

Association of Local Democracy Agencies Activity Report 2013

Association of Local Democracy Agencies - Activity Report 2013



www.alda-europe.eu

The Strasbourg Headquarters
Council of Europe
1, avenue de l'Europe
F-67075 Strasbourg, France
aldastrasbourg@aldaintranet.org

Office in Brussels
Rue de la Science 14b
B-1000 Brussels,
Belgium
aldabrussels@aldaintranet.org

Office in Vicenza
Viale Milano 66
36100 Vicenza,
Italy
aldavicenza@aldaintranet.org

Office in Skopje
Blvd Partizanski Odredi
15A 2/2, 1000 Skopje,
Macedonia
aldaskopje@aldaintranet.org

Office in Subotica
Trg Cara
Jovana Nenada 15
SRB-24000 Subotica
Serbia



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**ASSOCIATION OF
LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES
(ALDA)**

**2013
ACTIVITY REPORT**

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WELCOME TO THE 2013 ACTIVITY REPORT by the President

Dear ALDA members

It is with great satisfaction that I present you our 2013 Activity report. Despite difficult times for all of us, ALDA, together with its members and partners, managed to fulfil its strategic objectives and accompany local democracy development in the EU and in its Neighbourhood. We managed dozens of activities and projects, with particular success and leaving impact on our communities. Once again, I can confirm that our Association is a drive for change and it develops concrete actions that produce results. I believe that we make the difference thanks of our renowned proactive approach to topics and a strong problem-solving capacity. Of course, every single action is connected to the others. We have developed a strategy towards the EU and its neighbouring countries on democracy, respect of human rights and fair and shared development. We continue thinking that the highest goals should be built on local communities and on the common engagement and participation of our citizens. That is why it was fundamental for us to be a leader – in alliance with other networks – in the 2013 European Year of Citizens.

A big thank you goes to all the members of ALDA for their active support and involvement in the daily life of our Association. I would like to remember here the constant work of our Local Democracy Agencies and the immense effort developed by the Delegates and their partners. For Subotica and Osijek, the first LDAs ever established, we celebrated their 20th anniversary this year. We look forward to a strengthened role of our LDAs in South Eastern Europe and – based on the 2013 results – to be even more active in 2014 for the launch of the new Pre-Accession programmes. ALDA strengthened its network in the Eastern partnership countries and therefore became an essential partner of the Council of Europe and the European Union in that region. Last but not least, we paved the way for a presence in the Mediterranean area, following our partners' and members invitation.

In challenging times such as present, every successful organisation has to be strong enough and flexible enough to respond to all the imposed challenges. Through this active approach we succeeded to anticipate the consequences of the crisis and to adapt our activities considering the organisational changes in our structure. Therefore, it is essential to emphasise the importance of the quality and dynamic action of our staff to the changing conditions. I thank them for that.

I would like to remember here the important step for my country, Croatia that became the 28th member of the European Union on 1st July 2013. Our Local Democracy Agencies in Croatia changed status and became ALDA's Operational Partners, supporting the work of the Association in the region and elsewhere where ALDA is active.

I wish all of you a strong and committed 2014, together with ALDA, its programmes and its LDAs. I would like to invite you to interact with us and stay tuned via our new and brilliant communication tools

The website: www.aldaeurope.eu

The Facebook page: ALDA

Twitter: @ALDAeurope

Oriano Otočan

FOREWORD

by the Secretary General of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

As Secretary General of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, I want to recall that ALDA was established in 1999 at the initiative of the Congress in order to enhance local democracy in Europe by means of the promotion of good governance and citizen participation at the local level.

Since then ALDA has been developing and implementing its activities according to a unique method of multilateral decentralised cooperation bringing together local authorities and non-governmental organisations from different European countries.

Over the years ALDA has proved to be so effective in pursuing its objectives and in accomplishing its mission that it has been able progressively to enlarge its scope, now encompassing also some of the Council of Europe's neighbouring regions.

In parallel to these developments the relationship between ALDA and the Congress has also evolved. As ALDA gained in autonomy, the Congress has fostered an active co-operation with it in order to exploit, wherever possible, synergies for the enhancement of local democracy in Europe. Moreover, the Congress has kept a close eye on the evolution of ALDA, regularly participating in its major meetings and in its decision-making bodies. In 2013 ALDA's activities were to a large extent devoted to the European Year of Citizens of the European Union. The Congress closely followed such activities, also coordinating with ALDA its work in this domain, as was the case for example with regard to the Eastern Partnership initiatives, so as to enhance local democracy across Europe in the best interest of its citizens.

2013 proved to be a difficult year for ALDA due to the consequences of the economic and financial crisis in Europe. The Congress hopes that, in 2014, ALDA will overcome all hurdles it is now confronted with, as it did in the past, and will continue closely monitoring its work and activities.

Finally, the Congress looks forward to a continuing cooperation with ALDA aiming at the implementation of concrete actions intended to raise the quality of local and regional democracy in Europe and, possibly, beyond!

Andreas Kiefer

INTRODUCTION by the Director

2013: the European year of Citizens!

2013, what a challenging year! ALDA worked intensively with its members and partners to support local democracy as a key instrument to promote sustainable and fair development and to secure the best answers to communities and citizens. It was thrilling to be on the field every day, with local authorities and civil society to bring about changes and deliver output with a concrete impact. ALDA has the great possibility to build local democracy in its daily endeavour (and not only talking and writing about it).

2013 was marked by the important priority given by the European Union: the European Year of Citizens. In many ways and by different means, ALDA was involved in the process at the European level – by being among the founders and in the Steering Committee of the European Alliance for the European Year of Citizens – and for its particular role for the Italian and Croatian Alliances for the EYAC. The recommendations presented in Vilnius in December 2013 were the results of a one year work and consultations of a broad spectrum of European civil society. They focus on the need to make the European Union closer to citizens, built on a more social concept, which strengthens solidarity. The recommendations highlight also the fundamental role of the local communities, essential units of the European construction and instruments for building trust and involvement of citizens towards a deeper European shared identity and citizenship.

The recommendations can be found on

<http://ey2013alliance.eu/itsabouteu/itsaboutus/>

Despite all the difficulties encountered this year (and there were many) essentially linked to tight situations among all the members and partners of ALDA (mostly local authorities and civil society) affected by spending reviews, ALDA managed to reach its strategic objectives to deepen its activities in the field of local governance, to become a reliable and strong partners of the EU institutions, to strengthen its presence in the whole EU Neighbourhood and to give services and assistance to its members and partners. By all of us, this specific time should be addressed as an opportunity to make even more effective and meaning full our activities. Today, none of us could work without a clear understanding of the positive and valuable results of its work! And that's a great objective to reach! ALDA wants to be of support of its members and partners to reach – together our common mission: support local governance and citizen participation!

Let's work together in 2014 as we did in 2013 ... and more!

Antonella Valmorbida

Our Objective

Act Locally, Think Globally

for Good Governance and Participation

ALDA works in many ways. However, all its activities are connected by a *fil rouge*, which represents a coherent approach to support local governance and citizens participation in the European Union, the future enlargement countries of South Eastern Europe and the Neighbourhood countries.

I. Strategies and objectives in 2013: a comprehensive approach to strengthen local governance and citizen participation

The year 2013 has seen the development of the main strategic elements of our common action.

I.1 Development of geographic coverage of ALDA and LDAs

I.1.1. ALDA in Eastern Partnership

On the field, a strong presence in Belarus was confirmed with the support of the project SPREAD and TANDEM II thanks to our long-standing cooperation with our partner Lev Sapieha Foundation. The Working Together for Development Programme was of great support for our support to EaP countries. The programme to develop an LDA Dnipropetrovsk in Ukraine was consolidated with activities with partners and on the spot. Our presence in Southern Caucasus is confirmed with the LDAs in Armenia and Georgia and with further activities in Azerbaijan.

I.1.2. ALDA and Euro-Mediterranean cooperation

Also for the Mediterranean area, the Working Group activities were substantial. We had the possibilities to work with the Conference of the INGO to the Council of Europe for approaching Tunisia's reality followed by other missions and cooperation on the spot with UNDP Programme Art Gold on decentralised cooperation. The contacts with Anna Lindh Foundation were strengthened in France with our presence in Marseilles at the international Forum. Our partnership with the Tunisian partner, Lam Echaml, is an important element of our development in the region to our common benefit. We participated to some networking activities in the EU context and in Morocco.

I.1.3. ALDA worldwide

Our activities worldwide are strictly connected to our participation in strategic partnership, in particular with UNDP Art and with CIVICUS World Alliance for Citizen Participation. In this context and within our Working Together for Development programme, we took part in the 2013 European Development Days and organise a stand as well as a working group on Decentralised Cooperation.

I.1.4. ALDA in South-East Europe

We developed numbers of programmes and activities with out Local Democracy Agencies in the region and we our Operational Partners in Croatia since July 2013. They were implemented, mainly with the support of the Instrument for Pre-Accession programmes in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Montenegro. Many activities took place also in the framework of trans-border cooperation. The decentralised cooperation programme supporting the Lower-Normandy Regional Council in its activities in Macedonia has been confirmed and further developed. The France-Balkans programme for good governance

and territorial development has been continued by the leader partner, our member, Pays Vichy Auvergne thanks to the support by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In the region, we also developed activities within the programme Europe for Citizens.

I.2. Improvement of our work with members and networks

ALDA continued its activities within the working groups (setting up, meetings, activities and statements). 2013 witnessed an innovative way to help the LDAs by setting up the friends of LDAs mechanism. A special effort has been put into revitalising sleeping members and group of strategic members and continuous project proposals.

Stay closer to members

We intended to develop instruments to listen and act closer to members (regular visits and specific job shadowing), to improved communication between members and ALDA and LDAs through involvement of members in different LDA activities.

More/more balanced membership

The objective is to increase the number of members but also to have a better geographic coverage in all the EU and representing NGOs and local authorities. A specific staff member was identified to follow the members with a careful follow-up of all the potential membership opportunities and a constant information exchange.

Service oriented membership

We have improved our data basis system so to register the interest and specificity of each member. We had constant meetings and direct contacts with them. We have improved the services for members in even more language.

I.3. Development of technical assistance

To complete and strengthen ALDA's work and support to the members and networks, we have further developed our technical assistance capacities and actions.

We improved our capacity to inform and draft EU projects, but also to develop and implement youth training courses and other programmes and consultancies to local governments on local governance issues. We also launched again the Economic European Group of Interest (EEGI) Teatini in Brindisi and envisage a similar development in the Black Sea Area for already defined partnership.

I.4. Development of horizontal features

- ⤴ Gender issues: Development of the programme MY Europe on women's Participation in political life. Constant inclusion of the topics in our programmes and conferences
- ⤴ Disabilities : activity of My Europe about involvement of disadvantaged representatives
- ⤴ Youth and economic crises : Realisation of number of activities (Popeye, toys, youth in action programmes in Europe and EaP countries), internship and volunteering programmes
- ⤴ Environmental issues: extensive use of Skype and reduced coordination travels for the staff. Development of projects, which have less impact on environment with many local activities and not necessarily travel.
- ⤴ Education : constant activities with schools and educational institutions, in particular as for sharing information on Europe and its institutions and the European Year of Citizens 2013
- ⤴ Voluntarism: on-going activities of the programme Volunteer for Democracy, constant involvement of volunteers in our activities. LDAs' development of volunteers centre. Accreditation for sending and receiving volunteers.

I. 5. Communication

- ✦ Dedicated staff member with an increased quality of the outreach communication.
- ✦ Follow up of the website and start of an active Facebook page and twitter account.
- ✦ A newsletter is now issues monthly in 5 languages.
- ✦ Regular communication with the Bureau and Governing Board.
- ✦ Particular effort was made for improving our visibility and corporate image in the institutions. We have identified a list of media in all countries where we are present and increased the quality and level of our publications

II. The Local Democracy Agencies, our *raison d'être*: support good governance and citizen participation on the ground

In 2013, we were particularly proud to announce the 20th anniversary of two of our oldest Agencies in Subotica and in Osijek which were established in 1993 thanks to the support of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and the Council of Europe. The two Agencies have been working continuously since then in furthering peace and intercultural dialogue as well as trans-border cooperation in Serbia, Croatia, Hungary and Bosnia.

Since July 2013, the three Local Democracy Agencies in Croatia became ALDA's Operational Partners. A network of ten remaining Agencies covers countries in South Eastern Europe and in South Caucasus. They are supported by more than 100 partners (local authorities and civil society organisations) all over Europe, providing financial and political support to fulfil their mandate and to accompany local democracy, civil society empowerment and participation in the decision-making process at local level.

Most of ALDA and LDA's work is based on an innovative and successful method of multilateral decentralised cooperation which involves a multi-stakeholder approach and focuses on partnerships between Local Authorities and Non-Governmental Organisations. These partnerships create synergy and ensure that common goals are reached in a successful way. It focuses on mutual benefit of the cooperation, on a participative and long term approach in order to strength the real effectiveness of the impact on both communities. The multilateral approach allows a better sustainability as well as a multicultural input to the initiatives.

The LDAs partnerships by means of multilateral decentralised co-operation have been developed through two main lines of action:

- I. Territorial based approach, involving all the actors of the communities concerned on a geographic base;
- II. Thematic networking focused on specific, commonly determined issues connecting different local communities.

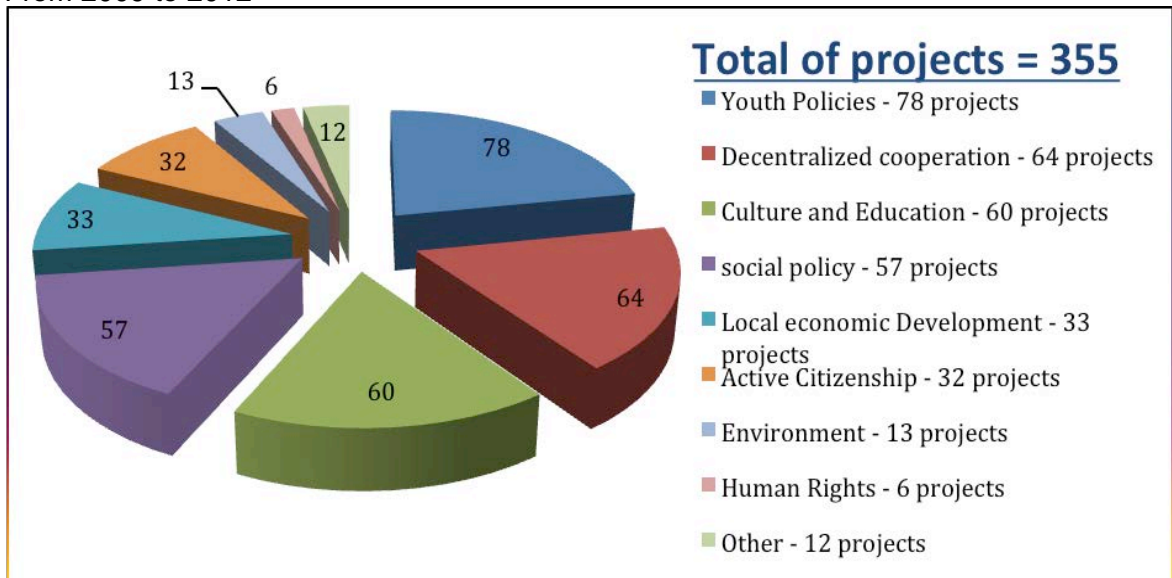
The LDAs objectives are

- ✦ To promote good local governance and support initiatives aimed at improved citizen participation
- ✦ To enhance institution and capacity building at local level through exchange of know-how and training of local elected representatives and administrators
- ✦ To develop a Europe-wide network of citizens committed to respect for human and minority rights
- ✦ To foster the development of a civil society in which all sections of the community participate.
- ✦ To support intercultural dialogue and diversity management capacities in

- multicultural local communities
- ▲ To promote the respect for human / minority rights in local communities

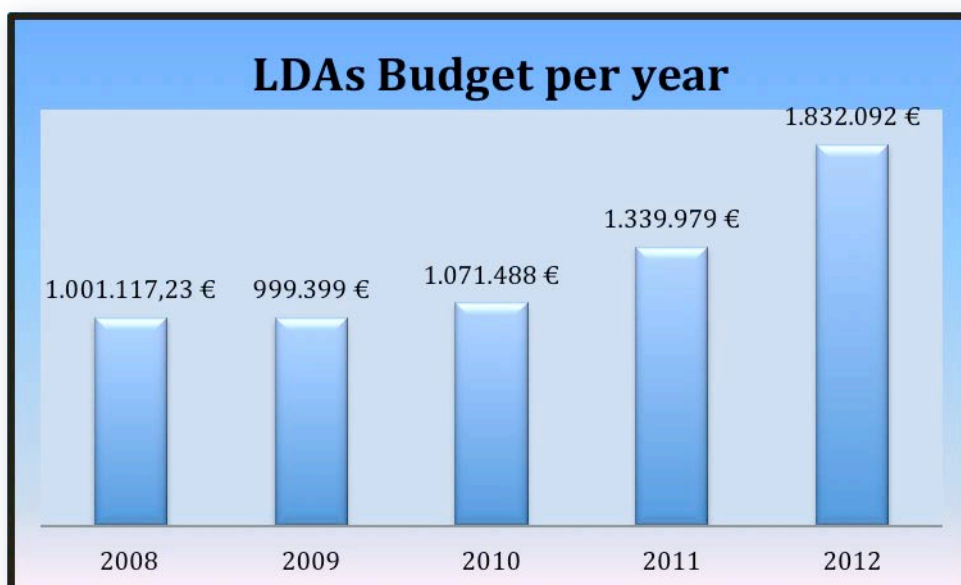
Here are some of the results obtained in an analysis of 2013 on the support to LDAs:

From 2009 to 2012



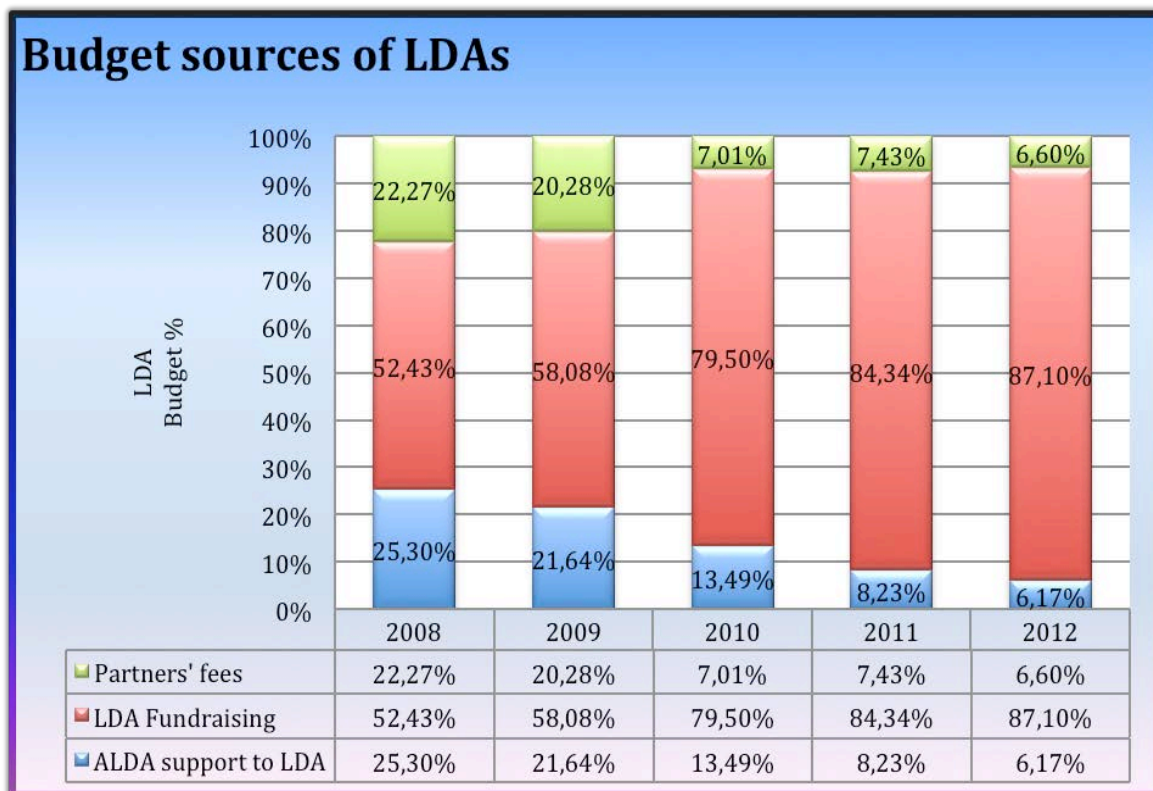
Evolution of the LDA funding

As shown in the figures, the overall budget of the LDAs per year is in a constant progress since 2009 despite the economic context, guaranteeing a sufficient availability of resources for the implementation of the respective action plans. According to the source, the available funds are managed by the LDAs themselves or by the members of the partnership established for the implementation of a specific project. Following the implementation of projects and activities, financial reports are drawn up to ensure transparency and appropriate use of the funds.



Budget sources

As the following chart indicates, there are three types of sources: 1/ funds resulting from the LDA's fundraising, 2/ ALDA's support to the LDAs and 3/ the fees of the LDAs' partners.



The funds resulting from the fundraising activity of the LDAs are in a constant progression over the years, representing a total of 87,10% of the total available budget. These funds come from European, national and other international supporting programmes originating from the EU, the Council of Europe, national, regional and local authorities and other international organisations.

The other two sources, Partners' fees and ALDA's support to LDAs are characterized by a considerable reduction in terms of financial support. The fees differ according to different criteria that are taken into account such as the partners' status, size, its willingness and ability to contribute etc. This trend results mainly from the negative effect of the economic crisis that Europe is currently facing, leading to reduced budget resources of actors and authorities. In the general context of the crisis, LDAs partners (local and regional authorities and organizations across Europe) are brought to decide for budget cuts, explaining the negative trend in supporting LDAs.

Despite being affected by the economic crisis, ALDA pursues its coordination and supporting mission to the LDAs by providing them with adequate expertise at all stages of the implementation of projects (funding opportunities, establishment of new partnerships, project implementation, and exchange and sharing of good practices, technical support, joint projects etc.). Notwithstanding the general negative economic environment, ALDA has, over the years, taken part in several projects and provided support of all kind to the Local Democracy Agencies in order to further the promotion of local democracy and citizen's participation at local level.

III. Our members' network – Fostering cooperation between local authorities and civil society organisations

ALDA remains one of the few examples of mixed membership organisations at European level. The association believes the cooperation between local authorities and civil society organisations is key to achieve its objectives and to implement its mission. That is why ALDA members are both local authorities (LAs) and civil society organisations (CSOs), from all over Europe and the European Neighbourhood.

In particular, thanks to ALDA commitment in decentralised cooperation and in the implementation of several projects in the framework of European programmes, ALDA promotes joint work and synergies between LAs and CSOs, in order to promote and improve best practices in the field of local governance and citizen's active participation.

Hence, the fair presence of LA and CSOs among ALDA members means the possibility of enhancing the cooperation and the exchange between institutional bodies and civil society. Through its long experience and its mixed membership, ALDA encourages innovative forms of cooperation and dialogue between LAs and CSOs, not only among its members, but also between its members and third parties.

The network of ALDA grows year by year, reflecting the added value of the membership, as well as the fruitful cooperation among members. At the end of 2013, ALDA counted 162 members (48% LAs and associations of LAs, 42% CSOs, 10% individual members).



IV. ALDA Statutory activities

IV.1 Governing Board

Our Governing Board, elected in 2012, met three times during 2013, in January in Vicenza (Italy), in April in Pula (Croatia), and in September in Tirana (Albania).

Among the most important points discussed by the Board was the development of the activities of ALDA and the LDAs considering the constant changes of the global context.

The Scientific Committee has been established to elaborate suggestions, recommendations, and statements on ALDA's activities and on specific issues, addressing the association Governing Board. The Scientific Committee was officially established during the Governing Board meeting in Tirana, and its first meeting took place in February 2014 in Strasbourg (France), at the Council of Europe, when Mrs Antonella Cagnolati was elected President.

Below are the members of the Committee:

✧ Mrs. Nadia SKENDEROVIC CUK
Deputy Head of Office of the Council of Europe
Serbia

✧ Mr. Noël ORSAT
Head of Project for Touristic Development
France

✧ Mrs. Antonella CAGNOLATI
General Coordinator of the Lisbon Forum 2013 of the North-South Centre of the Council of Europe (Consultant)
Italy

✧ Mr. Józef ROGACKI
Plenipotentiary of the Governing Board of the Voivodship Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management (Toruń) / Councilor of the Regional Parliament of the Kujava and Pomerania – President of the Committee on Foreign Affairs
Poland

✧ Mr. Hans Martin TSCHUDI
Member of the Social-Democratic Party / Teacher in the University St. Gallen
Switzerland

✧ Mrs. Ruzica JANKAHIDAC
Senior Project Assistant and Project Manager
France and Serbia

✧ Mr. Zoran LUKIĆ
Assistant Professor at the Department of Management and Business Systems Organizations, University of Banja Luka
Bosnia Herzegovina

✧ Ms. Maria PERRINO
Researcher at the Department of Social Research of the University of Eastern Piedmont / Member of the Governing Board of the Embassy of the Local Democracy in LDA Zavidovici
Italy

✧ Ms. Rada ORESCANIN
Financial and Administrative Manager of EU Projects and Projects for Cooperation and Development funds of the Region Friuli Venezia-Giulia

IV.2 General Assembly 2013

In 2013, the General Assembly of ALDA was held in Pula on 19 April, hosted by the Region Istria, Croatia. The location was definitely not a case, as the feeling of the country accessing the European Union in less than three months was in the air – the ideal place to talk about European integration, citizens' participation, and cooperation between local authorities and civil society.

The event was also a key step to disseminate and debate about the European Year of Citizens 2013. ALDA has been deeply involved in the activities of the European Year of Citizens 2013 Alliance (EYCA) throughout the year, and a member of the Steering Committee of the EYCA introduced the General Assembly.

Around 60 members of the organisation, as well as local and regional authorities and civil society groups, participated in the assembly. The members approved the association programmes and the Strategic Views of ALDA for the upcoming three years.

The General Assembly was connected to several important events. The international conference of the project VIT – Very Important Twinning, Volunteering in Town, which took place in the afternoon of 19 April, put the European Year of Citizens 2013 in the spotlight.

A preparatory meeting of the project POPEYE – Promoting Organic Production, Enhancing Youth Employment took place from 18 to 21 April, jointly organised with Region Istria and LDA Osijek. Its aim was to involve international stakeholders in the project, while promoting its visibility.

The role of local and regional authorities in the promotion of European citizenship was the title of the event of the programme AdriGov on 18 April, promoted by the Region Istria, which focused on citizens' participation and territorial cooperation in Western Balkans.

The meetings gave the opportunity to members, staff of ALDA, and the Local Democracy Agencies delegates to assess their common work, and to identify future objectives.

The first edition of the Scholarship Gianfranco Martini was awarded to Gianfranco Brusaporci, for his research on the role and future of Trans-border Cooperation in South Eastern Europe.

IV.3. Country meetings

Country meetings took part in several countries in the enlarged Europe. In particular, they took place in Belarus, where ALDA and its members are particularly active, in September; in December, country meetings were held in Azerbaijan and Armenia, linked to the activities to establish the future LDA Azerbaijan. Activities and country meetings took place in all the countries of the Balkans and in the Southern Caucasus in coordination with the LDAs. Country meetings give the possibilities to members of ALDA to know each other better and to identify possible common activities.



IV.4. Working groups

As agreed during the Governing Board of October 2012 and implemented in 2013, Governing Board Members have accepted the responsibility to lead on of ALDA's five working groups.

1. Region Lower-Normandy for Working group on the Balkans;
2. Region Puglia and Region Friuli Venezia Giulia for the Working group on Euro-Mediterranean cooperation;
3. Maison de l'Europe Caen Lower Normandy for for the Working group on Participation and youth
4. Local Democracy Agency Sisak for the Working group on the LDAs
5. Individual member Per Vinther, the International School of Bydgoszcz and Monfalcone for the Working group on Eastern Partnership

Their objectives are the following:

- ✓ to offer a platform of debate, information and further understanding on specific topics to the ALDA Members;
- ✓ to develop and deepen identified topics common and shared by the ALDA members and by the LDAs;
- ✓ to be able to produce qualified project ideas involving members of ALDA on certain issues;
- ✓ to be able to produce shared position papers on specific topics with members.

