



To meet Europe in the Balkans

Very early, the city of Lausanne has been involved in the experience of what was called, at that time, the “ Embassies ” of Local Democracy, created after the war in Former-Yugoslavia. The city was one of the founding partners of the LDA in Osijek in Croatia, in 1993, after a first representation in Subotica. An interesting adventure, since we knew that everything would have been to be rebuilt after the disaster. For a swiss local authority as ours, to take part in this pilot project was a double commitment, for a co-operation with our western european colleagues and for the opening towards countries of Central and Eastern Europe which were not known enough for too long.

For the first expatriate delegates of the LDAs, of whom we underline the particular action as pioneer, it was important to start working from the bottom on the field, to establish projects and networks of contacts, and – in the meanwhile – to deal with the research of funds.

Little by little, the first exchanges of delegations between Osijek and Lausanne, which allowed to know each others better, were followed by concrete projects namely in the field of training for local elected officials

or transborder co-operation. In the same time, a stronger co-operation was established among the partners. Our City has completed these exchanges of direct bilateral relations by signing, in 1997, a Chart of Friendship and Co-operation with the croatian city. A support for the resolution of the problems of beaten women and the strengthening of contacts among our universities are other recent contributions to be included in this framework of activities. Without forgetting, at a higher lever, the support given to the creation and then to the development of an independant press agency in Croatia.



Mr Jean Jacques Schilt
Mayor of Lausanne

Today recognised at the institutional level, the pilot experience of the LDAs has been consolidated with the recent creation of the Association of the Local Democracy Agencies to which we have fully subscribed.

We are particularly satisfied to see that the knowledge and the capacities of working of the promoters contribute in a useful way to the implementation of the Stability Pact in the Balkans.

Jean-Jacques Schilt
Mayor of Lausanne

2-3

Trainig session
in Zavidovici

Mission in
Serbia

4

European
initiative for
Democracy and
Human Rights

5

International
Conference in
Subotica

6-7

3rd Conference
of the Szeged
Process

News

8

Debate in Ohrid:
“Integration of

Editor in Chief

Mr Gianfranco Martin

Editorial Services:

Secretariat of the LDA
Association

Layout and Design:

Municipality of Mogliano

MARCH 2001

Zavidovici (Bosnia and Herzegovina), 19 and 20th of March 2001

Training session for the delegates organized by the Association

The Association of the Local Democracy Agencies organized a training session for the Delegates in Zavidovici, 19th and 20th of March 2001.

The session was attended by LDA Zavidovici, Andrea Rossini and Sladjan Ilic, Youth centre Zavidovici, Nada Crljic, NGO Centre,(Ced) Zavidovici, Aleksandra Makric, LDA Osijek, Miljenko Turniski and Sasa Kurbalia, LDA Prijedor, Annalisa and Duzica Obradovic, LDA Sisak, Miroslav Levanic, LDA Verteneglio/Brtonigla, Tullio Fernetic, Umberto Ademollo. LDA Subotica, Nadia Cuk, LDA Tuzla, Zlata Zucic LDA Ohrid, Mirijana Lozanoska, could not attend the activities.

The training session evaluated the development of the programmes of the LDAs financed by the Swiss Agency for Development.

The implementation of the programme was updated in the list of activities which is now for public information on our website. Zavidovici took the preliminary contacts for the programme. Osijek had already implemented one activity and they are about to follow the programme. Verteneglio mentioned that the three issues would have been adapted to the current situation for the elections in Croatia. Sisak declared that they have started with the distribution of questionnaires for the programme in December. They contacted the participants and lecturers. Prijedor collected the necessary contacts and staff concerning a new programme for the LDAs as a follow-up of the current programme, the Delegate agreed to focus on a regional programme concerning the mechanisms of participation of youth in the decision-making process at the local level.

The Association delivered to the LDAs the CD Rom of "Proposals that makes a difference. How to write an effective grant proposal: a manual for NGOs", written by Firoze Manij (who could not attend the session) Mrs. Valmorbida presented a draft for a common proposal for the projects of the LDAs that could be used for the fundraising with the Council of Europe or with other donors.

The groups evaluated the different aspects of the project proposal. In particular, it was emphasised the importance to add the letters of support for the project. All the proposal is then more presented as something particularly attractive following the mechanisms of marketing for products.

