



The General Assembly approved the new guidelines of the Association for the next three years.

Strengthening of the Local Democracy Agencies and their partnership network, in order to encourage the focus on economic local development and to launch the first pilot activity outside South Eastern Europe.

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Mr. Moris Bonacini, on behalf of the city of Reggio Emilia (Italy), member of the ALDA and partner of the LDA for Central and Southern Serbia



Mr. Jean Louis Testud, deputy Mayor of Suresnes, member of the Association and supporting the LDA for Central and Southern Serbia



Mr. Jesus Maestro Garcia, Deputy Mayor of Barcellona (Spain), partner LDA for Central and Southern Serbia

With the participation of more than forty members of the Association and all the Local Democracy Agencies represented, the General Assembly of the ALDA, on 11th of December 2003 in Strasbourg, approved the general guidelines for its activities for the next three years.

Indeed, as underlined by the President, Mr. Gianfranco Martini and by the members of the Association, our organisation has achieved important results this year. In particular a) to strengthen the programme of the LDAs and their network b) a wider recognition at international and local level

c) an increased number of activities on site
4) a developed local ownership of the programme. This programme is now confirmed as one of the most and successful programmes for democratisation and capacity building for civil society in South Eastern Europe.

All the participants, members of the Association and partners of LDAs, share their vision of future concepts. This has given the LDAs the opportunity of a regional approach to these questions with a relevant impact on the targeted communities.

At international level, the role of the LDAs and their methodology of decentralised co-operation has been highly recognised and appreciated.

It represents one amongst the main programmes of the Congress of the Local and Regional Authorities. This was formally confirmed by the signature of the convention between the Council of Europe and the ALDA, in June 2002. Furthermore, the LDAs are significant participants of the Stability Pact for South and Eastern Europe. This evidence attracts an increased number of voluntary contributions (Switzerland, Lichstenstein, Finland, Ireland, Local Government and Public Reform initiative, Canton Basel Stadt and Luxembourg - thanks to the support of the President of the CPLRE).

The Association allowed a substantial improvement in the quality of the co-ordination of the whole programme (website, shared agenda of LDAs, experts' list, steering committees). It also assured daily administrative support to the LDAs and kept the necessary contacts with the Council of Europe. The General Assembly of the LDAs decided to



approve important strategic planning for the next three years. The first objective is to strengthen the capacity of the LDAs to fulfil their mandate especially while consolidating their network of partners. Facing the new challenges for the future, the Association expressed its wish to strengthen the focus of the LDAs on local and economic development. It will also focus on consolidating the membership of the Association for wider recognition of local authorities from European States. Given the successful implementation of the methodology of city to city co-operation for the promotion of democratic rule, good governance and pluralism in the decision-making process in SEE, the Association has decided to undertake initial pilot activities outside of South Eastern Europe.

The Local Democracy Agencies, by including local participants from local authorities and NGOs and from all over Europe, aim to provide a reference and become stakeholder for the enlargement process of the European Union.

The network of the LDAs will be increased in 2003 with the new Agency for Kosovo, based in Gjilane. The partnership network of the LDA Tuzla will need to be checked by the end of June; As far as the proposal for an LDA Mostar, the Mayor, Mr. Neven Tomic, will work to present a future programme for partnership and activities.

To complete the number of elected representative of the Governing Board, Mr. Jean Louis Testud, deputy Mayor of the city of Suresnes (France) as well as Mrs. Nada Sevo, Mayor of the city Prijedor, were appointed in the Board.

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities gave its awards to the local authorities who joined the programme by supporting the LDAs or the ALDA as active participants in decentralised co-operation.

The potential partners of the future LDA in Kosovo met in Strasbourg 10th of December 2003. This meeting followed a first preparatory event, which consisted of a fact-finding mission in July 2002. The partners met in Strasbourg and that gave them the opportunity to learn about the Council of Europe structures and their involvement in the Local Democracy Agencies. The meeting had very operational objectives: to evaluate the final commitment of the partners and to present the programmes and the budget.

The inauguration of the LDA has been set for the 15th of February 2003.

The meeting was very well attended from the representatives from Kosovo as 5 mayors of the region attended the session.