Work methodology:

Keeping the overall political responsibility of the President, the GB members who have expressed a particular interest in a certain field, will be regularly informed of specific documents/activities on the topics selected. For example, the GB members will receive in preference some specific info and communication, dealt by ALDA and the LDAs, in policy making and project orientation on a certain topics.

The members will be in preference invited to represent ALDA in public events and activities when the topics in question is addressed. That will allow the members to develop competences and contacts that will be maintained throughout their mandate.

The WG chairs will be invited and reminded to take part in specific project drafting related to their themes of interest.

The WG chairs will also be consulted when it will be necessary to express opinions and draft statements in certain topics.

The WG chairs may receive specific indications and mandate from the GB as a whole and from the President himself to develop certain documents

The WG chair could:

- ✦ Further orient the programme of ALDA AND THE LDAS with ideas, contribution and actions
- ✦ Report (regularly) the GB in written or in oral during the meeting about their work, in the programmes of ALDA or on their own and share their experience and thoughts with the rest of the group.
- ✦ To contribute to ALDA newsletter and publication with the initiative or positions of the group.
- ✦ Elaborate strategic papers to orient the work of ALDA and the LDAs.
- ✦ Animate the Working Groups with ideas and actions.

The means of action in relation to the Wgs are the following:

- To invite all the Members of ALDA to subscribe (or confirm subscription) to a working group so that the Chair knows who will be the members of the group
- To animate the working group on line (a specific list will be drafted after this re registration)
- The WG chair will be assigned a responsible in ALDA staff to follow their work
- One or two events of the working groups could be cofounded during the year in the framework of the institutional activities of ALDA
- to give a specific working group section in ALDA website reporting about the activities of the group

In 2013, ALDA's four Working Groups have met during the General Assembly in Pula. Here are the findings for each of the groups.

IV.4.1. Working group on the Balkans

Overall situation in the enlargement region

The Western Balkans and Turkey face important challenges to meet the political and economic membership criteria and to align on the Union *acquis*. These challenges are common to all of these countries, although to a varying degree. These challenges include economic governance and competitiveness; the rule of law; the functioning of institutions guaranteeing democracy; fundamental rights; and overcoming the legacy of the past.

Overall, both the legal/institutional and the economic environment in the enlargement countries need to be considerably improved for these countries to be able to catch up with the EU Member States. There remain significant challenges in all enlargement countries in terms of economic reform, competitiveness and job creation:

While Turkey is a functioning market economy, no Western Balkan enlargement country enjoys this status.

Public financial management systems need to be significantly strengthened to reduce the risk of fraud and corruption.

The rule of law needs to be significantly improved to provide greater legal certainty for economic operators and to increase investor confidence.

Structural reforms need to be prioritised and competitiveness enhanced in order to support fiscal consolidation, tackle high external imbalances as well as high unemployment (averaging over 20%) in all countries of the Western Balkans. There are considerable regional differences within the countries, with higher levels of poverty in rural areas.

A new approach is proposed to help the enlargement countries tackle the economic fundamentals first and meet the economic criteria. The countries will be invited to enhance economic policy and its governance through the co-ordinated preparation of a national economic reform strategy comprising two elements - a macro-economic and fiscal programme and a structural reforms and competitiveness programme. The Commission will also engage in dialogue on public financial management with the enlargement countries, which will, inter alia, support progress towards meeting the economic criteria. Countries will need to draw up action plans in this field that will be monitored by the Commission. Progress towards effective public financial management will also open up the possibility of sector budget support.

Following the political agreement reached in November 2013 and the endorsement by the European Parliament in December 2013, the Council adopted the six regulations on the EU external financial instruments for the period 2014-2020, including IPA II, on 11 March 2014. The main objectives of the IPA II are to increase good governance and capacity building and to support socio-economic development in the enlargement countries in order to comply with EU standards. Through such support, IPA II should contribute to stability, security and prosperity in Europe and allow the Union to be better positioned to address global challenges.

Prepared in partnership with the beneficiaries, IPA II sets a new framework for providing pre-accession assistance for the period 2014-2020.

The most important novelty of IPA II is its strategic focus. Country Strategy Papers are the specific strategic planning documents made for each beneficiary for the 7-year period. These will provide for a stronger ownership by the beneficiaries through integrating their own reform and development agendas. A Multi-Country Strategy Paper will address priorities for regional cooperation or territorial cooperation.

IPA II targets reforms within the framework of pre-defined sectors. These sectors cover areas closely linked to the enlargement strategy, such as democracy and governance, rule of law or growth and competitiveness. This sector approach promotes structural reform that will help transform a given sector and bring it up to EU standards. It allows a move towards a more targeted assistance, ensuring efficiency, sustainability and focus on results.

IPA II also allows for a more systematic use of sector budget support. Finally, it gives more weight to performance measurement: indicators agreed with the beneficiaries will help assess to what extent the expected results have been achieved.

Legal basis

The [IPA II regulation](#) came into force on 16 March 2014 and is applicable retroactively from 1st January 2014. The IPA II regulation is complemented by the [Common Implementing Regulation \(CIR\)](#), which is a set of simplified and harmonised implementing rules and procedures for all external action instruments, as well as the [IPA II Implementing Regulation](#) adopted by the Commission on 2 May 2014.

The accession process today is more rigorous and comprehensive than in the past. This reflects the evolution of EU policies as well as lessons learned from previous enlargements. The process is built on strict but fair conditionality with progress towards membership dependent on the steps taken by each country to meet the established

criteria. A key lesson from the past is the importance of addressing the fundamentals first. These have been outlined in the latest Enlargement Strategy 2013-2014 and include the strengthening of the rule of law, economic governance, democratic institutions, fundamental rights, and regional cooperation.

The **Europe 2020 Strategy** introduces five measurable EU headline targets for 2020 backed by seven flagship initiatives. Those targets focus on employment, innovation, climate and energy management, education, and poverty reduction. While Turkey aims to align directly on the Europe 2020 Strategy, the Western Balkans countries adapted this strategy to their specific situation. The **Regional 2020 Strategy**, which has been elaborated by the RCC, was endorsed by the Ministers of Economy in November 2013. It includes further to the objectives of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth the complementary objectives of integrated growth and governance for growth.

IPA assistance should strive to support the enlargement countries to reach the targets set in the context of the Europe 2020 Strategy and the Regional 2020 Strategy, while at the same time supporting them in their progressive alignment with the standards and policies of the European Union, including where appropriate the Union *acquis*, with a view to membership.

IV.4.2. Working group on Euro-Mediterranean cooperation (WG-MED)

The WG-MED met two times, one during the General Assembly in Pula, and a second time in Trieste in September 2013. The aim of the second meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean cooperation working group of ALDA was to develop the strategy of ALDA towards the Southern region of the Mediterranean Sea and to establish a general action plan which includes the needed future actions enabling the opening of the Local Democracy Agency (ADL) in Tunisia.

The participants to the meeting analysed the context and highlighted the fact that the biggest challenge faced by the LDA is fact that it will be located in an unstable socio-political environment characterised by the absence of democratically elected local authorities. The mayors, called “special representatives”, have been nominated after the revolution in order to replace the previous resigning mayors. The absence of democratic local authorities could also be seen as an advantage: there is no hostility at institutional level. Tunisia has a sound background of state institutions which led to the establishment of a solid and long-lasting public administration, unlike other Countries in the neighbourhood. ALDA can count on this support.

ALDA should target popular « special representatives » who will maybe present their candidacy in the next administrative elections. Furthermore, ALDA should also contact the civil society representatives and clearly explain them the aims and actions of this project. Following the suggestion of Mr Ben Slimane, ALDA should bear in mind following qualities: caution, humility and long lasting willpower. ALDA should also remind that Tunisian society did a revolution, thus the context where the LDA is going to operate is completely different compared to the Balkans or the South Caucasus. As stressed by Ms. Zasova, we do not have to copy-paste a winning methodology employed in a different context. The project “Open an LDA in Tunisia” has to be tested in the field in Tunisia and has to be adapted to the peculiar Tunisian reality. This methodology is flexible enough to allow prompt adaptation processes with regard to the local needs of the targeted municipality/region.

Public opinion will have to be prepared through media before the opening of the LDA. Another difficulty linked to the work in Tunisia is the fact that the working organisation works better when the organisers are on site. Thus, the absence of a physical presence



before the opening of the LDA represents a complex moment. For this reason it is necessary to allocate to the local partner a stronger role.

The participants debated on practical issues: the location of the LDA and the reasons of the choice of the city, the search of municipalities and mayors we can trust, their selection criteria, areas and fields of intervention.



The choice of the city or region – evaluation criteria

In order to better evaluate the place where the LDA will be located, we have to bear in mind various factors, such as: the Country is experiencing a period of political instability due to the blockage of the works of the Constituent Assembly; the divide between citizens and institutions, a gap difficult to bridge.

On the basis of these considerations, the participants suggested some cities where it could be possible to establish the LDA:

- Bizerte is an eligible city because apparently the mayor is quite active; Mr. Perelli met him during a Forum of the Anna Lindh Foundation taking place in Marseille;
- Jendouba, a city close to the place where Lam Echaml hosted a delegation of ALDA;
- The Sahel area and, in particular, we could be interested in Sousse e Sfax;
- The areas neighbouring de desert in the North-Western and South-Western parts of the Country have very active citizens.

Areas and fields of intervention

- From a thematic point of view, cross-border cooperation with Algeria, Libya and Morocco is not possible. The cross-border territories are less eligible, because there are not many associations on site.
- To work with non-traditional methods and languages, like artistic expression, and, more in general, in the cultural field.
- Social inclusion and fight against poverty and unemployment.
- Inclusion of graduated unemployed young people.
- Inclusion of women in the public, political and economic life, in particular in the poorest regions of Tunisia.
- Economic a local development and rebalance inequalities among regions.
- Research and cooperation among Universities.
- Intercultural and interreligious dialogue.

Conclusions: The LDA should be located in a developed middle class region in order to guarantee an impact on the population; we have to create contacts with “friendly” local authorities, voluntary and pro-Europe, and also with “neutral” chosen people; ALDA should choose stable city from a political point of view and where population has an average education level in order to guarantee a positive impact.

Besides the participation of local authorities there could also be the possibility to involve Research Centres and Universities located in Europe and in Tunisia (Bizerte depends on the University of Tunis North) since they represent a segment of civil society (students and professors). This would allow us to establish a cooperation in the field of the socio-political analysis of the Country which will also serve as analysis in the field laying at the basis of the future actions of the LDA.

IV.4.3. Working group on Participation and Citizenship

The WG-PC met on 19th April during the 2013 General Assembly in Pula. Its chair is Valéry Deschamps, Président of Maison de l'Europe Caen Lower Normandy, Member of the Governing Board and staff responsible from ALDA is Biljana Zasova, Programme Coordinator, ALDA

Proposed strategy

WG-PC members believe that citizens feel more and more remote from the European Union but still have a desire to be better heard and understood on the place they would like to see these institutions. On the occasion of the European Year of Citizens (2013) and European Parliament elections (2014), we thought that ALDA could play a role of relay from citizen aspirations and institutions and vice versa. Their proposed strategy is to facilitate the transmission of the good word and to put into perspective the different conceptions of European citizenship through a concrete methodology integrating, cultural sensitivities in Europe.

Mr Deschamp proposed to gather a group of ten to twenty persons and organisations, members of ALDA, to think and to promote European citizenship, taking into account three conditions.

1. To put European citizenship into context: the actions of the European Union are rarely understood by citizens without a developed pedagogical work. European citizenship needs a contextualisation made by individuals and organisations resources such as the media, civil society organisations and local and national institutions. It is therefore

important to consider ALDA's activities as "campaigns" to explain the different approaches and activities of the European institutions to their citizens.

2. Focus of main themes and methods: It is also important that institutions find the reasons why there is such a widening gap between them and their citizens and to find remedy by a constructive dialogue. ALDA facilitate this process to identify relevant thematic and apply interactive methods

The main themes are:

- Youth employment, volunteering in Europe
- Culture, intercultural dialogue and European identity
- Memory and Reconciliation (deception causes of nationalism, populism / history, news Passage of conflict reconciliation)
- Citizen participation (e.g. promotion of European Citizens Initiative)
- Theme by European year (2013: the citizen)

The methods are a mixture of fun and artistic approach more conferences and seminars; street interviews and surveys to approach citizens before they come to our events, out of elitism; building of youth exchange program between young people (Youth in Action Programme); support for exchanges twinning and decentralised cooperation; panels thematic citizens (consumer protection /quality of life)

3. To make visible the results of European citizenship: To incorporate the idea of a partnership with the media to any intervention or conference. We need that kind of visibility and multiplier effect of our messages; To include radio, local television, articles in local newspapers for any initiative or activity.



V.4.4. Working group on the LDAs

The delegates' coordination meeting during the 2013 General Assembly discussed the possibilities to improve the coordination and cooperation between ALDA and the LDAs.

Topics discussed

- ✓ General coordination and cooperation between ALDA and the LDAs
- ✓ Ways to improve the communication between ALDA and LDAs – ideas and suggestions
- ✓ Need of more inputs on concrete projects and activities showing good examples of the LDAs' work and achievements
- ✓ Presentation of past and current efficient cooperation between ALDA and LDAs.
- ✓ Discussion of how the LDA WG can be used
- ✓ Situation with LDA partners and membership fees
- ✓ Discussion of the possibility for a development/reserve fund to ensure sustainability for the LDAs
- ✓ Discussion of the content of the training for delegates from Western Balkans (under the IPA BH project on May 8-10)
- ✓ Clarification of the input from LDAs to the publication on ALDAs work and citizen participation
- ✓ Further clarification on expectations and prospects for coordination and cooperation between ALDA and the LDAs.

Conclusions

More concrete and regular communication on the LDAs' work and achievements would be useful for ALDA staff in order to present and promote the LDAs efficiently at meetings and events. Simple project reports or notes could be digested by ALDA staff and be turned into a presentable list/document that can show the good work the LDAs are doing. Such documents could also be used for additional actions which may be relevant for the sustainability of the LDAs (communication to potential partners, WG, website updates, to other LDAs etc.).

LDAs cannot keep track of other LDAs' work which may lead to missed opportunities to collaborate and exchange good practices, which is one of the core ideas of belonging to a network.

Obstacles due to internal communication issues (long delays in response from ALDA staff, etc.) have been encountered by delegates. To attempt to solve this situation, it was suggested to keep one overall ALDA person responsible for the LDAs who will support the LDAs in communication with ALDA. Currently Peter Sondergaard is general coordinator from ALDA's side for all the LDAs, while Stanka Parac is responsible for coordination among the LDAs based in the Balkans.

The concept of partnerships stresses the need for a real collaboration and not a mere financial support from the partners, which is sometimes the only support provided to LDAs. ALDA should support LDAs to find alternatives to solve this issue and sustain the LDAs' partnership.

Delegates pointed out that work on strategic plans have to be carried in advance to reach additional partners, donors and calls for projects to set proper realistic priorities and help LDAs position themselves better in the environment they operate in. All LDAs should develop annual plans and ALDA coordinators and staff should support the LDAs to do so.

Some delegates would like that the recognition of the LDAs would not be restricted to the

county they operate in, but also in the whole country (cross-border regional cooperation) and as a leader of EU process training, working with local authorities.

The proposal to have a development/reserve fund to ensure sustainability for the LDAs and help them overcome cash flow problems was discussed. The LDAs need ALDA to provide guarantee funds or cash to cover for the LDAs when money for approved projects hasn't been paid by the donor. This would ensure that the LDAs can implement their projects even if the donor is delaying payment for all activities. ALDA would need to develop a mechanism to give the LDAs access to this money in a limited period. It could be through taking a loan to get the needed money or by allocating own resources to such a fund. A fund of 5,000 to 10,000 euro would be big enough to provide important help to the LDAs.

This year ALDA's budget includes a specific budget line to support LDA trainings with 5,300 euro. This is new compared to previous years that didn't have any specific funds allocated to the LDAs. The LDA delegates were encouraged to participate more actively in the discussion about ALDA's budget in order to have more funds allocated to their needs and/or to give input on how ALDA's support would be most needed and to address specific requests to ALDA's Governing Board. It was also emphasised that it should still be taken into account that ALDA's budget is tight and there are only limited resources available.

IV.4.5. Working group on the Eastern partnership

The WG EaP is now composed of about 20 members, most of them from EaP countries. It met in Pula, at the General Assembly, and then developed its activities around the support to the LDAs in the region and the programmes in Ukraine and Belarus.

The members of the Group were informed constantly of the progress of ALDA in the region. Mrs. Imka Gorska participated actively in the actions for Ukraine and Mr. Gregoretti also supported some initiatives in Georgia.

It advised ALDA on several Statements in particular as for the launch of the programme NSA/LDA in Belarus where we stated the importance of consulting and working with civil society while supporting local government units. In the first months of 2014, the WG EaP followed with great attention the situation in Ukraine and issued a statement supported by the whole ALDA as well as the Region Lower Silesia, partner leader for the LDA Dnipropetrovsk.



V. ALDA, an international stakeholder

V.1. European Alliance for the Year of Citizens 2013 : A commitment all year through

In 2013, ALDA has been actively involved in promoting the European Year of Citizens. It participated in the Steering Committee of the European Alliance and supported and coordinated – together with the European Movement – the Working Group on Democratic Governance. It animated the Working Group session and the dissemination and outreach of the year. ALDA was also very active in promoting **the Italian Alliance for the European Year of Citizens** (www.ey2013-italia.eu close to the CIME – Comitato Italiano del il Movimento Europeo -, and the Forum of the Thrid Sector) In view of the accession of Croatia to the EU, ALDA supported the establishment of the Croatian Alliance. Secretary Paula Raužan was elected coordinator of the Croatian Alliance and as such represented LDA Sisak in all its meetings.



<http://ey2013-alliance.eu/>

V.2. Cooperation with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and Council of Europe

The cooperation with the Congress is an institutional activity of ALDA since the President of the Congress sits also in our Governing Board. We have involved the Congress in many activities, in particular with those regarding the development of the LDA in Armenia. Several meeting took place in order to harmonize the approach and initiatives in the different countries where the LDAs are based. The Congress representatives participated regularly in our meetings. ALDA and the LDAs contributed also different initiatives promoted by the Congress and gave its feedback in the case of the Monitoring mission as for the implementation of the European Chart on Local Self Government (in particular regarding Ukraine).

ALDA and the LDAs contributed to the **European Local Democracy Weeks**, with several initiatives, in October 2013.

V.3. Committee of the Regions

A tight activity took place with the Committee of the Regions in terms of consultations and contribution to the debates. In particular, ALDA established a relationship with the **Corleap** (gathering members of the EaP countries and from EU). Actions on fiscal decentralisation and citizens' participation took place all year long, in particular as for the presentation of the state of local democracy in Ukraine. ALDA participated, as an observer and representing the Civil Society Forum for Eastern Partnership, to the Vilnius Plenary meeting in September 2013.

V.4. Civil Society Forum for Eastern Partnership – Coordination Role of the Working group

ALDA, and its Director, Antonella Valmorbida, coordinates the Sub group on Local Government and Public Administration Reform of the Civil Society Forum for Eastern Partnership. The group is composed of representatives of the six EaP countries devoted to local self government and local governance. ALDA attended the Chisenau plenary meeting in 2013 and represented the group in many institutional event. In particular, it followed the expert panel of the EEAS on Public Administration Reform.

V.5. CONCORD/EPAN

ALDA is an associate member of Concord and it is active in the Policy Forum Working Group and in the EPAN working group (Enlargement/Pre-Accession and Neighbourhood). It participated in several consultations and debates to raise the attention of the EU institutions on the civil society working in the EPAN area. Since spring 2013, ALDA is coordinator of the EPAN Group.

V.6. Anna Lindh Foundation Forum in Marseille

ALDA is member of the French Network of the Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF) since 2009 and as such was invited to the biannual Forum organised by ALF, which took place in Marseille. Following the Barcelona Forum in 2011, the Marseilles Forum was co-organised by its national civil society networks and the headquarters in Alexandria. ALDA was invited to our of the working groups to present its practices in democratic governance and civil society empowerment. Vice-President Perelli and Biljana Zasova had the opportunity to exchange and

V.7. Cooperation with CIVICUS – the World Alliance for Citizen Participation

Until the elections in 2013, ALDA was part of the Civicus Board. It contributed to develop the presence of Civicus, its mandate and its instrument in Europe and its neighbourhood. In particular, ALDA contributed to develop the local governance dimension in Civicus.

Since 2014, ALDA contributes to the presence of Civicus in Brussels sharing joint initiatives and premises.

V.8. European Movement International

ALDA is member of the European Movement International and involved in the committee for Eastern Partnership and Enlargement. In 2013, numbers of activities have been taken place in order to promote a better knowledge of the European matters in particular in promoting the mechanisms of citizen participation at the European level identified in the Art 11 of the Lisbon Treaty.

The cooperation has been in particular intense on the European Year of Citizens 2013.

V.9. Conference of the International Non-Governmental Organisations and promotion of the Code of Good Practice on civil participation to the decision-making process

ALDA is a member of the Conference of the INGOs of the Council of Europe and actively involved in the promotion of the Code of Good Practices on Citizens participation. During all the year, Antonella Valmorbida, the Director of ALDA, promoted the knowledge and

dissemination of the Code and its use in various projects and initiatives. In particular, ALDA launched an initiative to share activities between Congress and Conference INGOs on the implementation of the Code.

http://www.coe.int/t/ngo/code_good_prac_en.asp

V.10. European Economic and Social Committee

Different initiatives and consultations have been launched by the EESC to which ALDA responded. We took part to different hearing on Civil Society and development of the European Year of Active Citizens and took active part to the Civil Society Day.

V.11. Structured dialogue for the programme Europe for Citizens

ALDA's representatives participate regularly to the Structural Dialogue of the programme Europe for Citizens. We also take part in the coordination programme of the programme Active European Remembrance, the 3rd Networking meeting on Remembrance in Erfurt, Germany on 8-10th April 2013 co-organised this year by the EACEA and EUROCLIO.



V.12. Joint activities the European Federalist Movement

We had several joint activities, in particular with the office of Vicenza, which shares the same building. We proceeded with dissemination and information on the different processes for further and deeper European Integration.

We also organised jointly an initiative for young people participating in a training seminar in Neumarkt (Austria), July 2013 and in Ventotene September 2013

V.13. Cooperation confirmed with UNDP

In July 2013, ALDA signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme in UNDP's headquarters. The Memorandum enabled common initiatives on the field of decentralised cooperation between local authorities and civil society organisations in particular within UNDP's Programme Art Gold on decentralised cooperation. UNDP also supported a joint initiative during the European Assises of Decentralised Cooperation in Brussels in March 2013.

VI. 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, and private companies.

VI.1. Convention with the Urban Centre of the Municipality of Thiene (Italy)

ALDA continues its cooperation with the Urban Centre of the Municipality of Thiene, Italy, for the development and the management of training activities addressed both to local elected and public officials, to representatives of civil society organizations and to the general public.

In particular, the course in EU project management and EU funding programmes “Europa Facile” was organised and held at the Urban Centre of the Municipality of Thiene Centre. Moreover, within the same convention, ALDA is supporting the Municipality of Thiene in the development of projects in the fields of youth and town twinning.

VI.2. Technical assistance for the development of the project REACTION

REACTION: REsources Anti-Crisis - Town-twinning, Innovation, Openness and Networking is a project, led by the Municipality of Sacile (Italy), granted by the Europe for Citizens Programme in the framework of the measure “Thematic Networking of Twinned Towns”. It represents the follow-up of the previously granted project titled WELCOME. REACTION, on-going until October 2014, aims at strengthening cooperation among 17 towns of 12 different EU and non-EU pre-accession countries, focusing on the role of local authorities to mobilize resources (i.e. public-private partnership, citizens, Europe...) at the local level to fight the current crisis. ALDA has provided technical assistance for the drafting of the action, and supported its implementation in 2013 and 2014.

VI.3. Project Re-PlaY

ALDA provided technical assistance in the frame of the project Re-PlaY – Re-plan-Years 2014 - 2020, funded by the Europe for Citizens programme and focused on active ageing and intra-generational dialogue.

VI.4. World Wide – Project It’s time

We provided technical assistance in the project It’s Time, a partnership building activity funded by the Youth in Action programme. ALDA offered technical assistance during the week of activities with the youth workers involved, through non-formal education methods.

VI.5. University of Catania, Italy

For the second year, our Director Antonella Valmorbida was the trainer for a master course on international decentralised cooperation of the University of Political Sciences in Catania (CEDOC Centre).

Our activities: Build Partnerships for Good Governance and Participation

This year saw the change by the three Croatian partners from Local Democracy Agencies into Operational partners. While this change has no influence over the everyday functioning of the LDAs, it has introduced an element of pro-active support to the work by ALDA with the LDAs. From now on, the Croatia LDAs have included in their mission the role of resource centres to for the other LDAs in the region and support to development policy in other European regions.

Along with the continuous support that ALDA provides to its LDAs, in 2013, ALDA put a particular emphasis on growing the network and explore the creation of potential LDAs in Azerbaijan, Ukraine and Tunisia.

LDA Azerbaijan on our agenda

In 2013, ALDA continued to keep the contact with the partners in Azerbaijan to support Local Democracy and citizen participation, following the action plan proposed by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities after the monitoring of the Charter and the development of the Eastern partnership process.

The approach to the LDA in Azerbaijan is mainly based on regular activities with BINA – the consortium of NGOs working on local governance – member of ALDA, which is our partner in many programmes. In particular our activities are based on two current activities: the programme Yes We Do, supported by the *Chiesa Valdese Italy* – to support youth employment with a launching activity in December 2014 and the programme FUNNY, supported by Youth in Action, which brought in Baku more than 40 young participants of the LDA Networks and partners of ALDA in December 2013.

The plan for the future will further strengthened our relationship with civil society groups actives on citizens participation and local governance. An active search for partners will also be engaged.

LDA Dnipropetrovsk in Ukraine in the pipeline

In 2013, the Association of the Local Democracy Agencies worked hard to develop the Local Democracy Agency in Dnipropetrovsk in Ukraine. The process was started in 2012 at the initiative of the Region Lower Silesia in Poland, which has a tight relationship with the Oblast of Dnipropetrovsk.

ALDA developed all the necessary instruments and steps for the opening of the LDA: a group of partners, the definition of the objectives and targets, the participation of civil society and the commitment of the local partners. Several European partners have been approached and are interested to support the initiative, namely the Region Alsace (France), the city of Akmene (Lithuania). The LDA is also included within the action plan of activities of the CORLEAP of the Committee of the Regions and in the activity of the Congress in Ukraine.

An important partner meeting defining the precise future steps took place in Strasbourg in October 2013, at the Congress session.

The LDA would have the following objectives:

- ✓ Facilitate the participation of civil society in the decision-making process at the local level;
- ✓ Increase the interest, awareness and capacities of citizens to take part in the decision-making process at the local level;
- ✓ Increase the awareness and skills of the local communities and local authorities to address the needs of citizens.
- ✓ Increase the interest and sharing of information between Ukraine and other European countries and stakeholders to enable closer cooperation and an ongoing exchange of best practices.

The political situation in Ukraine did not allow further progress. The project is currently on stand-by and will continue after the elections on May 25th 2014. The future steps will be to recollect the interest of the partners and to start the activities within the end of 2014.

LDA Tunisia at its beginning

After the 2012 General Assembly in Udine where the members have overwhelmingly requested to pursue ALDA's efforts in the Mediterranean countries, 2013 saw a few developments towards a possible opening of an LDA in Tunisia. In this perspective, ALDA's Euro-Mediterranean cooperation working group established a few recommendations to the Governing Board in this direction.

A process called Sunflower/Girasole/Tournesol has been launched for an enhanced cooperation with countries from the south and east Mediterranean shore.

However, the political situation in Tunisia did not help for now to develop a fully-fledged process for an opening of an LDA in 2013. As long as there is no local elected mayors and head of governorates, we can hardly see the possibility to open an LDA and then have the legitimacy to continue projects and activities after the elections. It is of utmost importance that cooperation between Tunisian local authorities and European local authorities is at the same democratic level. Further activities helping to build pre-conditions for an LDA have been developed in 2013 and will continue in 2014.



II.1. Local Democracy Agencies' Programme of activities

Local Democracy Agency Albania



Established in 2010 in Shkodra

Delegate: Lila Pirani

Partners: Municipality of Brindisi (Italy) - Lead partner; Apulia Region Bari (Italy); Association of Albanian Municipalities (Albania); Bashkia Shkodra (Albania); Municipality of Yverdon-les-Bains (Switzerland); I.P.R.E.S. Pugliese Institute of Social and Economic Research (Italy)

Priorities

- ✓ Strengthening cross-border and regional cooperation
- ✓ Supporting capacity building for local authorities and NGOs
- ✓ Supporting youth or women empowerment to micro-credits
- ✓ Promotion of intercultural dialogue and understanding in multi-ethnic local communities
- ✓ Confidence building between different ethnic groups on the local and regional level
- ✓ Supporting European Union integration.