The question of evaluation of results has been particu-

larly put in evidence during the session.

All the Delegates focused on the fact that the projects must be more and more innovative and concrete. It could be interesting to create moments for the exchanges of experiences in the field of promotion civil society and local democracy.

Mrs. Valmorbida introduced the basic use of Excell in the computer room nearby the office of the Local Democracy Agency in Zavidovici.

Different questions related to the LDA financial management have been presented by Ms. Claudia Montevocchi of the Secretariat of the COE.

The training session was particularly important since the Association of the Local Democracy Agencies starts working this year for the management of the projects of



Delegates at work

the LDAs (funds of the Congress of Local Democracy Agencies, voluntary contributions of the Stability Pact, LGI, city partners, etc.)

Mrs. Fabiana Faro, invited by Mrs. Annalisa Tomasi, joined the meeting.

(OSCE Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Democratisation Officer, Head of the Office, Field Office of Vares, Djure Djakovica bb, 71330 Vares, BiH, tel: 00387/32/845 854, fax : 00387/32/845 543, fo_vares@oscebih.com.ba)

She introduced the different activities of the OSCE in Bosnia and in the region. She was interested in knowing better our network and activities. They agreed to stay in touch with the offices of the LDAs on the field.

Antonella Valmorbida

Steps towards a Local Democracy Agency in Central and Southern Serbia

Mission in Serbia-March

Feasibility mission for the programme “ Rights, Citizenship and local democracy ” based in Nis

Following the mission in Southern Serbia realised in January 2001 and the first programmes of activities proposed by the potential partner of this second LDA in Serbia, a mission was organised by the Association with the objectives:

- To present the draft of programme to the local partners (local authorities and NGOs)
- To prepare a last version of the programme to be submitted to the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities for the funds for the Irish Government
- To define the operational strategy for the next months
- To individuate future new partners

The first programme of activities has been approved and appreciated by all the local authorities of the regional network (Nis, Kraljevo, Kragujevac, Leskovac). The cities involved have declared their full support of the activities in those next months and appreciated the methodology to have the meetings which will raise the future priorities of actions of the LDA. The city of Nis agreed to give the space for the local of the LDA at the end of this first process and for the formal establishment of the office.

The other cities agreed to be actively part of the network by hosting the events or to participate in the events organised in other cities of the area.

The name of the LDA could be ‘LDA for Central and Southern Serbia, based in Nis’ in order to make the participation of the other cities easier.

The mission was presented to the different interested partners in the Local Democracy Agency.

At the meetings organised in the programme, the potential partners (especially local authorities of several European States) will be requested to participate. The cities which already linked to the cities of the network (Nis, Kraljevo, Kragujevac and Leskovac) will be requested also to be partners of the Agency. That will give them the opportunity to be more included in this preparatory process.

The participants of the mission were:

- Antonella Valmorbidia, Executive Secretary of the **Association of LDAs**
- Andrea Rossini – Delegate of the **LDA in Zavidovici**
- Agostino Zanotti – President of the **Association for**

the LDA in Zavidovici

- Michele Nardelli – **Casa per la Pace di Trento – Associazione per l’ADL di Prijedor**
- Degli Atti Cosimo - **Committee of History of the University of Bologna,**
- Enrico Levati – **ICS**
- Rosita Viola – **ICS**, Treasurer of the Association of LDA
- Cathering Dickeage – **ICS**, Desk Officer for Serbia
- Nebio Perna – **Committee of Ivrea**
- Maurizio Renesto – indicated responsible of the programme for the Association
- Martina Ianizzotto – **ICS Belgrade**, country coordinator
- Rada Zarkovic – **Women in Black-** Belgrade (translator)



The other international partners which are interested in the Agency – but did not take part in the mission - are:

- **Assembly of the European Regions**
- **Regidor Ponent de Cooperacion - Barcelona - Spain**
- **Jesus Maestro i Garcia**
- **German Association of Towns and Municipalities**
- **Local Government International Bureau England**
- **Association for Human Rights in Cyprus**
- **City of Prague – Check Republic**
- **City of Opeva - Check Republic**
- **Antirriion (Greece)**
- **Cités Unies de France**
- **Balkan Assist Association**

