



FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA (Italy) a Region for Europe

Over the last years the local Government of the Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia has aimed at the revitalization of the region's international role, also through a modification of the Statute of autonomy in the sense of a central Government's full recognition of this important function. Some major points mark the action of the Region as regards its role. We tried to strengthen our relations with neighbouring countries (we made a proposition to organize the 2006 Olympic games, together with Carinthia and Slovenia) and with Bavaria, by means of periodic political and technical meetings. We played an active role within the international bodies and in the Conference of the Eastern regions. We engaged in making the most of the financial structures and of the services present in our region in a coordinated and synergic way, in order to propose and implement them in foreign countries. But, above all, we engaged in achieving a higher level of implementation of Community programmes, in order to benefit from all the resources that the European Union puts at the disposal of the Member States. In this sense, the challenges of the new Millennium, the reform of the structural funds and of the Community initiatives are very demanding. We are called to talk directly to Brussels and to submit global projects for an integrated, territorial and economic regional development to obtain a co-financing.

A better implementation of Community programmes also depends on a more effective coordination action of

the different instruments offered by the community policy, by means of a more effective and pregnant intervention of the local Government.

At an international level, we paid attention in particular to socio-economic promotion, in order to aid the most vulnerable social classes, and to the promotion and development of those activities aimed at the reconstruction of civil society in those territories, such as those of

the former Yugoslavia, which experienced dramatic events over the last years. We wanted to put this very intention into practice. We are the first Region, which represents the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a decentralized cooperation programme for the Slavonia sub-Danube region, in Croatia, through a financial participation in the project. We adhered enthusiastically to the Association of Local Democracy Agencies, because we share the objective to grant citizens' participation in a Europe founded on the respect for human rights and minorities.

We are proud to be one of the founders of the Agency of Montenegro. In Niksic we found that particular human atmosphere and participation which grant us the hope that we can achieve all our objectives. That is: the promotion of concrete initiatives in order to strengthen democracy at a local level, the psycho-social recovery of populations, and the reinforcement of basic educational structures.

Roberto Antonione
President of the Region
of Friuli Venezia Giulia



Mr Roberto Antonione

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STEPS TOWARDS A LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCY IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN SERBIA (BASED IN NIS)

“ Rights, Citizenship and local democracy ”

Thanks to the support of the Irish Government, in the framework of the actions of the Stability Pact, Working Table I – Democratisation and Human Rights – the Association of the Local Democracy Agencies is promoting the first activities which will lead to the opening of the Local Democracy Agency in Central and Southern Serbia.

The events here presented are the result of a wide partnership already established at the local and international level. The objectives are :

- to raise the attention on several issues important for the future and which have been expressed after the evaluation of needs at the local level
- to focus and develop ideas for the future activities of the LDA
- to collect partners and to interest them for a future commitment in the Agency

Working Plan of the events :

1) Rights of Women: Leskovac, 2.6.2001

The main event is a **Round Table** on women rights followed by a public debate on the issue.

Women sector of the Civic Parliament in Leskovac will implement the project in co-operation with other womens organisations of central and south-eastern Serbia,

notably “Zenska Niska Akcija (Woman’s Action from Nis), Zenske Gradjanske Inicijative (Woman’s Civil Initiatives) from Kraljevo, “Anima” from Kragujevac.



2) People without rights : Nis, 9.6.01

The important part of the programme is the key question of ethnic minorities, refugees and IDPs.

About 40 thousands of IDPs are at present living in Central and South-eastern area of Serbia, while the total number of refugees from BiH and from Croatia at present living in Serbia is about 440 thousand people.

Beside that, in Federal Republic of Yugoslavia live several ethnic minorities, such as Roma people, Albanians, Goranci, Hungarians, Croatians, and others. Particularly, in the area of Leskovac Municipality, the question of integration between Serbian and Albanian citizenship is still waiting for a solution, as the recent conflicts in the town of Medvedja unfortunately show.

→A **Seminar about rights of refugees and IDPs**, organised by Helsinki Committee from Belgrade.

→“**Roads of rights**”

The same facilitators who took part on the seminar will organise an itinerant bus which will reach remote areas of central and south-eastern Serbia in order to distribute to refugees in collective centres info material regarding these themes. Beside that, it will organised an **open radio program** on themes of refugees and minorities rights.

→Workshop on local authorities and minority issues, in order to discuss and compare different aspects of the question (health and social services access, school integration, employment integration).

3) Citizenship and local authorities : Leskovac, 16.6.01

In co-operation with the local implementing partner, the local NGO "OGI" (Committee for a Civic Initiative)

- **Awareness building campaign** to get citizens in the area informed about the main social and civil rights.
- **Territorial survey** to determine the relationship between citizens and the local government in each of the four communities observed, such as the conscience of the citizens about their own social and civil rights:
- Publication of a dossier with the results of the research and **final workshop** on the theme.