The Council of Europe presented its activities, in particular within Kosovo, and the afternoon meeting was co-chaired by the Director of the ALDA, Mrs. Antonella Valmorbida and by Mr. Steve DUCHENES, project manager of the ALDA for the programme in Kosovo and future Delegate.

This year the programme received substantial funding from Irish Aid and, based on positive reports, it will be continued, with two more years of activities. Ireland was represented during the meeting by Mrs. Orla Mac Breen, Deputy of the Ambassador Justin HARMANN. Their commitment has to be considered as a part of their activities in the Stability Pact for South and Eastern Europe. They also support the LDA Montenegro and Centre and Southern Serbia. They are particularly happy that the process also looks towards transborder co-operation (in particular towards FRYOM). She thanked the team of the ALDA for their productive work.

Mrs. VALMORBIDA underlined how this phase of the process is particularly delicate and difficult. It is necessary to find participants who are different, with contrasting decision-making processes. The development of the LDA Kosovo as been an excellent example. An Agency is usually the outcome of a process which has already been started on the ground. That was the case of the work already done by Kosovo Ensemble. The LDA is also an instrument for combining activities, which are bilateral.

Mr. Steve DUCHENE reminded the meeting that all his team must be thanked, as Kosovo Ensemble.

Mr. Lutfi HAZIRI expressed his satisfaction at already reaching this point. It had been a dream



LDAs' network 2003

Final preparatory meeting for the opening of the Local Democracy Agency for Kosovo. The Agency will be opened on 15th of February 2003 with French and British partners.

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for us in the past, and quickly it has become reality. They are currently implementing the third phase following the municipal elections: they are setting up all the committees and the civil structures. This must be completed by the end of next year.

For them, the LDA is to develop democracy and co-operation with citizens, with communities and neighbours. First of all we want to start good co-operation already existing in the region. The LDA team means to support this process at a crucial time. Next year, the situation will be difficult and crucial as they'll start the process of privatisation. Mr. HAZIRI thanked Mr. Winterhalter for what he did years ago when the situation was difficult. He initiated the process of Kosovo Ensemble. He thanked all the potential partners, LGIB and finally the Irish Government for their donations. The programme is important for Kosovo but also for transborder co-operation (Bujanovac in Serbia and Kumanovo in FRYOM).

Mr. Steve DUCHENE reported the fact that they have worked mainly this year towards for the preparation of the opening. This is also the result of the existing partners at the international and local level. We also supported the contact for the first activities supported by Irish Aid. In particular, there is a programme on transborder co-operation with cities from South East Serbia and FRYOM. There is also the training of the youth groups at the local level as well as a set of seminars for local development.

There were also on going activities for future partners that would be useful for them. This is the case for the Mouvement pour une initiative non violente and Balkan Peace Team that are beginning work. Further to this, there are programmes, which have been also negotiated and agreed by the ALDA as part of the whole network.

The different activities are transborder co-operation, youth programmes, strengthening local authorities and civil society, economic development and minorities. Those activities are proposed for the LDA next year.

Participation of Mayors from Kosovo at the meeting.



The future partner of the LDAs will be:

- Kosovo Ensemble, Presidente, Steve DUCHENE (project manager ALDA)
- Chelmsford (UK), Chief Executive, Mr. Martin EASTEAL
- Arun (UK), Chief Executive, Mr. Ian Sumnall
- MAISON DE LA CITOYENNETE, Project Manager, Mr. Roger WINTHERALER
- Association ALFA, Mrs. Carole LEBLANC
- Association AFASAK, President, Mr. Joël EHRHART
- Equipe de Paix dans les Balkans, Ms. Emmanuelle BOURCIER
- LDA Subotica, Delegate, Stanka PARAC
- Youth Planet, Helene MARSOT



The cities from Kosovo represented in Strasbourg were:

- Mayor of Gjilane and President of the Association of the Mayors of Kosovo, Mr. Lutfi HAZIRI
- Mr. Ismet BEQIRI, Mayor of Prishtina
- Mr. Faruk SPAHIU, Mayor of Mitrovica
- Mr. Femi MUJOTA, Mayor of Stimje
- Mr. Ali LAJQI, Mayor of Pej

The following different organisations gave a substantial support:

- LGIB, Project director, Mr. James BEADLE
- Association of Norwegian Towns, Project Director, Mr. Oystein HAUGEN
- Cités Unies France, Project manager, Mrs Karine L'HOSTIS

Potencial partners LDA Kosovo

How To Evaluate The Impact Of The Work Of The Local Democracy Agencies?

