



REGIONALNA PARTNERSTVA ZA INTERKULTURALNU SARADNJU
REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR INTERCULTURAL EXCHANGE
Wolverhampton - Subotica - Osijek - Mostar



NOVEMBER 2009

NEWSLETTER

The Regional Partnership for Intercultural Exchange Project is a two year regional project co-financed by the European Commission and its sparring partners which consist of a set of events involving local authorities, civil society organisation and citizens which aims at enhancing networking and best practices among some South Eastern European municipalities.

The main aim of the project is to support diversity management in multiethnic communities such as Mostar, Osijek and Subotica, to improve the participation and inclusion of ethnic minorities as well as to highlight the richness of the several regional cultural traditions.

The leading applicant is the city administration of Subotica which relies on a network of non governmental organisation working on the fields of active citizenship, participatory democracy in the Western Balkans area and not also. In fact, the European network of Associations of Local Democracy Agency (ALDA) and the Lighthouse Media centre (UK) are equally involved.



EXPLANATION OF THE PROJECT STEP BY STEP

REGIONAL: The project is regional, because it is functioning in collaboration with three towns, located in three different countries, but in the same region. The projects locations are: Serbia, Autonomous Province Vojvodina, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia.

PARTNERSHIP: The project functions as a partnership between the LDA offices of the towns of Subotica, Mostar and Osijek and their respective municipalities. In addition, ALDA, the Association of LDAs and the Lighthouse Media Centre of Wolverhampton are supporting the project as partners with their experience and facilities. The five sparring partners will stay in a close co-operation during the whole project.

INTERCULTURAL: As already explained, the main aim of the project is to support a diversity management in multiethnic communities to improve the citizens' participation and the inclusion of ethnic minorities.

EXCHANGE: The project is designed as a regional co-operation between NGOs and towns in order to allow the partners to share experiences and best practices about diversity management. The partners will increase their skills and knowledge on the above-mentioned topics.





TARGET GROUPS

The main target group of the project are local authorities, community based organisations and active citizens, in a second, but non secondary order, ethnic minorities, young people, children, women, disabled. Thus, basically the whole population of the partner towns will benefit of the projects results.

PARTICIPANTS

MUNICIPALITY OF SUBOTICA



With approximately 150.000 inhabitants, Subotica is the second largest town in the Autonomous region of Vojvodina. The town is situated not more than 10 kilometres of the border with Hungary and close to the ones of Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Rumania. The current population of Subotica is composed of Hungarians 38,50, Serbs 24,14%, Croats 11,24%, Bunjevac 10,95%. The remaining 17, 17% are composed of: Yugoslavs, Montenegrins, Roma, Albanians, Ruthenians and a few other nationalities. Most of the ethnic communities have a common centenarian history, while others are newcomers as refugees and displaced persons from war affected areas. This creates new challenges to learn skills of urban cultural interaction. Unfortunately, during the 90s, Subotica experienced an ethnic fragmentation. Politics instigated an increased ethnic distance between the different communities and the lack of opportunities for intercultural communication became more and more visible. To counter this development in 2002 was initiated a process of institutionally supported confidence building at local level. The LDA Subotica plays an important role promoting solid relationships based on mutual respect and trust between the different ethnic communities. More info at: www.subotica.rs



LDA OSIJEK



Local Democracy Agency in Osijek is a non-governmental and non-profit association established in 1993 as a support programme of Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities to foster local democracy, human rights, sustainable development and local economic development in war stricken Eastern Croatia.

It has been registered as an association of the Republic of Croatia since 2001. It is established on principles of de-centralised international cooperation and since 1999, it has been an ALDA member. Since its establishing in 1993, LDA Osijek, in accordance with its mission, supports and fosters democracy at local level by strengthening and building capacities of different local stockholders and target groups in order to become efficient actors in their local communities.

More info at: <http://lda-osijek.hr/web>



LDA MOSTAR



LDA Mostar was officially inaugurated on the 22 of November 2004. It is the last Agency that came into existence out of the 11 Local Democracy Agencies operating in the territory of the former Yugoslavia. The LDAs network is coordinated by the Association of the Local Democracy Agencies, which is based in Strasbourg and gathers about 200 partners from 21 European countries. Although each Agency has its own identity and uniqueness, all the LDAs have adopted the same methodology and Mostar is no exception. Multilateral decentralised cooperation in fact involves many different actors. In particular, this methodology confirms the necessity of building peace, development and stability in Europe with a bottom-up approach. It is an ambitious goal, nevertheless the commitment has already created a strong and wide cooperation among local authorities, NGOs and European Institutions. More info at: www.ldamostar.org