**Programme that the Association of the Local Democracy Agencies
will submit to the Call for Appeal of the European Union**

European Initiative for

The Association of the Local Democracy Agencies submitted in March 2001, for the Call for Proposal, Budget line B7-702 of "European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights" a programme which has the aim to include in a regional programme the existing and future LDAs. The activities presented under the title: **"The Association of Local Democracy Agencies: Actions for capacity building of local authorities and civil society in Southern and Eastern Europe"** follow the priorities themes:

- To promote pluralism both at political and civil society level by strengthening institutions and organisations
- To promote the participation of the people in the decision-making (taking into account the equal participation of men and women in civil society, in economic life and politics)
- To prevent, to resolve and to deal with the consequences of conflict, including the support of measures facilitating the peaceful conciliation of group interests

The Association, as leader applicant, will submit the proposal in partnership with other subjects like:

- PARTNERS FOUNDATION FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT - PARTNERS ROMANIA (for the training of trainers)
- YOUTH PLANET –FRANCE (for the activities related to the city council of young people and the workshop for youth)
- ASSOCIAZIONE COMUNI DELLA MARCA TREVIGIANA – ITALY (for the expertise for local authorities)
- The host cities of the existing LDAs: Croatia (Verteneglio/Brtonigla, Sisak, Osijek), Bosnia and Herzegovina (Tuzla, Zavidovici, Prijedor), Yugoslavia- Serbia (Subotica), Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia (Ohrid)
- The future host cities of LDAs: Yugoslavia-Serbia (Nis), Yugoslavia- Montenegro (Niksic)

- ITALIAN CONSORTIUM OF SOLIDARITY – ITALY (for the training for the NGOs)

Two subcontractors will be contacted:

- Partners Polska – POLAND – for the training for Trainers – Public Relations for Local Authorities
- PROGECO – ITALY – for the external evaluation of the programme.

The programme proposed is:

- 1) a newsletter for the network
- 2) a website
- 3) three annual reports of activities
- 4) three steering committees
- 5) six training of trainers (with the local staff of the Local Democracy Agencies). Topics are a) local government management b) Participatory Planning Process c) Conflict Management d) Mediation skills e) Public relations for Local authorities f) Managing multiethnic communities
- 6) 60 training (each LDA will implement the knowledge acquired in the TOTs). The training will be prepared with a training needs assessment.
- 7) 10 exercise of problem solving for local authorities with the basis of the Participatory Planning Process
- 8) 20 training for NGOs (2 for each LDA)
- 9) 10 Workshops for youth and exchange of experience for the city council of young people
- 10) Centre for youth in each LDA

The programme will be evaluated during the next months by the European Commission.



International Conference: Regionalisation and Decentralization in SEE-with special reference to the question of multiculturalism-Subotica, 15-17 March 2001

Subotica LDA, due to the support of Swiss Development Agency, organized an International Conference with title: Regionalisation and Decentralization in SEE - with special reference to the question of multiculturalism in Subotica from 15 to 17 of March 2001. During three days about 60-70 experts, politicians and scholars took part in a debate, presenting experience of their countries and exchanging their views in a very fruitful, interesting and sometimes even emotional debate. Participants were coming from several countries like: FRY, Croatia, Bosnia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Italy, Spain, Switzerland, USA and Canada. In the name of the CLRAE expert team there have been: Mr. Gunter Mudrich - Secretary of the Chamber of Regions, Mr. Lubomir Plai - from the Slovak delegation and Mr. Miljenko Doric from the Croatian delegation in the Congress. Conference attracted a significant media coverage, resulting in its excellent presentation in all main daily and weekly newspapers and at town TV station.

After the welcome speech in the name of the town of Subotica (done by Mr. Imre Kern – President of the Executive council of the Municipality of Subotica) and in the name of ALD Subotica, the introductory lecturing on the theme: The Rule of Law, Rationalisation and Multiethnic Society, was presented by the Academic Vojislav Stanovic who embraced all major segments of regionalisation that were later on elaborated in panel discussions. He talked about the nexus between decentralisation and democratisation from the aspect of creating the constitutional government and distribution of power, proposing in the same time the regional structure for Serbia.