In December 2002, all of the delegates of the Local Democracy Agencies attended their annual seminar of “how to evaluate the impact of the local democracy agencies”. The discussion was supported by the Director, Mrs. Antonella Valmorbidia and by Mr. Keith Jones, East Staffordshire Borough Council and Secretary of the ALDA. The Delegate of LDA Ohrid, Ms. Mirijana Lozanoski introduced the support of the Logical Framework Analysis as a possible basis for project proposals and for the evaluation of the outcome.

The main difficulties in evaluating our activities are:

- the long term impact which cannot fit precisely into the project description and final report
- the activity for communities and social issues which cannot be fully measured by figures
- the Local Democracy Agency produces a larger result by existing than just the sum of the implemented projects.
- The reporting activities and the bureaucratisation of the activities of the Delegates is already putting pressure on those involved. We must take care not to increase this burden even more.

As far as reporting back to the funders is concerned, it was agreed to produce a clear list of verifiable indicators. It was agreed that the objective to report on the impact, for each set of funding, would have to be scaled down to achieve effectively measurable results in the short and medium term.

As far as the long term impact of the Agencies themselves is concerned, it was agreed to propose a different evaluation form which would give a real sense of the impact obtained throughout the years.

The LDAs expressed the need to follow this discussion in a further training session.

- Luxembourg will support the training for the LDAs in management skills;
- Project proposal to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy, Law 84/2001, Reconstruction of the Balkans;
- The Canton of Basel confirmed its support to the programme “Transborder co-operation and interethnic dialogue” 50.000 Frs.

The programme “Transborder co-operation and interethnic dialogue” sees the eight LDAs involved in different activities.

Promoting civil society and transborder co operation
LDA Ohrid (“the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia”)

Transborder cooperation in the euroregion Danube Drava Sava
LDA Osijek (Croatia)

Integration of women in the Croatian society through the establishment of a centre for support and aggregation
LDA Sisak (Croatia)

Training seminar for young political leaders
LDA Subotica (Serbia / Serbia and Montenegro)

Strengthening of the coordination capacities between the Associations of Municipalities in the two Entities of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Brcko District
LDA Tuzla (Federation of BiH / Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Environment, health, development
LDA Zavidovici (Federation of BiH / Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Prijedor Stage of journalism for a free independent and multiethnic information and school for peace
LDA Prijedor (Republika Srpska / Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Actors of tomorrow's Europe
LDA Brtonigla-Verteneglio (Croatia)

The **Canton of Basel (Switzerland)** thanks to the interest of Mr. Hans Martin Tschudi, Minister for Justice and member of the Swiss Delegation at the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, decided to support the activities with 50.000 Frs. This contribution allows completion of fundraising for the 2002/2003 programme, which is already partly supported by the Swiss Agency for Development, Finland and Liechtenstein.

The Association of the LDAs also presented a project for 2003 for improving the managerial skills of the Agencies' staff.

The programme was opened by a voluntary contribution from the Council of Europe member states. **Luxembourg** accepted to finance the activities. The training will be realised thanks to co-operation FPDL Romania. The Association of the LDAs is part of the network of Working Together (a network of Eastern and South Eastern training institutions), co-ordinated by FPDL Romania (<http://www.fpd.ro/>) which could provide us with relevant trainers and manuals. We have implemented 2 TOTs and several training for local authorities and NGOs.

The aims are:

- **Human resources Management:** Perspective on managing and developing human resources, Establishing competitive wage benefit packages, Steps in the employment process, Strategies for developing staff performance, Establishing and implementing a performance appraisal system, How to manage disciplinary, Termination and downsizing situations, How to write an employee handbook, How to write a job description, Assessment toll for analyzing the organization HRM system and procedures, Employing and developing volunteers
- **Financial Management:** Transparency, sustainability and accountability - the three principles underlying NGO Financial Management, Financial records and reporting system, Annual budgeting process, Developing and managing cash flow, Purchasing, Internal controls, Managing goods and equipment, Auditing and financial possibilities, Self assessment instruments on financial management, Organizational strength and integrity, Developing a business plan based on the organizational assessment results, Financial record keeping, annual and cash flow budget preparation.
- **Outreach Capacity:** Communicating and influencing processes, Inter-personal and inter-organizational communication strategies, Media relations, How to package information to reach clients, Networking, The visionary role and strategic thinking, How to influence the public policy process, Lobbying skills as part of the influencing process