4) Rights of workers, Kragujevac, 23/06/01

The project is mainly minded in order to focus on main problems, needs and questions related with the labour, work's rights and potential of local economical development.

The event is a **workshop** on these themes, divided in 3 main sections:

- **Local development**: expectation and perspectives;
- **Labour market issues**: unemployment, job creation, integration of IDPs and refugees into the labour market;



Kragujevac

→ **Micro-credit opportunities** in Southern Serbia

A big number of local NGOs and Trade UNions active in the area, and particularly in Kragujevac where the workshop will be hold, have been involved in the organization skill, as well as NGOs and local institution of several european countries.

5) Rights of young people, Kraljevo, 29/06/01

The project will be implemented in co-operation with the local NGO "DRK" (Society for a Culture Development) and net of local youth organisation active in all four of the cities (Student Union – Nis; Forum of Kra



Kraljevo

gujevac; Association of Disabled Students – Nis, Belgrade; OTPOR – Nis, Leskovac, Kragujevac; Civic Parliament – Leskovac).

- **Workshop** on "young people participation to community life and social processes", "local authorities agenda on youth issue", "rights of children".
- **Movie club on youth issues (2 months)**: the movie club will base its activities in Kraljevo, where DRK is operating and will start the projections starting from the next week.
- **Youth day**: creative activities throughout the town. All the four cities covered by the future ADL will be involved in that part of the project and will involved in the realisation all youth organisation present on the area.

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"Equal opportunities in words and deeds"

The economic rights of the Macedonian citizens are on a very low level, and consequently the realization of the other rights is very tough. From the other hand, the reforms that take place are aimed towards satisfying certain economic categories, likewise impeding the inflation, liberalisation of the relations, stability of the national currency, without taking into account the situation that people are faced with. This was emphasised during the seminar "Equal opportunities in words and deeds", organised by the LDA-Ohrid on 25th April 2001. Around 30 participants representing the unemployed people, Bureau for employment, Trade union organisations and agencies supporting SMEs, attended the seminar.

The experts, Mrs. Natalija Nikolovska and Mrs. Gordana Siljanovska, presented the results of the most recent inquiries. According to them 57 % of the population in Macedonia feel uncertain, and the prevailing element for this uncertainty is the unemployment. According to some indicators, in Macedonia currently from the active workforce even 370.000 are unemployed. This figure expressed in percents is around 53%. It is important to note that 20% of the unemployed people have university degree. The policy which is currently applied in the Macedonian economy seems as it is aimed at destroying the human being. In the first place it is a question of unreal and speculative economic policy. During the seminar were indicated some points, where efforts should be done in order to improve the current policy, and to enable resolving the problem of unemployment. In the first place the accumulation in the economy should be improved and economic growth should be enabled. It has a first-degree importance if we would like to achieve certain results, which can not be evident in a short term. Besides, it should be worked on certain factors that deter-

riorate the accumulation. In that context it would be necessary to establish an agency which will work against corruption, which takes away large part of the accumulation. Professor Nikolovska pointed out the importance of investment in the human resources and in the affirmation of the local authorities and local government management. Also, it is very important to strengthen the role of the trade union.

Professor Siljanovska spoke about the needs that are expressed by certain subjects in the political system in Macedonia, and from the other hand the authority which does not respond appropriately towards these needs. Due to this fact it is necessary to comprehend the relations between the needs and their solving by the authority, as well as its legacy.

At the end as particularly important were noted the steps that should be done: decentralisation of the power, strengthening the local self-government and the local public services, establishing a commission for ethics which will permanently control the politicians, from the aspect of the corruption which unfortunately is more and more present, strengthening the role of the trade union and getting the function of important factor in the society, which should be developed as civil society.

During the debate the participants put numerous questions concerning the possibilities of development of economic system in Macedonia, industrial growth, system's solutions for the unemployment and the impeding the tendencies for resolving this problem on the basis of political belonging which unfortunately is more and more present and contributes to the politicalisation of the public administration.

Mirjana Lozanoska
Delegate of the LDA-Ohrid

Ohrid, 25th April 2001



Women's rights

Local Democracy Agency Sisak (Croatia)

On 2 April it was held the first training within the gender issue project financed by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. The lecturer was Mrs. Mirjana Radakovic, from Centre for Peace Studies in Zagreb.

The issue of the first seminar tackled international legislation on women's right.

The training was designed in a way to involve directly the participants in a dynamic "learning by doing" process where people were prompted to elaborate personally the inputs given by the trainer.

The first part of the workshop was mainly dedicated to the acquaintance of the participants, their warming up, their subdivision into groups for the leading of the exercises they have been offered.

