.
  - ? The work will be co-ordinated at the regional level but will respect the differences of single country.
  - ? The training will also include local experts.
- Local authorities and civil servants : potentially 160 trainees

- ? and around 100 cities involved in the target countries
- ? 8 courses in 4 countries
- ? Three days training
- ? Trainers : the delegate and the responsible of the local democracy programme of each LDA
- ? Material used : Elected Leadership training presented in the programme Working Together



## THE CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

The Confidence Building Measures Programme has been promoting the LDA activities related to the multicultural coexistence and mutual understanding since 1994. This Programme was established after the Council of Europe Vienna Summit in 1993. The CBM programme has notably sponsored the Schools of Civil Society which were established in South-East Europe by the LDAs.

The CBM Programme is managed by the Steering Committee composed of Ambassadors to the Council of Europe. It is presently chaired by Ambassador Wolf from Liechten-

The Agencies will again submit various projects to the CBM Programme in the year 2001. The LDA projects which may be approved will contribute to the "Campaign for a sensibilisation for a multiethnic society". A special interest will be given this year to to the **trans-border co-operation** projects implemented by the Agencies.

Thanks to their network, LDAs are in a position to implement regional projects which will contribute to a better understanding of the communities living in

General Assembly of the Association of Local Democracy Agencies  
Strasbourg, 12 December 2000

## Assessing the role of local and regional authorities in integrating South-East Europe into greater Europe

The General Assembly of the LDA Association will constitute an important moment in the drafting of the future activities of the LDA Association.

The Governing Board and the Bureau of the Association will be elected on that occasion. But this meeting will be an unique opportunity to gather the towns, regions and non-governmental organisation which are partners of the LDA programme, the LDA Delegates, the representatives of the host cities and the sponsors of the LDA activities.

The First Annual Seminar of the LDA Association will be held at the Council of Europe on 11 December 2000. The participation of representatives from the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, the European Parliament, the European Commission, the Committee of the Regions, the Assembly of the European Regions is expected to nourish a fruitful dialogue about the contribution of local and regional authorities to the integration process of South-East Europe into greater Europe.

### The enlargement of the pool of partners of the Agencies and the LDA Association is needed !

The Association is working on a daily basis for promoting the Association and to collect new partners among local authorities and communities.

- ✍ The **membership** to the Association gives the opportunity to be actively involved in the planning of the action of the whole programme, to be part of the strategy of the Association and the LDAs for the future.
- ✍ The **partnership** to an LDA is to work, on the field, actively for promoting the activities of the offices. It means to be financially supportive of the structure but, above all, to be included in the planning and implementation of programmes with a specific agency.

In the coming months, the Association will set up further contacts to promote membership to the Association and new partnership for the Local Democracy Agencies on the

## Join in !

Return the appended form to the Secretariat of the Association  
C/o Sylvie Affholder, Office B532 of the Council Of Europe  
F—67 075 STRASBOURG Cedex, Fax : + 33 3 88 41 37 47

# The Association's Contribution to the Stability Pact

*The Association of the Local Democracy Agencies receives the support of the Swiss Agency of Development and the Irish Government as implementation unit of the Stability Pact*

Thanks to the support of the Council of Europe, the Association of the Local Democracy Agencies has received the support of the Swiss Agency of Development and the Irish Government as implementation unit of the Stability Pact.

The Contribution given by the **Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation** is financing the first part of the regional programme of actions of the Association by backing 8 projects of civil society (one in each LDA) and by supporting the network and the exchange of information among the offices. The Irish contribution is supporting the development of agencies in Serbia (proposed area is Nis) and in Montenegro. This contribution represents the first success of the regional and co-ordinated approach of acting that the LDAs can offer.

The Swiss contribution is supporting the programme entitled : developing democratic citizenship and intercultural dialogue at local level . The objectives are :

1. To strengthen and develop the capacity of local governance and actions of local authorities for and with civil society
2. To strengthen the participation of civil society for the development of their community

The actions for civil society are proposed by the LDAs according to the special need expressed by their community. The co-ordination of the programme will be given via communication tools, exchanges and information between the differ-

ent actions. The experts of one area will be also used in others and synergies and common strategies will be used for the activities. The programmes have been expressed in meeting organised in Strasbourg the 10<sup>th</sup> of July and have been further on developed and adjusted by the LDAs.

The projects - part of the Quick Start Projects of the Stability Pact - will be implemented within the year 2001.