Projects in 2013

The Local Democracy Agency in Shkodra is the Albanian partner in the **DEmocratic Compact: Promoting Democracy in Europe (DECIDE) project** where the lead partner is ALDA

Lead partner: ALDA

Other partners: Comune di Reggio Emilia, Italy; Vejle Kommune, Denmark; Municipality of Santa Eulalia de Gallego, Spain; The Mountain Community Iezer Muscel Association, Romania; Primaria Godeni, Romania; Primaria Comunei Domnesti, Romania; Association for Developing Voluntary Work Novo Mesto (ADVW Novo Mesto), Slovenia; Birgu Local Council, Malta; Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities, Bulgaria; Municipality of Balchik, Bulgaria; Municipality of Nessebar, Bulgaria; Center for Community Organizing, Slovakia; Municipality of Banska Bystrica, Slovakia; Town of Petrinja, Croatia; Local Democracy Agency Sisak, Croatia; LDA Prijedor, Bosnia and Herzegovina; Municipality of Zavidovici, Bosnia and Herzegovina; Local Democracy Agency Zavidovići, Bosnia and Herzegovina; City of Skopje, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Bashkia Shkoder, Albania; Local Democracy Agency Albania, Albania; Mórahalom Városi Önkormányzat, Hungary; National University of Public Administration, Hungary; International Development Alliance (IDA), Bulgaria

Timing: 30 May 2013 – 29 May 2015

Purpose

The aim of the project is to develop, through the establishment of a thematic network of towns and by adopting a bottom-up approach, a democratic compact, namely a set of measures that are needed in Europe to increase the quality of democracy and citizen participation. These measures will be identified, exchanged, further elaborated and tested by all the project partners. The partnership is composed of 24 partners from 14 countries: 4 countries of the “old” EU15, 6 countries accessing the EU between 2004 and 2007 and 4 IPA countries. This will allow an enriching exchange among partners with different track record in the EU and will contribute to develop a sense of belonging to a common “house”. The main final outcomes of DECIDE will be: 1. the establishment of a thematic network of towns committed to increase the quality of democracy and citizen participation in the enlarged Europe . The Democratic Compact, a set of measures which have been tested and that can be further disseminated and implemented.

Activities

- ⤴ Launching international event organised in Reggio Emilia, Italy on 8-9 November 2013. LDA Albania, in cooperation with the municipality of Shkodra, participated and contributed to the launch of the project and to the setting up of the methodology for the development of the first local process, consisting in identifying successful measures promoting citizen participation at local and regional level. The delegation of LDA Albania brought in its expertise and exchanged with other partners’ representatives in order to develop concrete tools as well as a defined action plan to kick-off the project in Albania
- ⤴ Collection of measures promoting citizen participation in Albania. The local process of identifying and collecting successful initiatives promoting citizen participation was launched in November 2013. Several stakeholders, in particular local authorities, were involved in this phase to showcase their own initiatives. A special attention was put to involve citizens and relevant stakeholders in evaluating the measures proposed in order to identify the three of them best promoting citizen participation at the local and regional level. LDA Albania launched open polls as main tool to collect citizens’ feedback on the measures proposed. Four main field of analysis have been outlined in the poll: the perception of inclusiveness, the quality of the discourse, the civic impact and the external impact.

Results

Within the project DECIDE, several hundreds of Albanian citizens have been addressed to have their say on six measures identified as successful examples of citizen participation at local and regional level. Around 100 citizens gave their feedback and got therefore directly involved in the outcomes of the project. The local process also benefitted of the contribution and cooperation of relevant stakeholders within and beyond the borders of the Region of Shkodra. The promotion of the project in the territory also created concrete expectations as regards the implementation of the second local process, to be launched after the mid term international seminar. The second local process will be consisting on setting in the territory of Shkodra one or more measures adopted in the democratic compact and test their concrete functioning in Albania.

Local Democracy Agency Armenia



Established in 2011

Delegate/Director: Lusine Aleksadryan

Partners: City of Gyumri, host city; Region Rhone-Alpes, lead partner (France); Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia (Italy); Urban Foundation for Sustainable Development (Armenia) ; Journalists' Club "Asparez" (Armenia); "Shirak Centre" NGO (Armenia); International Centre for Human Development (Armenia)

Priorities

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

Projects in 2013

A public hearing was held on 15th August 2013 organised by Gyumri municipality and was attended by civil society representatives, community servants, citizens. The following issues were the topic of public discussions;

- ✧ The future of the firs located in the city square. The outcomes and the final decision of the public were to leave the firs untouched, as they are standing in the square for decades and are part of the city.
- ✧ The presentation of city hymn named "Gyumri-Leninakan" authored by Vladilen Balyan. The song was confirmed as a city hymn, with the condition that words in the lyrics be changed.
- ✧ The discussion of the selecting criteria for Gyumri slogan. None of the versions presented in the hearing was selected as a slogan and it was announced that other options could be sent to the department of the External Relations of Gyumri Municipality for further consideration.

On 19th September 2013 LDA foundation Armenia attended for the first time the conference of the Armenian National Platform EaP Civil Society Forum as well as the meeting of WG1 (Democracy, Human rights, good governance and sustainability). The Armenian National Platform of the Eastern Partnership (EaP) Civil Society Platform (CSF) supports for the enlargement of multilateral ties between the Republic of Armenia, foreign states and international organisations.

LDA Armenia became a member of the Council of the International European Movement in Armenia. The council consists of non-governmental organisations and political parties. The first meeting of the Council took place on 8th June 2013. The Council of European Movement in Armenia aims to promote the development of Armenian economy corresponding to the European criteria; to spread information and knowledge about the processes of the European appliance among different groups of society; and to involve wide range of the society in the economic and political development processes as responsible participants and supporters. The second meeting was held on 18th October 2013 after. The members of the council were discussing the consequence President Serj Sargsyan decision for Armenia to join the Customs Union and participate in the Eurasian Union.

The Second Assises of the French-Armenian Decentralised Cooperation were held in Valence, France and gathered more than 30 delegations from France and Armenia. The Assises aimed to present the achievements since the last Assises in Armenia in 2010 and to deepen thematic sectors such as local government in Armenia, reforms and regional and intercommunity links. Four workshops took place on sustainable tourism, higher education and culture, development of local economy and agricultural development. Problems have been pointed out and solutions found or best practice examples suggested by the French and Armenian colleagues.

The Local Democracy Agency in Gyumri had the opportunity to send young people to the Young Leaders Forum in Brussels in the premises of the European Parliament. From a total of 24 participants, 18 young people representing 6 EaP countries and 6 the EU members states. The main objective of the forum was to discuss on the latest developments in Vilnius Summit Nov 28-29th where the EU initialed an Association Agreement with Georgia and Moldova and included the ideas of establishing Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Areas with them. Jacek Saryusz-Wolski (Co-Vice President of the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly), Miguel Martinez (Vice President of European Parliament), Stefan Fule (Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighborhood) and Martin Schulz (President of the European Parliament) were invited guest speakers of the forum. There were heated discussions touching upon the present situations in each EaP country.

On 5th December 2013 the Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA) and Local Democracy Agency foundation (Armenia) organised a joint workshop on “Citizen participation in decision-making process at local level” in Gyumri municipality meeting hall. The workshop intended to raise citizen participation in decision-making processes and visibility of Local Democracy Agency foundation activities and mission in Armenia. The workshop was attended by civil society and local authorities’ representatives, civil servants of the region, Italian honorary council and Counterpart Armenia. The participants discussed the possibilities to increase the number of regulations applied by the Local authorities. They pointed out that citizen participation culture and the ways of raising awareness of the citizens’ on the laws and additions should be modulated by civil society on behalf of the communities. They shared their concerns about the difficulties of citizen participation in the decision-making processes at local and national level, suggested to translate the Code of Good Practice for Decision-Making Process in Armenian so that more civil society representatives have access to it. They also useful recommendations for the activities initiatives of LDFA foundation in future that have been included in the 2014 action plan.

Before the workshop the ALDA’s Director Antonella Valmorbida and Local Democracy Agency” foundation director Lusine Aleksadryan met the mayor of Gyumri city, Mr. Samvel Balasanyan. The mayor announced that the possibility of joint cooperation projects between LDA Armenia and municipality will increase in future.

Local Democracy Agency Central and Eastern Serbia



Established in 2001

Delegate: Saša Marinkov

Partners: City of Aarhus, Denmark (Lead partner), City of Nis (Host City) Tavolo Trentino con Kraljevo, Italy; Associação Mais Cidadania, Lisbon, Portugal; City of Kragujevac, Serbia; City of Kraljevo, Serbia ; Association for LDA Zavidovici, Italy; City of Saltdal, Norway

Priorities

- ✓ Strengthening its 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 DA's Italian partners and network
- ✓ Enlarging the relationship with local and international NGOs, Bosnian institutions and foreign authorities
- ✓ Supporting local NGOs, active in the social and educative field to become more sustainable

Projects in 2013

ZADRUGARICE, ESTABLISHING WOMEN'S COOPERATIVE

Establishing a women's cooperative in Niš is a joint initiative of the Heinrich Böll Foundation for Southeastern Europe (GER) and LDACSS. This initiative is the continuation of the programme for empowerment of women that LDACSS implements through various projects and with different partners and donors since 2004.

The first activity of this particular project, after assembling a group of women with business ideas, was a training "Economic Empowerment of Women," that took place in LDACSS office in November 2013. Legal experts spoke about the national legislation framework of cooperative and founders of Mattera Mesto, Novi Sad (SRB) and Design Incubator Nova Iskra, Belgrade (SRB) presented their experiences and practices. During the following months our group of women, with the support from LDACSS and Heinrich Böll Foundation, worked on defining the concept of the cooperative and operational teams. Establishing the women's cooperative is still ongoing process and is currently in a phase of partner search to further support involved women and development of their cooperative as an open space for alternative art, cultural and educational programs.

Contact and further information: zadrugarice@gmail.com

LOCAL COALITIONS FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

LDACSS is a part of this multiannual project that is being implemented by the Association of Local Democracy Agencies ALDA in partnership with LDA Niksic (MN), PALGO Centre (SRB) and LDA Subotica (SRB). Project is financed by the European Union thru IPA 2011 Civil Society Facility Montenegro Programme.

It aims to promote good practices in cooperation between local authorities and civil society organizations, as well as to foster their active involvement in the process of EU integration of Montenegro. Activities, that include capacity building trainings and a sub granting

program, are being implemented in several Montenegrin municipalities: Kotor, Niksic, Bijelo Polje, Rozaje, Danilovgrad and Ulcinj. LDACSS, as one of two partner LDAs from Serbia, is involved in coordination of sub granting scheme. During 2013, after the completion of the call for project proposals for CSOs from aforementioned municipalities, a comprehensive evaluation process has been undertaken and the best eight project proposals have been selected. The implementation of the granted projects is expected to start in 2014 and LDACSS will be involved in the monitoring and evaluation processes.

“WHAT’S UP EUROPE? BREAKING THE WALL AGAIN!”, A YOUTH EXCHANGE AND ARTISTIC PROJECT

Conseil Municipal de la Jeunesse d'Epina-sur-Seine (FR) was a partner to LDACSS for the project of intercultural exchange that brought together 16 French and Serbian youngsters with fewer opportunities in Niš for 10 days during the month of August 2013. Project was financed by the European Union thru Youth in Action programme and Municipality Epina-sur-Seine (FR) and supported by the City of Niš (SRB), Nisville Jazz Festival, French Cultural Institute Niš and French Embassy in Belgrade.

The main theme of the project was the question of tolerance and prejudices in Europe today but approached through various artistic public activities (theatre, pictures, dance, etc.) that engaged not only the participants of the exchange but also the citizens of Niš. Besides this, activities included exchanges and debates about common stereotypes, beliefs, points of view on Europe and different conceptions of European citizenship. Art direction for the project has been done, voluntarily, by international artists Nicolas Jargić and Héléna Bertaud.

INITIATIVE FOR MONITORING SOCIAL POLICY

The project “Initiative for monitoring social policy” is jointly implemented by the Coalition of Civil Society Focal Points (KOCD), coordinated by the Civic Initiatives, Belgrade (SRB) and supported by the Norwegian Embassy in Belgrade.

As part of this project LDACSS, as the local partner organization, did the analysis of local legal framework relevant for foster care and intersectoral services for children in Niš. Through the pilot survey LDACSS also collected basic information on the current state of implementation of these services in practice. The results and recommendations arising from the aforementioned analysis and the survey were integrated into the final national report that was presented to the members of the National Assembly of Serbia. A public hearing on the topic of one year of implementation of the Law on social protection, as the final event of the project, took place at the National Assembly of the Republic of Serbia in January 2013.

“FUTURE FIT FOR CHILDREN”, ADVOCATING ESTABLISHMENT OF A FUND FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION OF CHILDREN FROM VULNERABLE SOCIAL GROUPS

“Future Fit for Children” is a project led by CSO Open Club(SRB) and supported through programme “Civil Society Forward” by Institute for Civil Society – ISC and USAID.

Throughout 2013 LDACSS, as the partner organization to Open Club, provided support for the implementation of all project activities that took place in Niš. LDACSS organized a focus group with parents of children from socially vulnerable groups, presentation of a theater play ‘Žrtvić Family’ created by a group of youngsters from Niš within the project and a public panel with main local stakeholders to publicly present the initiative for establishing Fund for social inclusion of children.

Following our involvement in this and previous projects dealing with protection and support for children, in December 2013 LDACSS has officially become a member of The Network of CSOs for Children of Serbia - MODS.

NIŠ IN MY HEART, STRENGTHENING VOLUNTARY NIS GREETER SERVICE

During 2013 the City of Niš has decided to support further development of LDACSS's volunteer service, Niš Greeters, established during previous year with the support of Serbian Ministry of Youth and Sport and in partnership with Tourist Organization of Niš.

With the aim to strengthen this service further so that it becomes sustainable in a long run, project activities included forming and training a new, second, group of volunteers, developing and exercising some new tourist tours through the city and surrounding area to offer to the visitors of Niš and further promoting the service. As additional, voluntary activity, a part of LDACSS office has been redecorated for the purposes of Greeter service. In the meantime Niš Greeter service has officially become the 55th member of the Global Greeter Network and successfully started functioning independently.

YES TO EVS!

Throughout 2013 LDACSS has implemented five EVS projects as sending or hosting organization with partners from Portugal - Associação Mais Cidadania, Slovakia - YMCA na Slovensku, Slovenia - Mladinski Center BIT and RIC Bela krajina and Spain - Casa Eslava. All these projects have been supported by the European Union thru Youth in Action programme.

Our EVS volunteers have worked on a variety of activities, from organizing a short movies projection and human rights discussion sessions, giving some French language support through French conversation classes, supporting children with fewer opportunities throughout different workshops to running a series of theatre workshops and performing a street play.

EVS program is a great opportunity for every youngster to live a new intercultural experience. With the aim to offer that opportunity to as many young people as possible, led by Jana from Slovakia and Marion from France, LDACSS has organized "Open Tuesdays" where all those interested in doing EVS could come, get all information and hear first-hand experiences on the EVS program. Besides explaining more in details what is EVS, Jana and Marion gave advices about motivation letter and CV redaction. As another source of information and support to those interested in EVS, our volunteers ran an EVS blog on our website (www.ldacss.tumblr.com/tagged/EVS_blog).

FIGHTING UNEMPLOYMENT THROUGH NETWORKING FOR YOUTH - FUNNY

During 2013 LDACSS took part in the joint initiative of 20 associations from 17 countries in the enlarged Europe and its Neighbourhood to tackle common problem of unemployment of young people. The hosting organization of the international networking event was Azerbaijani NGO Alliance for Municipality Development (BINA), while Association of Local Democracy Agencies was in charge of the overall coordination. Project was financed by the European Union thru Youth in Action programme.

Main activities took place during a 5-day meeting in Baku and included information sessions on work opportunities for youth for almost 40 youth workers, meetings with relevant stakeholders in the job market field and partnership building activities with development of future joint initiatives.

WORDS TOO STRONG, AWARENESS OF EVERYDAY DISCRIMINATION

For the third year in a row Centre for Development of Civil Resources (SRB) and LDACSS organized open contest and a photo exhibition "Words Too Strong". Activity is supported by the National Endowment for Democracy NED.

The aim of this contest and accompanying exhibition is to awake the public understanding and awareness on human rights, discrimination and different forms of hate speech, which are, unfortunately, often present in everyday life in Serbia. Theme of this year's contest, where more than twenty artists from Southeast Serbia participated, was the hate speech present on the streets of our towns. Exhibition was curated and opened by the renowned

photographer Goran Švabić.

"HABLA ESPANOL?", SUPPORTING YOUTH INITIATIVES

During 2013 LDACSS continued to support initiatives of young people. One of those was the initiative from Andrijana, recently graduated Professor of Spanish language, to start a programme to promote Spanish language and culture in the city of Niš. LDA supported Andrijana to define components of the programme, spread the word about it and with all the necessary logistics. Programme was successfully launched and sprung a great interest in the public. Today it continues its life as independent cultural and educational program promoting Hispanic culture.



Local Democracy Agency Georgia



Established in 2006

Delegate: Ioseb Khakhaleishvili

Partners: City of Strasbourg, France (Lead partner) City of Kutaisi, Georgia (Host city) Municipality of Monfalcone, Italy; City of Tbilisi, Georgia; National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia; Kutaisi Branch of Georgian Young Lawyers' Association, Georgia; Partners-Georgia, Georgia; Kutaisi Newport International Association, Georgia; Newport Kutaisi Twinning Association, United Kingdom

Priorities:

- ✓ Capacity building programmes for local authorities and Non-Government Organizations
- ✓ Promoting active citizenship and good governance
- ✓ Promotion of women and youth rights
- ✓ Supporting and initiating cross-border and regional co-operation
- ✓ Promoting EU integration and European values at local level

Projects in 2013

SouthEast-e - Development of economic relations, strengthening innovation and democratic participation in Georgia

Lead partner: Municipality of Monfalcone

Other partners: Technology Park of Pordenone, Slovenian Regional Economic Union

Donor: Region Friuli Venezia-Giulia

Timing: January 2013 - January 2014

The aims of the project were:

- ✧ Maintaining a mutual exchange of information in areas of mutual interest
- ✧ Monitoring the opportunities deriving from the EU programs and funds for international cooperation and cooperation for development
- ✧ Promoting joint planning in the field of know-how transfer and internationalization of companies in order to catch the opportunities arising from EU, national and regional funds for issues of common interest
- ✧ Developing joint initiatives targeted to innovation of firms and local authorities to be developed in the next few calls on international cooperation.

Activities:

- ✧ Development of the service-centre in Kutaisi
- ✧ Conducting of training activities and models of participative negotiations
- ✧ Know-how transfer and technical assistance for the technologic development of the territory
- ✧ Development of economic relations between Friuli Venezia-Giulia and Imereti Region.

The project had a positive impact for SME's representatives on awareness regarding EU programs and funds for international cooperation and cooperation for development and on modern technologies and know-how. Trainings on different topics e.g. fundraising, business management; branding and marketing, tourism development were organised.

Different services for SMEs representatives were provided by the service-centre and sustainable cooperation was established. This project established an important step to link Italian and Georgian regions.

Kutaisi: IT WORKS!

Lead partner: Kutaisi City Government

Other partners: Kutaisi Education Development and Employment Centre

Donor: European Commission

Timing: September 2013 - August 2015

The overall goal of the project is to support improved governance and public finance management in Kutaisi via transparent budget, public policy and government services based on community needs by ensuring the cooperation and participation of community leaders, civic groups, local citizens, media and local authorities. This group will work together to determine, provide and publicise recommendations, budgets and spending to ensure appropriate systems are created, implemented and monitored to strengthen civil society in Kutaisi.

Activities:

- Train Kutaisi authorities to more effectively cooperate with citizen and non-state actors so that budgets and spending reflect inclusive decision-making and local planning.
- Build the capacity of Civil Society Organizations (CSO's) and media outlets to better represent the interests of their target groups.
- Strengthen citizen capacity to participate in public discussions that directly affect them.
- Foster a results-oriented dialogue between civic groups and citizens with Kutaisi authorities to improve the latter's transparency and accountability.

"Kutaisi: IT WORKS!" included citizen involvement in the analysis and formulation of local budget and then linked the findings of local level participatory monitoring and evaluation exercises to the budget in order to improve public service delivery. The project addressed the participation of non-state actors, the transparency of the decision-making process and the accountability of local authorities in creating budget, budget priorities and spending in conjunction with a well-informed and engaged public. Local authorities, non-state actors and citizens all have a say in decision-making processes and budget planning. The implementation of the project resulted in improved communication and accountability between society and local government based on the relationships built among various civic structures.

Local Democracy Agency Kosovo



Established in 2011

Delegate: Elbert Krasniqi

Partners: Association Tavolo Trentino con il Kosovo, Italy (Lead partner); Municipality of Peja/Pec, Kosovo (Host city); Amici dei bambini, Italy and Kosovo; RTM Region Third World, Italy and Kosovo; Only Equal Rights Association S.U.D, Italy; ALFA Formation, France; Municipality of Yalova, Turkey; Association of Municipalities of Kosovo AKM

Priorities:

- ✓ Promotion of the Local Democracy Agency of Kosovo
- ✓ Promotion of the local democracy and European integration
- ✓ Promotion of culture, youth and equal opportunities
- ✓ Promotion of dialogue among communities
- ✓ Promotion of local economic development
- ✓ Support logistics for the LDA's partners

The LDA Kosovo developed joint activities with the partners and with the Tavolo Trentino for the Balkans. In particular, it developed initiative to support Youth empowerment and and local economic development, particularly based on Sustainable tourism.



Local Democracy Agency Montenegro



Established in 2001

Delegate: Kerim Medjedovic

Partners: Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region, Italy (Lead partner); Municipality of Nikšić, Montenegro (Host city); Municipality of Kotor, Montenegro; Municipality of Rozaje, Montenegro; Union of Municipalities of Montenegro; Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Montenegro; Association Betton-Montenegro, France; City of Neuchatel, Switzerland

Priorities

- ✓ Capacity Building for NGOs and Local Administration
- ✓ Human Rights and Peace Building
- ✓ Youth Participation
- ✓ Local Economic Development
- ✓ Admission to the European Union

Projects in 2013

Start Up Training

Lead partner: Cooperative CRAMARS – Tolmezzo

Other partners: Confindustria Udine, Legacoop FVG, Montenegrin Employers Federation

Donor: [Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia](#)

Timing: January 2012- June 2014

Purposes: Creating Professional Training Center that will provide effective responses for educational needs for the progressive development of Montenegrin enterprises and employees and other subjects.

Activities:

- Support to the employment and engagement of human resources
- Detection and analysis of the needs for Montenegrin companies in the field of employees qualifications
- Professional training for the Montenegrin companies employees
- Contribution to the advancement of the process of internationalization of Montenegrin companies
- Connecting employers' associations from Italy and Montenegro

A large number of companies, members of the Employers Federation expressed interest to participate in the work of the Center, for their employees training education. Training services would be offered to a wider labor market and specific target groups such as young people and difficult-to-employ categories. First trainings are scheduled. This project was also an opportunity to develop new partnerships and launch new project ideas, especially in the field of social economy development.

Cooperazione Montenegro - Integrated plan of action for local development in the social field, promoting educational initiatives and intercultural relations strengthening

Lead partner: Municipality of Monfalcone

Other partners: Italian Community in Montenegro, Health center Tivat, Municipality of

Kotor, Special Psychiatric Hospital Dobrota Kotor, Department of mental health Trieste, ALDA, Municipality of Niksic.

Donor: Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia

Timing: June 2012 – May 2014

Purposes: The overall plan of the project is to contribute to local development in order to improve people's livelihoods through interventions for social and health structures improvement, development of informational and educational programs for social inclusion and implementation of initiatives aimed at enhancing the integration.

Activities:

- Improvement of social structures and the strengthening of territorial services and prevention of risky behaviour at youth
- Strengthening professional skills and competence by establishing intersectoral cooperation, for social operators and institutions and creation of a solid network of volunteers with the aim of realization of territorial interventions program based on the use of local resources and the commitment that would be coordinated by the competent institutions in field of prevention.
- Mobilization of public, improving awareness and education of the citizens in order to prevent prejudice and create a system of positive values in relation to intercultural integration

The structure of counselling for young people within dispensary in Tivat improved by the construction of an elevator for children with disabilities and general patients. Activities of the Central Services at LDA from Niksic to support civil society organizations and municipal office for the prevention of risky behaviour in Kotor developed and implemented. Territorial services for mental health prevention and treatment are developed with the participation and cooperation of the Psychiatric Hospital in Kotor.

Mountain Areas: Carnia FVG and Rozaje Montenegro. Values and cooperation

Lead partner: Cramars Cooperative - Tolmezzo

Other partners: Forestry Institute Montenegro, Municipality of Rozaje, Euroleader, Carnia welcome

Donor: Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia

Timing: June 2012- June 2013

Purposes:

- Local Resources for Sustainable Development Valorisation
- Integration of the business systems in the mountain areas of Carnia and Rozaj

Activities:

- Sustainable Forest Management system introduction in Montenegro
- Contribution to the legislation and institutional capacity development for forest certification
- Trainings for forestry technicians and instructions representatives on PEFC certification;
- Know-how transfer to business companies in Rozaje through various actions including study visits and trainings
- Exchanges in the field of: forest fruit products, wood procession industry, agriculture, tourism and European standards

Montenegrin officials – Ministry for agriculture, forestry and fishing expressed interest in adopting the elements of sustainable forest management, forest certification and economic cooperation between two territories and devoted a separate item in budgets for the upcoming period to it. In fact first cooperation contracts are signed between Italian and

Montenegrin (Rožaje) businessman in the forest fruit production and sale.

Local coalitions for community development - LCCD

Lead partner: Association of Local Democracy Agencies ALDA;

Other partners: PALGO Centre Serbia, Local Democracy Agency Subotica – Serbia, Local Democracy Agency Nis – Serbia.

Associate partners: Municipalities of Nikšić, Kotor, Rožaje, Ulcinj and Bijelo Polje.

Donor: Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro (IPA 2011 Civil Society facility development programme)

Timing: December 2012 - December 2014

Purposes:

- Strengthening the capacity of community based organisations for service provision to citizens
- Improving capacity of CSO-s for participation in policy/decision making and raise awareness of CSO initiated actions
- Developing capacity of CSO-s for cross-sectorial partnership building and reinforce the role of CSO-s as a relevant stakeholder in public administration reform and EU approximation process
- Contributing to strengthening and sustaining of the role of CSO-s in community development through training and networking for policy reforms

Activities:

- EU standards of good governance at local level – series of training seminars for NGO-s and local authorities
- Citizen participation in policy and decision making at local level – series of local public debates in six municipalities
- Building local capacities for EU project development and implementation – series of trainings for local NGO-s
- Sub-granting Programme for local NGO-s
- Information campaign and networking activities

The capacities for cooperation for community development in 5 municipalities are increased. Local CSOs applied for sub-granting programs – 19 in total, out of which 8 projects are approved. The work of the organization that had limited capacities was improved, cooperation with numerous local governments enhanced and a good platform for future partnerships is constructed.

Open Mind - Organisation of the Participation in Enlarged Networks: Montenegro is Inclusive, Not Discriminatory

Lead partners: Caritas Montenegro

Other partners: Caritas Italy, Associazione Trentino con i Balcani

Donor: Project is co-financed by EU funds

Timing: October 2013 – October 2015

Purposes: Improvement of social and political representation of people with mental health problems in Montenegro, intersectorial cooperation improvement and strengthening activities of the Montenegrin NGO sector active in mental health field.

Activities:

- Strengthening and capacity building of NGOs
- Special trainings and exchange of experiences with other local, national and EU NGOs
- Promotion of social reintegration of people with mental health problems in

Montenegro

- Local inter-sectorial working groups establishment to tackle the mental health problems
- The formation of these teams as an innovative approach that aims to promote cooperation between public institutions, civil society and mental health services.

Results:

- Institutional infrastructure in Montenegro enhanced.
- Higher quality of political representation of the NGOs involved in the protection of vulnerable groups with a focus on organizations that deal with mental health.
- Greater support to NGOs dealing with mental health in order for this target group to become an active participant in social and political life is achieved.
- More opportunities are created for NGOs involved in the decision-making.