The second part was mainly dedicated to the presentation, discussion, elaboration of the international tools for the recognition of violation of women's rights and their protection.

The atmosphere was charged with interest and involvement and the break opened the opportunity to the participants to confront themselves on these themes and for networking.

In the end of it the participants suggested some other issues need to be tackled in deep during further workshops which showed the effectiveness of the training itself as tool of education but also as elaboration.

Among the participants it was possible also to identify other lecturers for coming trainings, who, together with the attendants, drafted the training design for some remaining workshops in an optic of synergy between the real needs of the people involved and the answers to be given by the professionals.



The only regret to be mentioned is the total disinterest in the form of absence of social operators involved in local programs for the protection of women's rights in the Sisak-Banovina area.

Despite being contacted by the Agency as one of the main target for this project, their response was negative.

Michela Cavallini
LDA Sisak – Delegate

Getting ready for the Local Democracy Agency in Montenegro

Following the contacts established by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe with the Association of Cities of Montenegro for the past years, the Association of Local Democracy Agencies (LDA) was invited to examine the proposal to establish an Agency in Montenegro. Many contacts have been established and recently a mission of potential partners, conducted by Claude Casagrande on behalf of the LDA Association, was organised in January 2001. The results of this mission were presented to the Governing Board of the LDA Association on 23 January 2001.

Given its geographical location, the partners proposed that the city of Niksic be the seat of the future Agency, a proposal confirmed by the Governing Board of the Association. It was agreed, from the beginning, that this Agency would have a **regional scope of activities**, therefore working in close co-operation with all Montenegrin Municipalities, in particular the city of Kotor, which had also candidate to become an LDA host city.

In the year 2000, the Association of the Local Democracy Agencies received from the Irish Government, thanks to the co-ordination of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe, a grant for the realisation of an LDA in Central and Southern Serbia and in Montenegro in the framework of the activities of the Table 1 of the Stability Pact. As agreed, this grant will be used for setting up the first activities of the Agency and the following proposal proposes the activities for this first grant.

The Association of the Local Democracy Agencies will work as co-ordinator of this first activities until when the LDA will be legally and fully established.

EAST STAFFORSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL has declared its availability to be partner leader of the LDA in Montenegro and it will be considered as a partner of the co-ordination team in this first activities. The partner leader will be officially nominated during the first partner meeting.

The city of Niksic has indicated the contact person who is the support in this phase of establishment of the office : Stanisa Surbatovich

The network of the potential partners is composed :

ASSOCIATION OF CITIES OF MONTENEGRO

- East Staffordshire Borough Council – UK
- Ville de Neuchatel - CH
- Association Betton Montenegro – FR
- Foundation for the Support of Local Democracy - Poland
- City of Geneva - CH
- AICCRE Marche – I
- City of Ancona – I
- Causes Communes Suisses - CH

- Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia – I
- Cities of Niksic, Rozaije and Kotor

The objectives of the project approved are :

- To set up the Local Democracy Agency in Niksic
- To define the group of partners supporting the LDA, the leadership of the programme and the Delegate.
- To define the priorities of the future activities of the LDA
- To increase the knowledge of the local authorities of Montenegro about the European Charter on Self-government
- To increase the capacity of youth of being included in the local decision-making.

Activities planned until end of July

- Setting up the LDA : inauguration session 11th of May 2001
- Partner meeting – Niksic 11th of May
- Conference on the European Charter on Local Self-Government – Niksic – 12th of May

The Conference will be organised by the representative of the city of Niksic and the Association of the LDA.

The objective is to present to the local authorities of Montenegro the European Charter on Self-Government and to exchange experiences about it with the partners of the LDA.

It will also be the case to present the situation of local self-government in Montenegro.

The conference will also give the indication for future activities for the LDA in Niksic concerning this issue.

- Workshop for youth and their inclusion in the local decision-making – Kotor - July

The workshop will include NGOs and youth groups of Montenegro. The meeting will be attended also by local authorities representatives. Representatives of youth groups of the other LDAs will attend to bring to the new LDA their experience.

The event will present the different methods and level of participation of youth in the decision-making at the local level. The workshop will be realised with working groups on different topics and will produce a document with the indications for the future activities of the LDA in this field.

One day will be dedicated to the intercultural dialogue with a particular attention to the Sandjak region. The youth group will report and exchange their experiences about their work in intercultural dialogue and their plan of actions in this field.

Two day event. The workshop will be further on developed and précised during the working session of the partner meeting.

