

2021

LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES

ACTIVITY REPORT

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ABOUT ALDA

ALDA – The European Association for Local Democracy is dedicated to the promotion of good governance and citizen participation at the local level. ALDA focuses on activities facilitating cooperation between local authorities and civil society. ALDA was established in 1999 at the initiative of the Council of Europe to coordinate and support the network of Local Democracy Agencies, which are self-sufficient, locally registered CSOs (Civil Society Organisations) acting as promoters of good governance and local selfgovernment. Today, ALDA is a key stakeholder in the field of local democracy, active citizenship, and cooperation between local authorities and civil society. ALDA is a membership-based organisation gathering 300 members (including local authorities, associations of local authorities, and civil society organisations) from over 40 countries in the enlarged Europe. ALDA is funded through membership fees, as well as project funding from the European Commission, the Council of Europe, and other public and private donors.

Our unique features

Most of ALDA's work is based on the method of multilateral decentralised cooperation. This method involves a multi-stakeholder approach which focuses on strong partnerships between local authorities and non-governmental organisations. These partnerships create positive synergies and ensure that common goals are reached in a successful way.

What we do

In the framework of the promotion of good governance and citizen participation at the local level, ALDA focuses on various themes, such as European integration, decentralisation, civic initiatives and volunteering, human rights and sustainable economic development.

ALDA conducts its activities through different forms of action:

- Coordinating and supporting the 16 Local Democracy Agencies and 3 Operational Partners in their activities
- Conducting its own projects in the field of good governance and citizen participation at the local level
- Supporting other local stakeholders' initiatives by providing expertise gained through ALDA's knowledge and experience in the regions where ALDA and the Local Democracy Agencies are working

Where we work

ALDA works throughout the enlarged Europe. Activities in the European Union focus in particular on the promotion of Active European Citizenship. Activities in the Western Balkans and European Neighbourhood focus on good governance, citizen participation, European integration, and decentralisation. Most of the Local Democracy Agencies (LDAs) are located in the Western Balkans, which gives a natural focus on that area. But ALDA is also becoming more and more active in the European Neighbourhood. During the years, 5 LDAs have been established in various Eastern Partnership countries, while in 2017 the first LDA of its type opened in the Southern Neighbourhood region, specifically in Kairouan (Tunisia). ALDA is also leading several other projects and developing partnerships in other European Neighbouring countries, such as Belarus, Morocco, Algeria, and Turkey.

THE NETWORK OF LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES OUR RAISON D'ÊTRE

ALDA at a glance



Supporting good governance and citizen participation on the field

ALDA coordinates and supports the network of 16 Local Democracy Agencies (LDAs) and 3 Operational Partners (OPs) in their activities. ALDA works throughout the enlarged Europe with the majority of the Local Democracy Agencies located in the Western Balkans. During the last years ALDA has become more and more active in the European Neighborhood with 5 LDAs in various Eastern Partnership countries and 3 LDAs in the Mediterranean area with the newly established in Edremit (Turkey) in 2021. The LDAs and OPs are supported by more than 100 partners (local authorities and civil society organizations) all over Europe, providing financial and political support to fulfil their mandate and to accompany local democracy, civil society empowerment and participation in the decision-making process at the local level.

Most of ALDA's and the LDA's work is based on an innovative and successful method of multilateral decentralized cooperation, which involves a multi-stakeholder approach and focuses on partnerships

between Local Authorities and Non-Governmental Organizations. These partnerships create synergy and ensure that common goals are reached in a successful way. It focuses on the mutual benefits of the cooperation, on a participative and long-term approach in order to strength the real effectiveness of the impact on both communities. The multilateral approach allows a better sustainability as well as a multicultural input to the initiatives. The LDAs partnerships by means of multilateral decentralized cooperation were developed on the basis of two main lines of action:

1. Territorial based approach, involving all the actors of the communities of interest on a geographic base;
2. Thematic networking focused on specific, commonly determined issues connecting different local communities.

Objectives of the activity of Local Democracy Agencies and Operational Partners are:

- Promoting good local governance and support initiatives aimed at improving citizen participation.
- Enhancing institution and capacity building at the local level through the exchange of knowhow and training of locally elected representatives and administrators.
- Developing a Europe-wide network of citizens committed to the respect for human and minority rights.
- Fostering the development of a civil society in which all sections of the community participate.
- Supporting intercultural dialogue and diversity management capacities in multicultural local communities.
- Promoting the respect for human/minority rights in local communities.

Financial sustainability of the LDAs

The available funds are managed by the LDAs themselves or by the members of the 7- partnerships established for the implementation of a specific project. Following the implementation of projects and activities, financial reports are drawn up to ensure transparency and appropriate use of the funds.

There are three different types of funding sources:

1. Funds resulting from the LDA's fundraising.
2. Grants to support the LDAs
3. Fees of the LDAs' partners.

ALDA pursues its coordination and supporting mission to the LDAs by providing them with adequate expertise at all stages of the implementation of projects (funding opportunities, establishment of new partnerships, project implementation, exchange and sharing of good practices, technical support, joint projects etc.). ALDA has been involved in several projects and providing support of all kind to the Local Democracy Agencies in order to further the promotion of local democracy and citizens' participation at the local level.



REPORT OF ACTIVITIES OF THE LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES IN 2021

LDA Armenia



Delegate: Lusine Aleksandryan

Established: 2011

Key partners:

- City of Gyumri, host city
- Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia (Italy, lead partner)
- Urban Foundation for Sustainable Development (Armenia)
- Journalists' Club "Asparez" (Armenia)
- "Shirak Centre" NGO (Armenia)
- Community Finance Officers Association

Main objectives:

- To settle the LDA Armenia as a key stakeholder in citizen participation, good governance and local democracy
- To promote youth participation in the decision-making processes and women's integration into society
- To upscale LDA foundation Armenia as a convincing actor for enhancing Citizen Participation, good governance and local democracy
- To promote youth participation in decision-making processes and women's integration into society
- To encourage tourism, cultural and environmental development initiatives
- To foster cooperation with international and local authorities and civil society representatives
- To promote of concrete initiatives to consolidate democracy at local level
- To boost entrepreneurship initiatives through local democracy
- To promote the respect of Human rights
- To promote cooperation at the local level, in Europe and in the EAP

"Local Democracy Agency" foundation was established in 2011 in Gyumri, Armenia. Among its main priorities are to promote the capacities of local authorities and civil society in citizens' participation, support participative practices in the development of local and sustainable tourism, reinforce regional cooperation, empower youth and women in environmental, democratic and community development initiatives. Furthermore, the cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany, the Council of Europe, CSF of Eastern Partnership, Black Sea NGO Forum, Romanian FOND, UN and the European stakeholders promoted the implementation of many initiatives in the field of local democracy and participative decision-making.

LDA ARMENIA IN THE FIELD

Projects and activities

1. “Citizens’ voice and actions in consolidated communities of Armenia”

Useful information	
Timespan	From March, 2018 to May, 2021 (extended)
N. of partners/Associated	Consortium of 3 partners: Communities Finance Officers Association, Union of communities of Armenia, European Association for Local Democracy
Total Budget	18.000 EUR
Funded by	European Union

The project aims to enhance the capacity of consolidated communities of Armenia in designing and implementing people-centred and sustainable local development projects. In this sense, a series of activities have been implemented through a combination of capacity building, sub-granting and consultation actions. A special focus is to showcase good practices of community driven projects, particularly in areas of tourism and outdoor activities development. To achieve this objective, three large – scale demonstration projects were facilitated and implemented, such as: construction of a ski centre in Ashotsk; development of hiking, biking and rafting along Debed Canyon in Lori. The projects focused on highlighting the importance and opportunities for sustainable local development, particularly through enhanced tourism and outdoor activities.



Main achievements: 52 consolidated communities had the possibility for capacity building training, granting opportunities focusing on tourism, community development.

Covid impact: Coaches' visit to Armenia and experience exchange with the communities was transferred into an online platform with some amendments.



"The project enabled us to promote rafting in the region and become visible with the new constructions that turned this activity more attractive not only for the tourists but also for the locals" - **Gevorg Vardanyan - Rafting in Armenia, implementing co-partner**



2. “WE CAN”

Useful information	
Timespan	From December, 2020 to February, 2021
N. of partners/Associated	Gyumri Youth Palace
Total Budget	4125 EUR
Funded by	CSF of Eastern Partnership

The project addresses the need to promote youth and women’s initiatives facing challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in terms of business running and products’ selling. More specifically, within this framework, selected participants organised capacity-building trainings in Gyumri Youth palace, focusing on: business planning, marketing, taxation system to promote women and youngsters small businesses that suffered from Coronavirus. As a result four initiatives were provided with working materials and supplies in order to sew masks or medical uniform, while finding sanitizers, hard soaps or any other useful hygienic product.

Main achievements: Creation of four business teams, promotion of small businesses and working possibilities.

Covid impact: The project initially addressed the impact of COVID 19 and the possibilities to mitigate the consequences. All the activities were implemented on time and properly.



“The project started just after the heavy period for Armenia impacted by the pandemic and war and revived hope among the people to move forward and work hard for Armenia” - **Lena Manukyan from Ashotsk**



3. “Digital tools for active citizens”

Useful information	
Timespan	January - April 2021
N. of partners/Associated	The Civic Resource Centre - “Open Borders”, Institute of Peace, Democracy and Development NGO - “Local Democracy Agency” Foundation - “Local Democracy Agency” Georgia - “Local Democracy Agency of the Dnipropetrovsk Region”
Total Budget	10.000 EUR/ 515 EUR for LDA Armenia
Funded by	Romanian FOND

This project equipped civil society organisations with broader knowledge on the usage of digital tools for active citizenship, as well as with instruments to promote the positive impact of digital mechanisms. The objective is to improve the perception of 150 CSOs and active citizens over the importance of engaging with digital tools for active citizen participation, while increasing the promotion of good practices of e-citizenship in the Black Sea region. The project idea was to conduct research in Romania, Georgia, Armenia and Ukraine, the results of which have been gathered in a report.

Main achievements: Elaboration of the research report and translation into three local languages that proved the accessibility for all stakeholders, civil society representatives without any language barrier.

Covid impact: Initially the project start was planned from August till November 2020. Because of the pandemic the project was extended into January –April, 2021.



4. “Career entry for young people in Armenia”

Useful information	
Timespan	November -December, 2021
N. of partners/Associated	Empowerly gUG in Germany
Total Budget	38.000 EUR
Funded by	Federal Foreign office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany

The project goal is to promote youth capacities and reinforce intercultural exchange between Armenia and Germany. The action consisted of a series of workshops in Armenia and Germany, and a closing event for young people (15-18, 50% female) plus a bilingual website for intercultural exchange. The main focus was on: understanding social structures and processes, their connection with career choice, paths to self-realisation, equal rights and career entry, development of practical skills, as those in the digital area. Schoolchildren from Armenia participated in the workshops, split in three teams, elaborating three videos on environmental protection issues. Two participants from Germany among the speakers at the closing conference. Three teams were awarded with presents and certificates.



Schoolchildren from Armenia participated in the workshops, split in three teams, elaborating three videos on environmental protection issues. Two participants from Germany among the speakers at the closing conference. Three teams were awarded with presents and certificates.

Main achievements: 27 schoolchildren were trained and gained knowledge on democracy and human rights while acquiring new skills on video making.

Covid impact: Because of pandemic only two participants from Germany were able to attend offline closing event in Armenia.



“The project was too interesting and challenging, a kind of fairy tale for us”. Alongside with the skills and knowledge gained, the friendship and cultural exchange was a precious asset” - **Veronika Petrosyan, participant**



5. Advocacy at the regional level- Shirak region

Useful information	
Timespan	December 2021-January, 2022
N. of partners/Associated	Communities' Finance Officers Association; LDA Armenia
Total Budget	2000 EUR
Funded by	USAID

Project goal is to promote community stakeholders' participation and impact on decision-making processes at the local level. Within this framework the action LDA Armenia is to implement a series of meetings in consolidated communities of Shirak region with the participation of administrative leaders, council members,

municipalities' staff and active citizens. Four meetings were held in Artik, Ani, Ashotsk enlarged communities to upscale the community issues according to the advanced proposed topics, get suggestions for problem solutions and present them to the local authorities for further consideration via advocacy. The meetings were of great importance as simple discussions and conversations with the locals gives the image of reality from a grass root perspective and reflects the needs and problems.