The Implementation units are following :

- ✍ **OHRID** ("the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"): "Development of an inclusive participative democracy"
- ✍ **SUBOTICA** (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia) "Cultural diversity and civic image of Vojvodina region : confidence building measures"
- ✍ **SISAK** (Croatia) "Development of civil society : implementation of women's rights"
- ✍ **ZAVIDOVICI** (Bosnia and Herzegovina) "School of Journalism in the Zenica-Doboj Canton, BiH"
- ✍ **PRIJEDOR** (Bosnia and Herzegovina) "School for journalism: free, independent and multiethnic information"
- ✍ **TUZLA** (Bosnia and Herzegovina) "Promotion of Roma cultural heritage in the areas of Bijelina and Kalesija in Bosnia and Herzegovina"
- ✍ **OSIJEK** (Croatia) "Transborder co-operation in

**Euro-region Danube-Drava-Sava"**

✍ **Bronigla-Verteneglio (Croatia) "School of civil society"**

✍ **Association of Local Democracy Agencies Co-ordination of the network, connection with the association of local and regional authorities interested in South-**

The Contribution of the **Irish authorities** is supporting the programme for the Creation of new local democracy Agencies in Montenegro and Southern Serbia. It aims at extending the LDA activities in South-Eastern Europe

**ern and Eastern Europe**

The project to open a LDA in Montenegro and an extension of the LDA of Subotica in the south of Serbia (possibly Nis) has the following aims:

- ✍ Promote local democracy in a broad sense and the respect for human rights;
- ✍ To encourage intercultural dialogue and tolerance in political, social and cultural life level toward the participation of citizens in political life at local level
- ✍ To establish constructive contacts with civil society (local political parties, local NGOs, religious communities, youth organisations and the independent media;

**The above-mentioned activities will include**

1. Training for local elected representatives and officials;
2. Creation of schools of Civil Society, with special programmes for young people and minorities.

**LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES**  
**AN OPPORTUNITY FOR RESTORING CONFIDENCE IN MONTENEGRO, SERBIA AND KOSOVO**

by Claude Casagrande, Vice-President of the Congress, Vice-President of the LDA Association

*The results of the recent elections to the Presidency of the Federation of Yugoslavia have brought much hope and open the way to re-establishing civil peace in this region. Yet everyone knows that an election is not enough to restore confidence between communities which have fought one another for so many years. The examples we have seen in the other republics of the former Yugoslavia (Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia) offer us proof of this with every passing day. The path which the national authorities seem to have taken must be supported and promoted among local communities. Such has been the task of the Local Democracy Agencies since they were set up.*

*It is with this in mind that the Association of Local Democracy Agencies has decided to speed up the process of establishing an agency in Montenegro, step up its activities in Serbia and work on plans to set up a similar body in Kosovo. The association's partners will make a preliminary visit to Montenegro from 6 to 8 December 2000 and new activities in southern Serbia will shortly be planned in co-operation with the Subotica Local Democracy Agency, which was set up in Vojvodina in 1993.*

*The priorities of these agencies will be to help restore civil peace between the citizens of these countries, enable the regions' various ethnic, cultural and religious communities to rebuild confidence in one another, contribute to the training of local elected representatives and help to set up NGOs. This can only be done with the active support of local and regional authorities in the other European countries in the form of dynamic partnerships, not least in the economic field. All our energy must be concentrated on helping the inhabitants of these regions to enjoy once more the peace and tolerance to which every human being aspires, in their own land.*

*Whether we are local or regional elected representatives, NGOs or economic partners, the future of this region of our continent concerns us all.*

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## Mailing List of the Association

One of the main activities of the Association is NETWORKING among the different organisation which are working in the field of democratisation and civil society in Southern and Eastern Europe. Its task is also to keep informed the Agencies on the field and being a tool among them for exchanging useful information, opportunities and contacts. Moreover, the role of the Association is look for new partners and involve communities and local authorities in this programme.

The Association, thanks to the contact already established by the Secretariat of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities as well, based on the mailing list of each LDA, is now building up a fundamental tool for keeping the network posted of any news.

If you are interested in receiving information about us and being included in our mailing (and email list) please send a message to the following addresses :

Secretariat of the Association : c/o Conseil de l'Europe, Office B532, F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex

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A new address is at your disposal to be informed about the latest information on the Local Democracy Agencies Programme

**<http://www.coe.fr/cplre/adl>**

This Website, which will be regularly improved and It will give information about each LDAs, their partnership and their activities, the activities of the Association, the ongoing and upcoming events, and some information about the members of the Association and the LDA sponsors.