No Women! No Cry

Lead partners: Keciore Municipality – Ankara, Turkey

Other partners from Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Italy, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Turkey

Donor: Youth in action programme

Timing: December 2012- September 2013

Purposes: Awareness rising for ever increasing level of violence against women. The overall aim in particular was that the participants, young people, introduce at the best way their culture through their traditional costumes, music, paintings, folk dances, as well as the domestic products: food and drink.

Activities:

- Preparatory visit and coordination meeting
- Five day exchange seminar for fight violence against women
- The main event of the seminar was a performance that took place on the Ankara main square from which is urged to the public to stop domestic violence
- Promotional non-violence short film created and promoted

The seminar was attended by 35 young people from a total of seven countries. It was a good opportunity for intercultural exchange and development of new partnerships. Attention of the public attracted to this big problem - both in EU and accessing countries.

Co-existence in Europe

Lead partner: TDM 2000 International

Other partners: RYC (Macedonia), Twelve (Kosovo), AMG (B&H), BBA (Albania), ConnetART (Portugal), Studenti per la citta (Italy), E4Y (Poland), JuBuK (Germany), Focus – ECFD (Bulgaria)

Donor: EU – Youth in action program

Timing: December 2012- October 2013

Purpose: To “shake up” the mind-sets and attitudes of the young, especially the premeditated concepts related to tendency for religious diversity in Europe. Through the analysis of the conflict based on the religion and interreligious dialogue, this project was aiming to analyse threats to peace, security and social cohesion for the sake of prevention of religiously based discrimination.

Activities:

- Coordination and preparatory activities; participants selection
- Seven day exchange seminar for analysing conflict based on the religion and interreligious dialogue promotion

- Public exhibition of the works produced during the seminar with the aim to promote interreligious dialogue



Sharing Alternatives Practices for the Utilisation of Confiscated Criminal Assets - SAPUCCA

Lead Partners: Province of Caserta - Italy

Other partners: ALDA, FLARE

Donor: Co-funded by the European Commission's Programme "ISEC 2009 – DG Home Affairs"

Timing: December 2012 - July 2013

Purposes: Experience and practice exchange of Italy, Bulgaria and the Balkans in the area of research, confiscation and administration of property obtained by criminal activities
Activities:

- Exchange seminars in 5 countries
- Main event in Montenegro - seminar held on 7th March, 2013, in Podgorica with the participation of, parliamentarians, governmental officials, judiciary, civil society representatives and EU countries Ambassadors.
- Final conference in Brussels held in May 2013 (attended by Montenegrin high officials)
- Publication that collects experiences and testimonials in five countries published

A topic to be further elaborated, developed and tackled. Apart from MPs Ms. Snežana Jonica and Mr. Obrad Gojković, the seminar was attended by the representatives of the professional service of the Parliament, the Committee on Political System, Justice and Administration, the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget, the Committee on European Integrations, the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare and the Anti-corruption Committee.

TURMONT

Lead partner: Municipality of Kotor

Other partners: Tourist board of Kotor, Italian Community in Montenegro

Donor: Autonomous region Friuli Venezia Giulia

Timing: January - June 2013.

Purposes:

- Strengthening economical and institutional cooperation between FVG and Montenegro
- Test the portability of models of sustainable tourism development "Diffuse Hotel" from Italy to Montenegro
- Help restore to life the culture of the Italian community in Montenegro, by the Italians to be actively involved in the reception of Italian tourists
- Constantly updating approach different aspects of tourism marketing, with special emphasis on tourism relations
- Strengthening the system of local institutions.

Activities:

Support for creating conditions to launch diffuse-hotel based on the experience developed in FVG, as a means of networking of numerous private houses for rent to tourists.

Specific training of tourist guides through seminars to strengthen local expertise in tourism on the topic of forgotten cultural heritage.

An association established for the "Diffuse hotel" promotion, a special hotel, made up of several apartments (existing) arranged by the municipality, which have a joint reception at a prime location in the center of town. This type of integrated private accommodation is recognized as a model of interest for the owner of accommodation facilities, but also for the city of Kotor.

Participation in Fighting Unemployment through Networking for Youth (FUNNY)

Lead partner: ALDA

Other partners: BINA and CSOs from 17 countries

Donor: European commission

Timing: January – December 2013.

Purposes: Generate ideas for fighting with one of the major issues affecting the young generation around the world - fighting unemployment through networking for youth.

FUNNY brought together 40 youth workers from 17 states of the enlarged Europe and supported them to find partners for transnational cooperation in the field of the youth work, with specific attention to the issue of the youth unemployment. Youth workers from different countries of the enlarged Europe were exchanging experience and establishing partnerships for transnational cooperation in the field of youth work to fight youth unemployment.

Internship program with the Montenegro Government

Lead partners: Employment Office

Donor: Government of Montenegro

Timing: 15 September 2013 – 15 October 2014

Purposes:

- ⤴ Practice in real working environment for newly graduates
- ⤴ Skills and knowledge development for youth
- ⤴ Opportunity for young people without experience to become competitive in the labour market

The Agency gave two of the interns an opportunity to improve their knowledge and at the same time to bring a new quality to the organisation with new ideas and enthusiasm. Success story yet has not been told, but its first pages show that it is written by a steady hand. Process of experience gaining is in progress and by investing in their knowledge we are investing at the successful future of our organization. Certain duties are delegated to them, so the administrative and creative capacities of the organisation are brought up on higher level.



Local Democracy Agency Mostar



Established in 2004

Delegate: Dzenana Dedic

Partners: Apulia Region, Italy (Lead Partner); City of Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina (Host city); City of Monfalcone, Italy; Province of Brindisi, Italy; NGO IPSIA, Italy; City of Kragujevac, Serbia; Municipality of Vejle, Denmark

Priorities

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

Projects in 2013

Civil society in action for dialogue and partnership

Sectorial networking and building partnerships aim at helping strengthen the role of civil society in consolidation of participative democracy at local level, which is the essence of this Project. Basic activities of civil society include capacity building, information and advocacy campaigns, development of communication tools as well as exchange of good practices of local approach between municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina but through interaction with the neighbouring IPA countries and EU member states.

Donor: IPA - EU Delegation to BH "Support to the Thematic NGO Networks"

Project leader: Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA)

Project partners: LDA Mostar, Citizens' Forum Tuzla, DON (*Democracy-Organizing-Progress*) Prijedor, Centre for Local Development Breza, Democratic Centre "Nova nada" Bihać (Bosnia and Herzegovina); LDA Osijek (Croatia); Local Democracy Embassy in Zavidovići (Italy); LDA Subotica (Serbia)

Project duration: May 2011 – July 2013

Results: Seven Newsletters published; Four documentaries recorded; Six NGO Address books and one handbook published

Improving local government services in Bosnia and Herzegovina

As a continuation of the project "Monitoring of public services at the local level" - citizens and local government together to better service "Local Democracy Agency (LDA) Mostar in 2013 of implementing the project" Improvement of local government services in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The project is implemented at the level of the City of Mostar and Konjic and Municipality of Jablanica. It is funded by the Open Society Fund BH.

Overall objective:

- ✦ Increase the accountability of local authorities in the provision of public services /
- ✦ Increase the quality of life through effective involvement of informed citizens in the process create and implement local policies, based on the results of PULSE's.

Specific objectives: Mostar: 1st To improve communication between citizens and councillors second Improve the capacity of local communities Commissioner third To increase awareness of citizens about local government jurisdictions **Jablanica:** 1st To increase awareness of citizens and the newly elected councillors research citizen satisfaction with public services at the local level second To improve communication between citizens and councillors third Improve the capacity of local communities and the Commissioner of NGOs in the project area with the aim of improving the quality of life of citizens of **Konjic:** 1st To increase awareness of citizens and the newly elected councillors research citizen satisfaction with public services at the local level second Improve the capacity of local communities and the Commissioner of NGOs in the project area with the aim of improving the quality of life of citizens of third To increase awareness of citizens about local government jurisdictions.

Target groups - Citizens in three selected local government units in the Herzegovina Neretvanjski/county, which will be included in the main project activities - Local government units (three units: Mostar, Konjic and Jablanica) - NGO representatives from Herzegovina-Neretva Canton / County - representatives of governments other municipality, that the same could be used as an example of good practice - citizens of other municipalities in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina – Media

Strengthening accountability of women and young political leaders in BiH – the role of woman in public and political life

Donor: Council of Europe and USAID

Project leader: Council of Europe

Project duration: April 2012 - September 2012

Project description

USAID BH and Council of Europe are realising a 21-month long Programme entitled “Strengthening accountability of women and young political leaders in Bosnia and Herzegovina”. The Programme was initiated in September 2011 and will last until June 2013. Programme activities are realised in two directions in order to provide the best possible support to stronger inclusion of women and youth into political processes in BH. Activities are directed towards the achievement of the following objectives:

- 1) Higher engagement of women in political processes, and
- 2) Creation of new and more accountable generations of leaders within political parties.

Overall Programme objective is to empower women and youth for the purpose of taking more active role in political processes. The Programme will assist the creation of the new and more accountable generation of leaders within political parties at the upcoming municipal elections and raise awareness on importance of the role of women in political processes, as well as increase their engagement in the politics.

Description

Even though women in BiH have achieved political power at the highest levels, they are still significantly less present in the public life and on managerial positions in political parties as well as at the state and regional level. The root of the problem lays in the strong cultural and social prejudices still greatly present. Political and party leaders view women as unimportant for realisation of their aspirations in achieving and sustaining political power. Taking all this into consideration, this Programme significantly focuses on raising awareness on importance of the role of women in political processes just before the 2012 Municipal Elections, by working with women, women NGOs and women-candidates for the Elections.

Programme activities and expected results

Programme activities have strengthened communication and political conscience amongst

women and youth of different nationality. 2012 Elections offered an opportunity to strengthen women and youth so that they would play a more important role in the electoral and political processes as political parties are, during that period, more focused on core issues related to governing on municipal level than on ethnic divisions which usually dominate in the national political debates.

Activities were realised by 48 women, Co-ordinators of this Project, in the entire Bosnia and Herzegovina, on the territory of 8 cantons or 49 cities/municipalities, aiming to gather up to 10.000 women at their meetings.

Local Democracy Agency Mostar has, in co-ordination with 6 Co-ordinators, participated in realisation of project activities on the territory of Herzegovina-Neretva, West Herzegovina and Livno Cantons. Activities were realised in the following municipalities: Posušje, Grude, Široki Brijeg, Ljubuški, Čapljina, Stolac, Tomislavgrad and Mostar. 60 meetings gathered 3000 women.

New urban topology in Beirut and Mostar

The project is focused on two cities that have historically been under the constant influence of the wealth of cultures and the fragmentation of society. A multicultural city retains its opportunities and challenges, cultural richness and fragmentation of society. The "New Urban Topology - Mostar and Beirut" (Spring / Fall 2014). Focuses on two cities that have historically been under the constant influence of these questions, two cities that are often switch between interaction and fragmentation, Beirut (Lebanon) and Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina). The program has funding commitments supported by the Swedish lottery, realized it Färgfabriken Foundation in Stockholm, and Monstar in the Partnership with Local Democracy Agency in cooperation with the City of Mostar.

Like other cities, Beirut grew out of the civil war and invasion and regain its economic development again and again. However unwieldy urban development projects undertaken by the private sector in recent years, rarely have their roots in the real needs of citizens. In the meantime, the plan of the city of Beirut and its development is strongly characterized by divisions between different ethnic groups in the country. Mostar city is also strongly defined physical and mental divisions, years of war the city was divided between Bosniaks and Croats. The legacy of the war is still very much present, and undoubtedly the most common in the very center of the city - the District, which represents an empty urban buffer zone between the city's ethnic communities, enabling institutions and individuals who are involved in culture, and to take an active role in the field of urban planning, " New urban topology "will promote sustainable urban development in Mostar and Beirut. This project will provide much needed cross-border dialogue within cities and between different social sectors

The experience of the "New Urban topology - Mostar and Beirut" will be presented at the exhibition in the fall of 2014. In both cities, we put special emphasis on the process of urbanization and urban solutions that enable integration. A joint exhibition will be organised in Färgfabrikenu, autumn 2014. It will highlight and emphasize ideas and experiences from Beirut and other cities of Mostar and whose experiences are also actively involved in the project.

Beirut - Mostar Exhibition - Fall 2014

All this has something to overcome and bridge: disorder, death, absurdity. For all the transition, a bridge whose ends are lost in infinity, according to which all natural bridges only children's toys, pale symbols - Nobel Prize writer Ivo Andric. The town consists of a mosaic of images of time in his being woven material and spiritual. Know how to recognise and read city in his time and architectural value of the art form. Unfortunately, after the war of the nineties Mostar became a "city case" referred to long spoken of only in a negative context, as a city of parallelism, distribution and negative political and social events. Nevertheless, the historical identity of the city of Mostar in its continuity is about

the city of light, beauty and positive energy. However it needs to be recognized and interpreted in a contemporary context. It's not easy to make stable steps in modern future in a city where everything is divided into two parts. Though it's not easy, it is not impossible. Today, twenty years after the war, after a series of successful refurbished buildings in the city, it is important to reconstruct and restore the relationship between people. It is a process that requires a lot of effort, creativity and good will on both sides. One of the ways to establish dialogue and communication between people is by using art. Moreover, in order to identify yourself, you have to see the situation and the fate of other people with the fate of the same or similar to yours. The exhibition Beirut Mostar wants to show people and cities that have a similar fate. In order to clearly show this phenomenon, as the main part of the exhibition is planned to show the documentary, which will tell a story about cities and their people, the history, present and future, emotions, identity, social upheaval, etc. The films will be used as a valuable medium to show rapid urban change, socially, politically and architecturally. Documentary will be able to explore the urban history of the city and analyse the current urban change. How exhibition would not be perceived as a data platform, we decided to create an exhibition that will spark interest visitors to participate in debates and discussions, as well as organized public workshops. In this context, the whole process will have aspects of both static and interactive. The exhibition will generate both data and information provided by visitors. It will be the focal point of the exhibition, which will be a social and environmental gift to the city of Mostar. The exhibition will be held at several locations, and will be "mapped". The exhibition will unite physically divided city. It will be "art itinerary" that will connect the two banks of the river. The essence of a human being is to show, through dialogue in the context of spatial relations "Beirut - Mostar", but also the monologue of Mostar on "Past - Present - Future." Three locations on where the content of the exhibition will be shown in Mostar at the same time as "Spanish Square / Promenade", "The Music School" and "Mum Exhibition Centre" near the Old Bridge, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We want to show and prove that the space no man just boundless area that may or may not have a function. The mere existence of man and its presence contributes to the creation of usable space, which gets a sense of understanding and articulation of man's need for space.

Minority Rights Education for Children

Donor: EACEA, "Youth in Action" Programme

Leader: Local Democracy Agency (LDA) Mostar

Partners : Association for promotion of humanity and urban culture, Knin (Croatia), TDM 2000 Estonia, Tartu (Estonia); Associazione TDM 2000, Cagliari (Italy); Macedonian Children's Parliament (Detski parlament na Makedonija), Veles (FYR Macedonia); Local Democracy Agency Nikšić (Montenegro); ConnectART, Matosinhos (Portugal), Club for Youth Empowerment 018, Niš (Serbia); Kosovo Young Lawyers, Pristina (Kosovo); Youth Included, Prague (Czech Republic)

Duration: 1st December 2012 – 30th April 2013

"Minority Rights Education for Children" is a training course set to empower the work of organisations both working with children on education for Minority Rights, and promoting the specific rights of children with a minority background. The main aim is to be able to give the participants useful tools to enable involvement of minorities and mutual dialogue among them and the hosting societies, starting from children, active citizens of tomorrow. In the six days of the course in Mostar, Bosnia Herzegovina, the 30 participants, half from EU and half from South Eastern Europe, had the opportunity to share not only experiences and best practices but also to discuss about obstacles and ideas on how to improve the social inclusion of children coming from different minorities, and how to educate them on how to foster it. During the course, we covered topics such as the concept of minority itself, what institutions are dealing with them, and what is the role of

NGOs in this field, especially understanding different tools for minority rights education for children. The main issue was to provide to the participants such tools that can be useful in making children aware of the importance of the involvement of people from such different social backgrounds, make them major agents of change in this process, and improve so the mutual dialogue between majorities and minorities. The main methodology used in the training will be informal education, completed by some theoretical inputs on certain parts. The methods will include group discussions, round tables, role-plays, simulations, and different dynamic activities stimulating creativity and active participation.



Local Democracy Agency Prijedor



Established in 2000

Delegate: Dragan Dosen

Partners: Italian Municipalities of Aldeno, Baselga di Pin , Borgo Valsugana, Caderzone, Caldonazzo, Cavalese, Grumes, Lavis, Levico, Massimeno, Pergine Valsugana, Pinzolo, Predazzo, Ronzo Chienis, Spiazzo, Tassullo, Trento and Varena; District of Valle dell'Adige, Italy; District of Alta Valsugana, Italy; Cooperative of Social promotion L'Anкора, Italy; Association Trentino in the World, Italy; Association The Mosaic, Italy; Association The Joy, Italy; Association CISV, Italy; Association Yugo 94, Italy

Priorities

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

The activities of the LDA Prijedor are characterised for 13 years with an approach that differs in different subgroups and areas of intervention. It responds to the same goal: to support and promotion of civil society and relations with local and foreign partners to enable dialogue and exchange. The report that follows is a brief description of all the activities of the Local Democracy during 2013 supported by Trentino's community.

Projects in 2013

Exchange between Prijedor and Trentino

Within the framework of cooperation between the two communities, Prijedor and Trentino, it was considered necessary to work on strengthening their relationships, promoting various activities to exchange experiences, encounters and promoting the values of local democracy in both communities. The project anticipated travel organisation, whose aim is to exchange experiences at the institutional level. Minimum three visits to Prijedor and a study trip to Trento were organised. Also, during the year, a large number of travels related to the coordination of project activities, their design, monitoring and evaluation was implemented.

At the end of each year at least 10 trips to Prijedor are organised by private donors who come to visit families assisted. Travel expenses are covered from own resources.

Italian language course in Prijedor

As part of this project is implemented basic Italian language course, which was held in the premises of LDA Prijedor, the Youth Council of the City of Prijedor and the Centre Sun, and was intended for youth in donations, young LDA volunteers, as well as persons who provide private accommodation for guests Trento in the framework of the association PROMOTUR. There were 3 courses, each of which lasted 3 months and consisted of 60 hours, and upon its completion the participants, attending the final test assessment, were given certificates.

Ars Kozara 2013

Trento also supported the implementation of the fourth edition of Art Colony ' Ars Kozara ', which is implemented within the National Park " Kozara " and organized by the Association of Artists " Tač.ka ". These are laboratories that favour art in nature. In the month of August, for a period of ten days, fifteen young artists from Bosnia and abroad made artistic sculptures using natural materials found in the environment (land art), after which was organized an exhibition of the same cultural event was organized for all concerned.

International youth non-governmental organisations fair (SONVO)

International youth non-governmental organisations fair (SONVO) which is being held this year for the fourth time, was implemented in the month of May on the small square as well as the previous three years. This year's fair included the following activities: sports, Roundtable, representing youth organisations stalls and concert group from Prijedor.

The main objective of the fair is to promote youth activism through networking of youth organisations from South-East Europe and the EU countries themselves and with local and central governments and State institutions through joint projects through international funds and creating a network of youth organisations in the region.

Objectives of the project are as follows:

- ⤴ Work, successes and visions of young people and youth workers from the youth organisation / group / guild to present publicly accountable institutions , republic / state and international institutions;
- ⤴ Inform young people and youth workers on the various possibilities and limits under which it is possible to achieve valuable and sustainable projects
- ⤴ Networking youth organizations in South- Eastern Europe through joint instruments and calls for projects for South East Europe and EU countries
- ⤴ Strengthening the youth sector and work at the local level SE Europe
- ⤴ Establishment of local working groups of youth organizations that will lobby local and central government authorities in order to finance future youth fairs from their budgets.

Growing up together

This activity is implemented within the youth Centre Ljubija, who since 2009 successfully implement the project "Day centre for children from multi-problem families Nest" funded by the Foundation Kinderpostzegels from Holland.

During this year's project cycle is realised education of parents of children aged 0-4 years, because all previous studies have shown a correlation between educating parents and the subsequent reporting of socially pathological phenomena in the behaviour of children. In other words, as parents are more educated, the less the likelihood of behavioural problems in children.

The specific activity included 11 workshops for parents that have taken place once or twice a week in OCLJ for a period of two hours per workshop. The activity lasted for three months, educations were performed by the program "Growing together" a specialized program developed by UNICEF, which led certified educators. The workshops were attended by between 10 and 15 parents.

The main objective of the workshop is to create an enabling and empowering environment in which parents with workshop leaders and other parents to share ideas about ways to live out their parenthood, better acquaint yourself as a parent, you get to know some of the theoretical assumptions of a positive relationship between parents and child and parenting for the benefit of child and parent.

Summer Camps

In the first half of August a summer camp in Prijedor was implemented, to which

participated young people from Prijedor and Trento from 14 to 17 year old. The camp lasted for two weeks; the participants were placed in one whip of Prijedor primary schools in rural areas. The content of the camp was full of exercises and activities aimed at fostering mutual cooperation, trust and teamwork and participation in social life.

Participation of young people from Prijedor at the Youth Film Festival in Trento

For the third time in a row was organized participation of youth representatives of secondary schools and youth organizations from Prijedor at the Youth Film Festival, which was held in Trento, and this year the 29th and 30th of April. Young people from Prijedor were presented with two films, one of which won the ambience reward.

Youth Film Festival is organized every year in April or May, organized by the Italian Union of Sport, and the theme of the festival is all what is related to the nature, the mountain and the preservation and promotion of the environment in general.

When the common good represents Europe in small

The project, through workshops led by professional educators and Trentino through meetings with stakeholders in the project, predicted the preparation, training and coordinating the working group of young people from Trento who resided in Prijedor organized by LDA , the City of Prijedor and MZ Prijedor Center , and the goal of stay in Prijedor was the realization of activities on animating the youth on the topic of reconstruction and protection of one of the city parks in Prijedor in collaboration with young people from the local community center in Prijedor. Young people from Trento stayed in Prijedor during the period from 6th to 8th September 2013.

Monitoring of the current situation and needs of the youth sector in Prijedor

Through project was realized short monitoring process of youth sector in Prijedor, especially organizations that cooperate with ALD. The aim of the monitoring was to extract significant issues and instances, with who were concordant youth organizations from Prijedor. The result of this project was a document that contains the starting point that will do the objectives, actions, phases, evaluation criteria, characteristics and ways of partnership for the implementation of future projects, both with organizations from Trento, and between local organizations from Prijedor. The initiative included a four day stay in Prijedor (including travel) of organization Kaleidoscopio experts from Trento, who conducted monitoring using technology interviewing representatives of the youth sector in Prijedor. The survey was comprised of nine youth organizations in the area of Prijedor.

Born to read

This activity is related to the promotion on the Balkans of the project which is implemented for several years in Italy, aimed at spreading among parents habit of reading aloud to their children, to those elderly, and infants. The project had included paediatricians, who in addition to the role of physicians, also have an important educational role, which involves monitoring the growth and development of the child in all segments, as well as advising his family in respect of the same, then the young volunteers and kindergarten .

Prijedor – city of mural

This project included the implementation of an international competition for the best mural. The best proposals are then exposed to the Prijedor area in the gallery and on the opening of exhibition will be declared the winner of the contest, which has the honor within the next three months by choosing, realized a mural on one of the facades in the city center. The award for the best mural has the name of the deceased artist from Trento, Paola de Manincor, which at the end of the nineties painted on the outside wall from high school in Prijedor, which still exists today. Project carrier was the Association of Artists of Prijedor and festive of mural inauguration was in September 2013th. The winning mural

shows the striking features of Prijedor and is located in the pedestrian zone of the city and has the purpose of promoting the tourist town.

Making handicraft

In order to affirm women and their skills and enhance their role in society and the reduction of unemployment, the Association Progetto Prijedor for many years organizes the sale of handicrafts and other typical products, made by a group of women from Prijedor.

In the last two years, this engagement Association is able to collect and women from Prijedor earn about 2,500.00 euros and thereby mitigate the difficult financial situation in which they are located and their families. In the 2013th year we will try to help informal groups of women to form associations or cooperatives and thus attempt to find alternative markets for their products.

Support day centre for the elderly in Ljubija

The project also provides for the continuation of support Daily centre for the elderly in Ljubija, located in the old building of the municipality in Ljubija, and is supported by The Association of Prijedor from Trento.

The objectives of the project are as follows: integration of social and medical assistance to the most vulnerable parts intended for the local community in Ljubija, offer a place for socializing and entertainment elderly, create a trust relationship between the elderly and operators, to promote the active role of the elderly in society with the possibility of cooperation with youth organisations.

Activities that have so far implemented are following:

- ✦ Work activities at the Centre , within which are made handicrafts , and that the members of the Association of Trento sell them in Trento
- ✦ Home assistance, medical and social assistance
- ✦ Distribution of humanitarian aid

In 2013 LDA Prijedor with the help of partners from Trento adapted the premises and launched a social center with a public kitchen in Ljubija, which currently has 25 users.

Support the establishment of Social Council in Ljubija

There is a huge need for organizing and linking the relevant social actors (institutions, NGOs and others) in order to improve the response to the needs of socially vulnerable categories of the population. This need is particularly evident in places like Ljubija, in which the social needs of the population go far beyond the capacity of institutions responsible for this issue. This project is a joint initiative of the Youth Centre Ljubija and the local community Ljubija.

Project activities included:

- ✦ Regular monthly meeting of the Council at which to discuss individual cases of socially vulnerable citizens, but also the possibilities of the system to improve the position of this category of the population. Meetings would take place at the premises of the local community and OC Ljubija on them to be representatives of all interested parties.
- ✦ Help in the exercise of the rights of persons at risk. This activity would include specific actions such as issuing personal documents, establishing contacts with other organizations and institutions in order to acquire rights, mainly from the Law on Social Protection of RS as well as obtaining personal documents and other legal procedures
- ✦ Daily exchange of information about this population of people, as the creation and update a common database

- ✧ Design, lobbying for the implementation of system solutions and approaches to these problems, such as a soup kitchen, community house, preventive programs for children, etc.

- ✧ Volunteer visiting members of socially vulnerable population and help with housework

Recruitment of volunteers for the performance of individual activities
Entities that make up the Tips: Youth centre "Ljubija", Ljubija local community, LDA, Bread of life Prijedor, Centre for Social Work Prijedor, Women Association "Rudarke" Prijedor Elementary School "Mladen Stojanovic", Ljubija Police Station Ljubija, and by the need to include other organisations and institutions.



Local Democracy Agency Subotica



Established in 1993

Delegate: Silvija Patarčić

Partners: Wolverhampton City Council, UK (Lead Partner)

Priorities for 2013:

- ✓ Promoting regional and cross-border cooperation
- ✓ Capacity building for CSOs, local government and other stakeholders for project development in the LDA Resource centre
- ✓ EU integration and promotion of EU values
- ✓ Strengthening relations with local, regional and international partners

Projects in 2013:

Support for networking and twinning at European level SNET.EU

Lead partner: LDA Osijek

Lead partner Serbia: LDA Subotica

Other partners: ALDA, Open University Subotica, Evangelical Theological Faculty Osijek, Croatian Institute for Local Government HILS Osijek

Donor: European Union, IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Croatia-Serbia

Timing: September 2012 - March 2014

Purposes:

- ✓ Contribute to building and strengthening the capacity of local governments in urban and rural border areas in Serbia and Croatia for effective networking and cooperation in European projects,
- ✓ Promotion of active citizenship
- ✓ Improving cooperation and exchange of experiences between local governments of Croatia and Serbia.
- ✓ Twinning of cities and municipalities, finding and establishing partnerships with municipalities and cities of the European Union.

Activities:

- ✦ Educational seminars for local authorities and representatives civil society on European public policies and EU integration
- ✦ Training programs for the development of joint EU projects
- ✦ Establishment of Resource Centres for twinning and networking of local authorities in the Serbian and Croatian border region
- ✦ Promotional workshops and exchange of good practice within Resource Centres
- ✦ Joint thematic workshops ("coffee houses") in cities and municipalities in border areas of Croatia and Serbia.

Results: Establishing new contacts between local authorities and NGOs from Croatia and Serbia, with the aim of creating joint project proposals in the framework of EU funded programmes. Resource centres in Subotica and Osijek were established for networking and town twinning. Project activities promoted European policies and concepts of active

citizenship and twinning, and led to strengthening of relationships between involved cities and municipalities. The project contributed to the creation of good quality platform for further cross-border cooperation based on common projects.