Main achievements: Community problems, risen, advocated and drafted for the community leaders.



“The meeting was very useful and interesting as local problems were heard and hopefully one day decision-making bodies will turn attention to our voices” -
Susanna Mkrtychyan, Lanjik community centre



LDA Central and Southern Serbia



Delegate: Ana Jovanovic

Established: 2001

Key partners:

- Associazione Trentino con i Balcani, Italy; provides program partnership
- Municipality Knjaževac, Serbia; provides in kind contribution (rent-free office space), programme partnership and financial support through open call for CSOs' project proposals

Main objectives:

- Fostering democratic governance and citizen participation at the local level
- Youth empowerment
- Supporting the process of Serbia's EU integration

The LDA Central and Southern Serbia was established in 2001 in the City of Niš, Serbia. With the aim of spreading its program further onto the territories in need, in 2014 the LDA has moved its headquarter to Knjaževac, a city in South-Eastern Serbia. The LDA carries on activities in Niš, Knjaževac, Kraljevo and Kragujevac and it contributes to the development of local democracy in the communities of Eastern, Southern and Central Serbia through capacity building programs based on the principles of active citizenship and establishment of concrete mechanisms of citizens' participation in development of their communities.

LDA CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN SERBIA IN THE FIELD

Projects and activities

1. Regional YOUTH COMPACT for Europe

Useful information	
Timespan	From April, 2018 to July, 2021
N. of partners/Associated	Centre for Democracy Foundation (Serbia); LDA CSS, LDA Subotica (Serbia); LDA Mostar, LDA Prijedor, LDA Zavidovići (Bosnia and Herzegovina); LDA Nikšić (Montenegro); LDA Kosovo* (Kosovo*); The European Association for Local Democracy – ALDA (France); ALDA Skopje (North Macedonia); LDA Albania (Albania); CRTA (Serbia); Youth Act (Albania); SODEM (Turkey).
Total Budget	832.400 EUR
Funded by	European Commission (IPA Civil Society Facility and Media Programme) and co-funded by Balkan Trust for Democracy, a project of the German Marshall Fund of the United States

Regional Youth Compact for Europe is a cooperation initiative launched by 14 CSOs from the EU, Western Balkans and Turkey with the aim to enhance the effective participation of civil society and youth organizations in the EU integration and accession negotiation process through capacity building, awareness raising, and advocacy actions organized at local, national and regional level. In the final year of the project, Regional Thematic Network Forums were organized, the first one by LDA Subotica, and second one in July 2021 organized by Center for Democracy Foundation in Belgrade. LDA Knjazevac organized a multistakeholder platform on the topic of youth participation in decision-making at the local level. All participants agreed that it is necessary to improve mutual communication and information, developing cooperation among local self-government, youth and civil society.



Main achievements: LDA Knjazevac and Local Authorities developed the Local Action Plan for Youth for the period 2022-2025, which final draft is now prepared for the public debate.

Covid impact: 2nd Regional Thematic Network Forum was delayed for several months and finally organized as hybrid event. the number of participants was limited due to preventive measures.

“I am very glad that on this meeting we had opportunity to say to local authorities what the young people from Knjazevac need and that some of those things were already in their plans, such as: youth center, space for recreational activities” - **Multi-stakeholder platform participant, representative of the youth club.**

2. VALID European Towns - Enacting Common Values of Solidarity and Intercultural Dialogue

Useful information	
Timespan	From October 2019 to December 2021
N. of partners/Associated	Directorate for Culture Youth and Sport, Municipality of Peja - Lead Partner, ALDA, Municipality of Zavidovici, Municipality of Niksic, LDA Central and South Serbia, Municipality of Patos, Municipality of Kumanovo, City of Ravenna, City of Larissa, a Volunteer Centre Novo Mesto, LDA Kosovo, LDA Subotica
Total Budget	LDA CSS budget 5000 EUR
Funded by	Europe for Citizens Programme

Considering the lack of the public youth club or some other kind of space where they can spend their free time and engage in creative and educational activities; this initiative is aimed at creating connection and stimulate dialogue among youth and local representatives in Knjazevac in order to provide reactive areas in the city. In June 2021, a group of young people engaged in youth CSOs had a meeting with the representative of the local governance, the Deputy Mayor Mr. Branislav Josifovic. The topic of the activity was participation of youth in the decision-making on the local level, as well as the presentation of the



recommendations for the improving the quality of life of young people in Knjaževac. In November 2021, the group of 4 young volunteers engaged in LDA CSS presented their activities to the students of the Gymnasium Knjazevac and the representatives of their Student Parliament.

Main achievements: Young people in Knjaževac started an initiative to create a youth club where they can spend their free time and engage in creative and educational activities.

Covid impact: The local events were organized with couple of months later in order to be possible to organize them in person instead of online.

“Let's use the potential of Knjazevac to be an ideal city for young people again.” **Quote from promotial video for youth center campaign.**

3. Action 4 Europe of Solidarity – A4EUS

Useful information	
Timespan	From March, 2020 to February, 2022
N. of partners/Associated	Focus Europe (Italy); LDA CSS (Serbia); COPPEM (Italy); Roma Youth Center (North Macedonia); Municipality of Tuzi (Montenegro); Asociaciòn Pasos Solidarios (Spain); International Platform for Citizen Participation Sdruzhenie (Bulgaria); Municipality Mazara del Vallo (Italy); FTZ - Community Foundation Valletta (Malta); Culturepolis (Greece); Peipsi Koostoo Keskus (Estonia); European University College Association (Belgium); Institute for the development of Sport and Education (Poland); Centre for International Relations (Poland); Qendra e Studimit te Politikave Europiane per Zhvillimin Rajon (Albania); Minucipality Osilo (Italy); Unione dei Comuni del Gerrei (Italy)
Total Budget	Total: 146.160 EUR LDA CSS budget 1.000 EUR
Funded by	Europe for Citizens Programme

The project focuses on European solidarity and the desire of peace as the elements which have strengthened and ensured harmony and prosperity for 70 years. Starting from this context, the project aims to analyse the European Union Immigration Policies, especially on those countries that have encountered difficulties in the management of the immigration flows. At this purpose a series of activities

in 7 countries (Italy, Malta, North Macedonia, Serbia, Greece, Albania, Belgium) have been planned. Overall, the project aims to develop a positive sentiment on immigration for citizens, that too often are

manipulated and frightened by Eurosceptics movements. Through activities, the project promotes an inter-cultural and open dialogue to understand migrations while improving the immigration narrative and fighting xenophobia in Europe.

Main achievements: The online event on the subject “Integration of migrants in Serbia” saw among keynote speakers representatives of IOM Mission Serbia, Commissariat for Refugees and Migration Serbia; CSOs and primary school that have successful integration programme for students from the migrant population.

Covid impact: All the international events were organized online, and there were 14 events instead of seven that were planned by the project.



“I am organizing meetings with parents (of students’ from migrant population) so they can be introduced to the way and dynamics of the schoolwork. They have opportunity to meet they children’s teachers and exchange experiences with them.” **Principal of the Primary school “Svetozar Markovic” Vranje, Serbia.**



4. Cultours

Useful information	
N. of partners/Associated	Cultours
Funded by	Western Balkan Fund

The general objective of the project is to contribute to regional cooperation and regional cohesion in the Western Balkans through cultural cooperation and activities for sustainable growth. The specific project objectives are: 1) to promote shared cultural heritage in Western Balkan countries related to common history through creation of youth friendly tool; 2) to support local sustainable development of micro-localities though income generating activities and tourism; and 3) to reinforce the cooperation and networking among different stakeholders on local and regional level. The final beneficiaries are educational institutions, cultural institutions and local tourist associations in the Western Balkan countries.



Main achievements: LDA CSS in Knjazevac organized a webinar on "Local Tourism in the Spotlight" where the representatives of the Homeland Museum, Technical school in Knjazevac and Touristic organization Knjazevac.

presented their activities on promoting Knjazevac as a touristic destination and engaging tourist in different kinds of activities.

Covid impact: International and local events were organized online due to the COVID-19 restriction measures.

“This years’ experience with the increased influx of tourists has raised the awareness of local tourism actors that the area of the Municipality of Knjaževac is not fully ready for mass tourism. The basic elements whose further development needs to be worked on are the improvement of communal infrastructure, tourist signalization, equipment and communal maintenance of tourist sites.”

5. In Ethre

Useful information	
Timespan	From April, 2021 to August, 2021
N. of partners/Associated	In Ether
Total Budget	4,200 EUR
Funded by	Media Diversity Institute

The project deals with the problem of insufficient media representation of young people in local media. Overall, the aim is the formation of a team of young reporters who produced original media content focused on promoting young people, their successful local community initiatives and youth attitudes, regarding issues directly related to the improvement of their position in the local community. These contents will be widely distributed via social networks and local media, which will directly improve the presence of young people in local media and the public. The idea is to strengthen capacities of the local volunteer youth info service “Info point Knjaževac”; while improving cooperation between youth and electronic media offices in the municipality of Knjaževac; and increasing the level of information of young people and the public of the city.



Main achievements: Six podcasts were created by young reporters and promoted through the social media campaign. The podcasts had more than 1000 views on YouTube and social media.

Covid impact: The first Youth forum was organized online, but the pandemic had a little or no impact on the other activities.

“For one municipality, for one city, the role of local media is very important. When we started the media in Knjaževac, the basic idea was to inform the citizens about what is important for their everyday life or for their future. How can we do that when we do not have newspapers, radio, television?” - **journalist of the recently closed local media Knjazevacinfo.**

6. United by Diversity

Useful information	
Timespan	From January 2020 to March, 2022
N. of partners/Associated	European Movement in Serbia – Leskovac, Forum of civil action (FORCA), Local Democracy Agency Subotica (LDA), Timok Youth Club
Total Budget	LDA CSS budget 600 EUR
Funded by	Civil Society Facility Serbia, EU Delegation to Serbia

The overall objective of the project is to increase capacities of the Serbian CSOs to address cultural diversity within reform process and EU integration process. The project aims at creating institutional support for promotion of intercultural dialogue and cultural diversity by establishing the Network “United by Diversity” of youth CSOs and CSOs dealing with youth in Serbia and to strengthen capacities of the Network members. In addition the project is intended to empower youth in Serbia on topics related to intercultural dialogue and cultural diversity as well as to enhance a consciousness of being a part of the same society as a whole. Among project activities: establishing of the Network United by diversity; capacity-building workshops for Network members; development of



innovative methodology for intercultural exchanges; 20 three-day exchanges for high school students, including 20 Intercultural European classes.

Main achievements: The group of high school students participated in intercultural exchange, gained knowledge about the communities they visited and created questions for the “Quiz United in diversity” and Board game “Let’s unite in diversity”

Covid impact: The intercultural exchanges were delayed for several months and some of the activities that were planned to be organized in school environment were carried out in the alternative spaces in smaller groups.

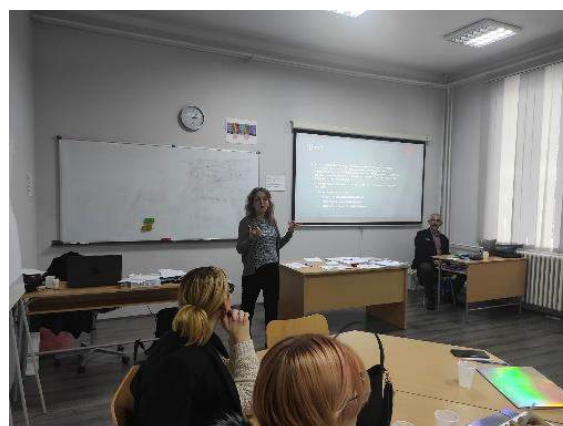
“The intercultural exchanges were delayed for several months and some of the activities that were planned to be organized in school environment were carried out in the alternative spaces in smaller groups.”