This Website will also promote the networking of Local Democracy Agencies.

# REGIONAL PROGRAMME OF THE ASSOCIATION OF THE LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES

## "CAPACITY BUILDING IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP"

The Association of the Local Democracy Agencies has, as a main basis of activity a comprehensive regional programme called "**CAPACITY BUILDING IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP**". It represents a two year activity in all the offices of the Local Democracy Agencies, in four countries. The regional programme represents the highest expectation for the work of the Association and its LDAs. It is ambitious and complex.

It has been already submitted to several donors and some of them have accepted to start financing it. In particular, the Swiss Agency of Development is financing the first year of activity of the second part of the regional programme dedicated to the Civil Society Actions (see page 8). Local Government Institute is taking into consideration to finance a first part of the training sessions planned to be held in the first part.

The fundraising is going on ....

**The proposal includes two field of activities :**

### A. STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY BUILDING IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE

- ? to strengthen and improve the capacities and skills of the trainers already involved in training activities for local authorities of the network of the LDAs
- ? to strengthen the competencies and skills of local elected people and civil servants in the Balkans where the LDAs are already currently operating
- ? to develop a regional programme, as a common basis, which will give the opportunity to all the countries involved to learn from each others and to exchange their experiences.

### B. STRENGTHENING THE PARTICIPATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR COMMUNITY

- ? to develop activities for the promotion of civil society and its participation in the decision making
- ? target groups are 1) youth 2) children 3) NGOs 4) community leaders 5) minority groups 6) women 7) other groups representing civil society
- ? to create opportunities for civil society groups to learn from each others and to exchange their experiences

The beneficiaries of the actions are :

- ? the trainers of the Local Democracy Agencies
- ? b) the local authorities elected and officials of the countries included in the framework of activities of the LDAs (Croatia, Bosnia Erzegovina, Federal Republic of Jugoslavia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)
- ? the civil society groups involved in the actions of the

LDAs in all the countries of former-Jugoslavia

**The first part is the Local Democracy Programme.**

#### - Training of trainers

Each LDA will follow session of Training of Trainers (TOTs) dedicated to the training that they will implement in their own agencies. **The TOT will be attended by two trainers of each LDAs (so far, for a target group of 16 people for 4 countries involved)**

#### - Training for local authorities and civil servants

The LDAs will organise, following the TOTs training for local authorities and civil servants. The work will be coordinated at the regional level but will respect the differences of single country.

The training will also include local experts. **Local authorities and civil servants : potentially 320 trainees and around 300 cities involved in the target countries**

**The second part is the Civil Society Programme (according to the proposal of each LDA)**

#### - Actions with civil society (debates, public information,...)

Public debates

Training for local community leaders

Activities with other NGOs

#### - Exchanges with the city partners

Meetings and study visits among the cities of the network and among the different civil society group involved in our activities

Joint activities

Meetings and study visits with the European cities partner supporting the programme

Distribution of material (in the civil society, in the schools)

**1. LDA – Orhid in Former-Jugoslavian Republic of Macedonia**

"The Development of an Inclusive Participative Democracy Throughout Macedonian Society"

**2. LDA – Subotica in Federal Republic of Macedonia**

"Cultural diversity and civic image of Vojvodina Region, Confidence Building Measures Programme"

**3. LDA – Sisak - Croatia**

"Development of civil society : implementation of women's rights"

**4. LDA – Zavidovici – Bosnia Herzegovina**

"School of Journalism in the Zenica-Doboj Canton"

**5. LDA – Prijedor – Bosnia Herzegovina**

"Ecole de journalisme pour jeunes : information libre, independante et multihetnique"

**6. LDA – Tuzla – Bosnia Herzegovina**

"Promotion of Roma cultural heritage in the areas of Bijeljina and Kalesija in BiH"

**7. LDA – Verteneglio/Brtonigla – Croatia**

"School of civil society"

**8. LDA – Osijek/Vukovar – Croatia**

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION

- ✍ 11 December 2000, Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg  
*First Annual seminar of the Association*
- ✍ 12 December 2000, Palais de l'Europe, Strasbourg  
*General Assembly of the Association : Election of the  
Governing Board of the Association and approval of  
the activity programme for the year 2001*
- ✍ 13 December 2000  
*First session of the Governing board of the Association*
- ✍ Mission of the Association to Montenegro and Serbia to  
develop new partnerships (January 2001).