In the first panel about the regionalisation and European integration, Mr. Gunter Mudrich gave a survey on the concepts of regionalisation in Europe, which is well developed in Western Europe but gradually spreading to Central and East parts of continent. He underlined the role of CoE in the process of strengthening the local and regional democracy, making distinction between integration and cooperation. In this panel there is worth to mention the presentation of Mrs. Edita Stojic from the Institute for international politics from Belgrade, who talked about opportunities for creation Euro regions, paying attention on the area alongside the Danube, and Mr. Slobodan Bjelajac from the University of Split (Croatia) presenting the Croatian experience in rationalisation and inter-regional cooperation. Representative of the local NGO “Banat forum” introduced a project for establishment an European region Banat which is split among three countries: Romania, FRY and Hungary while Mr. Aidun K. Mola from the regional office of Contanza (Romania) expressed his opinion that minorities can have a significant role in trans-frontier cooperation.

The second panel was about the constitutional/legal framework and political preconditions of regionalisation. Among 10 speakers special regard should be given to the presentation of the Mr. Prokopijevic from the Institute for European studies from Belgrade who talked on the rules for allocation of responsibilities on the comparative basis, Mrs Marijana Pajvancic from the University for Novi Sad, who analysed the regionalisation in the context of parliamentary system, and to Mr. Vladimir Goati because of his splendid explanation of electoral system within the regional structure of the state. Decentralisation process in Bosnia, Hungary, Italy and Spain were presented by experts coming from mentioned countries.

Panel devoted to the regionalisation and multiculturalism was the essential part of the conference, gathering a long list of lecturers. Present situation of inter-ethnic relations in FRY (Voivodina and Sandzak), Romania, Hungary, Italy (South Tyrol) gained a great attention, with special regard to Mr. Jens Woelk who beside Bolzano case has drawn some parallels to the region of Voivodina. Very similar approach was presented by Mr. Timothy Waters (USA), while Mr. Zoran Stankovic from the Serb community of Rijeka analysed the position of this minority in Croatia. Discussion pointed out the dilemma if regionalisation should follow the logic of ethnic (territorial) autonomy or multiculturally (civically) based territorial subdivision, without reaching the definite conclusion.

Final panel was about economic aspects of decentralisation in which fiscal and financial models from different countries were presented.

There were organised two thematic workshops: first one was about the regional and local self- government (relation between different tiers of governments) and the second related to the perspectives of regionalisation in Serbia - Case Study: Voivodina.

The first workshop was mainly focused on the European charter on local self-government and its incorporation in national legislation of the SEE countries.

Second workshop attracted the special public attention, as it was about the position of Voivodina, which became a very actual political issue in the country.

Agency for public poll research “Scan” from Novi Sad presented the results of recently finished research on public opinion in Voivodina, showing a high degree of regional identity in this province and readiness for its constitutional re-shaping. At closing session experts delegated by the CLRAE presented their recommendations and suggestions, while Mr. Doric did a special and kind gesture – he gave a special gift to ALD: a copy of the medieval Croatian law – (Vinodolski zakon).

Nadia Cuk – Delegate LDA Subotica

SZEGED – MARCH 23-24, 2001

The LDA in Osijek represents the Association in the 3rd Conference of the Szeged Process

The third Conference of today well known Szeged process was held under the auspice of the Stability Pact Office for South-East Europe and the Hungarian government in the city of Szeged on 23rd and 24th March 2001.

Established in order to help the local authorities in Yugoslavia to survive the dictature of Slobodan Milosevic and to encourage them to try to change the circumstances in a democratic way, the Szeged process became a very important element of the Stability Pact for South-East Europe.

Bearing in mind the changed circumstances and democratic changes in Yugoslavia, the Szeged process has now taken a goal to enhance its aims and fields of activity. Even the number of the participant countries in this process is expanding, so that there were representatives from Rumania, Bulgaria, Slovenia and Croatia as well.

The general goal of the 3rd Szeged Conference is to strengthen the local democracy in the countries of the Region and to promote transborder cooperation between local and regional authorities. For that cause there is a plan to open two data bases in the Szeged university: one on connections between twin towns and the other concerning the information on transborder cooperation.