Marking the Day of Europe – Living library

Lead partner: LDA Subotica

Partners: City of Subotica, Council of Europe Office in Belgrade and other Local NGOs active in promotion of European values

Donor: Provincial Secretariat for Sport and Youth, LDA Subotica and City of Subotica

Timing: April - May 2013

Purposes: Traditional celebration of the Day of Europe, in the main city square, aims to increase awareness of youth and citizens about the possibilities and values which the EU supports, as well as the activities of local NGOs active in promotion of European values. The programme also included the Living Library where the citizens had the opportunity to talk with people – “living books”, representing groups frequently confronted with prejudice and stereotypes, with the objective to decrease discrimination, social exclusion and support equal rights for all.

Activities:

- ⤴ Celebration of the Day of Europe on the main square with promotional materials, games, quizzes about Europe and EU member states
- ⤴ Council of Europe programme – Living Library – raising awareness about human rights and fight against discrimination

Results:

Through this traditional event in which the main objective is sharing the knowledge about Europe and European values among the citizens, LDA Subotica, Delegation of the EU in Serbia, local NGOs and the City administration had the opportunity to once again work

together for a common goal and strengthen their relations. Furthermore, the Living Library contributed to the programme with promoting the EU values of human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and the respect for human rights.

DANUBIANA

Lead partner: NGO European House – Budapest

Partners: LDA Subotica and NGOs from 7 EU member states

Donor: European Commission

Timing: September 2013 – February 2015

Purposes: As the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUDRS) has entered into a pilot phase of implementation in the 14 states of the Danube region, the objective of the current, 2nd phase of the “Building Bridges of Democracy” project is to contribute by means of civil society organisations from 9 countries to the successful implementation of the EUDRS and to promote active European citizenship. During the project a number of programmes are organised to increase the visibility and public understanding of the EUDRS.

Activities:

Street actions, nine-country monitoring of implementation of the EUDRS on national level, a two-week volunteer exchange programme, the holding of Danube classes in schools (one per country) with the use of an educational kit and research work on Danube identity vis-à-vis European identity. The project seeks to compare experience of the EUDRS and the Baltic Sea Strategy through a study trip to Sweden. An interactive project activity is placing geocaching “boxes” along the Danube to be found by interested parties.

Local Democracy Agency Zavidovići



Established in 1997

Delegate: Sladjan Ilic

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

Priorities:

- ✓ Strengthening its 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 DA's Italian partners and network
- ✓ Enlarging the relationship with local and international NGOs, Bosnian institutions and foreign authorities
- ✓ Supporting local NGOs, active in the social and educative field to become more sustainable

Projects in 2013

FUNNY-FIGHTING UNEMPLOYMENT THROUGH NETWORKING FOR YOUTH

Lead partner: ALDA – Association of Local Democracy Agencies, France

Other partners: ...

Donors: EU (Youth in Action)

Timing: December 2013

Purposes: FUNNY brings together 40 youth workers from 17 countries of the enlarged Europe and to support them to find partners for transnational cooperation in the field of youth work, with particular attention to the problem of youth unemployment. The unemployment due to the global economic crisis is affecting especially the younger generation. The main goal is to exchange experiences and come up with new ideas on how to tackle youth unemployment.

Activities: Two representatives of LDA Zavidovici took part in the PBA activity in Baku, Azarbaijan, in December 2013, which was a wonderful opportunity to exchange experiences and build new partnerships.

CIVIL SOCIETY IN ACTION FOR DIALOGUE AND PARTNERSHIPS

Lead partner: ALDA – Association of Local Democracy Agencies

Other partners: LDA Mostar, LDA Zavidovici, LDA Osijek (Croatia), LDA Subotica (Serbia), Forum of Tuzla Citizens, Center for Local Development Breza, DON Prijedor and Center New Hopes Bihac

Donors: EU (IPA)

Timing: 2011-2013

Purposes: The two year action is designed as a comprehensive set of capacity building and awareness raising activities which will be implemented through combined support measures intended for local NGO-s and local authorities to enhance citizen participation in policy and decision-making process.

Activities:

LDA Zavidovici took part in the implementation of activities during 2013, as all activities which were responsibility of our organisation were implemented in 2012.

THE EUROPEAN AND OUR AFFAIRS

Lead partner: ALDA

Other partners: LDA Zavidovici, Development Agency Zepce

Donors: EU (IPA)

Timing: September 2012 – May 2013

Purposes: To help raise awareness on EU enlargement process and pre-accession assistance aimed to support the reform process at local level in Bosnia and Herzegovina; to help improve public understanding of the benefits of EU integration; to help promote tangible results of EU pre-accession assistance; to help reinforce the role of civil society in the public dialogue on EU accession agenda; to help strengthen the local ownership over the reform and EU integration process.

Activities:

- Conference „EU integration – a dialogue for the future“, held in Zavidovići Town Hall on October 10th 2012;
- Training seminars for CSO-s and local authorities on EU integration and pre-accession assistance – first training, „Partnership building for EU integration – writing of EU project proposals“ was held in Zavidovici on the 12 December 2012., and the second one, titled „Partnership building for EU integrations – project cycle management“, was held on January 24th 2013 in the Municipality Hall Žepče ;
- Training seminar for local media titled „EU Integration: prejudices and myth-buster“, held on January 25th in Municipality Hall Zepce;
- Youth for EU campaign: EU quiz in secondary schools and EU Ambassadors' visits – EU quiz included three high schools, two of high schools from Zavidovici and one high school from Žepče. Quiz was conducted in two phases. The first phase was held in these three schools, on February 26th and 27th 2013, and 15 of the most successful students participated in the final quiz held on the day of the final conference. Also in this campaign, we organized the visit of the Ambassador of Austria in BH to Zavidovici on Thursday April 11th 2013. The ambassador, H.E. Donatus Köck, held a lecture to high school students about the prospects of EU integration, and he was greeted by the Municipality Mayor and Municipality Council president.
- Final conference called "Youth in Action for EU" was held March 4th 2013, in the Town Hall Zavidovici.
- Street campaigns – promotional materials about the EU were distributed on stands in Zavidovici on March 31st 2013, parallel with Vivicitta' race, in the centre of town, and in Zepce on April 3rd 2013, on the square in front of 'Dom kulture'. Also, youth activists marked the Day of Europe, May 9th, with a street campaign as a part of this project.

Promotional activities – 4 newsletters about topics related to EU integrations and project activities, and a brochure „Evropska i naša posla“ with basic facts about the EU in local language.

DEmocratic Compact: Improving Democracy in Europe (DECIDE)

Lead partner: Association of Local Democracy Agencies – ALDA

Other partners:...

Donors: EU (European Commission - Education, Audio-visual and Communication Executive Agency (EACEA), within the programme: Europe for Citizens)

Timing: 30 May 2013 – 29 May 2015

Purposes: DECIDE aims at developing, through the establishment of a thematic network of towns and by adopting a bottom-up approach, a democratic compact, namely a set of measures that are needed in Europe to increase the quality of democracy and citizen participation.

Activities: DECIDE has foreseen 6 steps, and the LDA Zavidovici has taken part in the only one implemented in 2013 - Launching International Event – held in Reggio Emilia in November 2013. Other steps are still to be implemented.

SAFE PLACE FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE - MONITORING THE INDEPENDENCE AND DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL RESOURCES

Lead partner: LDA Zavidovici

Other partners: Association "Sigurno mjesto" Zavidovici

Donors: Municipality of Alba (Italy)

Timing: continuous (since 2011)

Purposes: The main purpose of this initiative is to fight domestic violence by using many different activities. The basic goals that are outlined in the project are, first, the implementation of prevention and raising awareness activities, extending them to rural areas, strengthening of the Association, which has grown from a local network for the prevention of domestic violence and the provision of direct services to support victims, also, continued training of local subjects on specific forms of assistance to victims, promotion of local protocol on the procedure in cases of domestic violence and exchange of experiences between the Italian and Bosnian entities.

Activities: The new project "Safe place for victims of domestic violence: monitoring the independence and development of local resources" was launched in 2013.

The project managed to reinforce and strengthen activities in the field of prevention of domestic violence and raising awareness, all in cooperation with partners from Alba, Italy.

The project activities in 2013 were: Workshops for pregnant women; Workshops on domestic violence with students; Workshops on domestic violence with rural women; Public debate on domestic violence; Meeting and support groups for economical empowering of women; Support desk; Reception and tutoring; Supervision; Promotional activities, and marking the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on November 25th 2013.

FROM THE TRAGEDY OF WAR TO THE DIFFICULT PATH OF PEACE

Lead partner: LDA Zavidovici

Other partners: Municipalities Zavidovici and Gornji Vakuf/Uskoplje, local community Kovači, Association Ceker, Association Sigurno Mjesto

Donors: LDA Zavidovici

Timing: May 2013

The visit of Italian delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina was organised to commemorate a dramatic page of European history, and to remember Sergio Lana, Fabio Moreni and Guido Puletti, as well as other volunteers who helped the people of Balkans in this hard times, and ultimately lost their lives doing that. This went on to confirm the story about solidarity and friendship between Italians and the Municipality of Zavidovici, and to show the good practice of international cooperation between our communities.

The delegation from Italy was composed of 50 people, including local authorities' representatives, NGO activists, sports and culture workers and youth. During the visit

there was a reception organised in Hotel Kristal in Zavidovici, which served as an opportunity to remember a large number of initiatives that were implemented in Zavidovici with support from Italy, and to celebrate the friendship and cooperation between Zavidovici and various Italian subjects.

The commemoration itself happened on May 29th in the Gornji Vakuf/Uskoplje Municipality, where a monument, the work of Pietro Zanotti, was uncovered near to the location where Sergio, Fabio and Guido lost their lives.

STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN PUBLIC AND POLITICAL LIFE

Lead partner: Council of Europe

Other partners: LDA Zavidovici

Donors: USAID

Timing: May – July 2013

Purposes: The goal of the project was to strengthen awareness of women about their role in the society, and to encourage them to think about how they can, through engaging in public and political life, influence the improvement of the situation in their community. Also, women who took part in the workshops and street campaigns filled anonymous questionnaires, which will be used for an comprehensive analysis of the status of women in BH, conducted by the Council of Europe.

Activities: There were three workshops in total – in Kovaci, Zavidovici (centre) and Žepče. Besides the workshops, there were also street campaigns, where promotional materials and symbolic gifts were distributed for women.

All activities were successfully implemented, and they will be followed by phase 2 of the same project during 2014.

„OSTALI“ – DEBATES ABOUT CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

Lead partner: LDA Zavidovici

Other partners: N/A

Donors: Public International Law and Policy Group

Timing: April – June 2013

Purposes: This activity was expected to be a start to dialogue about the topic of constitutional changes in the local communities where the screenings are held, and to lead to the development of similar initiatives in the future.

Activities: In cooperation with Public international law and policy group, Sarajevo office, it was planned to organise screenings of the short documentary “Ostali” in 6 communities during April, May and June 2013. This short (15 minute) film was made by a young BiH filmmaker to explore what it means to have a country in which a category of people are call “the others.” The screenings were held in relaxed atmosphere and followed by discussion about the topic.

Form@innova

Lead partners: Province Gorizia (Italy), KALLIPOLIS – Associazione non profit per uno sviluppo urbano sostenibile, Tenda per la Pace e i Diritti, IRES – Istituto di Ricerche Economiche e Sociali del Friuli Venezia Giulia

Other partners: LDA Zavidovici, Agriculture cooperative “INSIEME” Bratunac, University of East Sarajevo - Faculty of Technology

Donors: Region Friuli Venezia Giulia

Timing: 2013

Purposes: The goal of the project is to strengthen the local business and in particular the Agricultural Cooperative "Together " and its network of members producers , facilitating local development and strengthening social cohesion .

Activities: The project is developed through the following activities:

- adjustment of the production site of the Agricultural Cooperative "Insieme" with respect

to European standards ;

- Implementation of training programs (courses and seminars) through participatory processes;
- Implementation of a development plan aimed at enhancing the existing business structure ;
- Promotion of opportunities for training and information aimed at students, young people and adults in Friuli Venezia Giulia.

AGRICULTURE

Lead partner: LDA Zavidovici

Other partners: UPIP Žepče

Donors: Enti per la pace della Provincia di Cremona

Timing: continuous (since 2006)

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

Activities: In 2013, we continued our support for 25 farmers from municipalities of Zavidovici and Zepce, even if we do not have a funded project for this year.

Thanks to the donation of Italian farmers we have provided seed for farmers involved in the project. This year we have provided technical assistance and supervision of an agronomist.

Some of our farmers are present on the local market in Zavidovici, one of them has one of the best stands, then often you can also see them in Žepče, with the stand near one of the largest supermarkets. Some farmers got sunshades and tables for sale on the street as a donation.

For next year we have no activities planned.

SEENET – DEVELOPMENT OF COMPETITIVE PRODUCTION MODELS FOR A SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Lead partner: Municipality of Zavidovici

Other partners: LDA Zavidovici, Municipality of Zavidovici, Development agency Zavidovići. Partners of the Programme are local authorities, Italian technical organisations and 46 local authorities in South Eastern Europe.

Donors: SEENET, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regione Piemonte

Timing: 2010 - 2013

Purposes: Supporting the local agriculture production, and improving conditions for development.

Activities: LDA Zavidovici participates in the working group that created the Municipality of Zavidovici for the implementation of the project.

The main activity in 2013 was: support of 16 farmers in the project (Buying seeds, agronomist support, training), construction of a brand, support of local agricultural production, and promotional activities.

Also, an exhibition of local products was organized on June 15, 2013 with the participation of about 50 producers from Zavidovici and our canton. The project was extended until November 2013.



STRANI VARI

Lead partner: LDA Zavidovici

Other partners: Associazione Strani Vari (Italy), Association Ceker, elementary schools from Zavidovici, Association Sigurno Mjesto

Donors: YEPP Langhe (Italy)

Timing: Continuous (since 2003)

Purposes: To support creative expression and imagination of children; Awareness raising of children on different themes; Indirect involvement of family and citizens; To support the joint efforts of Bosnian and Italian animators; Expanding the form of participation of civil society organizations, strengthen joint activities of social significance; Promotion of the Association and voluntarism, and creating useful relations between the actors involved.

Activities: The eleventh edition of Strani Vari Project was carried out from July 29th to August 7th in the Municipality of Zavidovici. This was, as always, a summer activity with workshops for all children of the city of Zavidovici and 5 neighboring villages (Ribnica, Hajderovici, Kovaci, Gostovic and Brezik). Around 30 Bosnian youth from the Association Ceker (Zavidovici) and 25 young Italians were included as animators.

KINDERGARDEN EXCHANGE ALBA/ZAVIDOVIĆI

Lead partner: LDA Zavidovici

Other partners: Kindregarten Alba and Zavidovici

Donors: Municipality of Alba

Timing: continuous (since 2008)

Purposes: To exchange experiences between kindergarten teachers from Italy and BiH, and to improve the conditions of pre-school education for children.

Activities: Continuous exchange between the kindergarten from Alba (Italy) and kindergarten from Zavidovici. In 2013 we organised the visit of four teachers who have visited nursery schools in Alba.

As a possibility for development, we then identified the creation of a children's library in the Zavidovici City Kindergarten, and this was implemented during 2013. The City Kindergarten Zavidovici this year has organised the pre-school for children in rural areas with the support of UNICEF and the City of Zavidovići, for this project we gave a contribution of € 1,000, while the total value of the project is around € 30,000.00.

LUDOBUS

Lead partner: LDA Zavidovici

Other partners: UG Ceker, schools from Zavidovici area

Donors: LDA Zavidovici

Timing: Continuous (since 2006)

Purposes

- ✓ To include children from rural areas in activities, and to give them an opportunity to play and learn with educators.
- ✓ To support growth and development of emotional skills, to offer a space of play and entertainment for children and adolescents in the school context. Also, training of youth leaders to ensure the continuation of the practice at the end of the project, skills development and extension of knowledge in the social- educational role of parents, increase in capacity for intervention in rural areas of Zavidovići.

Activities: Since spring we continued the activities of the project "Peace Games - Educational services for children and young adults as in rural areas of Zavidovići" which are implemented in collaboration with the Association "Ceker".

Around 10 animators and some new volunteers are regularly involved in the activities.

EUROPEAN VOLUNTARY SERVICE

„Different Visions“

Lead partner: System and Generation Turkey - sending organisation

Other Partners: LDA Zavidovici- hosting organisation

Donors: EU - Youth in Action

Timing: February – July 2013

„The City of Well Being“

Lead partner: Municipality of Cubuk, Turkey - sending organisation

Other Partners: LDA Zavidovici - hosting organisation

Donors: EU - Youth in Action

Timing: February – July 2013

Purposes:

- Building relations with youth and other citizens in the host country;
- Learning languages and meeting different cultures;
- Acquiring practical experience while implementing projects.

Activities:

- Active participation of volunteers in the host organisation activities;
- Organising events/visits in the organisation;
- Participating in different events where young people are active;
- Developing project ideas of volunteers;
- Participating in fundraising activities with the host organisation;
- Attending workshops, meetings, seminars;
- Other relevant activities as defined by the host organisation.

„Sustainability of Camp Livadak and Greenway Network Development”

Lead partner: Eco Centre Latinovac (Croatia)- hosting organisation

Other partners: LDA Zavidovici - sending organisation

Donors: EU - Youth in Action

Timing: August – October 2013

Purposes: The goals of the camp were empowerment of young people, active development of rural community, culture of peace and tolerance, experiencing other cultures, and promoting volunteerism.

Activities: During 3 month period a group of EVS volunteers composed of 3 volunteers from Bulgaria and 1 volunteer from Bosnia and Herzegovina together with Croatian volunteers and two EVS volunteers from Greece worked together on a sustainable future of the Kamp Livadak project and encouragement of rural tourism through development of local network of green cycling routes.

Themes of the camp were: rural development, environment, art and culture, developing solidarity, promotion of tolerance among young people, fostering social cohesion through sustainable volunteerism.

YOUTH EXCHANGE „TRANSITION YOUTH - *several suggestions for a new active citizenship*“

Lead partner: Cooperativa Isola (Italy)

Other partners: Centrum Wolontariatu (Poland), Centar za mlade Kragujevac (Serbia), European Education Center Zagreb (Croatia), Maquina do Mundo (Portugal), Citta' di Torino, Citta' di Collegno

Donors: EU - Youth in Action

Timing: September – November 2013

Purposes: The topic of the exchange was the evoking of a modern transitional lifestyle, in the form of a Transition Place. The goal is to get young people acquainted with the idea of a sustainable lifestyle and the concept of Transition Towns and Transition places.

Activities: As a part of this project, four young people and one team leader from Zavidovici participated in a youth exchange that took place in Torino, Italy, in the period from October 26th to November 5th 2013. The host organisation was Cooperativa Isola from Italy, and, besides Italy and BiH, participants came from Croatia, Serbia, Portugal, and Poland.

Activities included learning about sustainability, permaculture, building of solar collectors, producing own food, recycling and upcycling, open space technology, smart city applications etc.

EXCHANGE WITH RONCADELLE –FEMALE VOLLEYBALL

Lead partner: LDA Zavidovici

Other partners: Municipality of Zavidovici, Municipality of Roncadelle, ŽOK Zavidovići

Donors: Comune di Roncadelle

Timing: Continuous (since 2008)

Purposes: To improve cooperation between Italian and BiH subjects, in the frame of the twinning agreement between municipalities Zavidovici and Roncadelle (Italy)

Activities: During the Vivicitta' event we organised a female volleyball tournament where the team from Roncadelle also participated.

Also this year, traditionally, LDA Zavidovici organised and supported the participation of a team from Zavidovići, Women's Volleyball Club "Zavidovici", in a volleyball tournament "Memorial Alessandra" in Roncadelle. The exchange happened in December 2013, with the participation of players but also some friends and cooperates who have participated in previous years.

VIVICITTA'

Lead partner: LDA Zavidovici

Other partners: UISP Brescia, UISP Cremona, Municipality of Zavidovici, Association of Zavidovici sport teachers, Association of Athletics "Krivaja", Basketball Club "Krivaja", Female Volleyball Club from Zavidovici, Ist. Scientifico "Leonardo" Brescia, Istituto Artistico "Munari" Cremona, Ass. Bonvicino, Association Sigurno Mjesto

Donors: UISP, LDA Zavidovici

Timing: Annual (since 1998)

Purposes: The international event, whose general sponsor is the UISP (Unione Italiana Sport per tutti), takes place in 90 cities around the world, and also in Zavidovići since 1998. The aim is to promote peace, solidarity and friendship.



Activities: „Vivicitta' 2013" was held in Zavidovici on March 31, 2013. The sports event was organized by Athletic Club "Krivaja Zavidovići", in collaboration with the Municipality of Zavidovići and UISP Brescia and Cremona. The host of the event was LDA Zavidovići. Hundreds of athletes from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Italy and Turkey have been participating in the race, and even the weather on this day was on the side of the organizers. As a part of this sports event, there were also, traditionally, a female volleyball tournament and male basketball tournament.

SEPARATE WASTE COLLECTION PILOT PROJECT

Lead partner: LDA Zavidovici

Other partners: Municipality of Zavidovici, JKP „Radnik“ Zavidovici (BiH), Cetamb Brescia (Italy)

Donors: LDA Zavidovici, Cetamb Brescia (Italy)

Timing: Continuous (since 2008.)

Purposes: To increase cooperation between Italian and Bosnian stakeholders in the field of waste management, and to improve the situation with waste management in Municipality of Zavidovici

Activities: It was decided to stop the pilot project of collection of separated waste in December 2012. In October and November, thanks to cooperation with the organisation CeTAMB Brescia, we had students visiting who are working on a research on the state of the collection of waste in Zavidovici and possible plans for continuing the recycling projects.

II.2. LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES – OPERATIONAL PARTNERS

Local Democracy Agency - OP Osijek



Established in 1993

Delegate: Miljenko Turniski

Partners: City of Lausanne, Switzerland (Lead partner); City of Osijek, Croatia (Host city); Erdut Municipality, Croatia; Municipality Montenero Di Bisaccia, Italy

Priorities

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

Projects in 2013

Place for Me

LEAD PARTNER: Youth Association Breza

OTHER PARTNERS: Volunteer Centre Osijek

DONOR: European Commission, IPA for Civil Society Capacity Building for Delivering of Innovative Social Services in the Areas of Special State Concern

TIMING: May 2012 – January 2014

PURPOSES: To strengthen capacities of civil society in the areas of special state concern for delivery of innovative social services and implementation of Croatian strategy of prevention

ACTIVITIES:

- ⤴ Creative workshops for children and youth
- ⤴ Workshops and counseling for parents
- ⤴ Training on innovative social services for local stakeholders
- ⤴ Resourceful web site
- ⤴ Community manifestations

RESULTS: Innovative social services for children and parents from the area of special state concern successfully piloted in Erdut Municipality.

Support for networking and twinning at European level – SNET.EU

LEAD PARTNER: Croatia: Local Democracy Agency in Osijek, Serbia: Local Democracy Agency Subotica

OTHER PARTNERS: Croatian Institute for Local Self-Government, Evangelic Theological Seminary, Association of Local Democracy Agencies, Open University of Subotica,

DONOR: European Commission, IPA CBC Croatia - Serbia

TIMING: September 2012 – March 2014

PURPOSES:

- To build capacities of local institutions and local authorities for understanding regional EU policy and European integration process
- To promote town twinning as a tool for development of European active citizenship
- To contribute to twin town/municipality partner search for LA from Croatia and

Serbia at European level

- o To contribute to networking and cooperation between LA from Croatia and Serbia

ACTIVITIES:

- o Capacity building activities (3 conferences, 1 training, 2 seminars)
- o Resource centres' activities (promotional workshops on twinning, partner search, consultations)
- o Thematic networking activities (12 local thematic events in municipalities and cities in border regions of Croatia and Serbia)

RESULTS

Twelve municipalities in border regions of Croatia and Serbia strengthened their relations, built their capacities for effective cooperation at regional and European level, learned about concepts of active citizenship and twinning and exchanged 74 projects ideas creating thus a platform for future project oriented cooperation.

War Crimes and Trials - Judicial, Political and Societal Implications of War Crime Trials in Europe

LEAD PARTNER: LDA Osijek

OTHER PARTNERS: Youth Initiative for Human Rights Serbia, Belgrade, DRJSCS, Limoges, France, Max-Mannheimer-Studienzentrum Dachau, Germany

DONOR: French – German Youth Office

TIMING: 2012 - 2014

PURPOSES

To discover, analyse and discuss the role of War Crime Trials (WCT) and their judicial, political and societal implications in the 20th century, especially regarding Croatia, Serbia, France and Germany.

ACTIVITIES

- o Preparations for the second seminar
- o Seminar in Zagreb/Belgrade, March 10-17, 2013
- o Preparations for the third seminar to be held in France

RESULTS

Fostered dialogue between young people from France, Germany, Serbia and Croatia on difficult issues related to war crimes in 20th century in Europe.

Participants addressed some of the key questions such as:

What kind of legal and political evolutions can be seen in the field of WCT after the Second World War and the break-up-wars in Yugoslavia?

What has been / is the political and social impact of WCT, how do our societies react to these trials?

What is the role of WCT in dealing-with-the-past-processes? Are WCT elements of reconciliation or of division in our societies?

Free time on board!

LEAD PARTNER: Local Democracy Agency in Osijek

OTHER PARTNERS: Hungary: Az emberség erejével Alapítvány, Italy: STUDIO

PROGETTO Società Cooperativa Sociale, France: Euroculture en Pays Gentiane, Turkey: BursArt Training and Youth Association

DONOR: European Commission, Youth in Action Programme, youth exchange, Measure 1.1.

TIMING: January 2013 – December 2013

PURPOSES:

- ✓ To give young people opportunity to explore and discuss about active use of free time and rediscover board games and outdoor activities as important intercultural and socializing tools.

- ✓ To help young participants realize that the internet is not the only and the most amusing way of interaction and communication between people

ACTIVITIES:

- Preparations for the youth exchange
- Youth exchange held in Orahovica, Croatia from 5th to 15th July 2013
- Production of a short video about the youth exchange
- Promotion of youth exchanges and Youth in Action Programme

RESULTS

39 young participants from Hungary, Italy, France, Turkey and Croatia raised their awareness about the importance of quality free time spending and active use of free time, improved their communication and social skills and experienced intercultural learning.

Y- Mocracy – Democracy for Youth

LEAD PARTNER: Italy: STUDIO PROGETTO Società Cooperativa Sociale,

OTHER PARTNERS: Local Democracy Agency, City of Osijek – Youth Council of the City of Osijek, Valdagno Municipality, Vicenza Province

DONOR: European Commission, Youth in Action Programme, Measure 1.3.

TIMING: October 2nd 2012 - June 30th 2013

PURPOSES:

- ✓ To find and explain the problems related to the democratic participation of young people;
- ✓ To clarify what are the existing processes to take part to the public life of a city, a region or a Country;
- ✓ To stimulate young people to become actors of democracy and active participants to the democratic process.

ACTIVITIES:

- Preparatory phase and establishing of communication channels between partners
- Needs assessment and exchange of ideas related to preparation of a seminar
- Seminar, Valdagno, Italy, March 18-23, 2013
- Evaluation and follow up activities

RESULTS:

Networking between young people from Croatia (Osijek and Osijek-Baranja County) and Italy (Valdagno).

Increased motivation of young people for participation in democratic processes in their local communities

Local Partnership for Anti Corruption Education

LEAD PARTNER: Forum for Freedom in Education, Croatia

OTHER PARTNERS: Local Democracy Agency Osijek, Local Democracy Agency Sisak, Network of Education Policy Centres, Info Zone Split

DONOR: European Commission and City of Lausanne, Switzerland

TIMING: April 2013 – October 2014

PURPOSES:

- to enhance the impact of the CSOs in identification, implementation, support, and further development of anti-corruption policies and practices in educational system;
- to map corruptive practices regarding educational system with focus on secondary education;
- to equip key local stakeholders for effective implementation of anti-corruption policies;

- to raise awareness among students on harmfulness of certain practices;
- to provide support to local education stakeholders in implementation of anti-corruption policies and practices in schools

ACTIVITIES:

- organization of the focus groups (June 2013)
- implementation of the questionnaire in the schools (September 2013)
- Anti-Corruption Training Module, Marija Bistrica, (November 26-29, 2013)

RESULTS:

- raised awareness about corruptive practices in high schools
- education of high school principals and local authorities at the Anti-Corruption Training Module



Local Democracy Agency - OP Sisak



Established in 1996

Delegate: Paula Raužan

Partners: Association of the Local Democracy Agencies – France (acting as lead partner), the cities of Sisak, Hrvatska Kostajnica, Petrinja, Kutina, Dvor (Croatia); NGO “Going to Europe” (Italy); NGO «International School for Peace Studies» (Northern Ireland)

Member of the following councils and organisations: European Year of Citizens Alliance Croatia; South East European Youth Network

Vision: Society at what every individual has equal opportunities for using one's own potentials. Peace, human rights, tolerance, mobility and richness of diversity are characteristics of that society.