7. See, take a photo, react!

Useful information	
Timespan	From August, 2021 to December, 2021
Total Budget	850 EUR
Funded by	Municipality of Knjazevac

The goal of the project “See, take photos, react!” was to encourage young residents of Knjaževac to participate in the community, volunteerism and activism through the presentation of mechanisms for identification and adequate response to perceived problems. Young people sent photos of the issues they noticed in their community and they were discussed during the training. Overall, this initiative was meant to spur youngsters to identify possible solutions and response to problems or challenges that may be found within the local reality.

Main achievements: Education of a group of young people on mechanisms for identification and adequate



response to perceived problems in the local community through training, photo competition and presentation of examples of good practice.

Covid impact: There was no impact because it was planned according to the COVID19 restriction measures.

“Another problem we face every day is the garbage that surrounds us when we go out to do something, or to take a walk. People should be more careful and considerate when it comes to that, and it would also be good to have a large number of recycling bins, as we would separate the packaging depending on the material.”

8. CSOs networking for better local democracy in the Balkans

Useful information	
Timespan	From January, 2021 to December, 2021
N. of partners/Associated	Balkan Network for Local Democracy (North Macedonia) LDA Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina), LDA Zavidovici (Bosnia and Herzegovina), LDA Prijedor (Bosnia and Herzegovina), LDA Subotica (Serbia), LDA Knjazevac (Serbia), LDA Niksic (Montenegro), LDA Peja (Kosovo), LDA in Vlora (Albania)
Funded by	International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)

The project actions aim to create a regional civil society organization's cooperation and learning resource for advancing active citizenship at a local level. Moreover, the idea is to set local and regional capacity building, awareness raising and networking actions



with the aim to address the main challenges of the civil society in the region. The activities will include research and comparative analysis of present state legal framework for citizens' participation in policy and decision making on local level in Western Balkan countries. Furthermore, the Regional Best Practise Fair as well as social

media campaign and e-newsletter are planned within the initiative. Finally, the project is intended to improve conducive environment for civil society development that enables them to be influential actors in society; strengthen regional thematic CSO capacities to contribute more effectively the promotion of regional co-operation.

Main achievements: The activities included research and comparative analysis of present state legal framework for citizens' participation in policy and decision making on local level in Western Balkan countries.



“A first ground for citizen participation is information. I think that both local authorities do not receive enough information from the citizens, and citizens do not have information from the local authorities, it's like some common language should be created.”



LDA Dnipropetrovsk Region



Delegate: Anzhelika Pylypenko

Established: 2015

Key partner:

- Lower Silesian Voivodeship
- Dnipropetrovsk Regional Council

Main objectives:

- Assistance to the development of local democracy and the processes of decentralization of Governance in the Dnipropetrovsk region;
- Assistance to IDPs;
- Assistance in the rehabilitation of ATO soldiers;
- Support for youth initiatives.

Local Democracy Agency of Dnipropetrovsk Region was established in 2015. It became the first LDA in Ukraine, and stands as a platform of cooperation, dialogue and exchange of experience and best practices across several aspects of regional development (cultural, social and economic) between local authorities and civil society in the EU and in Ukraine.

LDA fosters citizen participation at the local level, and mobilizes civil society organizations, local and regional authorities to develop joint initiatives.



LDA DNIPROPETROVSK REGION IN THE FIELD

Projects and activities

1. "Development of Local Democracy Network", as a part of the project "Capacity Building of CSOs for Regional Cooperation in the Black Sea Region"

Useful information	
Timespan	From January 1, 2021 to July 31, 2021
N. of partners/Associated	4: LDA Moldova (Lead Partner), LDA Georgia, LDA Armenia, LDA Mariupol
Total Budget	20 000 EUR
Funded by	Federation of NGO Development (FOND, Romania) with the financial support of the European Union

The project "Development of Local Democracy Network" was part of the project "Capacity Building of CSOs for Regional Cooperation in the Black Sea Region", implemented by the Federation of NGO Development (FOND, Romania) with the financial support of the European Union.

The goal of the project was to develop an Eastern Partnership LDAs Network Development Strategy. The series of online workshops and one offline training were held, during which participants developed all the documents that are the constituent parts of the Network Development Strategy. As well as one (the most relevant) Strategic document for every one of LDA's organization directly. In particular, LDA of Dnipropetrovsk region developed a Financial Planning Policy and Procedure of Local Democracy Agency of Dnipropetrovsk region.

An important additional result of this project was the demonstration of coordinated work of the participants from all EaP LDAs on a common Strategy for the development of the network. The donor's organization (FOND, Romania) positively evaluated such effective work and supported our initiative - the creation of a new working group "Local Democracy" within the Black Sea NGO Forum for the introduction and development of democracy tools in local communities, which was created as part of the according to the new Strategic Framework for Civil Society Cooperation in the Black Sea Region.

Main achievements: All institutional documents and the Eastern Partnership LDAs Network Development Strategy are developed.

Covid impact: Most of the sessions on the elaboration of the Development Strategy documents of each organization participating in the project and the entire network of LDAs of the Eastern Partnership countries were held online.

female leadership".

“Developing a Strategy for the network and each organization that is part of it helps to ensure the sustainability of both the entire network and each LDA under difficult conditions (in particular during the COVID-19 pandemic)". - **participant**



Offline training in Chisinau, May

2. "UNDP- 686-2020-UNDP-UKR-RFPRPP (Platform for Good Governance and Environmental Protection)"

Useful information	
Timespan	From January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021
N. of partners/Associated	ALDA
Funded by	UNDP

The goal of the project was to conduct 12 trainings for groups of newly elected deputies, new council and administration members, and representatives of civil society and NGOs in the "gray zone" of Luhansk and Donetsk regions on the topics of good-governance principles and experience of their implementation in the EU countries, e-democracy, mediation, budget management in the context of decentralization, public monitoring with the use of local democracy tools.

1. Introduction of e-democracy in local governance and receiving feedback from the community (14.06.2021-16.06.2021)
2. Good governance: clear and transparent reporting by local authorities (16.06.2021-18.06.2021)
3. Good governance: public monitoring and anti-corruption control (21.06.2021-23.06.2021)
4. Public monitoring and anti-corruption control (23.06.2021-25.06.2021)
5. Raising awareness of professional competencies of representatives of local authorities and public leaders of target communities (05.07.2021-07.07.2021)

6. Creativity and innovation in local governance (07.07.2021-09.07.2021)
7. Development and implementation of effective mechanisms for interaction between local authorities, the public and the media – the expertise in participatory democracy (12.07.2021-14.07.2021)
8. Responsible local governance: publicity, transparency, innovation and partnership (14.07.2021-16.07.2021)
9. Introduction of mediation principles in communication between authorities and the community (19.07.2021-21.07.2021)
10. Conflict resolution through mediation (21.07.2021-23.07.2021)
11. Local budgets at the current stage: changes in legislation and new tools (10.08.2021-12.08.2021)
12. Improvement of budget management system in territorial communities in the context of decentralization reform (12.08.2021-14.08.2021)

The project also resulted in the preparation of a compendium of the best practices for implementing participatory democracy in the communities where the training participants live, and a final conference was held.

Main achievements: 240 people received training and upgraded their skills in the development of local democracy. The trainings resulted in the implementation of best practices of local democracy development in the territorial communities of trainings participants. The participants shared these practices at the final Conference. A collection of best practices was published at the finish of the Conference.

Covid impact: The number of participants in groups and events, their seating in the hall, the use of protective equipment (masks, sanitizers) met the requirements of work during the pandemic COVID-19.

“It was awesome! In three days a bunch of cool ideas, a lot of new knowledge and practical skills. I know, I'm sure we won't stop there. Our community is going to be the best for the residents, the most comfortable. It's really cool to discuss different situations and topics with you trainers. Thank you all for this training!” - **participant**





Trainer Antonella Valmorbida assistant trainer Alexandru Coica and participants (Training. Svyatogirsk, July, 2021)

LDA Edremit

Key partners:

- Edremit Municipality and Edremit City Council (Turkey);
- ALDA – European Association for Local Democracy;
- Budva Municipality (Montenegro);
- Lushnjë Municipality (Albania) ;
- Ahmetbey Municipality (Turkey)
- CSOs representatives.

Main objectives:

- Information exchange and empowerment of other CSOs;
- Citizens' participation and involvement

Established in October 2021, the LDA Edremit is a Local Democracy Agency based in the Municipality of Edremit (Turkey). Thanks to a participative approach in the decision making process and multilateral decentralised cooperation, it will design its actions and activities in tackling several topics and issues, such as:

- Cultural heritage and tourism;
- Relationship between local authorities and citizens stressing the importance of accountability;
- Migration;
- Gender;
- Disability



LDA Georgia



Delegate: Nino Khukhua

Established: 2007

Key partners:

- City of Strasbourg, France (Lead Partner)
- City of Kutaisi, Georgia (Host City)
- Municipality of Monfalcone, Italy
- Kujawsko-Pomorskie Region, Poland
- City of Tbilisi, Georgia
- National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia (NALAG), Georgia
- Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA), Georgia
- Partners-Georgia, Georgia

Local Democracy Agency Georgia (LDA Georgia) was set up in 2007 in Kutaisi, as part of ALDA's (Association of Local Democracy Agencies) strategy in the South Caucasus. LDA Georgia is dedicated to the promotion of good governance and citizen participation at the local level. LDA focuses on activities facilitating cooperation between local authorities and civil society. The mission of LDA Georgia is to strengthen local democracy and civil society, support democratic reforms in Georgia, and to develop new and innovative approaches to local and national challenges, by cooperating with local and international stakeholders through: Capacity building programs for local authorities and NGOs ; Promoting active citizenship and good governance; Promoting women's and youth rights; Supporting and initiating cross-border and regional cooperation; Promoting EU integration and European values at the local level. In 2017, LDA Georgia was selected to lead the EU Integration and Youth Development Working Group, which unites 74+ NGOs from across Georgia. LDA Georgia is the regional representative of the EaP National Platform.

LDA GEORGIA IN THE FIELD

Projects and activities

1. “Increasing the Quality of Citizen Involvement in Local Self-Government”

Useful information	
Timespan	From December, 2020 to December, 2021
Total Budget	29 973 USD
Funded by	"The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Government of Georgia"

The aim of the grant is to increase the degree of citizen involvement in the decision-making process and to ensure the accountability of local authorities. The grant covers tasks such as: establishing an effective mechanism for citizens to appeal to local self-government; empowering women and youth to identify and advocate needs and priorities at the local level; strengthening dialogue and cooperation between community organizations and local government in the decision-making process. Among the beneficiaries: eleven municipalities of Imereti Region; civil society and civil society organizations. 15 activities have been developed, be they LDA signing MoU with municipalities of Imereti Region; creation of initiative group of citizens; conduct of qualitative survey; round table and initiatives to promote dialogue among civic groups, citizens and local authorities; managing of the online platform “Your Idea to Mayor”.



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Main achievements: Through the project team and the initiative group, the problems identified in the specific municipalities were presented to the municipalities as a result of the research. Effective ways to solve problems were also discussed during a meeting. The result was a reduction of the standard 1% threshold for registered voters to 0.5%. Consequently, the voters of these municipalities have the opportunity to easily ensure the mobilization of 0.5% of registered voters, collect signatures and submit a joint petition. All this will help to strengthen the involvement of citizens in public life and participation in the activities of local government. Within the framework of the project live broadcast of city councils sessions were held on the social page of the municipal council in Kharagauli, Baghdati, Samtredia, Khoni, Tskaltubo, Tkibuli, Sachkhere municipalities.

Covid impact: In some municipalities, due to the growing infection of the persons participating in the City Council session, the scheduled Council sessions were canceled, as they were unable to attend the session

on the spot, which turned out to be a hindering factor in the live broadcast of the Council sessions. In the case of Baghdati and Kharagauli municipalities, the mayor's report could not be submitted publicly due to restrictions imposed by the Covid 19 pandemic.