Besides these data bases there is also a plan to establish a training centre for local administration which would help their updating and enable them to enter new integration and democratic processes in Europe. The Hungarian government founded for that purpose a foundation called "Chances for Stability", and transferred 200 millions Forints on its account.

The Association of Local Democracy Agencies was also presented at the Conference by the delegation from LDA from Osijek, which consisted of delegate Miljenko Turniski and assistant Sasa Kurbalija.

They presented what the agencies already did some projects mentioned during the conference (transborder and local administration).

Many contacts have been made:

- 1 Heike Alefsen – Department of Local Government and Transfrontier Cooperation, Council of Europe
- 2 Daniel Löcker – city of Vienna, Chief Executive Office for EU-Funding
- 3 Predrag Grgc – member of the executive council of the autonomous province of Vojvodina-Yugoslavia
- 4 Duzko Radakovic – mayor of Kikinda, Yugoslavia

- 5 Nikola Nikolic – Assembly of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, Chief of the Presidential Head Office
- 6 Amira Kapetanovic – ambassador of the Republik of BiH in Hungary

It was a very important moment for presenting the work of the Association and the LDAs.

For further information about the Szeged process, please go to

<http://www.stabilitypact.org/>



N E W S

LDA Zavidovici



No Peace without Justice

Saturday the 10th of March the Zavidovici Local Democracy Agency organized a whole-day seminar in Brescia on the issue of war and war crimes in South East Europe. Paolo Corsini, Mayor of Brescia, together with the Secretar to Citizens' Participation Ms Rosangela Comini took part to the event. Two Srebrenica widows, still displaced in the Zavidovici local community of Vozuca, also came from Bosnia to meet the citizenship of Brescia on the occasion.

In fact, the seminar was bringing together the events of the 29th of May 1993, when three Italian pacifists were killed in Gornj Vakuf on their way to bring humanitarian aid to the city of Zavidovici, with the Srebrenica massacre, as different aspects of a same tragedy.

The meeting started with the inauguration of the 30-panels photo exhibition dedicated to the history of the Zavidovici Local Democracy Agency. The exhibition, named "The road between Brescia and Zavidovici", was introduced by the photographer Christian Penocchio. Giulio Marcon, President of the Italian Consortium of Solidarity, spoke about the experience of Italian committees and associations in Bosnia, while Mr Carlo Gubitosa, secretar of "PeaceLink", intervened on the issue of environmental consequences of wars, and specifically on the topic of depleted uranium in BiH. Agostino Zanotti, President of the Zavidovici Lda Association, was moderating an open discussion with the public. The meeting ended with the presentation of the documentary "Europe, Srebrenica", produced by the Zavidovici Lda and directed by the Lda Delegate, Andrea Rossini. The documentary is the result of a two years work and is based on the reconstruction of the Srebrenica events made by the community of the displaced women living in Zavidovici.

After a discussion on nature, role and possibilities for international intervention in conflict situations, the meeting ended launching a human rights campaign for the occasion of the next opening in Travnik of the trial for the killings of the three Italian volunteers in May 1993.

Andrea Rossini

BOSNIA – It's the beginning of the trial for the murder of the 29th of May 1993 of three italian volunteers

The Local Democracy Agency in Zavidovici has been launched also after the tragedy that killed three Italian volunteers in the Zenica Region in 1993. Thanks to the constant commitment of one of the two survivors of that aggression, Agostino Zanotti, started working the Association for the Local Democracy Agency in Zavidovici.

Thursday the 26th of April, in Travnik in Central Bosnia, will start the trial against the responsible of the murder of the 29th of May 2001. That day, five Italian volunteers who were bringing to Zavidovici and Viter humanitarian help were stopped on the road between Gornji Vakuf and Novi Travnik, by a unit of the Bosnian army.

Three of them, Guido Puletti, Fabio Moreni and Serigo Lana, were killed and for their murder, today, three persons are accused and one of them is now in jail (Hanefija Prijic, so called "Praga", chief of that Bosnian troupe).

The two survivors, Agostino Zanotti and Cristian Renocchio, are today called to witness against the accused people and they will have to live again these terrible days. Their report is very important for the definition of the truth.