Mission: Local Democracy Agency 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.

Priorities:

- ✓ Local democracy
- ✓ Culture and human rights
- ✓ Local economical development
- ✓ Education, networking and youth exchange
- ✓ European integrations
- ✓ Local volunteers' centre
- ✓ Capacity building and training

Projects fundraised by the LDA Sisak

LDA Sisak benefits from the support by the Croatian National Foundation for Civil Society Development for association' stabilisation and/or development. The LDA Sisak operates the Sisak Volunteer' Centre, in the same premises as the LDA.

Volunteering for Cross-border Local Community Development

Lead partner: LDA Sisak for Croatia and Youth Communication Centre Banja Luka for Bosnia and Herzegovina

Other partners: Croatia – Association Iks (Petrinja), Disabled persons' Association OSI (Kutina); BIH – Association Women form Una (Bihać) and Association BiosPlus (Derвента).

Associates: towns Sisak, Kutina and Petrinja

Donors: European Union, IPA CBC Croatia-Bosnia and Herzegovina 2007-2013, Office for Civil Society Organisations of Republic of Croatia Government and Sisak-Moslavina

County

Timing: February 2011- February 2013

The project was implemented during 24 months in the area of 6 towns; in Croatia (Sisak, Kutina, Petrinja) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (Banja Luka, Derventa, Bihać). The overall objectives of the projects are: 1) to help improve accessibility of community-based services in border area, 2) to contribute to establishment of cross-border networking between local authorities, civil society and social partners and 3) to help enhancing quality of life and social cohesion in border area. The overall objectives were accomplished through set of activities addressing the specific objective which is to contribute to creation of innovative community-based services in border area through establishment of voluntary services and developing policy measures in support of volunteering at local level.

The project results are:

1. Established 5 voluntary services in border area of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina - developed effective partnerships between CSOs and social and welfare public institutions and educational facilities providing fertile ground for implementation of different voluntary projects focusing on social vulnerable groups through local voluntary services in Bihać, Derventa, Sisak, Kutina and Petrinja.
2. Established cross-border voluntary network – implemented 2 cross-border voluntary work camps gathering youngsters from targeted communities. The work camp in Banja Luka was held in Children home while the work camp in Sisak was held in Old People's Home providing, among others, intergenerational networking and support. Applicants and partners' organisations developed network among each other and with other community stakeholders that contributed to sustainable planning of future joint activities.
3. Defined local voluntary policies in border area municipalities included in the action – defined 6 local voluntary policies whereof 1 adopted by town council.
4. Improved cross-border joint management, evaluation report and awareness raising tools developed - poster, flyer, voluntary guide and voluntary book.

The project activities were grouped in 18 main groups of activities, gathering 827 participants. 5 local voluntary services were established within the projects, mobilising 38 institutions/CSOs that used LVS services, 521 citizens registered as volunteers and 511 were engaged on 84 voluntary programs on which they volunteered 19.091 hours and got involved 11.318 beneficiaries. 1.593 people were involved in public events during celebrations of International volunteers' Day. 52 articles and 4 radio broadcasts were published on project activities and results. 215.756 visits were registered on the applicant web sites and 4.962 people are following established LVSs via social network Facebook.

Cross-border Volunteers' Networking for Local Development

Lead partner: LDA Sisak for Croatia and Youth Communication Centre Banja Luka for Bosnia and Herzegovina

Other partners: Croatia – Local Action Group (Ozalj), Sunflower-Centre for community development (Vrginmost); BIH – Association Most (Gradiška) and Centre for children, youth and family (Laktaši)

Associates: towns Ozalj, Vrginmost, Gradiška and Laktaši

Donors: European Union, IPA CBC Croatia-Bosnia and Herzegovina 2007-2013 and Office for Civil Society Organisations of Republic of Croatia Government

Timing: December 2012- December 2013

The project was implemented during 12 months in the area of 9 towns; in Croatia (Sisak, Ozalj, Vrginmost, Kutina, Petrinja) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (Banja Luka, Laktasi, Gradiska, Derventa).

The overall objectives of the project are: 1) to help improve quality of life and social cohesion in border area by enhancing accessibility of community-based services, 2) to

contribute in strengthening cross-border cooperation at the municipal level, and 3) to contribute in improving inter-municipal cooperation in border area. The overall objectives were accomplished through set of activities addressing the specific objectives which is to contribute to creation of innovative community-based services in border area through establishment of 4 local voluntary services and establishment of cross-border network of 9 civil society organisations dealing with active citizenship.

The project results are:

1. Established 4 voluntary services in border area of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina - developed effective partnerships between 37 CSOs and social and welfare public institutions and educational public institutions providing fertile ground for implementation of different voluntary projects focusing on marginalised groups and groups at risk of social exclusion through local voluntary services in Ozalj, Vrginmost, Gradiška and Laktaši. Newly established LVSs and their main social partners have trained and skilled staff that are able to run local voluntary services - matching public institutions that are in need of volunteers with volunteers, running data base, monitoring voluntary placements and performing promotional campaigns.

2. Strengthened cross-border voluntary network - implemented 2 cross-border voluntary work camps gathering 45 youngsters from targeted communities. Applicants and partners' organisations strengthened network among each other and with other community stakeholders that contributed to sustainable planning of future joint activities. The work camps have a significant impact on communities where they are conducted but on participants as well. Besides doing a concrete work, the work camps provided participants to live, work and spend leisure time in one place and therefore to get to know each other, other town, other country and different customs and culture. Participants gained new knowledge and working skills and become aware of voluntary work importance and benefits (on personal and community level). Added value of this activity is geographical selection of the participants. The activity connected neighbouring border communities and networks both participants individually but their organisations as well. The work camp as networking tool impacted on organising new cross-border activities, strengthen existing ones and foster cooperation in border area.

3. Established cross-border network of 9 civil society organisations dealing with active citizenship – 14 joint activities of all 9 CSOs implemented throughout the project. Established network, although non-formal, provided a space for making stronger connections within similar CSOs. 4 especially dedicated meetings for the network members are implemented that strengthening their capacities for further joint activities and for taking lead role in their communities regarding active citizenship, especially volunteering. Beyond this particular project, new joint activities are designed.

4. Upgraded cross-border joint management, evaluation report and awareness raising tools developed - poster, flayer, voluntary guide, volunteer' book/ID, roll-up banners, promotional bags and stands; joint communication, monitoring and evaluation tools developed and used.

The project activities were grouped in 14 main groups of activities, gathering 799 direct participants. 4 local voluntary services were established within the projects, mobilising 37 institutions/CSOs that used LVS services, 312 citizens registered as volunteers and 268 were engaged on 71 voluntary programs on which they volunteered 6.658 hours and got involved 4.844 beneficiaries. 55 articles, 11 radio broadcasts and 5 TV broadcasts were published on project activities and results. 188.548 visits were registered on the applicant web sites and 7.952 people are following established LVSs via social network Facebook.

These two projects were aiming to have recognised and valued volunteering and community participation in border area and to have sustainable effective local structures

which support further development of civil society through volunteering. This was achieved by support to community development through the effective mobilisation of border area volunteering and through strengthening networking of CSOs, thereby increasing active citizen's participation and cross-border cooperation.

Successful results: 9 local voluntary services operating in border area of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, developed 6 local voluntary policies, developed partnerships with 74 institutions/organisations, 833 citizens expressed interest to volunteer whereof 779 engaged on 155 voluntary programmes on which they volunteer 35.749 hours with 16.162 beneficiaries.

Active citizens combating youth unemployment - JOBNET

Lead partner: Carpathian Foundation Hungary

Other partners: LDA Sisak (Croatia), Carpathian Foundation Slovakia, Kompetenzagentur im Haus der offenen Tür (Germany), Agency for Migration and Adaptation AMIGA o.s. (Czech Republic), Valmeira Region Community Foundation (Latvia)

Donor: European Union, Europe for Citizens Programme and Office for Civil Society Organisations of Republic of Croatia Government

Timing: October 2012- April 2014

Purpose: highlighting and promoting innovative bottom-up solutions Europe-wide aimed at combating youth unemployment. The main objective of the project is to build a trans-frontier network of civil society organisations (CSOs) to identify, share, discuss and encourage initiatives successfully tackling youth unemployment in different European countries which can be deployed in other EU states as well. The project intends to involve unemployed youth as active citizens following the principle: *"Nothing about us, without us"*.

In the frame of the project six CSOs from Germany, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, Croatia and Latvia closely cooperate with each other and all key actors to raise public awareness on importance of active citizenship, citizens', CSOs' initiatives tackling youth unemployment. The trans-frontier network of wide stakeholders explores the background of the problem by conducting a comparative international audio-visual research in the respective countries. At an international conference participants exchange information, knowledge on successfully applied practices handling youth unemployment, e.g. entrepreneurship, skill development, internships, guidance & mentoring, combating early school-leaving, youth banks and youth involvement, empowerment techniques. The network will serve as a platform and resource-base to disseminate practices how to help young jobseekers to understand labour market, economic and job crisis, and methods of pioneering solutions to stimulate job growth and job seeking techniques.

The outcomes of the research and European debate (conference) will be published on DVD, a publication will be prepared containing best practices of these countries. These along with a commonly formulated recommendation will be sent to decision/policy makers of the respective countries and EU besides wide range dissemination to the public and actors affected by, interested in the increasing tendency of youth joblessness.

For Community without Domestic Violence

Lead partner: LDA Sisak

Donor: own resources

Timing: January- December 2013

Purpose: 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.

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

Creative Youth Laboratory

Lead partner: LDA Sisak

Other partners: Volunteer's Centre Skopje (Macedonia) and Amigos da Terra Galicia-Xuventude (Spain)

Donors: European Commission, Youth in Action Programme

Timing: February 2012- August 2013

The project hosted three volunteers, one from Macedonia and two from Spain, for 12 months in total, between April 2012 and May 2013. The volunteers did their EVS in LDA Sisak host town, Sisak. Sisak is the capital of Sisak-Moslavina County, in the central part of Croatia. Sisak is located at the confluence of the three rivers – Kupa, Sava and Odra, 57 km southeast of the Croatian capital Zagreb. The objectives of the project were to raise the awareness about voluntarism and to promote cultural diversity and European citizenship in the town of Sisak and its surroundings. The volunteers worked with young people from Sisak on daily basis and shared cultures, experience and knowledge using non-formal and informal educational methodology. These features are in the same time important part of mission, goals and values of our organisation. Moreover, LDA Sisak has been established through European cooperation and it is currently member of one of the largest European networks – Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA). Since its beginning, almost every LDA Sisak project had European dimension. During the project volunteers were be involved in several activities such as: 1. Local volunteering initiatives, 2. Youth information point, 3. European integration, 4. Other activities and office tasks and 5. Autonomous activities that volunteers developed with LDA Sisak support.

Furthermore, the project provided volunteers a possibility to gain new experiences in organisational management and raise their skills in team work, organisation of events and activities, written and oral communication in different languages, project management, volunteer management, fundraising, communication with media and communication with various organisations, institutions and citizens.

Results: developed activities for permanent informing and promoting on international and local opportunities for volunteering (workshops in high schools, open space activities and similar), increased number of young people in Sisak speaking Spanish and Portuguese language, developed good cooperation with Old People's Home in Sisak.

Youth for EU

Lead partner: LDA Verteneglio

Other partners: LDA Sisak, LDA Osijek, Foundation for partnership and civil society development, Croatian Environmental Press Centre, Youth association K.R.I.D., ALDA, Europe Direct –Comune di Trieste, Associazione Giosef Giovani Senza Frontiere

Donors: European Commission, IPA INFO 2010 Programme and Office for Civil Society Organisations of Republic of Croatia Government

Timing: January 2013- February 2014

Project is implementing during 14 months in 3 Croatian Counties: Istria, Sisak-Moslavina and Osijek-Baranja. Overall objective is to contribute to spread information about European Union, its policies, programmes and financial instruments in high schools and through young people in the Regions involved, so to have informed citizens aware of the benefits of EU enlargement and supportive to Croatia entering the EU. Specific objectives are to improve youth knowledge about the benefits of Croatian access in the European Union; to increase the youth general understanding about EU policies, programmes and financial instruments; to encourage the participation of young citizens in the construction of a new Europe; to have a multiplying effect to involve directly and indirectly as many young people as possible in order to create a better informed public; to promote debates through youth to remove their doubts about imminent enter of Croatia in the European Union.

Results: Informed youngsters about EU benefits and commitments to enlargement; improved access to information about pre and post accession financial instruments; improve the knowledge about EU, its policies and programmes; decrease the number of euro sceptics among Croatian youth; improved communication between youth and regional institutions; production of audiovisual materials to promote the Croatian access in the EU; production of new materials and information tools.

Strengthening Local Capacities for Implementation of European Social Model and Accession to European Social Networks – ESM2

Lead partner: CERANEO – Centre for Non-profit Organisations Development

Other partners: LDA Sisak, Town Workshop Pula, Croatian Institute for Local Self-government, association SRMA

Donors: National Foundation for Civil Society Development of Republic of Croatia

Timing: January – December 2013

Project was implemented in 5 Croatian Counties (Zagreb, Sisak-Moslavina, Osijek-Baranja, Istria and Split-Dalmatia) aiming to strengthen the capacities of local stakeholders to better understand and apply the concepts advocated and promoted by the European social model that will be implemented into designing and development of their local social agendas. The project activities were designed in order to "open the door" for entering into large European social networks and strengthen our civil society organizations to be more involved, to enhance cooperation and develop common projects together with the members of the European networks.

Results: Thematic workshops in 5 Croatian towns (Pula, Split, Osijek, Sisak and Zagreb) on the topics of: achievements and good practices of welfare mix policy, practice of OMC in the preparation, adoption and implementation of social programs, European social model, social Cohesion and social Innovation.

Local Partnerships for Anti-Corruption Education, supported by European Commission, IPA Anticorruption 2010

Lead partner: Forum for Freedom in Education

Other partners: LDA Sisak, LDA Osijek, Network of Education Policy Centres, Info Zona Split

Donors: European Commission, IPA Transition Assistance and Institution Building Component for 2010 and Office for Civil Society Organisations of Republic of Croatia Government

Timing: April 2013 – October 2014

The project is implementing in 4 Croatian Counties (City of Zagreb, Sisak-Mosavina, Osijek-Baranja and Split-Dalmatia) aiming to enhance the impact of the CSOs in

identification, implementation, support, and further development of anti-corruption policies and practices in educational system. Specific objectives: (1) To map corruptive practices regarding educational system with focus on secondary education. (2) To equip key local stakeholders for effective implementation of anti-corruption policies. (3) To raise awareness among students on harmfulness of certain practices. (4) To provide support to local educational stakeholders in implementation of anti-corruption policies and practices in schools.

The project objectives will be implemented through following activities:

- ⤴ Research on corruption practices - mapping and exploring existing corruption practices and its forms by collecting qualitative in-depth information about forms of corruption in secondary education in Croatia
- ⤴ Local networking between schools, local community and CSOs in supporting schools in anti-corruption education implementation;
- ⤴ Campaign for high school students on damages of corruptive practices
- ⤴ Education and strengthening young people of damages of corruptive practices
- ⤴ Anti-corruption Teacher training program
- ⤴ Advocacy of involvement of anti-corruption education in school curriculum.

Local Democracy Agency - OP Verteneglio/Brtonigla



Established in 1996

Delegate: Umberto Ademollo

Partners: Municipality of Bellinzona, Switzerland (Lead partner); Municipality of Verteneglio/Brtonigla (Host city); Istria Region, Croatia; Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region, Italy; Province of Florence, Italy; Municipality of Portogruaro, Italy; Municipality of Ravenna, Italy; Municipality of Greve in Chianti, Italy; Municipality of Russi, Italy; Municipality of Duino-Aurisina, Italy; Province of Florence, Italy; Association "Marevivo", Italy; Association Circle of Culture Istria, Italy; Association Causes Communes Switzerland

Projects in 2013

Youth for EU

Funding: European Commission, IPA Programme Information and Communication 2011st

Starting date: 1st January 2013

Applicant: LDA Verteneglio

Partner: LDA Osijek, LDA Sisak, Zaklada za poticanje partnerstva i razvoj civilnog društva, Croatian Environment Press Centre Osijek, Associazione giovanile K.R.I.D. (UDRUGA MLADIH ZA PROMICANJE KREATIVNOSTI, RAZVOJA, INFORMATIKE I DRUZENJA) Sisak, Europe Direct Trieste, Associazione Giosef Italy – Giovani senza frontiere

Description of the project: the project is directed to high school students of the 3rd and 4th year, to young people from 19 to 26 years old, to high school teachers and to civil society groups.

The first part of the project will consist in a series of seminars about:

- ✦ EU in general (institutions, politics and roles)
- ✦ EU and Croatia (challenges and advantages in becoming a EU member)
- ✦ EU Programmes (funding instruments and structural funding related to the pre-entrance and the post-entrance periods)

The seminars took place in 9 schools (3 for each region involved). Three events will be added to these ones (one per region), aimed to the youngsters under 26 years old not directly involved in the seminars.. The expected number of participants to the seminars is around 200, with the indirect involvement of 4.000 persons.

After these events, a group of 30 students was be selected (10 each region), through a quiz for assessing the acquired knowledge.

The 30 winners will take part to a EU Camp (7 days) during which the themes related to the structural and cohesion funds and to the various opportunities offered by the EU will be (deepened)

Through workshops, round tables, meetings, debate events. Throughout this period, the youngsters will realize one TV and one radio spot that will broadcast by local channels, in order to inform citizens over the access of Croatia in EU, particularly the euro-sceptic ones.

After the EU Camp, the young participants will be asked to organize a youth open event in

their own region, in order to share not only with young people the outcomes of this experience. All opinions, problems and topics debated during the seminars and the meeting will be collected in the document “The Voice of Youth” that will be delivered to the local and regional authorities.

The problem in the target group is the lack of knowledge over the enlargement process, a problem due to schools, institutions and media that don't convey enough information to them.

They are not informed about the advantages related to the entrance in the EU and, not being in direct contact with the institutions, they don't know where and how to find the needed information.

Thanks to the organized activities and through the young people, citizens will gain a deeper knowledge and will develop a stronger awareness about them and their role in the EU.

Project's aims: Increasing the knowledge over EU policies and programmes; showing to young people the opportunities of the EU; easing the access to the information over Croatia pre-entrance and the post-entrance periods; reducing the euro-skepticism among young people; reducing prejudices over the EU; developing the communication between the youngsters and the regional institutions; production of audio-vision material in order to promote the entrance of Croatia in the EU; production of new material and information tools.

The role of the LDA: leading partner; coordinator of all the activities of the project; it has realized seminars in the Italian high school of Buie, Rovigno and Pola. It has arranged the meetings with the other partners and the EU Camping, which 30 youngsters coming from the three region involved participated in. It manages all the administrative part of the project and is responsible of the project visibility.



Project V.I.S.A. - Volunteering in Small Areas

Fund: European Commission - "Youth in Action Programme" - Action 2: "European voluntary service"

Starting date. 1st July 2013

Applicant: LDA of Verteneglio

Partners: Association for democratic Prosperity – Zid (MNE), Association for Information and Education Mladiinfo – FEJS (MK), Concordia (UK), Giosef – Giovani Senza Frontiere (IT).

For the 5th consecutive time, the LDA will host 4 young people coming from 4 different countries, 2 of them from the EU and the 2 others from not members countries (Italy, Great Britain, Macedonia, Montenegro). They will arrange and apply activities aimed to the local community for letting it have a contact with foreign culture and tradition. They will cooperate with local institutions and organizations: the Italian Elementary School "Edmondo De Amici" of Buie, the intermediate Italian School "Leonardo Da Vinci" of Buie, the Open University of Buie, the Italian Communities of Buie and Verteneglio, the touristic agency of Verteneglio, the agency for the rural development of Verteneglio, the kindergartens of Buie and Verteneglio and many others. The activities will consist in organizing events and seminars directed to the citizens, writing articles, realizing a brochure, arranging meetings with schools, offering foreign language classes, creating workshops in accordance their own interests.

They will have free Croatian and Italian courses.

They will write also a diary, collecting interviews to the previous volunteers in order to share the follow-ups of this experience.

Aims of the project:

- ⤴ Spreading in the local community and, particularly, among young people, the awareness of the opportunities offered them by the EU – mostly after Croatia has become a new member.
- ⤴ Promoting the intercultural knowledge and understanding.
- ⤴ Spreading knowledge over the role of the European Institutions
- ⤴ Improving the skills and the competences of the volunteers.

The role of the LDA: it's the host organization. It manages the volunteers, provides them with accommodation and money. Its tasks are: introducing them to the local community and institutions, arranging activities suitable with their interests and purposes. It gives them material and human support during all their living in Croatia.

Adria 3 – "Strengthening and development of the cooperation with Adriatic countries"

Funding: Regione Friuli Venezia Giulia

Partners: INFORMEST (Centro di servizi e documentazione per la cooperazione economica internazionale) Gorizia, LDA of Verteneglio, NASME (Direkcija Za Razvoj Malih i Srednjih Poduzeca) Podgorica, Associazione Paraplegici Speranza e Amore (Tirana), UNIONCAMERE FVG – Trieste, HATTIVA – s.c.s Onlus (Tavagnacco – UD), Associazione Parco della Concordia (Muggia – TS), Regione Istria.

Project description: the project aims to spread good practices among all the stakeholders of the three Eastern Adriatic areas

Objectives:

- ⤴ Safeguard of the biodiversity in Friuli Venezia Giulia and in Istria
- ⤴ Scientific research directed to the protection of the bee ecotype present on the

eastern shore of Adriatic.

- ✧ Formation of the beekeepers of the three areas and creation of a network among them.
- ✧ Promotion of the products of the beekeeping, of the healthy features of honey and sensitization over the importance of the bees for the human being through the involvement of educative institutions.
- ✧ Development of economic partnership between FVG and Montenegro.
- ✧ Social enterprise: easing the access of disable people in work market; spreading good practices in Albania.

Project aims: Increasing the ability of economic and institutional stakeholders in applying activities and policies aimed to the sustainable economic, social and environmental development.

The project consists in three axis: biodiversity safeguard, strengthen the partnership among the countries involved in the direction of the internationalization of their relationship, easing the social inclusion of differently able people, particularly referred to the work market.

The role of the LDA: Partner. It promotes the activities and it forms a task force

The LDA has managed:

- ✧ Informative events and meetings to promote the project and to involve beekeepers in the activities and to raise their awareness.
- ✧ Creation of a trans-border task force – composed by experts to define the morphologic and ethnic features of the bee species

It has contributed to the constitution of a trans-border beekeepers network, being an intermediary between Trieste's beekeepers and the Istrian ones, creating a defining logo for their products and arranging a permanent contest of beekeepers.

It has organized many meetings with schools and students to explain the importance of bees and the beekeeping for the ecosystem. And it has also given a decisive contribution to the arrangement of beekeepers meetings to inform them of the results of last researches. It has taken part in the organization of the final event in Gorizia.

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Manifestation “Sindaci senza Frontiere”: the 13th of November the LDA of Verteneglio organised a round table, which many relevant political actors took part in: Ivan Jakovic, President of the Region Istria, Oriano Otocan, the Assessor for the international and European cooperation of the Region Istria, Renato Cianfrani, the General Consul of Italy in Fiume, Giuseppina Rajiko, the honorary vice-consul of Italy in Buie, the vice-president of the ALDA, the mayors of the municipalities of Grisignana, Portole e Verteneglio, the mayors of the Municipalities of Capodistria, Pirano e Isola, the mayors of the municipalities of Muggia and San Dorligo della Valle. Even the mayor of Trieste should have been present, but urgent commitments didn't let him participate in. The main purpose of the meeting was intensifying the already existent trans-border partnership over topics like economy, tourism and civil society, in view of the imminent access of Croatia in the EU. The role of the LDA was proposing, organizing and coordinating the entire event.

European week 2013: As every year, the LDA organized many events for the European week: in particular, on the 9th May 2013, in collaboration with the Community of Italians of Buie, a meeting over the new membership of Croatia in the EU, was arranged. The relator was the Doctor Giorgio Tessarolo, an expert of international relations, who spoke about the new opportunities for Croatia. During the celebration was also read the declaration of Robert Schuman of the 9th May 1950. Many young people participated.

Meeting of the Honorable Rosato with the Italian minority: the LDA arranged a meeting between Ettore Rosato, candidate at the Italian Parliament, and the Italian Community of Buie and some mayors to discuss about the importance of the Italian minority and its institutions to safeguard this cultural specificity and the Italian language and about the need to improve the contacts and the cooperation between the Italian Government and this peculiar reality.

Celebration for the entrance of Croatia in the EU: this event, managed by the Region Istria in collaboration with the LDA, the trans-border municipalities, some Italian authorities and various representatives of economic institutions, happened in Plovania at the border with Slovenia.

The leitmotiv of the celebration was the underlining of the several new opportunities sprung from this accession for both countries. Everything sealed by the signature of an agreement between the Chambers of Commerce of Istria and Slovenia.


Visit at the Municipality of Klina (Kosovo): thanks to the long-lasting partnership with the Municipality of Greve in Chianti, the President of the LDA, Umberto Ademollo, went with the mayor Alberto Bencistà to visit the city of Klina. During the war the Municipality of Greve in Chianti supplied many aids to the Kosovar refugees. During this event, basis for future collaboration were established, in order to create a new network and to renew the dialogue and mutual understanding among the different ethnic groups present in the region, and the LDA was invited to apply European projects to pursue this aim.

Twinning between the Police Department of Fabrica di Roma and the Police Department of Buie and Parenzo: for the commitment of the LDA, in July 2012 a twinning between these police departments has begun. The first meeting was for the 25th anniversary of the foundation of the Police Department of Fabrica di Roma, in which Ljubo Zaja, the head of the Police Department of Buie, was present. In the 2013, other two events were organized: the first one was in Viterbo, where the police commissioner of the Police Department of Viterbo hosted a delegation of the Istrian Police; the second one instead was in Parenzo, in occasion of the IPA (International Police Association) International Tournament.

Integrative day over EU: On 6th November 2013, the Italian Elementary School of Umago "Galileo Galilei" organized an entire day dedicated to the theme "Croatia and European Union". The LDA was invited to give its contribution, explaining the EU institutions and functions and what can be the advantages for Croatia. Even the volunteers took part to the meeting, as evidences and witnesses of the benefits of being European Citizens.