2. Civil Society STAR Initiative: CSOs as Sustainable, Transparent, Accountable and Resilient Development Actors in Georgia”

Useful information	
Timespan	From January, 2021 to November, 2024
N. of partners/Associated	Partner organizations: Center for Strategic Research and Development of Georgia (CSRDG), Civil Society Institute (CSI), Center for Training and Consultancy (CTC), Education Development and Employment Center (EDEC), and Institute for European Politics (IEP).
Total Budget	60 000 EUR
Funded by	The European Union and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung

The initiative aims to strengthen civil society at the regional level by maintaining CSO's/CBO's sustainability, increasing the quality of transparency and accountability.

Beyond supporting main activities under the “Civil Society STAR Initiative”, the Hub implements several activities, among them: presentation of Imereti Regional Hub project; trainings and consultations for representatives of civil society organizations; launch of an SMS platform; establishment of a youth club; meetings with the public servants; and the creation of a hotline service.

Main achievements: Through the training the representatives of CSO's and CBO's will be able to successfully raise funds and

develop comprehensive projects, including through grant competitions announced by project consortium member organizations. This activity helped to raise the awareness of civil society / community organizations, which will help improving and strengthening the management of their organizations. This platform enables people to get timely information on current issues and projects



in the Imereti region. The implementation of this activity has led to an improvement in public attitudes towards civil society, as well as an increase in the interest of students and young people in general in the civil sector. An additional mechanism has been set up for receiving information promptly, which is convenient for non-governmental organizations working in multi-mountainous municipalities (Kharagauli, Sachkhere, Chiatura).

3. “Racha-Lechkhumi and lower Svaneti Regional Development Initiative”

Useful information	
Timespan	From January, 2020 to June, 2021
N. of partners/Associated	Partner organization “Sustainable Development Association of Racha”
Total Budget	194 396 GEL
Funded by	The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) within the framework of the ongoing “Fostering Regional and Local Development-Phase 2” project, with support from the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC), Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC) and the Georgian Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure (MRDI).

Developed in 12 activities, the purpose of the grant "Racha-Lechkhumi Lower Svaneti Region Development Initiative" is to stimulate regional and local economies and to involve different stakeholders in the policy making process. Starting from the presentation of the grant, trainings to entrepreneurs and tourism service staff have been conducted. In addition, video clips on municipalities' tourist routes have been produced, while presenting the region's tourism potential on central television such as the BMG TV program “Business Morning”. Moreover, Tourism Regional Forum - Tourism regional forum was held in Ambrolauri city; while Entrepreneurship-Investment Regional Forum - Organization has planned the regional forum, opened by United Nations Development Programm Resident Representative Anna Chernyshova. Trainings and tours have been planned. Finally a local business information center has been established, as well as the regional platform and inter-municipal cooperation practices.



Main achievements: Youth interest in agriculture has increased; their employment and involvement took place on the spot; entrepreneurs are better informed about funding opportunities and at least 50 applications have been submitted. Citizens are informed about their rights, functions and obligations of municipalities, sustainable local economic development (LED) initiatives and citizen participation instruments. Sustainable Mechanism - SMS online platform has been created to provide regular information to entrepreneurs / farmers and citizens in general.

Covid impact: During the pandemic, some activities were delayed and some of the activities were conducted online. Conducting online trainings in the region was very difficult because internet access is very low.

4. "Joint Organisation to Unite Rural Networks of Entrepreneurial Youth -JOURNEY"

Useful information	
Timespan	From January, 2019 to September, 2021
N. of partners/Associated	Kutaisi Municipality City Hall, st. Vinnytsia Regional Development Agency (Ukraine), Association of Local Democracy Agencies (France), Ganja (Azerbaijan), Forma Azione (Italy), Lodz Marshall Office (Poland).
Total Budget	3350.14 EUR
Funded by	The European Commission

The aim of the project was: to support young leaders in Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Georgia, to promote the development of skills of young people and entrepreneurs; raising their awareness and creating networks in rural areas to share knowledge and best practices; while exploring the EU experience and sharing it with representatives of the Eastern Partnership countries. Six main activities characterised the project: from capacity-building seminars for young people living in small towns and villages on business ideas development, as well as for entrepreneurs; to virtual youth exchange tours and agro-tours. In addition, results were presented at the final international conference and during the Rioni TV program.



Main achievements: Through these capacity building trainings young people are much more empowered and gained practical skills on their way to become self-employed; while having opportunity to explore resources and tools such as the European EntreComp framework, launching themselves into the world of entrepreneurship. Youth who participated in these agro tours received practical advice from entrepreneurs and got acquainted with the technologies of greenhouse, farm start-up and maintenance, vine care and wine production.

“These trainings helped me to raise awareness of young entrepreneurs and create networks of young entrepreneurs in rural areas to share knowledge and best practices; to explore the EU experience and share it with representatives of the Eastern Partnership countries”- Miranda Kavadze



5. “Digital Tools for Active Citizens”

Useful information	
Timespan	From February, 2021 to March, 2021
N. of partners/Associated	Open Borders Institute of Peace, Democracy and Development (Armenia); Local Democracy Agency” Foundation (Armenia); Local Democracy Agency Georgia (Georgia); Local Democracy Agency of the Dnipropetrovsk Region” (Ukraine)
Total Budget	1265 EUR
Funded by	The European Union

Gathering 5 organisations from Armenia, Georgia, Ukraine and Romania, the main objectives consist of increase the civic engagement at grassroots level by using digital tools. Specifically, this is achieved by improving the perception for 150 CSOs and active citizens over the importance of using digital tools for active citizen participation, over 4 months; as well as increasing the promotion of good practices of e-citizenship in the Black Sea region, for CSOs and democracy practitioners. In addition, a research study in Romania, Georgia and Armenia, on the topic of usage and impact of digital tools in civic engagement has been conducted and the report (brief) has been translated into Romanian, Georgian, Armenian, Ukrainian language. Each partner organizes a half-day seminar to presented the research report to local stakeholders (CSOs, activists, unorganised civil society). *Main achievements:* According to the research, CSOs in the Black Sea Region had both insufficient media and digital skills; and lack of resources and funding for online civic activities. Moreover low level of of knowledge on how to advocate and participate online has been recorded; as well as the lack of access to Internet (coverage, quality, cost); lack of confidence in the impact of digital activism; lack of access to technology.

6. Other activities

"The National Forum of Civil Society Organizations"

Local Democracy Agency Georgia, as Regional Hub of Imereti. The forum was held on January 28 and 29. The Executive Director of LDA Georgia, Nino Khukhua spoke about the current situation of civil society in the region, the results achieved during the project implementation and the challenges faced by civil society organizations. Participants had the opportunity to present: situation in terms of civil society in the regions of Georgia; Experience of civil society in Eastern Partnership countries (Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus).

Second International Forum "Cities' Challenges and Way"

USAID Democratic Governance Initiative; German International Assistance Program "Good Governance for Local Development in the South Caucasus"; Partner organizations: Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia; Georgian National Association of Local Governments (NALAG). The Executive Director of LDA Georgia - Nino Khukhua explained the role of civil society organizations in the process of economic stimulation of municipalities and good governance. In order to share good practices, she reviewed the projects implemented by the organization in the recent past, such as SMS online platforms.

"Capacity Building for Project Development"

Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA) held an exclusive webinar - "Capacity Building for Project Development". The speakers presented the following topics: Participatory processes at the local level - Antonella Valmorbidia, ALDA Secretary General; EU funding opportunities for the EaP region - Anna Ditta, senior project developer; The Webinar was attended Georgian members of association: the representatives of Kutaisi, Zugdidi, Ozurgeti, Chokhatauri, Samtredia City Halls, LDA Georgia staff and member of board.

Event- Strengthening Participatory Democracy and Human Rights at the Local Level in Georgia

Nino Khukhua, Executive Director of LDA Georgia, participated in a Council of Europe event entitled "Strengthening Participatory Democracy and Human Rights at the Local Level in Georgia", where she spoke about current practices and trends in citizen involvement and participatory mechanisms at the local government level.

LDA Kosovo



Delegate: Shpresa Sefaj Berisha

Established: 2011

Key partners:

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

Main objectives:

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

The LDA Kosovo was officially opened in 2011 in Peja/Pec, to promote local democracy in the country. The LDA implements its mission through activities in the fields of democracy, justice, human rights, youth and equal opportunities, dialogue among minority communities in Kosovo, economic development, and social and cultural development. LDA Kosovo implements capacity building programmes aimed at fostering active citizenship and at establishing concrete mechanisms of citizens' participation, thus empowering citizens to improve their communities, as well as their society.

LDA KOSOVO IN THE FIELD

Projects and activities

1. Regional Youth Compact for Europe – RYCE

Useful information	
Timespan	From April, 2018 to April, 2021
N. of partners/Associated	14 partners
Total Budget	832.400,00 EUR
Funded by	European Commission (Consolidating Regional Thematic Networks of Civil Society Organizations)

This project addresses key challenges for West Balkans countries, in particular the issues of rule of law, fundamental rights and economic and social issues where employment is a priority topic for the citizens. In addition, this cooperation initiative launched by 14 CSOs from the EU, Western Balkans and Turkey was aimed at enhancing the effective participation of civil society and youth organizations in the EU integration and accession negotiation process through capacity building, awareness raising, and advocacy actions organized at local, national and regional level. 5 specific objectives have been developed, be they the activity with the university of Haxhi Zeka focusing on discrimination and public administration reforms; the participation to the POLITEIA Western Balkans School for Youth Participation.

Main achievements: Strengthening CSOs, particularly youth organizations in the Western Balkans and Turkey to participate in the design of policies and monitoring the process of EU integration more effectively. In 2021 within this framework the Community multi-stakeholders' platforms "Monitoring Reforms Locally – Good Practice Becomes Our Practice" was held.

2. CSOs networking for better local democracy in the Balkans

Useful information	
Timespan	From January 2021 to October 2021
N. of partners/Associated	8 partners
Total Budget	68000,00 EUR

Funded by	Balkan Civil Society Development Network – Regional Civil Society Development HUB, programme funded by SIDA, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency.
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This project addresses the current status and development perspectives of local democracy in the WB countries. Namely, it tackles the role of civil society and local authorities as relevant stakeholders of the reform process both towards promotion and effective implementation of democratic governance principles; and within the context of the EU accession process. WB countries are deeply engaged into the EU integration process, having undertaken significant reforms, particularly considering three important pillars for accession: rule of law, economic governance and public administration reform. The main target groups of the action are members of the regional thematic network (BNLD) and its network members in all WB countries, other regional CSO networks and CSOs promoting democratic governance and inclusive participation at local level.

Main achievements: CSOs contributed to a conducive environment for civil society development that enables them to be influential actors in society. Strengthen the BNLD capacities to contribute more effectively to regional civic space. The project managed to improve regional exchange of experience and skills of BNLD network members on evidence based advocacy and monitoring EU integration and reform agenda in WB countries; while creating a regional CSOs co-operation and learning resource for advancing active citizenship at local level.



3. WB CulTours - Cultural tours in Western Balkans

Useful information	
Timespan	From June, 2020 to June, 2021
N. of partners/Associated	5 partners
Total Budget	15.860 EUR
Funded by	Western Balkans Fund

This project contributed to the promotion of the touristic potentials of the region of Western Balkans through the perspective of the common cultural heritage and shared history notably through involvement of youth. The project promoted networking at the local level of various stakeholders with an aim of increasing touristic potentials and opportunities for youth employment, better understanding and reconciliation in Western Balkans. In this specific context of economic and social crises, it is even more important to tackle the question of tourism, support the sector and contribute to the local economic development of the local communities. Among the activities developed: "Local Tourism at the Center of Awareness" with panelists Blerta Begolli, project officer at the Office for Tourism and Nermin Kastrati from PHM organization; and "Tourism of the Western Balkans in the spotlight" brought together 50 stakeholders from the tourism sector in WB6.

Main achievements: Mobile application created to promote shared cultural heritage related to monuments from World War 2 in Western Balkan Countries.