*Training activities realised
by the LDA Subotica,
Serbia, November 2002*



The **ALDA** also submitted to the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy** a large project for capacity building in South Eastern Europe. It is planned to support activities for three years in all the **11 LDAs**:

- TOTs and training for local authorities and NGOs
- Case studies of participatory planning process
- Youth programmes and exchanges
- Info centre for the LDAs

The project is now under evaluation by the MAE. The budget line is law 84/2001, reconstruction of the Balkans (MAE and Committee of Ministers)

TRAINING SEMINAR FOR COUNCILLORS AND NGO MEMBERS

Topusko, 29th & 30th of November 2002

Thanks to the cooperation between Local Democracy Agency Sisak and the support of the Cooperation centre OSCE Sisak, on the 29th and 30th 2002 in Topusko the training seminar 'Public relations and project proposal preparation' was carried out. 25 participants attended the seminar, councillors and NGOs representatives from the area of Sisak-Moslavina county. This is the follow-up of previous LDA programmes aimed at the education and empowerment of local self-government representatives and NGO activists. The two-days' seminar was conducted by LDA lecturers/trainers, Tatjana Puskaric and Julije Katancevic. Through this program, so far the following councillors participated - representatives from Popovaca, Jasenovac, Topusko, Hrvatska Kostajnica, Dvor, Glina, Sisak and NGOs "Kaos," "Eko udruga Dvor" , "Novi svijet" and others.

ACTION "I CAN DE-MINE ONE SQUARE METER"

Veneto region-Sisak, December 2002

GENERAL INFORMATION

The territory of Republic of Croatia is 56 542 km², and approximately 1700 km² are contaminated by mines, land-mines and unexploded military objects. The realistic situation is that in the territory of Croatia the war left behind about 1 million different types of mines and other explosive objects. Croatia has 21 Counties and 14 of them are covered partly with land-mines.

For four years, the Croatian Center for land-mines managed to clear 113, 22 square kilometers previously covered by land-mines.

In the period between 1991 and 2001 there has been 1360 mine incidents reported, with 1836 persons registered as victims. Until 1995 those most at risk were soldiers, but after the war and with the return of the refugees most of the victims are civilians.

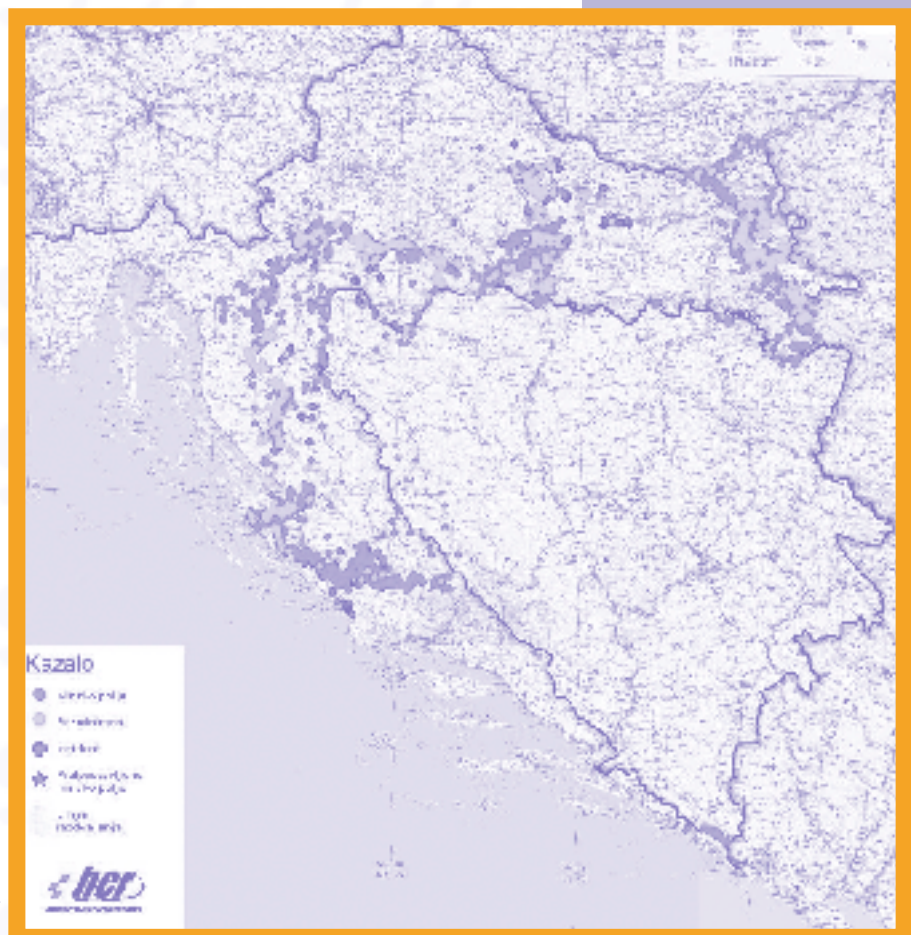
In 1998 the Croatian Government established the "Croatian action center against mines", with the main aim to plan and implement the demining of the whole country. The aim of the demining activity, is to clear whole territory by 2010.