The process which starts in Bosnia is the first one related to the facts of the 29th of May 1993, and it's the first chance for a possible justice for the relatives of the victims, the survivors and all the pacifist movement.

We think that Agostino and Cristian do not have to face alone this trial but that all of us, that have in their heart peace and justice, must feel involved. The citizens and the institutions. The Mayor of Brescia, Paolo Corsini, has decided to go together with Agostino and Cristian in Travnik.

The volunteers and all the friends of the LDA in Zavidovici will be present at the opening of the trial in Bosnia

Application of new technology and using global network in the implementation of project activities

LDA-Ohrid on 4th April 2001 realised the debate "Integration of the minorities in Macedonia - experiences and problems", which is an activity within the project "Capacity Building for local democracy" financed by the Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation. The debate was live streamed on the global network and broadcast on three radio stations.

Taking into account the crisis that recently occurred in the country, the LDA-Ohrid decided to contribute to its peaceful solution, by dedicating this debate to the inter-ethnic relations. Three confirmed intellectuals, professors from the Skopje University, Mr. Ferid Muhic, Mr. Vladimir Milcin and Mr. Gjorge Ivanov, elaborated their reflections on the topics:

- Existing problems from the past and prejudices that could generate crisis
- Experiences of positive inter-ethnic relations in Macedonia
- Inter-ethnic relations in Macedonia after its independence
- Current situation in Macedonia and possible solutions for improving the inter-ethnic relations

At the end of the debate the experts emphasised that for overcoming this situation, it would be necessary to establish wide coalition of all relevant political parties,

with main aim to contribute to the peaceful solution of the crisis.

It is important to note that the debate was implemented with application of new methodology. It was streamed live on two WEB sites, and the archives are available on demand on both sites. This was an opportunity for enlarging citizens' visions, creating new possibilities for themselves, finding new ways of co-operation and mutual understanding. Moreover, with the given possibility to address question to the experts via e-mail, the citizens got the role to act as equal players in the public political arena.

The modern Information technology and telecommunications offer totally new and challenging possibilities for democratic participation in the activities and decision making of an international association. It breaks the barriers of time and distance - and costs in communications. It also offers access to an enormous information flow and makes the association more visible.

Application of new methodology in the implementation of project activities, shall pinpoint avenues and approaches that might have the greatest impact in the future – including elements of technological innovation.

Mirijana Lozanoska
Delegate LDA Ohrid

Mr. Tullio FERNETIC is the new delegate of Brtonigla-Verteneglio LDA – e-mail: aldve-brtonigla@pu.hinet.hr

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO BE ME-

THE LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCY

Local and Regional Authorities:		Subotica (FRY), Ms Nadia SENDEROVIC-CUK, e-mail: nadiac@eunet.yu
1-10.000	250 Euros	Osijek/Vukovar (HR), Turniski MIJLENKO, E-mail: milienko.turniski@os.hinet.hr
10.000-50.000	500 Euros	Sisak (HR), Ms Michela CAVALLINI, E-mail: Idesk-si@sk.tel.hr
50.000-200.000	1.000 Euros	Brtonigla-Verteneglio (HR), Mr U. ADEMOLLO, E-mail: aldve-brtonigla@pu.hinet.hr
200.000-1.000.000	2.000 Euros	Tuzla (BH), Mr Igor PELLICCIARI, E-mail: igorpel@tin.it
1.000.000 or plus	4.000 Euros	Zavidovici (BH), Mr Andrea ROSSINI, E-mail: sladjan@bih.net.ba
NGO	250 Euros	Prijedor (BH), Ms Annalisa TOMASI, E-mail: asspdt@inecco.net
Actual persons	50 Euros	Ohrid (FRYM), Ms Miriana LOZANOSKA, E-mail: eldoh@mt.net.mk

Secretariat de l'Association: C/o Conseil de l'Europe, Bureau B532, F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex

Tel.: +33(0)388413551 -Fax: +33(0) 388412751/3747, sylvie.affholder@coe.int

Siège social: La Maison des Associations de Strasbourg (France)

Bank Details of the Association of Local Democracy Agencies

Banque: Société Generale/Sogénal

Address: SGAB Council of Europe

National Identification: 10067 00101 10320802859

Internation Identification: FR76 1006 7001 0110 3208 0285 922