4. European Towns - Enacting Common Values of Solidarity and Intercultural Dialogue- VALID

Useful information	
Timespan	From October, 2019 to December 2021
N. of partners/Associated	12 partners
Total Budget	143,640 EUR
Funded by	European Union under the Programme "Europe for Citizens"

The project VALID aims at building a strong network of towns, committed to intercultural exchange through promotion of cultural participation as a tool for improving social inclusion, active citizenship, through intercultural dialogue as well as fostering solidarity and respect for cultural diversity. Through the motto of LAs as "social promoters" of intercultural dialogue in Europe the partnership involves Kosovo*, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, North Macedonia, Italy, Montenegro, France, Greece and Slovenia. Emerging intercultural tensions, social disharmony together with the raise of citizens discontent and their demand for more inclusion in policy making all over Europe, there is an evident need to invest in cultural diversity and dialogue. VALID therefore aims at reinforcing the integration of intercultural and social perspectives into a wide range of



public policies using them as a concept and as a policy tool basis for managing diversity, recognizing European cities as key players in intercultural policy.

Main achievements: The project aims at bridging the local and the European level, building cooperation from a bottom up approach and at the same time constructing a European network creating a wider common intercultural frame.

Covid impact: Duration of the project was extended and most of the meeting were done online and hybrid way.

LDA Mariupol



Delegate: Tetiana Lomakina

Established: 2017

Key partners:

- City of Gdańsk, Poland (Lead Partner)
- City of Mariupol, Ukraine (Host City)
- NGO Mariupol Development Fund
- NGO Mariupol Youth Union

Main objectives:

- increase the level of interest, awareness and ability of citizens to participate in local decision-making process;
- give an opportunity for citizens to exercise their rights, to manage their lives through
- increasing their awareness about their subjectivity, choice and freedom of participation,
- acceptance of their common responsibility for the common good;
- involve citizens in programs of positive changes in the city;
- develop responsible attitude to personal lives, people around and the urban space;
- support programs of reforms at local levels;
- support young active people in the realization of their initiatives;
- promote the Sustainable Development Goals and ensure active steps to achieve these goals;
- support and assist the dialog process between civil society and local authorities.

The values of Local democracy agency Mariupol are unity, solidarity, mutual trust and opportunity for self-actualization, which became a platform for cooperation of communities, business structures and local authorities. The mission of the LDA in Mariupol is to create a platform for cooperation, facilitation of dialogue and mutual exchange between local communities of Mariupol and European partners aiming at facilitating the participation of civil society in decision-making process at the local level.

LDA MARIUPOL IN THE FIELD

Projects and activities

1. Elaboration of a regional mid-term Strategy of LDAs' network development in the EaP region.

Useful information	
Timespan	From July 2020 to April 2021
N. of partners/Associated	5
Total Budget	Volunteer project
Funded by	Black Sea NGO Forum

The objective of the project is to develop the network of Local Democracy Agencies from Eastern Partnership countries working in the Black Sea region. The role of the LDA Mariupol is to take part in the elaboration of a regional mid-term Strategy of LDAs' network development in the EaP region.

Main achievements:

- A Draft of the Strategy had been prepared with the EaP team;
- A series of meetings held via Zoom led by professional moderator Aliona Turcan and assistant Irina Ciurmac at CICO, Moldova.
- LDA Mariupol had a great opportunity to adjust and correct its internal policies with the support of Nicolai Loghin, a Consultant in financial management at CICO.

Covid impact: Due to the COVID-19, all project events were held online via Zoom.



2. UNDP project - Platform for Good Governance and Environmental Protection

Useful information	
Timespan	From April to October 2021
N. of partners/Associated	3
Funded by	UNDP

The project was aimed at creation a platform for Good Governance and Environmental Protection with the participation of 20 participants who will teach the good governance instruments and how to apply them on practice. LDA Mariupol provided logistical support or participants from Donetsk and Luhansk regions controlled by Ukraine; also, written translation of the project materials from English into Ukrainian had been done for trainers and facilitators of the project.

The trainings, the round table discussion and collection of stories, are part of programme of capacity building consolidating the approach and capacity on good governance and citizens engagement of local authorities in Eastern Ukraine. It is of utmost importance to give instruments and capacities to municipalities elected leaders and staff in order to support them in a difficult context and tasks. Local democracy is at the heart of service delivery and consolidation of trust between public local institutions and citizens. The programme aims at strengthening the work of the LAs and the dialogue with civil society and citizens. Therefore, also the participation of civil society is of utmost importance in order to have in the training process, as well as the debates, the opportunity to co-create action plans and to start thinking about joint implementation.

Main achievements: Reporting will be an essential part of the work of the team in order to capitalize the work implemented as well for building future possible activities with the municipalities and participants.

1. Report on the steps undertaken so far.
2. Report on training session. Each training session will be reported with:
3. Mid-term report
4. Report on each session of debate with:
 - List of participants and contacts
 - General report on the round table activities
 - Innovative ideas emerged and proposals
 - Photos
 - Transcription of working groups and individual works
 - Videos of activities
5. At the end of all the activities a full final report will be presented with indications of results of all the activities with data and assessment; analysis of all the evaluations and proposal for the future.
6. Collection of stories and practices:
 - diary of the trainings (explained as a principle for all the activities)
 - the wall of ideas of the training, collecting practices and hints coming from participants
 - a detailed report of activities of the training with comments and added elements from the trainers too, with conversation had with the participants
 - photos and videos that will be asked to participants to be provided
 - diary of the debate sessions and wall of ideas

Covid impact: The Covid 19 pandemic is certainly still be present during the implementation of the programme. The whole programme was held in presence but taking into consideration all the sanitary protections and procedures in order to preserve the health of participants and the training team. In particular:

- The agreement with the hotel hosting events or places organizing the debates with mention the care for all the procedures (distances, sanitation of spaces, attention to the catering service, rooms disinfection, use of masks, etc.)
- The team will require all the participants to agree on basic rules in order to protect themselves and the team.
- Physical contacts between participants won't be requested, neither during the plenary of working groups, nor during the exercises – like ice breaker.

“The idea behind this project is to turn LDAs into “bridges” between citizens and local governments, thus improving the citizen’s participation in their communities”

3. Youth sports marathon «7 days of sports»

Useful information	
Timespan	From January 28, 2021 to March 2, 2021
N. of partners/Associated	2 (NGO Mariupol Youth Union, LDA Mariupol)
Total Budget	1 675 EUR
Funded by	British Council

For 1 month there were prepared:

- research and project development
- project proposal writing
- 1 month strategy, communications strategy
- 1 month project implementation, collection of project results

This project made it possible to mobilize, motivate young people and "transfer" them from passive, the oppressed condition which has arisen in connection with illness, death of relatives, isolation, loss of the income, fears, ie the consequences of the pandemic negatively influencing mentality and aggravating already existing frustration. Promoting a healthy lifestyle, active position, physical health through the introduction of sports habits in their lives will enable the people of Ukraine to more easily overcome depressive factors and prevent mental disorders.

The project contributed to the development and support of the following areas of global sustainable development goals:

No. 3 - support of good health

No. 5 - gender equality

No. 17 - cooperation to achieve goals

Main achievements: The result at the local level was an increase in the physical health of young people, which helped to address the psychological negative consequences. At the global level, in general, the information campaign, which openly disseminated information with useful tips on maintaining mental health and promoting a healthy, resilient lifestyle, inspired young people from other parts of Ukraine to join similar events in their community, and even become organizers of similar events in their city.

Covid impact: Due to the COVID-19, all project events were held online via Zoom. Project participants posted their stories and videos of their trainings on their pages in social media. After they sent them to project coordinators



**Skills Lab:
Local Leaders**

Мотиваційна спікерка
навчальної програми
«Skills Lab: Local Leaders»

**Тетяна
Ломакіна**

Радниця-уповноважена Президента України
з питань безбар'єрності; представниця
наглядової ради Європейської асоціації
місцевої демократії (ALDA)

ЛДА
Mariupol

4. SKILLS LAB: LOCAL LEADERS

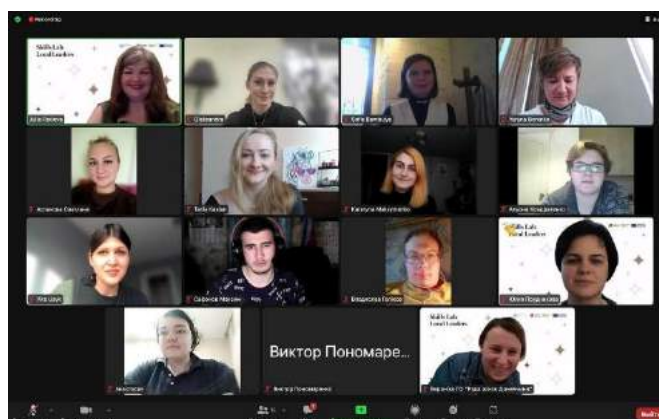
Useful information	
Timespan	From July to December 2021
N. of partners/Associated	Lead partner – NGO “Mariupol Youth Union”

	2 partners - NGO Women League of Donechchyna, LDA Mariupol
Total Budget	Volunteer project
Funded by	UNDP

“Skills Lab: Local Leaders” training program is for those leaders who:

- want to know about the influence in local decision-making process
- gain practical skills in developing their own initiatives to change Ukraine's communities for the better

If you are studying at a vocational school or university, live in Donetsk, Luhansk, Zaporizhia or Kherson regions, have a great desire to find opportunities for the development of your community, AND want to implement your own social initiatives – we need you right now!



The training program consists of 7 learning modules where a young leader will learn about:

- Youth leadership and its role in community development;
- Youth policy and its structure;
- Analysis of the needs of your community and search for tools for positive change in them;
- Detailed description of the work in local government;
- Tips on how to become an "agent of change" in your community;
- Gender-sensitive and human rights-based approach;
- The work and role of public organizations in society;
- Motivational speeches of speakers and workshops.

Internship program will select 5 best participants from each region (20 participants in total). They will have an opportunity to practice the acquired knowledge in another city or community in local governments, or territorial communities or military-civil administrations, or in NGO sector.

Main achievements: Young leaders are informed about the basics of local democracy and the opportunities for youth to participate in Donetsk, Kherson, Zaporozhye and Lugansk regions.

Covid impact: Due to the COVID-19, all project events were held online via Zoom. Participants posted information about online events on their pages in social media (Facebook/Instagram, etc.).

“I thank all who took part in the project implementation and engaged me as a coach of the training course. I see how youth is involved in the training process receiving a feedback from participants”, - **Julia Pavlova, psychologist and Head coach in “Coach trainina EDU”**.

LDA Moldova



Delegate: Nicolae Hristov

Established: 2017

Key partners:

- Solidarité Eau Europe, France (lead partner)
- City of Cimișlia, host city
- IASCI – International Agency for Source Country Information (Representative Office Moldova) - NEXUS Moldova

Main objectives:

- Facilitate the participation of civil society in the decision-making process at the local level.
- Increase the interest, awareness and capacities of citizen to take part in the decision-making process at the local level.
- Increase the awareness and skills of the local communities and local authorities to address the needs of citizens.
- Increase the interest and sharing of information between Moldova and other European.
- Countries and stakeholders to enable closer cooperation and ongoing exchange of the practices.
- Raise the awareness of the importance of migration with regards of local development.

The LDA Moldova in Cimișlia was established on 3 March 2017. It represents the first LocalDemocracy Agency in Moldova, based in the city of Cimișlia, a historic and symbolic city, the aim is to create a platform for cooperation, dialogue and mutual exchange of experience in all aspects (cultural, social and economic) between local communities and communities of European partners and will constitute a platform of discussion between citizens, local associations and authorities on the field in order to meet the needs of local communities.