II.3. ALDA's Programmes

I - Programme Participation and Citizenship

	My EU – My EUROPE : young, equal, inclusive
Programme	Europe for Citizens Action 1 Active Citizens for Europe Measure 1.2 Town twinning: Networks of twinned towns
Timespan	October 1st 2012 – March 31st 2014
Project manager	Marine HENRY/Aldo XHANI
Short description	My EU gathers 14 partners from Albania, Bulgaria, France, Italy, Macedonia, Malta. Its main idea to provide a well structured dialogue among twinned or keen-to-cooperate towns, with specific reference to active participation in political life of specific target groups: women, youngsters and immigrants.
International events	2-3 February 2013, conference “Immigrants and politics”, Brescia, Italy, 25-27 June 2013, conference “Youth and politics”, Strasbourg, France 9-12 November 2013, conference “Women and politics”, Kavadarci, Macedonia, 14-16 February 2014 (tentative dates), Final conference, Balzan, Malta
Partners	Lead partner Local Council's Association (LCA) Other partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Coalition of youth organisations SEGA (Macedonia) - NATIONAL FORUM ALTERNATIVES, PRACTICE, INITIATIVES (Bulbaria) - General Toshevo Municipality (Bulgaria) - Municipality of Żejtun (Malta) - Municipality of Marsaskala (Malta) - Municipality of Marsaxlokk (Malta) - Municipality of Tarxien (Malta) - Local Democracy Agency Albania - Comune di Thiene (Italy) - Associazione Ambasciata per la Democrazia Locale a Zavidovici (Italy) - Municipality of Gjirokastra (Albania) - COMUNE DI VALDERICE (Italy)



ECRC - European Civil Resource Centers

Programme	Europe for Citizens : Active Citizenship Programme (Action 1, measure 2.2 supporting measures)
Timespan	1 January 2013 to 22 December 2013
Project	Aldo XHANI

manager	
Short description	The goal of the project was to foster the development of a stimulating environment for increased citizen participation on the national and European level through improved citizen organizations' capacity and the establishment of effective civil society infrastructures. The specific aim of the project was to create Citizen Resource Centres that will gradually develop into a common European citizen's centre. It has the characteristics of a civic resource center on European matters, assisting the process of civic capacity building for effective participation in the European policy-making process.
Local Activities (ALDA in charge)	May - October 2013 Establishment of a national European citizen's centre; 21 September & 26-27 September Local workshops under EfC Programme promoted the ECC; 30 participants 8 September 2013 Open day at the local level; 1 day, 40 participants
International Events	9-13 April 2013: Training for citizen moderators; 16-19 October 2013: International meeting for citizens' centres
Partners	Lead partner Association "International Development Alliance" – IDA Network, Bulgaria Other partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Association of Local Democracy Agencies – ALDA, France - European Federation of Mentoring for Girls and Women (WoMentor), Austria - Hellenic Regional Development Center- HRDC, Greece - "Solis Tuvak", Latvia - Butterfly Dreamer Association, Romania - Association for rural development LAZ, Slovenia



REACTION - Resources Anti – Crisis: Town-Twinning, Innovation, Openness and Networking

Programme Timespan	Europe for Citizens - Action 1, Measure 1.2 - Networks of twinned towns From 1st January 2013 to 31 October 2014
Project manager	Arianna Zanini - Head of Inter-municipal Dpt. - Municipality of Sacile; Technical Assistance done by ALDA project development unit (Marco Boaria and Anna Ditta)
Short description	REACTION aimed to reinforce the networks between municipalities by strengthening their cooperation on thematic axes, all linked by the key word "resource". The project focused on specific elements, which the municipalities should consider as resources and appropriately activate, in order to promote the citizens wellbeing and the good development of the community. Therefore the project was structured on three different thematic events, each of them developing and debating around one specific resource deemed essential for the good development of the European citizenship. The first event –"The local resources"- aimed to promote the cooperation among relevant stakeholders at local level (local authorities, organizations of civil societies, etc.). The second event –"Citizens as a resource"- focused on the importance of citizens for the development of

	local communities, promoting participatory mechanisms in building up of Europe. The third event-“Europe as a resource”- promoted the positive impact of EU at the local level.
Activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. International project coordination meeting in Novigrad from 13th Feb 2013 to 15th Feb 2013 2. Transnational Thematic event in Spittal an der Drau (Austria) from the 11th Apr 2013 to the 13th Apr 2013 3. Transnational Thematic event in Marghita (Romania) from 13th Oct 2013 to 15th Oct 2013 4. Transnational thematic event in Italy (Sacile, Brugnera, Porcia) from 10th Apr 2014 to 12th Apr 2014
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⤴ Lead Applicant: Municipality of Sacile <p>Partners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⤴ Municipality of Brugnera ⤴ Municipality of Porcia ⤴ Municipality of Caneva ⤴ Municipality of Fontanafredda ⤴ Municipality of Novigrad ⤴ Association for Developing Voluntary Work Novo Mesto ⤴ Marghita Municipality ⤴ Town of Michalovce ⤴ Municipality of Spittal an der Drau ⤴ Local Government of town of Berettyóújfalu ⤴ Ajuntament de Vila-real ⤴ Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities ⤴ Comité de Jumelage ⤴ City Council of Burriana ⤴ Municipality of Struga ⤴ Santa Lučija Local Council

GRUNDTVI G in Service TC	International training – Citizen participation and funding opportunities to support participative initiatives”
Timespan	2013
Project manager	Alfonso ALIBERTI
Short description	<p>ALDA organised the training course “Citizen participation and funding opportunities to support participatory initiatives”</p> <p>The course foresaw to give, as well as theoretical contents, practical notions on the funding opportunities available to support community sector. The participants learned how to develop a successful project in the framework of the different actions of the Europe for Citizens Programme and other funding sources related to citizens initiatives.</p> <p>The course was open to a variety of participants among which professionals and volunteers involved in organisations/institutions management, trainers, careers officer, managers of CSOs, local authorities officials, civil servants, social workers etc.</p>
Activities	11 th to 15 th March 2013 and 18-22 November 2013 in Strasbourg



COHEIRS - Citizens panels: Civic Observers for Health and Environment: Initiative for Responsibility and Sustainability

Programme	Europe for Citizens : Action 1 – Active Citizens for Europe Mesure 2.1
Timespan	15th April 2013 - 14th April 2014
Project manager	Aldo XHANI
Short description	This project gathers 17 partners from EU and its neighbourhood. It started in March 2013 and will last one year. Its main aim is to support active participation of citizens to the EU democratic life and more specifically to the implementation of the precautionary principles, as detailed in Article 191 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, through the establishment of citizens panels focused on health and environment. The panels consist on cooperative groups of citizens willing to discuss these fields in the prism of the key EU challenges outlined by the Europe 2020 strategy and by the Millennium Development Goals. The panels will grant to the citizens the chance to interact and discuss among them as well as the opportunity to address their comments and recommendations to the EU institutions.
Local Events	April – June 2013: 8 local workshops to set up "civic observers groups" in 8 different countries. Activities organised by the "implementing" partners; June 2013 - September 2013: Establishing of "information and coordination units" at the local level; July 2013 – February 2014: Local thematic workshops; March 2014: Local dissemination events from the 6 disseminating partners in 4 different countries
International Events (in charge of ALDA)	18-20 June 2013: Training of civic observers, Brussels 13-15 March 2014 (tentative date): International thematic workshop, Region Apulia (Italy)
Partners	Lead applicant: ALDA Other partners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⤴ Euro Mediterranean Scientific and Biomedical Institute (Italy); ⤴ Foundation For Partnership And Civil Society Development (Croatia); ⤴ Coalition of youth organizations SEGA (Macedonia); ⤴ The Mountain Community Iezer Muscel Association (Romania); ⤴ International Development Alliance (Bulgaria); ⤴ Birgu Local Council (Malta); ⤴ Association for Developing Voluntary Work Novo Mesto (Slovenia); ⤴ Center for Research Cooperation and Development (Albania); ⤴ French Society of Environmental Medicine (France); ⤴ Italian Society of Doctors for the Environment (Italy); ⤴ RECREATURA_arts&culture (Spain); ⤴ Amministrazione Comunale di Lecce (Italy); ⤴ Municipality of Monfalcone (Italy);

- △ Patto Territoriale Soc. Cons. A.r.l. Oristano (Italy);
- △ Central and Eastern Europe Citizens Network (Slovakia);
- △ Civil Kollégium Alapítvány (Civil College Foundation) (Hungary)



DECIDE - Democratic Compact: Improving Democracy in Europe

Programme	EfC : Active citizenship (Action 1, measure 1.2)
Timespan	May 2013/May 2015
Project manager	Aldo XHANI
Short description	DECIDE aims at developing, through the establishment of a thematic network of towns and adopting a bottom-up approach, a democratic compact, namely a set of measures that are needed in Europe to increase the quality of democracy and citizen participation. The project will last 24 months and gather 24 partners coming from 14 countries. The main final outcomes of DECIDE are the establishment of a thematic network of towns committed to increase the quality of democracy and citizen participation in the enlarged Europe and the democratic compact (set of measures that have been tested and that can be further disseminated and implemented).
International Events (in charge of ALDA)	<p>8-9 November 2013: Launching International Event, Regio Emilia (Italy), 150 participants</p> <p>8/10 April 2014 : Mid-term International Seminar, Bulgaria, 110 participants</p> <p>11/13 March 2015 (tentative dates): Final International Seminar, Bosnia Herzegovina, 110 participants</p>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> △ Association of Local Democracy Agencies, France; △ Comune di Reggio Emilia, Italy; △ Vejle Kommune, Denmark; △ Municipality of Santa Eulalia de Gallego, Spain; △ The Mountain Community Iezer Muscel Association, Romania; △ Primaria Godeni, Romania; △ Primaria Comunei Domnesti, Romania; △ Association for Developing Voluntary Work Novo mesto, Slovenia; △ Birgu Local Council, Malta; △ International Development Alliance, Bulgaria; △ Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities, Bulgaria; △ Municipality of Balchik, Bulgaria; △ Municipality of Nessebar, Bulgaria; △ Center for Community Organizing, Slovakia; △ Town of Petrinja, Croatia; △ Local Democracy Agency Sisak, Croatia; △ UG Agencija Lokalne Demokratije Prijedor, BH; △ Municipality of Zavidovici, HR; △ Local Democracy Agency Zavidovići, HR; △ City of Skopje, MK; △ Bashkia Shkoder, Albania; △ Local Democracy Agency Albania;

- ▲ Mórahalom Városi Önkormányzat, Hungary;
- ▲ Municipality of Banska Bystrica, Slovakia



	POPEYE (Promoting Organic Production – Enhancing Youth Employment)
Programme	Youth in Action Programme ; Sub-action 4.4 - Youth support systems Projects encouraging innovation and quality
Timespan	1 st January 2013 to 1 st March 2014
Project manager	Aldo XHANI
Short description	POPEYE brought together eight partners from six different European countries, namely France, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Croatia and Italy. The aim of the project is to involve disadvantaged youngsters from rural areas in their territories' life, to provide them with a deep understanding of their areas' economic and environmental demands and problems and of their potential role in local public life. At the same time, POPEYE will meet the needs of the communities and youth the project is addressed to, by enhancing rural sustainable development through the promotion of organic farming while educating youngsters in environmental protection and providing them with professional contacts with local organic farmers.
Activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Preparatory Activity, March – June 2013 2. Educational Activity, June – October 2013: 7 local activities 3. Digital mapping, July – December 2013 4. Development of the website, September 2013 – January 2014 5. Local dissemination events & promotion of the website among potential users, November 2013 – February 2014: 7 local dissemination events 6. Final international event, 13 – 15 February 2014 (tentative dates) 7. Evaluation & dissemination, February 2014
Partners	<p>Lead partner</p> <p>Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA)</p> <p>Other partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Foundation for Organic Agriculture Bioselena (FAO Bioselena), Bulgaria ▲ Cyprus Organic Farmers Association (COFA), Cyprus ▲ Mittetulundusühing Ethical Links (MTU Ethical Links), Estonia ▲ Local Democracy Agency Osijek, Croatia ▲ Region of Istria, Croatia ▲ Municipality of Brindisi, Italy ▲ Unione dei Comuni “Alto Calore”, Italy



	TOYS (Tolerance in Youth and Sport)
Programme	YOUTH IN ACTION; Action 3; Sub-action 3.1
Timespan	1 st August 2013 to 31 st March 2014

Project manager	Aldo XHANI
Short description	The Seminar was held in Mesagne hosted by ISBEM in the Biomedical Camp. ISBEM coordinated the Camp and organised several international activities both academic and non-formal in order to raise awareness on the main health issues. It put at disposal of the project the facilities of the Camp, including working room, accommodation and sport facilities. The organisation of the Seminar at the Biomedical Camp of Mesagne ensured a full security for the participants and an easy access for them (airport of Brindisi served by the main European low fare air companies).
Activities	12 th - 18 th January 2014
Partners	Lead partner : ALDA Strasbourg Other partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⤴ Provincia di Gorizia, Italy ⤴ Intelligent Citizens, Azerbaijan ⤴ ISBEM, Italy ⤴ LDA Georgia, Georgia ⤴ LDA Kosovo, Kosovo under UNSC Resolution ⤴ Università delle Lieberta FVG, Italy ⤴ Mesange Volley, Italy ⤴ LDA Mostar, Bosnia and Herzgovina ⤴ Terra – 1530, Moldova ⤴ UBBSLA, Bulgaria ⤴ Velje Kommune, Denmark ⤴ International Platform for Citizens Participation, Bulgaria



LEADERS - Local Environments: Active Development of Environmentally Responsible Societies

Programme	Youth in Action; Sub-programme Youth in the world, Action 3.1 (Cooperation with other countries of the world)
Timespan	From 1 st November 2013 to 31 st October 2014
Project manager	Biljana ZASOVA
Short description	Through this project proposal, the partners would like to tackle the Seventh Millennium Development Goal on environmental sustainability as well as match the General Objectives of the Youth in Action Programme. To achieve the project's aim, the partners have formed a global partnership for development (8 th MDG) that involves youth organisations from around the world that focus on environmental sustainability. As such, the project also coincides with the priorities of the Youth in Action Programme, Action 3.2 Youth in the World, as it will encompass a wide range of participants from diverse countries from around the world. Through this global partnership based on youth organisations, the partners facilitate the exchange of best practices, skills and knowledge relating to environmental sustainability. The participants will take part in training events where they will learn 'green skills' that they will then be able

	to apply to their local communities. A wide range of stakeholders using multidisciplinary participatory approaches and non-formal learning methods will constitute the basis upon which the project will be developed and successfully implemented.
Activities	The project foresees three different international events, plus some local activities. Local activities will be held in places where partners are established. Other events will take place in: Preparatory meeting: January 2014 Training of trainers: Italy, June 2014 Final conference: Sédhiou, November 2014
Partners	Lead partner : Studio Progetto (Italy) Other partners : ALDA Strasbourg (France) Fiatalok az Állampolgári Résztételért Közhasznú Egyesület (Hungary) ENFANCE ET PAIX (Senegal) Longido Community Development Organization (Tanzania) GOOD NEIGHBOUR SERVICE ASSOCIATION (Nepal) G.M School (India) Fundacion Proyecto Ecologico Chiriboga (Ecuador)



	FUNNY – "Fighting UNemployment through Networking for Youth"
Programme	Youth in Action, Action 3.1
Timespan	1 st March to 31 st December 2013
Project manager	Sanja Trpkovska
Short description	FUNNY brought together 40 youth workers from 17 states of the enlarged Europe and support them to find partners for transnational cooperation in the field of the youth work, with specific attention to the issue of the youth unemployment. Unemployment, as an effect of the global economical crisis, is affecting mostly the youngest generations.
Activities	The main activity : Baku (Azerbaijan), 2-7 December 2013 However, the project involve much broader territories in all partner countries. In particular, all partners will promote the PBA in their community, with the objectives to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - inform local youngsters about the foreseen PBA and seek to recruit motivated youth workers for the action; - disseminate information about the youth in action programme opportunities News about the activity have been widely circulated at local level, but also through the web, press and partners network.
Partners	Lead partner : ALDA, France Other partners : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⤴ BINA, Azerbaijan ⤴ Asociatia Regionala pentru Dezvoltare Rurala, Romania ⤴ Association of Kosovo, Municipalities Kosovo

- ⤴ Maison de l'Europe de Caen Basse-Normandie, France
- ⤴ Economic Research Center, Azerbaijan
- ⤴ EUROCULTURA, Italy
- ⤴ LDA Nis, Serbia
- ⤴ LDA Georgia, Georgia
- ⤴ LDA Montenegro, Montenegro
- ⤴ LDA Sisak, Croatia
- ⤴ Associazione per l'Ambasciata della Democrazia Locale, Zavidovici
- ⤴ Bosnia and Herzegovina
- ⤴ Citizen Association "Millennium", Serbia
- ⤴ NATIONAL FORUM ALTERNATIVES, PRACTICE, INITIATIVES, Bulgaria
- ⤴ NGO Horizont, Albania
- ⤴ Association for Developing Voluntary Work, Novo mesto, Slovenia
- ⤴ Coalition of youth organizations SEGA, Macedonia
- ⤴ Terra-1530, Moldova
- ⤴ Vejle Kommune, Denmark
- ⤴ Belorussian Organization of Working Women, Belarus



TIE - Tackling Illegal Economy

Programme	Prevention of and Fight against Crime
Timespan	1 July 2013 - 30 June 2015
Project manager	Aldo XHANI
Short description	TIE aims at creating the grounds for collaboration between the public institutions, judges, civil society and the academic world in identifying and promoting the best ways to undermine the profitability of crime by means of the aggression to criminal assets.
Activities	<p>Action 1 : Introductive Seminars</p> <p>Action 2 : International round table tour</p> <p>Action 3 : Researches</p> <p>Action 4 : Seminars, second round</p> <p>Action 5 : Network and Benchmark</p>
Partners	<p>Lead partner: Libera – Italy</p> <p>Other partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⤴ Association of Local Democracy Agency - France ⤴ FLARE - Italy ⤴ Bulgarian – Italian Business Organisation - Bulgaria ⤴ Terra del Fuoco - Italy ⤴ University of Palermo – Italy ⤴ Middlesex University - UK ⤴ Rey Juan Carlos University - Spain ⤴ Alternatives Europeennes - France ⤴ European alternatives - UK ⤴ Mafia? Nein Danke! - Germany ⤴ Re:common – Italy



REPLAY - Re-Plan-Years 2014-2020

Programme	Active citizenship Programme (1.2.2) – supporting measure
Timespan	1 st January – 31 st December 2013
Project manager	Palermo CESIE / Marco BOARIA
Short description	RePlaY aims to enforce the role of older and senior citizens in active participation in EU civic & democratic processes, to stimulate EU cooperation among organizations working in field of active ageing and intergenerational dialogue & analyse new Europe for Citizens programme 2014 – 2020.
Activities	14 th -21 st May: Information meeting – 2 participants from ALDA 4-10 November 2013 RePlaY Training: ALDA has to send 2 participants 15 December 2013 RePlaY InfoDays: ALDA has 1 infoday to organise in Italy.
Partners	11 organizations Lead partner: Centro Studi ed Iniziative Europeo – CESIE, Italy; Other partners: <ul style="list-style-type: none">⤴ Association of Local Democracy Agencies – ALDA, France⤴ Intelektualet e Rinj Shprese – IRSH, Albania⤴ European Association of Geographers – EUROGEO, Belgium⤴ LCEducational – LCE, Cyprus⤴ Youth Alliance Tetovo⤴ Pozitiva Doma/ Positive Mind, Latvia⤴ Związek Stowarzyszen MULTIKULTURA, Poland⤴ Asociatia absolventilor si profesorilor Liceului “Emil Racovit – ACNER, Romania⤴ GABINET D’ESTUDIS SOCIALS – GES, Spain⤴ Dacorum Council for Voluntary Service, UK

II. Programme Balkans

Within the Balkan programmes, mid-2013, both the France-Balkans and the Lower-Normandy/Macedonia decentralised cooperation projects have been confirmed in their funding by their lead partners and the main State donor, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



France/Balkans multilateral decentralised cooperation programme on good governance in South-East Europe (FR-BK)

Donors	French Ministry of Foreign Affairs; French local authorities
Timespan	31 st June (end old programme) 1 st July 2013 to 2016 (new programme)

Project manager	Biljana ZASOVA
Short description	The Programme started in 2009 and gathered around 20 French local authorities and associations of local authorities among which ALDA having bilateral cooperation programmes with local authorities from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Romania and Serbia. The idea was to provide an added value to those cooperation programmes by mutualizing activities where different partners are leaders. Thus, the other partners learn about innovative approaches in the field of twinning, contributing therefore to furthering European integration at local level in the Balkan countries.
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 January 2013: steering committee in Paris • 9 April 2013: workshop on Multilevel Multistakeholder Approach to Decentralised Cooperation: the France Balkans Network Case • End May 2013: Seminar on Water Management with PVA and Sicala Haute Loire in Montenegro • Mid June 2013: Rencontres Albert Londres, Vichy • 21st June 2013: Rencontres La paix en Europe et Europe en paix with Maison de l'Europe de Caen et de la Basse-Normandie, Caen
Partners	<p>Leader : Pays Vichy Auvergne ;</p> <p>Other partners :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ALDA, Regional Council of Lower Normandy ; • Municipality of Saint-Denis; • Municipality of Dijon; • Municipality of Nevers; • CRET Hautes Alpes, • SICALA Haute Loire ; • Balkans partners from Serbia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Bulgaria and Romania.



Decentralised cooperation programme between the Region Lower-Normandy (France) and the Republic of Macedonia (BN-MK)

Donors	Region Lower Normandy - French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs
Timespan	2009 – 2013 // 2013 - 2015
Project managers	Ivana DIMITROVSKA Katica JANEVA Sanja TRPKOVSKA
Short description	The programme for decentralised cooperation between the Region Lower Normandy (France) and Macedonia started in 2006. It is an innovative cooperation where a French Region cooperates with a state, the Macedonian state. Having the local governance is in the heart of the project, institutional partners are the Regional Council of Lower Normandy and Macedonian Ministry for local self-government. 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 continues in the next three years (2010-2013) and it's now in it's third phase the 2013-2016. This period is inevitably linked with the historic events that marked the cooperation territories, such as the 70th anniversary of the D-Day invasion in Normandy, as well as the 100th anniversary of the First World War, which started in Sarajevo on June 28, year 1914. In this context, the Call for Project launched at the end of 2013, introduced new themes for cooperation: Memory, peace, and reconciliation; Cultural Heritage and Human Rights.

- Activities
- 1) Training and use of new technologies for better local governance
 - 2) Youth active citizenship on local level
 - 3) Defined a shared methodology for inventory of cultural heritage
 - 4) Capacity building of stakeholders in the field of culture
 - 5) Support and promote sustainable tourism
 - 6) Strengthening the network of Balkan farmers for sustainable agricultural development
 - 7) Human rights

- Partners
- In 2010-2013
- ⤴ Regional Council of Lower Normandy – France
 - ⤴ Ministry of Local Self-Government - Macedonia
 - ⤴ Metamorphosis - Macedonia
 - ⤴ Youth, education, local and European citizenship
 - ⤴ House of Europe in Caen, Lower Normandy - France
 - ⤴ Coalition of Youth organisations SEGA – Macedonia
 - ⤴ Inventory of cultural heritage
 - ⤴ The National Association of Towns and Regions of Art and History and towns with protected areas - France
 - ⤴ Association of historical and artistic cities of the Republic of Macedonia-
 - ⤴ Local and regional cultural policies
 - ⤴ CRÉCET – Lower Normandy
 - ⤴ Lokomotiva – Macedonia
 - ⤴ Cultural heritage and sustainable tourism
 - ⤴ Savoir-faire et découvertes - Lower Normandy
 - ⤴ Center for institutional cooperation development – CIRA- Macedonia
 - ⤴ Agriculture Development
 - ⤴ AFDI – France
 - ⤴ Federation of Farmers from Republic of Macedonia – Macedonia
 - ⤴ International Institute for Human Rights and Peace, Caen
- Confirmed in 2013 until 2016



CARAVAN – ARTISTS ON THE ROAD – COMMUNITY THEATRE IN PLACES OF CRISES & RENASCENCE

Programme Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA)
 Timespan 42 months (2010 – 2013)
 Project manager Stanka PARAC DAMJANOVIC

Short description	<p>The fundamental objective of Community Theatre is the social-cultural empowerment of individuals, groups and communities by means of research and intervention built upon theatric languages and performing arts, so as to promote meaningful human relations as well as to rediscover the authenticity of the social context to which it bears a reference.</p> <p>The artistic-creative work of Community Theatre is based on a project whose protagonist is the community itself. Normally a project is carried out by an interdisciplinary équipe with various competence in the theatre and social-cultural fields. Implementation of a project usually need long time and a complex articulation of actions. The activities of Community Theatre are characterized by a specific method of communication, a complex of relations and a symbolic reconstruction of reality.</p> <p>Therefore the Community Theatre may take place in a variety of contexts, such as outside a historic house, in the squares, the urban buildings, the schools, the hospitals, the stations, etc. It is a theatre generated from the grass-roots and actively involve the public into the performative event, aiming to bring the theatre back to the popular matrix.</p>
Activities	<p>ITALY (Torino, Brescia, Vicenza, Mestre) SLOVENIA (Maribor, Novo Mesto) BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA (Bihac) CROATIA (Sisak) SERBIA (Ruma, Nis, Dimitrovgrad) BULGARIA (Sofia) GERMANY (Freiburg, Schloss Bröllin) POLAND (Lodz, Szczecin) DANEMARK (Bovbjergfyr, Ringkobing, Holstebro) BELGIUM (Brussels) SPAIN (Sevilla, Girona)</p>
Partners	<p>12.02.2012 – 01.04.2012: Diffusion of the Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⤴ Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Torino, Fondazione CRT, Torino (Lead) ⤴ Association for Culture and Education KIBLA, Maribor Slovenia ⤴ ALDA, Association of Local Democracy Agencies, France ⤴ Movimento Delle Associazioni di Volontariato Italiano Onlus, Italy ⤴ Nordisk Teaterlaboratorium / Odin Teatret, Holstebro, Denmark Projekte, ⤴ Aktion, Kunst, Theater P.A.K.T eingetragener Verein, Freiburg, Germany ⤴ TeaterSpira, Gotheburg, Sweden ⤴ Universidade da Coruna, A Coruna, Spain ⤴ Universita degli Studi di Torino, Italy ⤴ Wydział, SztukPięknychProjektowychWyzseyjSzkoleInformatyki, Lodz, Poland ⤴ Obsinski Teatar Virazdanje. Sofia, Bulgaria



SNET.EU - Support for Networking and Twinning at European Level

Programme	IPA CBC Croatia – Serbia 2007-2013
Timespan	September 2012 – March 2014
Project manager	LDA Osijek
Short description	The project aims to contribute to capacity building of human resources of municipalities and cities in the border regions of Croatia and Serbia for effective cooperation at regional and European level through the establishment of Resource Centres for networking in the city of Osijek in Croatia and in the city of Subotica in Serbia and by promotion of European public policies and the concept of active European citizenship.
Activities	Capacity building activities (3 conferences, 1 training, 2 seminars) Resource centres' activities (promotional workshops on twinning, partner search, consultations) Thematic networking activities (12 local thematic events in municipalities and cities in border regions of Croatia and Serbia)
Partners	CROATIA: <ul style="list-style-type: none">⤴ <i>Lead partner:</i> Local Democracy Agency in Osijek, Croatia www.lda-osijek.hr⤴ Other partners:⤴ Croatian Institute for Self-Government (HILS), Croatia www.hils.hr⤴ Evangelic Theological Seminary (EVS), Croatia www.evtos.hr/en/home SERBIA: <ul style="list-style-type: none">⤴ <i>Lead partner:</i> Local Democracy Agency in Subotica⤴ Other partners:⤴ ALDA, France www.alda-europe.eu⤴ Open University Subotica, Serbia www.openunsubotica.rs



Local coalitions for community development - IPA 2011 MONTENEGRO

Programme	IPA 2011 Civil Society Facility Montenegro Programme
Timespan	2 years (December 2012 – December 2013 /Decembre 2013 - Decembre2014)
Project manager	Stanka PARAC DAMJANOVIC
Short description	The project is structured in the way to support the active participation of all the target groups, NGO-s, their networks and the local governments to address the key priority areas, sectors and themes in public administration, capacity building and development of CSO-s, environment and sustainable development, EU approximation, social dialogue and decentralisation of government. Activities are aimed to support the service provision of CSO-s to citizens, help build sustainable mechanisms/institutions of public consultation at local level and help introduce forms of citizen

Activities	<p>participation in local policy/decision making.</p> <p>31st January/2 February: First Steering group meeting, Niksic</p> <p>1st March 2013: Kick-off event: Regional thematic round table in Kotor Information sessions on the subgranting Programme: Niksic – 12th March 2013;</p> <p>Bijelo Polje, 14th March 2013;</p> <p>Ulcinj – 19th March 2013.</p> <p>4 loca Thematic round tables:</p> <p>Improving the mechanisms of participation and civil dialogue at local level in Montenegro: Niksic: 8th April 2013;</p> <p>Bijelo Polje, 30th April 2013 + 2 in 2014</p> <p>Training seminars: <i>Building local partnerships</i>: Kotor, Niksic (9 April 2013), Bijelo Polje (1 Mai) + 2 in 2014</p> <p>4 Training seminars (three seminars in Year 1, one seminar in Year 2; one day, 20-25 participants each) for CSO-s potential applicants and beneficiaries of the sub-granting scheme: Project Cycle Management skills: Ulcinj, Kotor, Rozaje, Bijelo Polje).</p>
Partners	<p>Lead: ALDA;</p> <p>Main partners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⤴ Local Democracy Agency, Niksic ⤴ Public Administration and Local Government Centre PALGO ⤴ Local Democracy Agency Central Serbia, Nis, ⤴ Local Democracy Agency Subotica ⤴ Associate partners: Municipality Niksic ⤴ Municipality Bijelo Polje ⤴ Municipality Rozaje ⤴ Municipality Kotor; ⤴ Municipality Ulcinj, ⤴ Mladiinfo; Niksic; ⤴ Association of Social Promotion Learning Cities, Bari, Italy.