PROGRAMMES CO-ORDINATED BY THE ASSOCIATION OF THE LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES 2001

Promotion of civil society and democratisation :

- 1) Development of an inclusive participative democracy – Ohrid (Macedonia)
- 2) School for journalism: free, independent and multiethnic information – Prijedor (Bosnia and Herzegovina – Republika Srpska)
- 3) Promotion of Roma cultural heritage in the areas of Bjelina and Kalesija in Bosnia and Herzegovina – Tuzla (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- 4) Ecology campaign in the Zavidovici area (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- 5) Development of civil society : implementation of women's rights, Sisak (Croatia)
- 6) Transborder co-operation in euroregion Danube, Drava, Sava), Osijek (Croatia)
- 7) School of civil society, Verteneglio/Brtonigla (Croatia)
- 8) Cultural diversity and civic image of Vojvodina region : confidence building measures, Subotica (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Serbia)
- 9) Seminar of European charter on Local Self Government, Niksic Montenegro
- 10) International seminar on the role of youth in the decision-making process at the local level, Kotor Montenegro
- 11) Seminars and debates of human rights, towards the establishment of the Local Democracy Agency in Central and Southern Serbia (Nis, Kragujevac, Kraljevo, Leskovac)

Democratisation :

- 1) Strengthening the function and competencies of the local government, Ohrid (Macedonia)
- 2) School of civil society, Osijek (Croatia)
- 3) Civil Society, trade unions and local self government – New actors of civil society in local communities, Subotica (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Serbia)
- 4) promoting Local Government in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Tuzla (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- 5) Promotion of youth council of young people, Sisak (Croatia)
- 6) Peace is young, help to help, Zavidovici (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- 7) Training for trainers : elected leadership and communications skills – for the network
- 8) Training for local authorities and civil servants of our network

(April 2001)

THE LDA IN OSIJEK INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL BOARD “LINK DIVERSITY” OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OR CROATIA

During April 2001, the LDA in Osijek had the opportunity to be in touch with several representatives from OSCE and their department for political affairs, mission in Croatia.

Following the field of activities sponsored by the Swiss Agency for Development, the Agency was present at an important round table concerning transborder co-operation between cities Pecs, Osijek, Tuzla, Subotica for developing concrete initiatives in order to establish a mutual data base with the list of all small and medium enterprises, their work, which might be very significant for our Euroregion.



On that gathering, the representatives of the Agency had very useful talk with Mrs Indira Konjihodzic´ from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mrs Jagic´ from the Organisation of Small and Medium Enterprises of Croatia.

In April, the Agency was also informed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that we as LDA Osijek, together with some other NGOs, have been included in the National Board of the big project "Link Diversity".

This project started in the frame of the Stability Pact Working table 1 together with the Council of Europe, Department for Political Affairs, whose coordinator is Mr Michael Ingledow. This project is an opportunity for the local government, local institutions and for NGOs. We already organised several meetings with some NGOs in April and May to inform them better and we took time in our seminar to present this project.

Miljenko Turniski
Delegate in Osijek



Local Democracy Agency Zavidovici (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Update on the activities implemented in the frame of the Ecology programme financed by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation – April 2001

After the official presentation of the programme to the Municipality (March) and meetings with the Civil Protection Department, the Schools, the Mountaineer Association, the Youth Centre and the Zavidovici Eko movement, a first time schedule of activities was drafted and the programme was presented to the media. During several meetings, persons in charge of the different activities were decided.

In April a comprehensive map on existing minefields and "unsafety zones" has been finalized on computer. The work was coordinated by Mr Izet Basic, responsible of the Civil Protection Municipal Department; Mr Faruk Memisevic, Civil Protection mines expert; Mr Mirsad Camdzic, firefighter brigade commander, mine zone map producing expert. The information was raised from the Municipality, the Civil Protection Dept., the Bosnian Army, the international army in BiH (Sfor), the Red

Cross and from simple citizens.

On the 25th of April the first ecological day was realized: in Kamenica (mountain area close to Zavidovici city on the river Gostovici), over 100 youth cleaned a vast compound, collected trash (then transported with lorries)



Ecological group – LDA Zavidovici

and prepared goals for basket and football. The coordinator of the action was Mr Mensur Sinanovic, professor of the Zavidovici Gymnasium, member of mountaineer association committee.

On the 28th of April the "Peace tree plantation" took place in the Zavidovici city. Italian students coming from Brescia (Moretto school) took

part to the activity together with Bosnian students. Coordinator of the peace tree group was Mr Milan Scekcic, professor of the Srednja Tehnicka Skola.

The Delegate
Andrea Rossini

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO BE MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION!

Local and Regional Authorities:

1-10.000	250 Euros
10.000-50.000	500 Euros
50.000-200.000	1.000 Euros
200.000-1.000.000	2.000 Euros
1.000.000 or plus	4.000 Euros
NGO	250 Euros

Actual persons:

50 Euros

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