LDA MOLDOVA IN THE FIELD

Projects and activities

1. “Modernization of solid household waste management in town Cimislia, villages Bogdanovca Noua, Bogdanovca Veche and Dimitrovca”

Useful information	
Timespan	From August, 2020 to July, 2021
N. of partners/Associated	Cimislia Town Hall, District Youth Center, Local TV "Media TV"
Total Budget	29326,34 EUR
Funded by	European Union

The project is intended to elaborate recommendations for Local Public Authorities regarding the establishment of the contracting of sanitation services; as well as on the location of household waste platforms. By organising 10 public debates on solid household waste with the participation of citizens, the project investigates on the participation of citizens and local elected officials. At the same time, through this project, 109 containers with a volume of 1100 litres for waste collection have been purchased, and a contests on ecological themes (photo, video, drawing - the impact of waste) with the participation of children and young people took place.

Main achievements: Among the achievements, one can positively record 2100 citizens from 3 villages benefit from the public waste disposal service.

Covid impact: The activities that needed a large public participation were carried out in airy spaces, with a limited number of people, outdoors, respecting the physical distance, offering protective masks and disinfectants.



2. Activating Governance Reform for Enhancing Development (AGREED)

Useful information	
Timespan	From April, 2019 to September 2021
N. of partners/Associated	ALDA – European Association for Local Democracies, LDA Moldova and Clinica Juridica Universitara
Total Budget	21000 EUR
Funded by	European Union

The project implemented by ALDA – European Association for Local Democracies, LDA Moldova and Clinica Juridica Universitara seeks to achieve cooperation between local authorities and civil society, namely by activating participatory processes which will engage and give a voice on key issues to citizens, associations, business community and the civil society as a whole. The Local Authorities will prove to be key actors in the governance and initiators of a participatory, multi-stakeholders and multi – level governance policy making process. By coordinating the participatory process foreseen by the action and by taking to the Central Government the recommendations expressed by the citizens, the local authorities will be responsabilized towards their citizens. The project focuses to build a growingly concerted mechanism between the civil society and the local authorities in the policy making.

Main achievements: The project increased accountability of the LAs, towards their own citizens, from downward accountability to the upward one, thus towards central government. At the same time it improved competencies of the LAs in promoting concerted policy- making process with the local stakeholders, while empowering them. It also supported the process to approve the decentralization reform is advocated, capitalized and endorsed by Las.

Covid impact: If the risks of infection were too high, the activity was carried out online.



3. Local Democracy Network Development

Useful information	
Timespan	From July, 2020 to September, 2021
N. of partners/Associated	Local Democracy Agency Dnipro (Ukraine); Local Democracy Agency Mariupol (Ukraine); Local Democracy Agency Georgia; Local Democracy Foundation Armenia
Total Budget	9925 EUR
Funded by	Romanian NGDO Platform – FOND with the financial support of the European Union.

The project “Local Democracy Network Development” aims to establish a network of Local Democracy Agencies from Eastern Partnership countries working in the Black Sea region. As a first step in this regard, a mid-term development strategy of the network has been elaborated, which will pave the way towards network’s development. As a result LDAs will play a bigger bridging role between citizens and local governments, thus improving the citizen’s participation in their communities. The network will serve as reliable source of information about on-going evolutions at local level in Black Sea countries of EaP. Finally, the project was also essential as far as the increase of the fundraising skills, institutional capacities and resilience of the Black Sea LDAs with specific focus on resilience and sustainability.

Main achievements: Thanks to the project, 5 representatives of LDAs have been trained on fundraising, good governance and resilience in Chisinau; while LDAs’ internal governance has been improved; as well as their sustainability and resilience. In addition, LDAs network strategy has been developed and approved.



4. “LDA Moldova in support of people with disabilities and marginalized on the protection of human rights”

Useful information	
Timespan	From April, 2021 to July, 2022
Total Budget	50000 USD
Funded by	Swedish Embassy in Moldova

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to an increased efficiency of justice services and to improved access to justice of men and women in Moldova, especially for vulnerable and marginalized groups. Thanks to enhanced capacities of forensic institutions to provide qualitative justice services, the project is intended to strengthen capacities of the justice sector actors in the selected pilot areas to provide coordinated response to men’s and women’s justice needs, while fostering civil society capability to claim the respect of rights and engage in a constructive dialogue with the justice chain actors.

Main achievements: The project managed to increase coordination, cooperation and capacitation of key justice sector actors in four regions of the Republic of Moldova (North, South, Centre and ATU Gagauzia), while developing dialogue platforms on issues related to the both the efficiency and the accessibility to justice for local population. Thanks to the project the public awareness on access to justice increased amongst men and women from pilot regions

LDA Montenegro



Delegate: Kerim Medjedovic

Established: 2001

Key partners:

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

Main objectives:

- Local administration capacity development
- Human rights and peace building
- Youth participation
- Local economic development
- European Union integration processes

The Local Democracy Agency in Nikšić was established with the support of the Council of Europe on May 11th 2001 as a local NGO. LDA Montenegro functions within the network of 11 Agencies in the former Yugoslav republics and with the support of the Association of Local Democracy Agencies. The creation of Local Democracy Agencies was one of the measures proposed in 1993 by the Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe. Local Democracy Agency of Montenegro together with the Association of Local Democracy Agencies works on the development of democratic processes and socio-economic development of Southeast and Eastern Europe in co-operation with partners, cities, regions and other organizations through decentralized co-operation and partnership.

LDA MONTENEGRO IN THE FIELD

Projects and activities

1. Regional youth compact for Europe

Useful information	
Timespan	From April, 2018 to April, 2021
N. of partners/Associated	14
Total Budget	8.266,96 EUR
Funded by	European Commission; Program: Consolidating Regional Thematic Networks of Civil Society Organizations

As a logical sequel of the 4 year “Balkan regional platform for youth participation and dialogue”, this initiative responds to the need to strengthen capacities of CSOs and youth participation in policy creation and in monitoring the process of EU integration in the Western Balkans. Special focus is given to the rule of law, fundamental rights as well as economic and social issues, especially as far as employment concerns. Among the activities of the initiative one can find: Youth CSOs Capacity Building; Monitoring and Advocacy; Regional Networking and Exchange programme; Sub-granting Programme. Specifically, Multi stakeholder platform: “Participate, it’s up to you!”, was organised in April 2021. The topic of the event was related to Montenegro’s progress in European integration, bringing this process closer to young people and ways to get involved in them, with special emphasis on the importance of negotiating rule of law and fundamental rights.

Main achievements: At the platform: “Participate, it’s up to you!”, significant support was provided by panelists from the Office for European Integration, the Association of Youth with Disabilities of Montenegro and the Civic Alliance. Among the main conclusions of the dialogue between representatives of institutions and the youth of Nikšić were: Bringing benefits and values of the EU closer to young people through formal and non-formal educational mechanisms, and this requires events such as a platform for dialogue; the necessity to inform more on the accession process and what are the small steps towards membership that bring a better life to citizens and young people. Concerning security, condemning war crimes in the 1990s in Montenegro and informing young people about this side of Montenegro and the region’s past is a good way to combat extremism among young people.



“We should focus more on what are the small steps towards membership that bring a better life to citizens and young people” – **participants to the initiative**



2. CO.CO TOUR – Safeguarding, enhancing and promoting the natural and cultural heritage of Coastal Communities by boosting the eco- museum model aiming at smart and sustainable TOURism management

Useful information	
Timespan	From April, 2018 to April, 2021
N. of partners/Associated	6
Total Budget	1.079.523,71 EUR
Funded by	European Union: INTERREG IPA II CBC Italy-Albania-Montenegro 2014-2020 Program

Co.Co.Tour project aims to smart, inclusive and sustainable growth of the coastal communities in the target areas through a development of a cross-border model of cooperation based on heritage enhancing and tourism innovations. Starting from the example experience of Tricase Port Museum (IT), the project created two new eco-museum realities in Albania and Montenegro. The project activated a community tourism package for each territory by improving organizational and promotional capacity, fostering public and dynamic eco-museums centers, improving accessibility of spaces and services by upgrading structures, developing web and ICT devices join with graphic and narrative tools in order to increase attractiveness and tourism competitiveness. LDA MNE's task was to develop community and eco-museum model in Herceg Novi and to create good narrative for the tourism packages around the only Balkans' Nobel Prize Laureate for literature, Ivo Andrić's house and his life in this city. This model includes accessibility principles.

Main achievements: Local Democracy Agency organized final event of the CoCo Tour project – Ceremony of opening ecomuseum in Herceg Novi on March 31st 2021. By implementing Co.Co Tour project, a new phase in tourism in this part of the Mediterranean begins. Established model of eco-museum, created tourist package, designed smartphone application for visitors, empowered tourism workers in terms of accessibility, local communities involved in the model of eco-museum / community museum – all these are results that connect the three cities of Himara, Herceg Novi and Tricaze. Safeguarding and promotion of local cultural-historical and natural heritage have gained a new dimension through the Co.Co Tour. The PANORAMED Governance Platform, which supports the processes of strengthening and developing multilateral cooperation in the Mediterranean region for joint responses to common challenges and opportunities, emphasized the importance of this project. Co.Co Tour was chosen as the optimal project that can transform sustainable development model tourism in the entire Mediterranean climate.

“... Andrić was always interested in the motif of bridges, he believed that they were an expression of the eternal human struggle to connect and unite the two sides. Andrić showed that bridges bring peace, connect the past and the future, bring us together and bring prosperity. Just like Andrić “The EU is building bridges between people through our cross-border co-operation programs. This project is an example of that. In the spirit of Andrić, continue to build bridges and connect people of all nationalities, religions and cultures,” **said at the opening of eco-museum Ivo Andrić's House in Herceg Novi, Chargé d'Affaires of the EU Plamena Halachev.**

IMPACT - Inclusion matters: Using performance art towards Cohesion and Tolerance

Useful information	
Timespan	From March, 2019 to February, 2021 (ext. May.2021)
N. of partners/Associated	8
Total Budget	150.000,00 EUR
Funded by	European Union through ERASMUS+ KA2 Programme

Among the objectives of the project, one can focus on the development of the new methodology for inclusion through arts for vulnerable groups, migrants and refugees. Thanks to this initiative training of trainers and artists have been organized, as well as local workshops. The project lead also to the development of the methodology, and the promotion of local and international event. Specifically, during 2019 LDA MNE realized 3 art workshops with people on the move. Two in Centre for Asylum seekers Spuz and one in Pljevlja in cooperation with NGO Bona Fide. In that occasion, it was decided that national multiplier event would have aimed at awareness raising for the Montenegrin public on position of people on the move that are passing through.

Main achievements: Final Event – Exhibition “From Nepal to Senegal towards Europe“ consisted of an exhibition of works created during the workshops, whose focuses were: home, holidays or the journey. Aside from works, the exhibition included photos and belongings left behind from NGO Bona Fide that provides shelter and rest for the people on the move for the last 3 years and also the artworks of Montenegrin artists who are willing to participate and find the issue of migration and journeys interesting.

Covid impact: Health risk of participants and staff due to the nature of activities / live art workshops, and live final event.

“By meeting people on the move, we meet the world at its best and at its worst” – **a participant**

3. CulTours- Cultural Tours in Western Balkans

Useful information	
Timespan	From June, 2020 to June, 2021
N. of partners/Associated	8
Total Budget	20.385,00 EUR
Funded by	Western Balkan Fund

The project contributed to regional cooperation and regional cohesion in Western Balkans through cultural cooperation and activities for sustainable growth. It promoted shared cultural heritage in Western Balkan countries related to common history through the creation of youth friendly tool; reinforce the cooperation and networking among different stakeholders on local and regional level; the support of local sustainable development of micro-localities through income generating activities and tourism. The activities promoted within the project, included the creation of mobile application for promotion of shared cultural heritage; the promotion of touristic tool to local touristic promoters; webinars for exchange of ideas on tourism and local economic development; regional networking activities.

Main achievements: LDA Montenegro organized networking webinar “Nikšic Tourism in Spotlight” presenting the results of Cultours, Mobile phone application and its potentials. Participants were application points of interests, owners of small tourism businesses from the territory of Nikšic, local and national touristic dealers and relevant local and national institutions.

Covid impact: Online events, decreased number of stakeholders involved.