THE ACTION "I CAN DE-MINE ONE SQUARE METER"

The action has been initiated by the City of Mogliano Veneto and agreed between LDA Sisak and the Trust fund for humanitarian de-mining 'Croatia without mines'. The aim of the action is to implement the big campaign with LDA partners and to raise funds for the de-mining of mine-fields in the Sisak and Petrinja area. Tickets priced at 1 EURO (that is the price of one square meter de-mining) have been sold from December 2002 to April 2003 to individuals, companies, associations, authorities in whole Veneto region in Italy. This action has received the support from the Council of Europe and a contribution from the Congress of local and regional authorities of Europe.

Recently, the action has been supported by Croatian counties and cities that have no mine problems in their territory and who will help to raise funds. The action is just about to start in Primorsko-goranska county, cities of Zagreb, Varazdin, Koprivnica, Sisak etc...

The land mine situation in Croatia



6. ACTIVITIES LDA SUBOTICA, SERBIA

Within the framework of Heading 169 Program of activities: New Concept of Local Self-government in Serbia: Problems and Perspectives. The Local Democracy Agency Subotica organized three seminars in total and is preparing a special publication on the issues discussed. This consisted of a seminar on theoretic concept and a general overview of the new legislation in local self-governance in Serbia (in May 2002) and a seminar on participation of youth in decision making (September 2002.). The third international seminar on the subject of NGO-s and local self-governments in trans-frontier cooperation, gathering thirty five participants was held in Subotica Town Hall from 4-6 October 2002.

Trans-frontier and euro-regional perspective of the co-operation of local and regional NGO-s and local self-governments attracted a lot of attention from the participating organizations, mainly from the Voivodina region and partner organizations from neighboring countries: Croatia, Hungary and Romania. As well as the Mayor of Subotica, Mr. Istvan Ispanovic and Mr. Geza Kucera, the President of Executive Council of Subotica, Ms. Barbara Avdalovic, deputy secretary of Voivodina Secretariat for international/regional cooperation also addressed the participants and in her key note speech emphasized some characteristics of the recently formed Secretariat, whose main objective is to establish and foster international contacts with various regional authorities abroad. So far, bilateral agreements on cooperation have been signed with Istria, as well as neighbouring counties in Croatia. Also Voivodina is included in neighboring euro-regional cooperation with the regions: Danube-Drava-Sava and DKMT region. The overall objectives of regional authorities are to create conditions for manifold cooperation of various organizations and institutions, above all to consider the need to speed up the process of international reintegration and economic recovery in Voivodina.

Taking into consideration the level of NGO-s regional networking and their effectiveness in implementing a wide range of projects, Mr. Aleksandar Popov, Director of the Center for Regionalism in Novi Sad, reiterated the need to develop more effective partnerships with local self-governments and regional authorities of Voivodina in order to create synergy in achieving common objectives. Experiences of cooperation in the framework of two major projects like Igman Initiative (gathering hundreds of civil organizations from Voivodina, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina) or the Visa Abolishment Campaign initiated by the Citizens' Pact in Voivodina show that positive outcomes may be achieved through joint initiatives of efficient networks of participating organizations. The Positive impact achieved was both the result of synergy, but also the result of carefully designed awareness raising campaigns, in which the civil sector is showing the ability to break the ice and give the incentive to measures taken by the state bodies in reaching bilateral agreements.