LDA SUBOTICA



The Local Democracy Agency Subotica was founded the 1st October 1993, as a result of an agreement between the Council of Europe and the local authorities of Subotica. The LDA had as a main goal to promote local democracy and human rights despite the authoritarian regime Serbia had by this time. LDA Subotica is registered as local NGO. Since 1999, when ALDA was established, LDA Subotica operates as a member of the international ALDA-Network. The current and the future profile of the LDA Subotica are determined by the ALDA Network. The LDA Subotica contributes to achieve these aims at a regional level in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina in northern Serbia. On a national level the LDA Subotica co-operates with municipalities across Serbia and maintains a close collaboration with the LDA for Central and Southern Serbia in Niš. On an international level the LDA Subotica stays in regular contact and profits of a systematic co-operation with its partners from the ALDA-Network. More info at: www.lda-subotica.org

ALDA



The Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA) is an International non-governmental organisation founded in 1999 as an initiative of the Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities to coordinate a network of Local Democracy Agencies (LDAs) already in existence since 1993. The LDAs are local NGOs acting to foster Human Rights and local democracy. Different pillars of activities were rapidly added to ALDA's mission which nowadays include strengthening of European integration in different geographical areas including Caucasus, active citizenship and citizens' participation, fostering of equal opportunities and young policies, sustainable economic development. The ALDA's working method is based on decentralised and multilateral cooperation, cooperation between local, national and international partners, fostering of partnerships, partners exchange best practices, creating common projects to reach mutual benefits, technical assistance and training addressed to local authorities, associations and NGOs. More info at: <http://alda-europe.eu>

WOLVERHAMPTON'S MEDIA CENTRE



Light House aims to increase the enjoyment and understanding of technologically - based media, in particular film, video, photography and new media and to emphasise their importance to the cultural, social and economic life of Wolverhampton, the West Midlands and further afield. Within this project, the technical support and the realisation of the series of documentaries "Ethnicity and Diversity in the Balkans" is in charge of this organisation. The formal opening of Light House took place on 16 March 1987 by the Mayor of Wolverhampton, Councillor Bishan Dass, although activities had already taken place since the August of 1986. The programme guide for that period included, amongst other activities, courses in video production, seasons of science fiction films, an exhibition India and Independence marking the 40th anniversary of India's freedom from British rule and a conference about Black film making.

More info at: www.light-house.co.uk



EVENTS

YEAR 1: JULY 2009 – JUNE 2010

OPENING CONFERENCE:

“Consolidating partnership between civil society organisations and public authorities for raising minority rights in the region”

Brussels, 6-7 July 2009



The People 2 People Programme, which is one of the three strands of the Civil Society Facility of the Directorate-General for Enlargement of the European Commission, organises the opening conference for projects selected following the call for proposals “Support to civil society dialogue : Consolidating partnerships between civil society organisations and public authorities for raising minority rights in the region”, financed under the CARDS Regional Action Programme 2006 (EuropeAid/126361/C/ACT/Multi). Besides providing a space for the beneficiaries to meet and network among themselves, the conferences is an occasion to connect them with the European Commission as well as relevant stakeholders at an European level.

First meeting of the steering Group Thematic Round Table

Subotica, Serbia, 6-9 August 2009

School of Local democracy 1, Training seminar on Intercultural Governance,

Subotica, Serbia, 21-25 August, 2009

The school of local democracy is a five day residential training seminar for local government officials and civil society organisations held by intercultural governance workshops. The participants come from partner organisations of LDA Subotica, local authorities included in ALDA network both from EU and the Western Balkans, local civil society organisations and multiethnic municipalities from the Vojvodina region. Participants from EU countries will include Austria, Hungary, Italy, France, UK, Spain. The topics of the workshops will include administrative capacities and human rights-related issues, with special regards to:

- ▶▶ European standards in human and minority rights protection;
- ▶▶ Local self-government system;
- ▶▶ Diversity management skills;
- ▶▶ Public policy making and power sharing;
- ▶▶ Conflict prevention and resolution;
- ▶▶ Citizen participation at local level;

Second meeting of the steering Group, Intercultural exchange and Round Table 2

Osijek, Croatia, March, 2009

The participants will represent local authorities, civil society and minority communities from the regional partner cities and they will participate in round tables. In this way, these thematic round meetings will gather participants each and serve as peer-to-peer meeting for exchange of views and establish follow-up action proposals. Naturally, as the project would work in progress, the previous experiences would have already increased the level of expertise as the acquaintance among the partners.