***You are interested in one specific Local Democracy Agency ?  
Do not hesitate to contact the LDA Delegates on the spot !***

### ***The FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF YUGOSLAVIA***

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### ***BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA***

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**PRIJEDOR**, Ms Annalisa TOMASI, Delegate, Kralja Petra I Oslobodioca 94 cod H. Balkan-79000 Prijedor,  
BiH. Tel/fax : 00387/52/235018. E-mail: [asspdt@inecco.net](mailto:asspdt@inecco.net)

### ***"THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA"***

**OHRID**, Ms Miriana LOZANOSKA, Delegate, Dimitar Vlahov 52, 96000 OHRID. Tel: + 389 96 26 12 90.  
Fax: + 389 96 26 12 98. E-mail: [eldoh@mt.net.mk](mailto:eldoh@mt.net.mk)

This Appeal was launched in August 2000 and reached more than  
7 000 cities and regions throughout Europe.

WITH THE SUPPORT OF



## ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES

*Established on the initiative of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe*

### Appeal to European local and regional authorities

Strasbourg, 24 August 2000

Dear Colleague,

We all know today that decisions taken in some far corner of the world can have a significant impact on our daily lives. Our towns and municipalities can therefore no longer afford to restrict their fields of action to within the narrow confines of their own administrative boundaries. The time has come for local politics to become involved in international affairs. This is all the truer when the issue at stake is war and peace in our continent of Europe. It is abundantly clear that we all have a direct interest in strengthening local democracy in south-eastern Europe.

The success of such an ambitious undertaking demands the **involvement of Europe's local and regional authorities in the efforts made** in the region **by international organisations**. The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe has established a system of **Local Democracy Agencies (LDAs)**. The LDAs are backed by a network of European partner towns and regions, which thus offer concrete support for local democracy, the co-existence of different ethnic communities and the development of civil society. Under the aegis of the Association of LDAs, which was established in December 1999 with the support of the Congress, the LDAs form an **operational network serving** the public thanks to the **political will of Europe's local and regional elected representatives**.

The enclosed introductory documents will give you an idea of the work already done, the partnerships in existence and the activities now being developed. New **challenges** for the association are already beginning to take shape in **Montenegro** and **Kosovo**, and are likely to be followed by others in **Serbia** in future.

***We all need peace and democracy throughout Europe. Local authorities in south-eastern Europe need your help to consolidate and strengthen local democracy, human rights and civil society!***

***Remember: helping them with this task is ultimately in our interests, too!***

Thank you in advance for your interest and support by coming a member of the Association or, better, by becoming associated to the project of on Local Democracy Agency.

Gianfranco MARTINI  
President of the Association of LDAs

VISIT THE LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES ON THE WEB AT [WWW.COE.FR/CPLRE/ADL](http://WWW.COE.FR/CPLRE/ADL)

With the support of

2000



COUNCIL OF EUROPE  
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES

Created on the initiative of the congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

**Subscription Request to the Association of Local Democracy Agencies**

? Mister or Mrs .....

Representing ?

? ???? the town ( ) the Region ( )? the NGO

(Name) .....

**Contact person:**.....

**Address:** .....

.....

.....

**Postal Code** .....

**Town** .....

**Country** .....

**Tel** +.....

**Fax** +.....

**E-mail address:** .....

Is interested in becoming a member of the Association of the LDAs and will pay his/her contribution to the appropriate Association of the LDAs' bank account, and according to the criteria below:

**Bank details of the Association of Local Democracy Agencies**

Banque: Société Générale / Sogénal  
Address : SGAB Council of Europe  
National Identification: 10067 00101 10320802859  
Internation Identification: FR76 1006 7001 0110 3208 0285 922

Number of inhabitants	Total of Contribution (Euros)
1 – 10 000	250
10 000 – 50 000	500
50 000 – 200 000	1 000
200 000 – 1 000 000	2 000
1 million plus	4 000
Non-governmental organisations	250
Actual persons	50

**Form to be returned to**

**Secretariat of the Association of Local Democracy Agencies**

C/o Council of Europe, Office B532, F – 67075 Strasbourg

Tel: + 33 (3) 88 41 35 51 – Fax: + 33 (3) 88 41 27 51 / 37 47, sylvie.affholder@coe.int