Ilona Mihaies (Euroregional Center for Democracy, Timisoara) and Corina Raceanu (Intercultural Institute, Timisoara), as well as Miljenko Turniski (Local democracy Agency, Osijek) and Tihomir Salajic (Osijek Municipality) in their introductory notes presented the work of regional NGO networks of DKMT region and Danube- Drava- Sava region respectively. They stressed the need for a more effective exchange of information and institutionalized forms of mutual cooperation within civil sectors of respective regions. In addition, the wide range of facilitators included requires a specific and thematic approach, particularly within youth oriented programmes. Institutional forms of cooperation and establishing partnerships between major regional NGO-s could help maintain a more comprehensive development of local self-governments (particularly of those in Voivodina) in regional initiatives. Namely, it is necessary to support the local civil organizations in their efforts aimed at local partnerships with authorities and other local institutions in carrying out various forms of trans-frontier and regional cooperation.

Participants in the discussion highlighted the need for further implementation of the projects related to strengthening local capacities for trans-frontier cooperation in which both local civil organizations and local authorities should play an important role. Their mutual partnership, particularly at regional level, should be supported through various programmes of relevance for speeding up the process of inclusion of Voivodina in regional initiatives with neighbouring countries. This is the field within which Local Democracy Agency Subotica may also identify its potential contribution in close conjunction with municipal authorities, to develop relevant projects supported by the Council of Europe and Congress of Local and Regional Authorities.

Mrs. Stanka Parac Damijanović

In the summer of 2002 the results of the first six months' activities in elementary schools and high schools of Prijedor and Sanski Most were presented. This was mainly promoted by Local Democracy Agency of Prijedor with the support of Confidence Building Measures of Council of Europe and carried out by a local multiethnic association of teachers, named Diakom.

Prijedor and Sanski Most are two cities of Bosnia and Herzegovina each of them belonging to the two different entities the former is Republic of Srpska and the latter is the Federation of BiH. Today in Prijedor there are about fifty thousand residents of Serbian nationality, about twenty thousand Serbian refugees and dps and about twenty thousand Bosnian and Croatian returnees. There are about eight thousand returnees to Sanski Most. Wherever you go, you can find economic difficulties which have been caused by the war. The destruction

of many homes and productive structures originated from the heavy economical and institutional crisis which have been severely striking the states "in transition" of this area.

Thirteen classes from eight different schools included; more than 450 children that took part in a series of workshops run by their teachers. In order to discuss, reflect and confront various issues regarding peace and tolerance, diversity, sentiments of fear and anxiety.

Topics also included the process of returning to their hometowns whereby people become a minority group and the non-violent resolution of conflicts.

The initiative has been appreciated a great deal by both the children and their

teachers. This is a new concept in considering the school itself, school mates and teachers and discussing the topics in an unusual way, but so meaningful for each child who had first hand experience of the war, exile and difficulty in returning to their home.

"These issues are not being discussed within families, and only within the class" children are able to discuss them in an open manner in order to initiate elaboration" says Milka, one of the teachers "without fear of confronting the parents still aggravated by mourning and sufferings related to uprooting and great material difficulties". These children need to comprehend what happened and what is happening to their lives, to "name" the difficulties that they are confronting and which alternative solutions there possibly are: non violent transformations of conflicts, acceptance of diversity, collaboration such as fundamental instruments for a peaceful and democratic co-existence; notions extremely "original" in a place where fifty thousand people were forced to leave everything behind simply because they were not Serb: and therefore different, due to the potential new leading group, but above all, because of nationalistic propaganda which had claimed they were possible "reincarnations" of Serbian enemies from World War II: the Croatian ustasas in this area was soiled by incomprehensible crimes committed on Serbs, Jews and Romanians.