“Nikšic is hidden touristic jewel, it’s up to us to make people discover it”

4. ERASMUS FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS -EYE - SEE SMART SMEs project (South Eastern European coalition to cultivate SMART SMEs in Europe)

Useful information	
Timespan	From February, 2020 to February, 2023 (ext. February, 2024)
N. of partners/Associated	7
Total Budget	693.223,22 EUR
Funded by	European Commission

The proposed project addresses three main challenges that European SMEs need to face and overcome in order to keep on being the backbone of the European Union (EU) economy and thus contribute to reach the Europe 2020 Strategy. Hence, several activities have been designed, from providing information to NEs, to promoting the programme and search for HE. In addition, it fosters the verification of applications from NEs and HEs, while pro-actively matching relationships, and provides induction training for NEs in the country of origin, Overall, it supports the management of commitments & agreements, assists on the practicalities /logistical support, ensuring high standards and evaluation feedback, Organize active networking amongst IOs, Report to the Lead IOS.

Main achievements: 5 exchanges have been realized in 2021: LDA MNE despite the pandemic and visas procedures, succeeded in sending 5 entrepreneurs to the mentors located in the EU countries Milo Radunovic, Marleq startup owner, spent 6 months in Sweden, learning how to create a strategy for attracting investors, while receiving help in mentoring company in branding on LinkedIn, and analysing possibilities of cooperation of these two companies etc. In addition, LDA MNE successfully presented to

EYE program to the potential beneficiaries with the support of EU Info Center and European Commission in Podgorica with H.E. Oana Christna Popa, in November 2021.

Covid impact: COVID 19 slowed the challenges posed for the visa processes and impacted the number of realized exchanges.

“In this six-month mentoring program, I learned to celebrate small victories, to enjoy the process of achieving goals more, not just achieving the goals, to take a break when I feel exhausted, but not to give up and appreciate more that I have the opportunity to create and lead this a unique and significant initiative” - **Beneficiary**

5. CSOs Networking for Better Local Democracy in the Balkans

Useful information	
Timespan	2021
N. of partners/Associated	BNLD members
Total Budget	69.980,00 EUR
Funded by	Balkan Civil Society Development Network, Swedish Investment Development Agency

CSOs contributed to a conducive environment for civil society development that enables them to be influential actors in society. The activities implemented during the project were: research and analysis, comparative analysis, collection of case studies; capacity-building and exchange: “Regional BNLD Best Practice Fair”, online BNLD Information and Resource Point; regional awareness raising.

Main achievement: LDA Montenegro contributed research and analyzes of the project activities, by conducting local case study research along with providing also content for the Local democracy Resource hub. LDA Montenegro took part in the “BNLD Regional fair of best practice” contributing the exchange of best local democracy practices among Balkan countries’ municipalities. September 2021

6. Capacity building for European Solidarity Corps program

Useful information	
Timespan	2021
Funded by	European Union

Since February 2019 LDA Montenegro (LDA MN) is awarded European Solidarity Corps Quality Label both as a sending and hosting organization, making the year 2021 as dedicated to the capacity building activities. Thus, representatives of LDA MNE attended several capacity building and networking events organized by SALTO-YOUTH network as well as TOSCA – training and support for organisations active in the volunteering actions. From a general perspective, LDA MNE youth program aims at strengthening youth participation, volunteering and activism at local level. In addition, in 2014, the Agency started a new initiative, dedicated to young generations: Info Point Nikšić. More in details, the latter serves as a service that provides information on skill development via non-formal education; opportunities for youth, while involving youth in LDAs project activities and helping them in realizing their own initiatives.

7. INER - Intelligent Energy Management and Renewable Energy Sources Promotion

Useful information	
Timespan	From April 2020 to December 2022
N. of partners/Associated	6
Total Budget	1.154.867,72 EUR
Funded by	European Union, IPA Interreg CBC Croatia - Bosnia and Herzegovina – Montenegro program

The project aims to increase energy efficiency (EE), in terms of the use of renewable energy sources (RES); as well as the intelligent energy management in Croatia, Bosnia Herzegovina and Montenegro, through promotion, raising awareness, improving knowledge, competences and enabling transfer of best practices between project territories. Concretely the project developed several activities, among them: the preparation of Local buildings typology and lists of recommended EE measures; elaboration of Scenarios for EE improvement; Implementation of 5 Energy audits in public buildings (these audits include: analysis of energy category of building, balances of energy use, measures for improvement of energy efficiency, calculation of possible savings and payback period for each measure, as well as potential financing sources).

Main achievements: LDA MNE and Municipality Nikšić signed a Memorandum on cooperation for the INER project in July 2021. Solar Park will be LDA MNE demonstrative action of renewable energy sources

and Niksic Municipality will benefit from the other results of the project such as: typology of residential buildings, energy audits of 5 public buildings and energy efficiency trainings for the civil servants.

“We absolutely must build green architecture, and the heart of that architecture is energy efficiency. ” - **Biljana Gligoric**
B2B meetings

8. COOPERAZIONE MONTENEGRO

Useful information	
Timespan	From March, 2021 to March, 2022
N. of partners/Associated	6
Total Budget	150.000,00 EUR
Funded by	Comune di Monfalcone, Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia

The project is indented to activate and spur youth in local community, through several activities. In addition, it consisted of workshops, trainings and public events in order to strengthen youth participation capacities at local level and develop critical opinion among youth. For example, “Youth Taking – over Day”, traditionally realized by LDA Montenegro at the end of the year and in cooperation with schools, CSOs, universities, brought together groups of young and local decision-and-policy makers. Dialogue and debates are developed upon youth needs and challenges at European, national and local level, strategic especially for youth, plans such as: unemployment, education, health, culture, participation, leisure etc.

Main achievements: LDA Montenegro in cooperation with the Association of Young Ecologists Nikšić organised an event on the topic of "Youth participation in community life": young people gathered, discussed the needs of their local community and potential solutions while cleaning the eco- park Blaca in July 2021. In addition, LDA MNE supported newly formed Cyber-bullying prevention peer club in elementary school Mileva Lajovic Lalatovic by providing them the first training workshop on cyber-bullying and media literacy in December 2021. Cooperation and work with the club will continue next year.

LDA Mostar



Delegate: Dženana Dedić

Established: 2004

Key partners:

- Apulia Region, Italy (Lead Partner)
- City of Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina (Host City) • City of Vejle, Denmark
- Fargfabriken, Sweden

Main objectives:

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

Since its establishment in November 2004, Local Democracy Agency Mostar acts as a locally registered non-profit, nongovernmental organization, with the support of its partners and cooperation with other Agencies and the Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA). It is precisely this co-operation, both on local and regional level that has enabled numerous activities and projects useful for the development of local community and its inclusion into processes at the regional level. Activities of LDA Mostar, which aim to create a more active citizenry on one side, and transparent and accountable local authorities on the other, are focused towards development of a modern democratic society. These activities entangle every segment of life of the local community and offer a possibility of improving the living standard of all categories of the society by directly influencing concrete changes.

LDA MOSTAR IN THE FIELD

Projects and activities

1. Snapshots from the Borders

Useful information	
Timespan	From October, 2017 to October, 2021
N. of partners/Associated	36
Total Budget	5.352.358,28 EUR
Funded by	European Union (EuropeAid DEAR budget line)

It aims to improve critical understanding of European, national and local decision makers and of public opinion about global interdependencies determining migration flows towards European borders, in the perspective of reaching SDG targets, especially SDG 1, 5, 10, 11 and 16. Specifically, the project intends to strengthen a new horizontal, active network among cities directly facing migration flows at EU borders, as a way to promote more effective policy coherence at all levels (European, national, local). In the frame of the project, the extensive and coherent "No more bricks in the wall"



campaign has been developed both at local (town level), national (member state level) and EU level (Brussels and EU institutions) which aims to inform European citizens that migration is a complex and multidimensional phenomenon and a political issue which needs efforts and concrete actions taken by people and organizations/networks at all levels of society. The ultimate scope of the campaign is to attract citizens in Border Territories and all-around Europe both already keen to solidarity towards migrants.

Main achievements: In October, the results of this 4 years journey were shared through an interactive tool – Web Documentary, which is a multimedia product intended for digital audiences. It's not a common documentary: from videos to infographics, texts and animations, you can decide how to use the content. It is a different way of talking about migration, and actively involves users.

Covid impact: Modification of the majority of project activities (international events switched to online events).



“Names that are broken lives, names that tell stories all different from each other, united by a terrible destiny, names that tell lives that could have been and were not. The lives they tell today are forever linked to the people who rescued them. The monument is called New Hope, because it remembers those who lost their lives, but it speaks of the future. It speaks of the lives saved and of those that a borderless idea of humanity takes away, taking away a bit of the future from all of us.” (Excerpt from the series Border tales – **“Lampedusa, between memory and future”**).



2. Regional Youth Compact for Europe – RYCE

Useful information	
Timespan	From April, 2018 to April, 2021
N. of partners/Associated	14
Total Budget	832.400,00 EUR
Funded by	European Commission (Consolidating Regional Thematic Networks of Civil Society Organizations)

This cooperation initiative launched by 14 CSOs from the EU, Western Balkans and Turkey with the aim to enhance the effective participation of civil society and youth organizations in the EU integration and accession negotiation process through capacity building, awareness raising and advocacy actions organized at local, national and regional level. Among the activities done in 2021, one can notice: a workshop entitled "YOUth SWOT" was held in Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina, which provided young people with an insight into basic economic and social rights in an interactive and casual way, with a special focus on employment opportunities. In addition, LDA Mostar in cooperation with National Democratic Institute (NDI) organized the first “Current Class”: an opportunity for questions and answers outside the parliamentary benches.

Main achievements: Strengthening CSOs, particularly youth organizations in the Western Balkans and Turkey to more effectively participate in the design of policies and monitoring the process of EU integration.

Covid impact: Many project activities were modified or postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic. International events were changed to hybrid events. Some of the partners had to postpone local activities (workshops and panel discussions on EU Chapters). However, each activity was successfully completed within the frame of project’s deadlines.



3. IMPACT - Inclusion Matters! Using Performing Arts towards Cohesion and Tolerance

Useful information	
Timespan	From March 2019 to October 2021
N. of partners/Associated	8
Total Budget	207.026,00 EUR
Funded by	European Commission (Erasmus + KA2 – Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices, K205 – Strategic partnership for youth

The core idea of the project is to offer Western Balkans refugees' amusement and social inclusion opportunities, by using theatre and art strategies. During phase 1, the project promoted collaboration and an exchange of best practices among European theatre companies with previous experience in working with refugees and Balkan arts groups. During this phase a social inclusion strategy will be developed. During phase 2 Balkans arts groups implemented the above-developed strategies through art workshops with Western Balkan's refugees and local communities, and eventually will implement final performances. Phase 3 was dedicated to a massive communication and dissemination campaign by

publishing guidelines on how to use performing art strategies for social inclusion, a promotional video and surveys.

Main achievements: Production of the theatrical play “Game”.

Covid impact: Due to the covid 19 measures in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the theatrical play Game instead in front of the live audience had to be performed online.

4. YAMNFL - Youth Ambassadors of Non-Formal Learning

Useful information	
Timespan	From November 2019 to October 2021
N. of partners/Associated	11
Total Budget	149.357,20 EUR
Funded by	Erasmus+ (KA2 – Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices – Capacity Building in the field of Youth)

The project is based upon Non-Formal Education and is working to develop the new methodology of the Youth Ambassadors of Non Formal Education, trained youngsters which can use peer-to-peer approach providing their experience to inspire other young people and relevant stakeholders in giving a



higher credit and a better use to NFL experiences. The project aims at promoting participation in Non-Formal Education activities and the power of validation and recognition of competences acquired outside the formal education environment through an innovative methodology. For example, activities in 2021 focused on: YOUth Ambassadors of Non-Formal Learning Training Course, Job Shadowing activity, Local Workshop on youth activism or the Seminar for the Youth Ambassadors.

Main achievements: Empowerment of Youth Ambassadors in promoting and awareness raising the need for validation and recognition of non-formal education. In addition, the Catalogue of inspiring stories about non formal education has been published, and the YAMNFL Research on Recognition and Validation of NFL in EU, WB and Turkey conducted.