YEAR 2: JUNE 2010-JULY 2011

School of Local Democracy 2 : Intercultural Youth Summer Camp, 2010, Osijek, Croatia

Five day training seminar on topics ranging from basic language tuition, language classes of everyday vocabulary in minority languages, including Croat, Hungarian, Roma and Ruthenian will be run. Furthermore, creative and artistic workshops, classes of folk dance, intercultural understanding and tolerance through history classes on basics about functioning of the local self-government basics on EU integration with particular emphasis on EU Youth Programme will take place. Afternoon visits to cultural sites, theatre performances, sport/leisure activities and thematic workshops conducted by the trainers/lecturers from partner organisations and the host partner organisation will be also part of the programme.

FINAL CONFERENCE, Mostar, BiH, 2010

Presentation of the Book: "Collection of reports on Intercultural Governance"

The preparatory activities include international call for written contributions as well as the selection, translation and editing of the publication in English, Serbian and Croat. The

set of papers will be presented

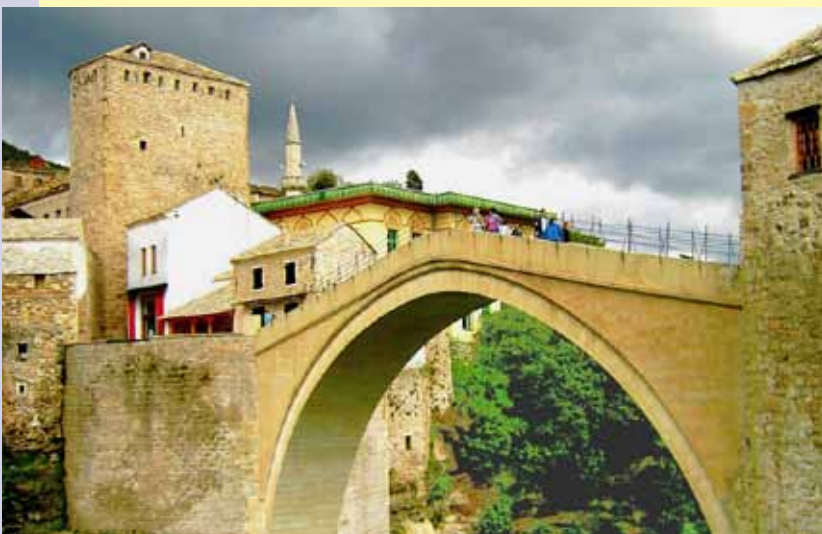
at the final conference to be held in Subotica and further disseminated for future follow-actions. This publication will serve to identify some of the key conditions of effective and efficient public service delivery in a decentralised legal, administrative and fiscal environment for ethnically diverse local communities. The main aim is development of the concept of responsive and transparent local self-government as an actor of improving equal access to public services.

School of Local Democracy 3 . Joint Thematic Conference: "Minorities and participation at local level".

The thematic conference on "Minorities and participation at local level" will be held on a EU, Regional and Cross-border perspective and it will include local NGOs from area of Serbia Hungary, Croatia, and Romania, local and regional elected or appointed councillors, experts and NGO practitioners and neighbourhood community centres. An Europe-wide call for papers has been announced at the beginning of the project and the authors of the written contributions selected will also be invited to take part in the conference.

Thematic workshops will include:

- ▶▶ Implementing European standards in local self-government system: from multicultural coexistence to interculturality;
- ▶▶ Effective and responsive performances/service delivery of local self-governments in multiethnic local communities,
- ▶▶ Participation and minorities in local self-government; intercultural understanding and tolerance : best local practice exchange;
- ▶▶ Exploring possibilities for follow-up actions and networking.



CONTACTS

SUBOTICA, CITY ADMINISTRATION

Trg Slobode 1
24000, Subotica, Serbia
Tel/Fax: 00381-(0)24.666.677

LDA OSIJEK

Šetalište kardinala Franje Šepara, 8b
31000, Osijek, Croatia
Tel:+385(0)31 203.088
Fax:+385(0)31 203.087
ldaosijek@aldaintranet.org

LDA MOSTAR

Adema Buća
88000 Mostar, BiH
Tel:+387 (0)36 558 330
Fax:+387 (0)36 558.331
ldamostar@aldaintranet.org

LDA SUBOTICA

Trg Cara Jovana Nenada 15
24000 Subotica, Serbia
Tel/Fax: +381 (0)24 554.587
ldasubotica@aldaintranet.org

ALDA

c/o Council of Europe
Office 1027
Avenue de l' Europe
67075 Strasbourg, France
stanka.parac@aldaintranet.org

LIGHT HOUSE

The Chubb Buildings, Fryer Street
Wolverhampton
WV1 1HT, England, UK
info@light-house.co.uk