Stories were being spread, making it difficult to decide what to dedicate one's attention and time to – temptation and tension were ever present. "When the children refugees were designing their future homes, in which they would return, the walls were thick as if they were fortresses, the windows were small and there were no doors" tells us another teacher "the dark colour in order to prevent anyone from writing over any threatening slogan". Fear and anxiety hide behind the process of return; aspects that have to be taken into consideration when promoting

Diplomacy to talk amongst students and teachers of Serbian, Croatian and Bosnian nationality about peace and non violent behaviour in schools in Prijedor

7.

LDA Prijedor



the renewal of co-existence on a territory devastated by civil war and ethnic cleansing. The renewal of co-existence is not only about the houses, minarets and church towers being rebuilt nor factories being privatised. It starts with people, their feelings and their emotions, the need for truth and justice, their anxieties and fear to elaborate. Starting with the most fragile and the most precious thing, the young, within schools.

This workplace has been chosen by a multiethnic group of female associations of Prijedor which, together with Local Democracy Agency of Prijedor, are trying to offer an answer to the question whose priorities, in their opinion, were to be realized, by the International Community, by the local and national governments and by civil society, in a community so complex as the city of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in order to promote co-existence and integration. A project of decentralized cooperation was needed and was carried out by the community of Prijedor itself, with the Local Democracy Agency as driving force and facilitator promoting

neutral meeting points and discussions among different ethnical groups, as an effective subject of people's diplomacy.

*Annalisa Tomasi, delegate of LDA Prijedor
August 2002.*

8.

Training of trainers for Local Democracy Agencies, supported by Local Government and Public Reform Initiative on "local government management" Veteneaglio/Brtonigla,

21st to 27th of
October 2002

Translation into Serbian, Croatian, Macedonian and Bosnian of the series of manuals "Leadership skills for councillor"

Local Government and Public Reform Initiative supported the Training of Trainers for "Local Government Management". Trainers from 9 LDAs were invited to attend the TOT in order to organize a training session consisting of three days before the end of the year in their own Agency (the training is to be held at the beginning of 2003).

This TOT is the following on from the first activity implemented in 2001/2002 (TOT and training for 9 LDAs, Local Elected leadership). It is also supported by the translation of all manuals into Serbian (already carried out and sent to LGI) and adaptation into Croatian, Macedonian and Bosnian. The adaptation will be complete by the end of the year.

The final trainees are employed by local authorities (civil servants and elected Members) of the cities and regions where the LDAs are from.

The TOT and the programme of training are carried out thanks to the co-operation with FPDL Romania. The AADL is a member of the Steering Committee for the programme "Working Together" and many staff members from the Agencies have attended TOT in the programme of "Working Together". The senior trainers of the TOT in Croatia are M Mrs. Daniela Plugaru and Doru Bularda, trainers of FPDL. The ALDA and FPDL benefit from each other by 1) increasing the



Training of Trainers in Veteneaglio

experience of training 2) developing the network of training agencies for local authorities. The programme will increase the capacity of training and relations with local authorities of the LDA staff for the consequent training as well as the other target groups of the activities of the Agencies. The programme involved 9 LDAs (4 countries involved). The Agencies are not only training agencies for local authorities but they develop their activities in the promotion and strengthening of civil society. They are supported by the Council of Europe and other funders of the Stability Pact.

The manuals used are **Local Government management manuals - UN Habitat (English version)**

The achievements are:

- Increased training capacities for 17 staff from LDAs working with local and regional authorities in SEE
- Specific training capacities for the implementation of training in the months for "Local Government Management"
- Strengthening the LDA network and its working together (exchanging experiences, sharing ideas, empowerment of common actions)
- Increasing the effect of network of "Working Together" lead by FPDL Romania
- Increasing the effect of training manuals of UN Habitat.

A Steering committee of the programme has been organised for December.

The Association of LDAs translated the series of manuals "Leadership skills for Councillor" into Serbian, Croatian, Macedonian and Bosnian. The file is available free of charge from the Secretariat of the Association (a.valmorbida@libero.it).



As representatives of the three Local Democracy Agencies in Serbia and Montenegro based at Subotica, Nis and Niksic, we attended the European Summer University in Birmingham from 8-26th July 2002.

This year's programme attracted participants of all ages from Germany, France, Denmark, Turkey, Russia, Morocco, Spain, Poland and other countries, and, for the first time, from Serbia and Montenegro.

We had intensive English language tuition, at the British Council accredited Brasshouse Language Centre and attended specific specialist courses provided by Birmingham's three universities and the City Council.