Youth for EU

Programme	IPA Information and Communication programme 2011
Timespan	2013 – 2014 (14 months)
Project manager	Stanka PARAC DAMJANOVIC
Short description	<p>The project Youth for EU aims at contributing to spread information about European Union, its policies, programmes and financial instruments in high schools and through young people in the Regions involved so as to have informed citizens aware of the benefits of EU enlargement and supportive to Croatia entering the EU. It intends to improve youth knowledge about the benefits of Croatian access in the European Union, to encourage the participation of young citizens in the construction of a new Europe. The activities should include Seminars about European Union, EU Quiz, EU Camp, An open event organized by young participants, creation of the document “The voice of Youth”, and a Final Open Event (during European Week). In this project ALDA will be responsible for the preparation of workshop and seminars for the EU Camp where it will send its experts. The latter will be also involved in EU camp to explain youth the importance of EU enlargement and EU</p>

Activities	<p>Programmes.</p> <p>SEMINARS (with EU quizz): TENTATIVE DATES</p> <p>4 – 6 March 2013: 3-day cycle of seminars in Istria Region</p> <p>18 – 20 March 2013: 3-day cycle of seminars in Osijek-Baranja Region</p> <p>15 – 17 April 2013: 3-day cycle of seminars in Sisak-Moslavina Region</p> <p>EU CAMP (input needed from ALDA) TENTATIVE DATE</p> <p>24 – 29 April 2013: EU Camp in Istria Region</p> <p>OPEN EVENT TENTATIVE DATE</p> <p>10 September 2013: open event</p> <p>FINAL OPEN EVENT TENTATIVE DATE</p> <p>22nd October 2013: final open event</p>
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⤴ LDA Osijek (Croatia) ⤴ LDA Sisak (Croatia) ⤴ Zaklada za poticanje partnerstva i razvoja civilnog društva (Croatia), Croatian Environmental Press Centre (Croatia), ⤴ Udruga mladih K.R.I.D (Croatia), ⤴ ALDA (France), ⤴ Europe Direct Trieste (Italy), ⤴ Associazione Giosef Giovani Senza Forntiere – Italy



IV. Programme Euromediterranean cooperation



	<p>ENSEMBLE - Strengthening the role of civil society in the promotion of human rights and democratic reforms. Algerian Women : the engine of human rights improvement in Algeria</p>
Programme	REGION FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA
Timespan	October 2012 – November 2013
Project manager	Biljana ZASOVA
Short description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ⤴ Strengthening the relations between civil society organizations for the establishment of a CSOs network promoting future initiatives and projects; ⤴ Improving involvement of women in professional and business life; ⤴ Dissemination about human rights in general and women's rights in particular; <p>The project aims at uilding a structure such a Center for Women Empowerment, which will work in impoverished areas in Algiers in order to enable women participation to public life, women's rights and entrepreneurship.</p>
Activities	Training courses, Programme coordination activities, Dates to be decided
Partners	Monfalcone municipality is the lead partner of this project involving

Algerians partners as the Ligue Algérienne pour la Défense des Droits de l'Homme (LADDH), one Youth organisation which works for young women and ALDA for the coordination.

V. Programme Eastern partnership

	<p>TANDEM II Cooperation for citizen participation and community development in Belarus</p>
<p>Programme Timespan Project manager</p>	<p>Non-State Actors and Local Authorities in Development May 2013 – June 2015 Biljana ZASOVA</p>
<p>Short description</p>	<p>The TANDEM II project is a follow up to the successfully implemented TANDEM project and will last 24 months. It aims at strengthening an inclusive and empowered society in Belarus by supporting the development of local communities and strengthening their cooperation with local authorities (LA).</p>
<p>Activities</p>	<p>TANDEM II will provide sub-grants to 15 civic community initiatives. Four of the civic community initiatives will be partnership projects and will involve cooperation with local authorities from other EU countries, that will bring their knowledge and experience on cooperation with citizens into the project.</p> <p>A launching international conference will start TANDEM II, which will be followed by an international study visit in Latvia during the project and a closing local conference that will mark the end. Along the project, community groups will participate in training sessions on project management and on local self-government.</p> <p>The TANDEM II project will raise the capacity of civic community groups to be more active actors in the field of development. At the same time, the project will also increase the awareness of local stakeholders' understanding of each other and the benefits of cooperating for sustainable community development.</p>
<p>Partners</p>	<p>Lead Applicant : ALDA, Association of Local Democracy Agencies, France</p> <p>Partners Lev Sapieha Foundation, Belarus Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments Belarusian Organization for Working Women, Belarus</p>
	<p>SPREAD - Belarus</p>
<p>Programme Timespan Project manager Short</p>	<p>Sustainable Partnership for REInforcement of Active Development From November 2012 to June 2014 Biljana ZASOVA</p> <p>SPREAD is a complementary project to TANDEM and TANDEM II which</p>

description	aim at strengthening an inclusive and empowered society in Belarus by supporting the development of local communities and strengthening their cooperation with local authorities (LA).
Activities	The main activity will be the creation of citizen centres in three Belarusian regions. These centres will be hosted by an NGO in each region and will create a strong network on local development with information and training activities for LAs and civil society organisations (CSOs). International conferences with partners and associates will take place in order to exchange best practice examples between the European partners and the Belarusian regions. Furthermore, there will be launched a monitoring system on the implementation of laws concerning communication and cooperation between citizens and their representatives as well as information on citizen participation at the local level will be spread. SPREAD consists of elements of support to small citizens' initiatives focusing on how to generate constructive and result-oriented activities between citizens and local authorities.
Partners	Lead Applicant ALDA, Association of Local Democracy Agencies, France Partners NGO Lev Sapieha Foundation, Belarus Monfalcone municipality, Italy Union of Municipalities of Marmara, Turkey (associate partner)

VI. Programme Development Cooperation



TYEC - Tackling Youth Employment Challenge: measures and strategies for European Social Dialogue Actors

Programme	European Social Fund
Timespan	1st January 2013 to 31st December 2013
Project manager	Aldo XHANI
Short description	The main goal of TYEC is to concretely guide and indicate to the institutional, social and political actors and major associations in the 27 EU member States involved in the fight against unemployment, which measures and approaches can be taken to ensure a better coordination between the various stakeholders and levels (local, regional, national and European one) and a greater involvement of young people in the search for and implementation of sustainable solutions.
Activities	Kick-off and Steering Committee Meeting 1st International Seminar - Presentation, discussion and analysis of the First Pillar, 23 May 2013 2nd International Seminar - Presentation, discussion and analysis of the Second Pillar, 4 July 2013 3rd International Seminar - Presentation, discussion and analysis of the Third Pillar, 1 October 2013 Final International Conference, 5 November 2013
Partners	Lead partner: Unione Italiana del Lavoro (UIL), Italy Other partners

Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA), France
 UIL Toscana, Italy
 Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini, Italy
 Sistemi Formativi Confindustria, Italy
 DIESIS Coop, Belgium
 Confederación Sindical de Comisiones Obreras, Spain
 Cartel ALFA - National Trade Union Confederation, Romania
 Blocul National Sindical, Romania



WTD - Working Together for Development

<p>Programme Timespan Project manager Short description</p>	<p>Non-State Actors and Local Authorities in Development 2012-2014 Alfonso ALIBERTI/Marco BOARIA</p> <p>WTD - Working Together for Development is a multi-annual development project designed by the Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA) in cooperation with 21 international partners and associates coming from 16 different countries of the enlarged Europe. The project lasts 30 months and involves both Associations of Local Authorities and NGO networks, and aims at improving their capacities to act as development agents in and outside Europe, in partnership with European and national institutions.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Activities</p>	<p>Preparation Phase: from January to March 2012 Launch of the Website: January 2012 Steering Committee Meetings: 27th March 2012, Brussels; April 2013; February 2014 Launching Seminar: 28th March 2012, Brussels 8 National events and setting up of 8 national workshops: September 2012 in Latvia (LALRG), November 2012 in Bulgaria (RAM) and Malta (LCA). Foreseen: April 2013 in Italy (TECLA), May 2013 in France (CIDEM), October 2013 in Slovakia (UTC), October 2013 in Romania (EPAN), November – December 2013 in Belgium (ALDA). 4 International Thematic Workshops (2012 – 2014): December 2012 in France (CIDEM); May 2013 in Italy (FISPMED); July 2013 in Slovakia/Hungary (CEEEN); February 2014 in Bulgaria (UBBSLA). Trainings "Understanding of Opportunities for Decentralised Cooperation": 15-18 October 2012 in Brussels European Development Days WTD Event: 16 October 2012 Study Visit in Brussels: 8-11 April 2013 Event at the Assises Decentralised cooperation: 9th April 2013 Publication: during 2013</p>

Evaluation seminar: May 2014

Partners

Lead partner : The Association of Local Democracy Agencies – ALDA

Other partners

- ✦ RAM - Regional Association of Municipalities "Central Stara Planina" – BG
- ✦ UBBSLA - Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities – BG
- ✦ CIDEM – Civisme et Démocratie – FR
- ✦ FISP MED - International Federation for Sustainable Development and Fight Against Poverty in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea area – IT
- ✦ TECLA Associazione per la cooperazione transregionale, locale e europea – IT
- ✦ LALRG - Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments – LV
- ✦ LSA - Association of Local Authorities in Lithuania – LT
- ✦ LCA - Local Councils' Association – MT
- ✦ CEECN - Central Eastern and European Citizens Network – SK
- ✦ UTC - The Union of Towns and Cities of Slovakia – SK

Associate partners

- ✦ Albanian Association of Municipalities – AL
- ✦ Communities Association of Armenia - AM
- ✦ Croatian Institute for Local Government – HR
- ✦ NALAG - National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia – GE
- ✦ New Israel Fund – Shatil – IL
- ✦ Association of Kosovo Municipalities – KS
- ✦ ZELS - Association of the Units of Local Self-government of the Republic of Macedonia – MK
- ✦ BCSDN - Balkan Civil Society Development Network – MK
- ✦ The Citizens' Pact for South Eastern Europe – SRB
- ✦ YÖNDER - Association of Local Government Managers – TR
- ✦ Union of Municipalities of Marmara – TR

III. Our services for members and partners

Services for the members of ALDA

Sharing our mission

Being a member of ALDA means first of all sharing our mission – the promotion of good governance and citizen participation at the local level.

As a member you will access the following services:

Projects development and funding opportunities research

15 years' experience in developing and implementing projects

- Priority on opportunities offered to be partner of projects, or to join consortia built to apply for tenders in various fields
- Support of ALDA multilingual staff in the project proposal development phase (EN, FR, IT, SR, MK, RU)
- Identification of relevant international partners for specific areas
- Support to the partnership building process and dissemination of members' calls for partners
- Identification of potential donors

Being part of a consolidated European network

Strategic partner of the Council of Europe and of the European Commission

- Support in the relations with:
- EU, CoE, UN, Agencies, and other public and private International institutions
- Local and regional authorities, as well as National Governments in the enlarged Europe European Officials, MEPs and other relevant international and European authorities
- Visibility through a European network counting over 160 members (local authorities, NGOs, association of local authorities)
- Promotion of members' activities, initiatives and events at the European level through ALDA's communication channels (newsletter sent to over 11.000 contacts, website with over 200.000 visitors and 1.300.000 visits per year, social networks, media activities)
- Online presence for our Members on ALDA website, and presentation to the network of contacts via the newsletter Access to EU experts, professional networks, academic organizations

Information and structures

Wide dissemination of our activities and our members'

- Timely updates via ALDA communication channels, particularly the monthly newsletter in EN, FR, RU, SR, IT ALDA and EU publications, information materials
- Access to the information points on EU and active citizenship (info-points based in Brussels and Vicenza)
- Free use of ALDA equipped offices and meeting rooms in Brussels (Belgium), Vicenza (Italy), and upon approval of the Council of Europe, in Strasbourg

(France)

Capacity building

Further your skills and horizons through a variety of opportunities

- Information on funding programmes and opportunities Participation in international events (conferences, seminars, etc.) promoted by ALDA
- Priority in partnership for specialized trainings (e.g. Master classes on EU programmes, trainings, etc.)
- Participation in ALDA working groups (on Citizens Participation and Local Governance, Western Balkans, Mediterranean Area, Local Democracy Agencies support)
- Priority in offers of internship and job-shadowing
- Priority in participation into international events within the programme 'Volunteers 4 Democracy'

Training opportunities

ALDA offers a variety of training opportunities. Thanks to our multilingual staff (English/French/Italian/Macedonian/Serbian/Russian/Spanish), ad hoc trainings can be organised.

In particular, ALDA offers:

- **European project development 2014-2020**

This training course provides information and tools to take the first steps in the field of European project development, within the new programmes 2014-2020. A key course to learn about EU programmes, to collect all the necessary information and to draft a project.

This course can be offered in several solutions, in order to accommodate the specific needs – weekly classes, intense weekend course, single technical workshops on project cycle management, and thematic seminars on specific EU funding programmes 2014-2020.

- **Master class on the programme Europe for Citizens 2014**

After over 10 years of work in the field of the European Active Citizenship and being recognized as one of the main partners of the European Commission within the Europe for Citizens programme, ALDA presents the Master Class, a new training course aimed at stimulating our members' preparation of quality projects in the framework of the new Europe for Citizens programme 2014-2020.

ALDA Master Class is a **1-day training, enriched by a 6-month help desk**, designed to help you develop your projects in the programme, and to address the following issues:

- The concept of active European citizenship
- In-depth presentation of the Programme Europe for Citizens 2014-2020, including practical hints for project preparation and presentation of successful projects
- New issues, changes, and insight information regarding the programme Europe for Citizens 2014-2020
- Networks and main stakeholders

In order to improve and deepen the long-lasting cooperation on European active citizenship, we address this initiative to ALDA's members.

For any questions on our training opportunities, and to define tailor-made

solutions, please contact Marco Boaria: Marco.Boaria@aldaintranet.org

Get involved!

Volunteers 4 Democracy

With the relaunch of its programme 'Volunteers 4 Democracy', ALDA opens its doors to all EU and ENP citizens who believe in the association mission and want to contribute to its activities. All those who want to promote local democracy, citizens' participation, and human rights, can support the work of ALDA with their skills through an ad-hoc volunteering agreement.

Volunteering with ALDA means contributing to local democracy in Europe and its Neighbourhood, as well as developing new skills, practicing languages, and being part of the editorial team of the citizens' journalist initiative. Long-term, particularly motivated volunteers will have the opportunity to attend international events for the association.

To join the programme, send an email to volunteering@aldaintranet.org , attaching your CV, motivation for participating, and how you would like to contribute to ALDA's activities.

Traineeships opportunities

ALDA has several agreements with Universities and institutions to host trainees in all its offices. Our idea of traineeship is offering young people the opportunity to grow professionally in the field they would like to build a career in.

We all remember how tough it was to access the working environment, and we have a vivid memory of our first experiences and mentors. That's why we offer traineeships within our organisation, and make sure they represent a cornerstone in trainees' development.

We are not looking for people to make coffee – we do manage this crucial task pretty well. We need people with fresh ideas and creativity, enthusiasm, and willingness to be part of the team of ALDA.

Tutors and staff make sure that the traineeship develops personal and professional skills of the youngsters, and a variety of support initiatives are in place to support our former interns: tools to get in touch with potential employers, incubator opportunities, ALDA's ambassadors and antennas for democracy initiatives.

If you are interested in establishing an agreement with a University, School, or other institution, please contact Anna Ditta: Anna.Ditta@aldaintranet.org

About us

Members of the Governing Board in 2013 (mandate 2012-2016)

Elected members

Mr. Oriano Otočan

Istria Region (HR), Director of Department in charge of international cooperation and European integration (President, bureau member)

Ms. Imislawa Gorska

International School of Bydgoszcz, (PL), Principal, (Vice President, bureau member Coordinator Eastern Partnership Working Group)

Mr. Alessandro Perelli

Friuli Venezia Giulia Region (IT), European integration, international relations and financial management Service (Vice President, bureau member, Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation Working Group)

Mr. Roger Lawrence

Wolverhampton City Council (UK), Councillor (Treasurer of ALDA - bureau member)

Ms. Paula Raizan

Delegate of the local Democracy Agency of Sisak, (HR) (Secretary - bureau member - Coordinator LDAs Working Group)

Mr. Per Vinther

(DK) Individual member (Coordinator Eastern Partnership Working Group)

Ms. Annie Anne

Lower Normandy Region, (F) Vice-President, International relations (Coordinator Western Balkans Working Group)

Mr. Mircea Cosma

Prahova County (RO), President

Mr. Lucio Gregoretti

City of Monfalcone (I), Head of the International relations Service (Coordinator Eastern Partnership Working Group)

Mr. Dobrica Milovanovic

City of Kragujevac (SRB), Deputy Mayor

Mr. Ruggiero Mennea

Apulia Region, (I), Councillor

Mr. Valery Deschamps

Association "Maison de l'Europe", Caen (F), President (Coordinator Active Citizenship Working Group)

Mr. Sladjan Ilic

Chair of the LDA Delegates' Advisory Committee, LDA Zavidovici (BiH) In 2014, Mr. **Dragan Dosen**, LDA Prijedor (BiH)

Appointed members

Mr. Herwig van Staa

President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, or his representative

Appointed by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe

Mr. François Friederich

Representing the Secretary General of the Council of Europe (FR); Head of division 'Electoral assistance and census', Directorate general for democracy

Staff

Antonella Valmorbida

Director

Mobile +39 335 5236341

Mobile +32 486 806733

Email: antonella.valmorbida@aldaintranet.org

Skype: antonellaval

I have been working in local governance and citizens' participation for more than 20 years. With interest, hope (and sometimes disappointment), I followed the developments of the European policies and engagement in South Eastern Europe and in Eastern Europe. Recently, I found of extreme importance the process of reforms going on in Eastern Partnership countries, in particular to give more role and support to local communities. My interest and field of work are – above all – strengthening and deepening of the EU project with a consolidation of a European Identity and the possibility of more integrated governance. I put the citizens at the centre of my attention. In 2013, I coordinated – together with the European Movement International – the Working Group 1 (on democratic governance) of the European Alliance for the European Year of Citizen. Since this spring, I coordinate the EPAN (Enlargement, Pre Accession and Neighbourhood group) of Concord. For years now, together with 25 brilliant NGOs leaders, I am involved in the Subgroup for Local Governance and Public Administration Reform of the Civil Society Forum for Eastern Partnership. Many other networks are of my interest and include my commitment: like UNDP Art, Civicus, the Corleap of the Committee of the regions and more!

I like working with my colleagues whom I trust 100%! They are a source of determination and motivation. I find my reason to go on in meeting people (VIPs or less important ones) and understanding, step by step, processes and situations. I am a frequent traveller (!) but with a solid anchorage within the cosy sphere of my family, very demanding these days with my kids who are now teenagers....

Another year in ALDA. As it has always been, thrilling...

Biljana Zasova

Senior Programme Coordinator and Head of Strasbourg Office

Mobile:+33 6 81 777 313

Tel: +333 88 41 30 67

Email: biljana.zasova@aldaintranet.org

Skype: biljana.zasova2

I am a thirty something year old Franco-Macedonian woman interested in gender rights, citizen participation and cooking Italian food with her husband during weekends. I am a French lawyer with a diploma of a MA in EU Law from the College of Europe. I put an end to an eight-year career within the Council of Europe to work for ALDA. My main responsibility here: that each project that we won is implemented the way it was submitted and as efficiently as it was granted. Reality is: this never happens! So my main duty in ALDA is to juggle with activities, action plans and budget with this little team of projects managers based in five different countries; to coordinate with partners and discuss with the donors to develop a plausible implementation of each project. And when it works out, it is magic! This super- project manager tasks is what I do for four years now. More recently, I am in charge to develop ALDA's Mediterranean strategy and work on projects there. For the last ten years, however, I have been investigating about the phenomena of

citizen involvement in public life and have been glad to see in ALDA how it is done in practice. I am highly dedicated to contribute to its evolution into a strong, renowned and ever bigger Europe-wide organisation. Fingers crossed that it continues like that!

Marco Boaria

Resource and Development Unit Coordinator - Vicenza

Mobile +39 346 1531829

Email marco.boaria@aldaintranet.org

Skype: mboaria

I am married to Raquel, who is Spanish, and have a 3-years old Italian-Spanish daughter, Isabel: I live 24h in an international environment, both at home and at work! I work as Coordinator of the Resources and Development Unit for the Association of Local Democracy Agencies since 2004: my main task is to transform ideas into projects, a very interesting and exciting challenge! I have a 13-year experience in international work, with a specific focus on youth, active citizenship and citizen participation. I have been working as programme developer, trainer (co-operating with different European training agencies), project coordinator and supervisor in the framework of different European programs. I am particularly interested and involved in delivering trainings, which are essential for my personal and professional growth. Since I started to work for ALDA, I have widened my interests and broaden my fields of specialization towards other topics (local sustainable development, development issues etc.) and larger geographical areas (Med, Eastern Europe and Caucasus...) in order to be able to better contribute to the achievement of the goals of our network.

Barbara Elia

Financial Officer -Vicenza

Email: barbara.elia@aldaintranet.org

Skype: barbaraelia

I am 40 years old, I am married to Andrea and we have three wonderful children: Filippo 10 years old, Niccolò 7 years old and Jacopo 5 years old that fill our lives with joy! I have been working in ALDA in Vicenza since 2005. When I won the selection of the financial officer ALDA's research in April 2005 I was very enthusiastic. I realized I have finally found the job which pursues my ideal. I attended an economic college and I have worked always on accountancy and financial issue in profit areas. I was looking for a different context, for something could give to my technical professional skills a "human" value. I am responsible for finances in our Association. My working life is dominated by the numbers but I deal with them with a lot of satisfactory and the contribution of our Association to the building of European values and to promoting human rights, peace and democracy constantly motivate me to fulfil my tasks. Working in ALDA is like being in a big family, all together to the same direction!

Stanka Parac Damjanovic

Regional Programme Coordinator – Subotica

Email: stanka.parac@aldaintranet.org

10+ years of working in civil society sector has become one of the most exciting part of my life - long learning process. Being a regional programmes coordinator and working closely with the Western Balkan LDAs requires communication, persistence, perseverance, patience and above all commitment and enthusiasm. Oh, yes... and a strong ability to listen.

By profession I am a pedagogue and naturally inclined to communication and working with young people. Most of all together thirty years working in international, multicultural environment has enriched my professional experience in so many different aspects. It is not only about speaking more foreign languages. It is much more about the path I have been following that was mostly related with learning about Europe and the Europeans and translating that knowledge into the practice of making the change happen in my country; and certainly help many people understand the situation in my country(ies). I am proud to have met so many fascinating people and friends on that path.

I am confident that I have made a positive impact in my family members' life, and especially in my two sons' life who are now two decent young men paving their own professional way in engineering and accounting business. Looking them grow has been such a gratifying experience and I hope they learnt the skill of taking the accountability for their life and overcoming obstacles on the road less travelled.

Anna Ditta

Project Development Officer – Vicenza

Email anna.ditta@aldaintranet.org

Skype: anna_ditta.ucv

I work for ALDA since 2011 as a project development officer, in Vicenza. Among my tasks in ALDA, I also realise some trainings about EU programmes and I work as a tutor for a Master on EU in a telematic University. I graduated in International Politics at the University of Padua in 2004. I have seven year of experience in the management and development of EU funded projects and I mainly worked on programmes for the Balkans. I love working in ALDA because of its international dimension and its multicultural environment, which is enriching and highly stimulating. I fully share the vision of this Association, because I believe that citizens should gain awareness of their rights and become the main actors of the political process, in order to make true democracy happen. This is indeed my vision of international co-operation. I believe in the EU project because I think we can only face the global challenges and grow if we act together. Thanks to the EU we can travel freely, benefit of precious mobility exchanges (in and out of Europe) and learn from other cultures. I'm therefore very committed to the scopes of ALDA and very keen to contribute to its mission in all its areas of action: EU, Eastern Europe, North Africa... and maybe more in the future".

Ivana Dimitrovska

Programme Manager Lower Normandy/Macedonia – Skopje

Mobile: +389 (0) 71595126

Email: ivana.dimitrovska@aldaintranet.org

Skype: ivanajas

I am Ivana Dimitrovska, Coordinator of the programme for decentralized cooperation between the Region Lower Normandy and Macedonia in Skopje. I have been born and raised in Macedonia, in the Balkan spirit! I studied applied languages in Skopje. Then, my dream to discover the world and other cultures took me to Lower Normandy for my Master degree in Management of EU projects for local development. Since then, I have been "adopted" by this lovely French Region and working on this project for ALDA for the past 5 years. Little by little, I am fulfilling my dream to discover the world by working in intercultural context as well as by traveling around

Aldo Xhani

Programme Manager - Strasbourg

Mobile: +33 (0)6 70 50 59 52

Email: aldo.xhani@aldaintranet.org
Skype: aldo.xhani-alda

I have been working for ALDA from March 2013 after an initial 7 month internship experience within the same unit started back in September 2011. I completed my university studies in diplomacy and international affairs in Italy at the University of Genoa and in Ireland at the University College Cork. I am in charge of the implementation of EU projects on active citizenship and youth, a very rewarding task as it brings me into contact with people from all across Europe. It is a unique opportunity to exchange ideas with people from every angle of Europe and to enrich myself. I am Italo-Albanian and ALDA's focus on the Western Balkans matches up with my interest and expertise in the region. Prior to join ALDA, I worked as policy officer assistant in the Youth and Citizenship Committee of the Assembly of European Regions, therefore I always kept the focus on the local and regional perspective of action.

Irene Zanetti
Communication Officer - Vicenza
Mobile: +39 347 3509 887
Email: irene.zanetti@aldaintranet.org
skype: irene.zanetti

When I was a child, I dreamt of travelling around the world and making it a better place. Working for ALDA turns both dreams into reality!
Since May 2013 I take care of ALDA external communication, trying to make it visible for people outside our network what we do – and why we do it. I joined ALDA after a master degree in public and social communication, and experiences in communication for private companies, political parties, and non-profit institutions.
Being based in Vicenza, I often travel to my hometown during weekends to spend time with family, friends, and to relax rock climbing.

Mariam Khotenashvili
Programme Manager and Head of Brussels Office
Email: mariam.khotenashvili@aldaintranet.org

I joined ALDA as a programme manager and Head of Brussels office in February 2014. I am responsible for ALDA's work in the Eastern Partnership countries and also follow the EU and EU European policies. Prior to joining ALDA, I worked at Transparency International – Georgia as a researcher for almost two years where I was responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of international aid delivered to Georgia, state budget transparency and anti-corruption policies. I also did a traineeship at DG DEVCO (Unit: Regional Programmes - Neighbourhood East) in Brussels where I was involved in the Covenant of Mayors initiative.

I have Masters degrees in Conflict Studies and Human Rights from Utrecht University and EU international Relations and Diplomacy from the College of Europe.

Elisabetta Bon
Accountant - Vicenza
Email: elisabetta.bon@aldaintranet.org
Skype: elisabetta.bon1

I have 3 children and a husband. I am an accountant and I always thought that my work would hardly take me to learn about foreign countries and people, and so this was just a personal interest. Today, my interests and my professionalism they met inside of this

organization, not only that, but after a few years of work, I also realized that the people with whom you live (at work or at home) build the quality of our lives, they influence your choices.

My colleagues in ALDA work constantly driven by a strong passion towards both the big issues and towards the harmony of the team and the daily commitment. I am very happy and grateful to be a part of this.

Mattia Brazzale

Assistant to the Director's Office - Vicenza

Email: mattia.brazzale@aldaintranet.org

Skype: brazz87

I am 27 years old and I am the youngest member of ALDA family. I have been working in ALDA Vicenza office since last year, as Assistant to the Director's Office. I started my experience in ALDA after a six-months traineeship. Before joining ALDA, I completed a Master Degree in International Relations and Diplomacy at the University of Trieste, and I made a three-months internship at the French Embassy in Rome, in Social Affairs Section.

I really appreciate my daily tasks in ALDA, always something new to do, I have the possibility to handle with different topics and themes, and finally, thanks to ALDA, I have improved my organizational skills and I have acquired a better knowledge of European issues.

Katica Janeva

Project manager - Skopje

Skype: katejaneva

I am Katica, one of the three employees in Skopje office, and I'm Macedonian. I've studied French language and I had a master's degree in European administration management. I'm working in Skopje office since November 2009. Currently I'm working as Project manager on the project for decentralised cooperation between the French Region Lower Normandy and the Republic of Macedonia. *Katica worked in Skopje office until November 2013.*

Sanja Trpkovska

Communication Officer – Project manager for ALDA (October-December 2013) - Skopje

Email: sanja.trpkovska@aldaintranet.org

Skype: sanja_division

If you try to Google me it is possible that you will find various icons, banners and clipart rather than other information about me. That's because I work as a Communication Officer for the Decentralized Cooperation between Lower Normandy and Macedonia, and as skilled Graphic Designer, and among others, I've created many visual materials for the Project. Computers are my passion, foreign languages are my first love, and Communication is my future. My favourite three words are Mommy, Thank you and Team work.