The topics covered for the three specialist courses were;

- Urban Planning & Regeneration
- Multi Racial Britain: Multi Racial Europe
- Europe in the 21st Century - History, Ideas and Institutions

*LDAs involved:
Sisak, Verteneglio,
Osijek, Prijedor,
Zavidovici, Subotica,
Nis, Obrij, Niksic*

9.

The ALDA supported the participation of the local assistants of the LDA for Central and Southern Serbia, Sbotica and Montenegro.

We all received a certificate from the organisers as evidence that we had completed our programme of study in both English language tuition and the specialist course

We were also able to attend topical public debates

- Cities in Tomorrow's Europe: Diverse, Different and Dynamic

With speakers from Berlin, Turin and the UK

- European Question Time

With a panel of MEPs

- Birmingham as European Capital of Culture:

- Corporate Social Responsibility: Hype, hot air or serious commitment?

With a panel of business representatives

We also had meetings and visits to our UK partners who are East Staffordshire Borough Council, Wolverhampton City Council and Kent County Council. This allowed us to get to know our UK partners better, share the working activity of our agencies and also feedback our experiences on the Summer University.

We have made recommendations for new activity and actions in our agencies as a direct result of our studies.

There are some key messages we would like to give:

- The establishment of the EU and the progress made since it was formed is a good example of how the acceptance of cosmopolitan attitudes and multicultural recognition can benefit the people and many countries. If these principles could be accepted in other countries, the world would be a better place to live in.

- We can learn a lot from exchange programmes, especially in the field of Urban planning, and we should put more effort in developing joint projects with partners.

- People from Europe should learn more about our country and people, if they want to help us in rebuilding our society after war and conflict.

- At the beginning we were shocked that in many application forms in the UK you have to fill in which ethnic minority you belong to. We thought that this is racial discrimination but, after a lot of discussion, we agreed that it's the only way to check if all ethnic groups are integrated in every day life; to fight against racial discrimination and to promote equality of opportunity and good relations between people of different racial groups.

At first, some of the other delegates wanted to talk about Serbia, wars, bombing, Milosevic, and relations between Montenegro and Serbia, Serbia and ex-Yugoslav republics. By the time the course ended we were talking about lots of other subjects and became one big family. There were lots of opportunities to really get to know each other and we enjoyed meeting people from other countries.

Everything was carefully planned, there were no problems, and the organizers should be congratulated on a job well-done!

We would like to thank the British Embassy in Belgrade, the Association of Local Democracy Agencies and our UK partners for their generous support, which made our attendance at this excellent event possible

We hope that representatives from other Agencies will be able to participate in future sessions of the European Summer University. The opportunity to improve our English and to meet with people from different European countries is one of the most important values that BESU gave to us.

The next BESU is 7-25 July 2003

By Jasminka Dulic(Subotica) - Milijana Merdovic (Nis) - Vesna Popov (Niksic)

Membership fees of the ALDA

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Local and Regional Authorities: | |
| up to 10.000 inhabitants | 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 |

The Local Democracy Agencies

| | | |
|---|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
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AWARDS OF THE CPLRE

Following the meeting of the Bureau of the Association of Local Democracy Agencies (LDA) of 25 October 2002, it is proposed that the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities grants the Diploma of intermunicipal and interregional partnership to the following active members supporting the Local Democracy Agencies (LDA) or the LDA Association (ALDA), therefore recognizing their role as active partners for the development of local democracy in South East Europe in their involvement in the Programme of Local Democracy Agencies.

The local and regional authorities proposed in 2002 are:

- Hrvatska Kostajnica (Croatia), partner LDA Sisak
- City of Roncade (Italy), partner LDA Sisak
- City of Suresnes (France), partner LDA for Central and Southern Serbia
- Province of Trento (Italy), member of the ALDA
- City of Ancona (Italy), member of the ALDA and partner LDA Montenegro
- Carlow County (Ireland), lead partner LDA Central and Southern Serbia
- Province of Venice (Italy), partner LDA Sisak
- Kent County Council (United Kingdom), member of the Association and partner LDA Central and Southern Serbia
- Reggio Emilia (Italy), member of the Association and partner LDA Central and Southern Serbia
- City of Barcelona (Spain), partner LDA Central and Southern Serbia