Covid impact: Due to the COVID-19 measures, project leader, LDA Mostar requested the suspension of project activities and the extension of the project for a period of 4 months which was adopted by EU.

5. STAR – Street ART

Useful information	
Timespan	From November 2019 to April, 2022
N. of partners/Associated	15
Total Budget	148.680 EUR
Funded by	European Commission (Europe for Citizens - Network of Towns)

The project is creating a network with a common strategy of promoting social inclusion and decreasing marginalization by the rehabilitation of depressed and abandoned areas of European cities through street art. Street art is seen as a form of social expression, which allows engagement of communities and the regeneration of neighborhoods; it can increase local identity, mutual understanding and solidarity. Under this project, the street art will be realized in cooperation with citizens, artists, migrants, schools and local organizations. On the occasion of the approval for the official extension of the project implementation, project consortium gathered online to discuss replanning activities.

Main achievements: Using the street art as a way to involve communities and regenerate public spaces.

Covid impact: Due to the COVID-19 measures, project leader requested the suspension of project activities and the extension of the project until 30/04/2022 which was adopted by EU. International events were switched to hybrid events.



6. WB CulTours - Cultural tours in Western Balkans

Useful information	
Timespan	From May, 2020 to May 2021
N. of partners/Associated	5
Total Budget	15.860 EUR
Funded by	Western Balkans Fund

The proposed project built upon the outcomes of the “Monumental 9”, notably the vast information created during the project and presented on the online platform, contributing thus to sustainability and added value of the social intervention as well as to the multiplication of the outcomes. Specifically, this project contributed to the promotion of the touristic potentials of the region of Western Balkans through the perspective of the common cultural heritage and shared history through involvement of youth. The project promoted networking at the local level of various stakeholders with an aim of increasing touristic potentials and opportunities for youth employment, better understanding and reconciliation in Western Balkans. In this specific context of economic and social crises, it is even more important to tackle the question of tourism, support the sector and contribute to the local economic development of the local communities.

Main achievements: Mobile application created to promote shared cultural heritage related to monuments from World War 2 in Western Balkan Countries, while the forum "Tourism of the Western Balkans in the spotlight" brought together 50 stakeholders, exchanging best tourism practices in the region and learning from each other.



7. Strengthening trust, a precondition for a better future for young people

Useful information	
Timespan	From August 2020 to February 2022
N. of partners/Associated	LDA Mostar in project: sub-contractor of the project leader the City of Mostar
Total Budget	3.230,00 EUR
Funded by	Project PRO – Budućnost II: financed by USAID and CRS

Project aims to improve institutional mechanisms for cooperation at the local level, with the aim of strengthening the position of young people in the community. Members of the working group of the PRO-Budućnost for the City of Mostar project gathered on the meeting in April to plan activities of the project dealing with youth relations with local governments to create formal youth structures that will ensure youth participation in planning and decision-making processes. In addition to the City of Mostar, two other Herzegovinian cities/municipalities were involved in the activities, namely Trebinje and Ljubuški.

Main achievements: Direct communication and cooperation between different ethnic and national groups, representatives from the three local communities on the importance of dialogue, coexistence, reconciliation and mutual cooperation will help in the process of eliminating prejudices about the other and the different. Through the activities, all participants in the project will review their own attitudes and values, and will be able to better understand their own positions in society, and thus gain the necessary knowledge and skills needed to work on positive social change.

8. CSOs networking for better local democracy in the Balkans

Useful information	
Timespan	From January, 2021 to October, 2021
N. of partners/Associated	8
Total Budget	6.800,00 EUR
Funded by	Balkan Civil Society Development Network – Regional Civil Society Development HUB, programme funded by SIDA, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

The project aims to create a regional civil society organization's cooperation and learning resource for advancing active citizenship at a local level. Moreover, the idea is to set local and regional capacity building, awareness raising and networking actions with the aim to address the main challenges of the civil society in our region. The activities will include research and comparative analysis of present state legal framework for citizens' participation in policy and decision making on local level in Western Balkan

countries. Furthermore, the Regional Best Practice Fair as well as social media campaign and e-newsletter have been implemented. The main target groups of the project are BNLD members and its network partners in all Western Balkan countries, other regional CSO networks and CSOs promoting democratic governance and inclusive participation at local level.

Main achievements: Strengthening the BNLD capacities to contribute more effectively to regional civic space; while improving regional exchange of experience and skills of BNLD network members on evidence-based advocacy and monitoring EU integration and reform agenda in WB countries; Creating a regional CSOs co-operation and learning resource for advancing active citizenship at local level. "The Participation in Policy / Decision-Making Processes in the Western Balkans - Challenges and Perspectives" was presented. This publication focuses on participatory tools for local democracies in the Western Balkans.



9. Strengthening local participation and cooperation through partnership of Public Authorities and CSOs in Bosnia and Herzegovina- LINK 4 Cooperation

Useful information	
Timespan	From January 2021 to December, 2023
N. of partners/Associated	6
Total Budget	545,897.00 EUR
Funded by	European Union

The project promotes principles of good governance with a view to effective and responsive performance of the local government units in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The project will empower the capacities of local authorities (elected leaders and civil servants) and civil society in implementing participative processes. Together they will identify concrete problems of the community that will find their solutions thanks to the participative approach. The project will therefore build capacities and solve problems, by consolidating the approach in the years to come. The main target group of this project are the 40 local CSOs and grassroots organizations from Bosnia and Herzegovina and 12 Local self-government units – municipal administration and local councilors as local decision makers.

Main achievements: Good cooperation with the project's beneficiaries has been established, while projects team capacity building - ELoGE programme methodology implemented. The Academy on Civil Participation was realized in cooperation with our project partner, ALDA, to promote the standards of

social participation of the Council of Europe. Finally, representatives of the LDA Mostar were invited by the European Union in BiH to present the organization and projects it implements, with special reference to LINK for cooperation within the project Global Exchange on Religion in Society (GERIS) event in Sarajevo.



“Efficient, quality, responsible and transparent public administration is a prerequisite for economic progress and stability. Only together, in partnership, can we build a high-quality public administration that serves the citizens and continuously creates conditions for socio-economic development.” - (Mr. Nicolas Bizel, Head of the Section of Operations for Justice, Home Affairs and Public Administration Reform of the EU Delegation to BiH, the Opening Conference of the project)



10. WELCOME TO ELECTIONVILLE (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Useful information	
Timespan	From May, 2021 to October, 2021
N. of partners/Associated	2
Funded by	Embassy of Sweden in Bosnia and Herzegovina

General Objective: to educate about and provide insights into how democracy works Electionville is a fictional city in the shape of an educational floor game, where the participants take on the challenging roles of county council members. Equally fun and engaging, the main objective of the Electionville toolkit is to educate about and provide insights into how democracy works. Originally designed as a board game by the Swedish content bureau Fabel and commissioned by the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions,



Electionville has been produced in over 13,000 copies, reaching more than half of the primary and upper secondary schools in Sweden. Primarily intended for people aged 15-24, the floor game version of Electionville can be played either individually or in groups. However, due to its versatility, the Electionville toolkit is suitable for people of all ages and regardless of political affiliation. This makes Electionville the perfect tool for practicing core democratic values such as inclusiveness, participation, and gender equality. In fact, to engage in a game of Electionville is to engage in democracy. Moderated

group talks or seminars on related themes are held in conjunction with the game event with target group and specially invited representatives from the local community.

Activities: On September 30, Mostar hosted the Welcome to Electionville event organized by LDA Mostar, with the support of the Swedish Embassy in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Young "councilors" through the game, led by Game Masters and Game Assistants, skillfully presented their political programs, allocated the city budget to their priorities, and with dialogue and compromise made important decisions for our city. All of the above took place in the presence of real councilors of the City Council of the City of Mostar, who at the end of the game had the opportunity to talk to young players. The event was opened by the Vice President of the City Council of the City of Mostar Ivan Zelenika, the Director of the LDA

Mostar Dženana Dedić and Her Excellency the Ambassador of Sweden Johanna Strömquist. On October 20, the second Welcome to Electionville event was held in Sarajevo, organized in partnership with the LDA Mostar and the KULT Institute for Youth Development with the support of the Swedish Embassy in Sarajevo. Fifteen young people between the ages of 15 and 24 in front of the Sarajevo City Hall took responsibility for decision-making and decision-making at the City Council level by participating in the game. During the game, democratic



processes were simplified, the importance of negotiations was emphasized, and the ways of achieving the compromise necessary in everyday work were emphasized. On October 22, the third Welcome to Electionville event was held in Banja Luka, organized by LDA Mostar and the KULT Institute for Youth Development, with the support of the Swedish Embassy in Sarajevo. Through the leadership of Game Master and Game Master assistant the players learned about democracy and democratic processes in their local community and through the game took responsibility for decision-making and decision-making from the fictitious City Council.

Main achievements: Increased awareness among young people in three cities in BiH about democratic processes and its value. Encouraging citizens participation and better communication between the citizens and local authorities.



"During the game, we were amazed by the knowledge of our young" councilors ". But the most impressive thing was how they combined their passionate arguments with efforts to actually listen to each other, were willing to change their minds and found creative compromises and showed all the qualities of true democratic leadership, "said representatives of the Swedish Embassy.



11. MOSTAR - Spaces to Activate and Rejuvenate

Useful information	
Timespan	From [month, 2021] to [month, 2023]
N. of partners/Associated	5
Total Budget	3.000.000,00 £
Funded by	UK Government funded

The 3-year, UK Government funded (Conflict, Stability and Security Fund, CSSF) project seeks to improve public space and its use in Mostar through mobilizing citizens and supporting citizen-led initiatives that contribute to shared civic, cultural and economic life of Mostar. The project also aims to support citizens and local authorities to effectively use new skills, tools and mechanisms to address citizen priorities in an inclusive, gender-sensitive, participatory and systematic manner. As part of the activities in 2021, representatives of the LDA Mostar participated in a meeting initiated by the British Minister for Europe at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Commonwealth and Development Wendy Morton, who visited Mostar accompanied by the British Ambassador to BiH Mr. Matt Field.

Main achievements: A contract was signed with People in Need Bosnia and Herzegovina for a new three-year project for development projects in Mostar. The project includes the renovation of public space and the connection of people, especially young people, through activities in the field of culture and environment.



12. Other activities

Balkan Network for Local Democracy (BNLD)

It has been more than two years since launching of the Balkan Network for Local Democracy (BNLD), which was established by seven Local Democracy Agencies from the Balkans together with ALDA. The goals of the BNLD are the promotion of the active citizen, democratic principles of governance, local development, and cooperation between civil society organizations and local public authorities in the Western Balkans region. Among the activities proposed in 2021: an online meeting of members of the Balkan Network for Local Democracy was held in January. A call for experts to conduct a comparative analysis of national legal frameworks in Northern Macedonia, Albania, Kosovo, Serbia, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina has also been published. On March 25, within the frame of BNLD and as part of the RYCE project, LDA Subotica organized a two-day Regional Thematic Forum of the Network and the Annual Conference of the Network. LDA Mostar team members also attended a two-day capacity building workshop on the BNLD in March. In March, the BCSDN announced the winners of the grant, including the Balkan Network for Local Democracy. In addition, a video was published which wanted to point out the importance of living together in a multicultural world and developing a sense of belonging and community.

City of Mostar Development Strategy

On October 11, the director of LDA Mostar and a member of the Strategy Development Committee of the City of Mostar, Dženana Dedić, participated in a meeting of the local Dialogue Platform of the City of Mostar entitled "Cooperation between NGOs and government sector of Mostar and identifying key priorities". The local dialogue platform aims to strengthen communication between citizens and local authorities, as a joint mechanism for identifying key priorities and addressing them, which are important for social cohesion in the city of Mostar. In addition to representatives of NGOs and UNDP, councilors/members of the Commission of the City Council of Mostar participated. During the meeting, several possible initiatives / activities were identified. The Dialogue Platform was created and implemented within the MARKERS project (Activism, Engagement and Responsible Solutions) which the City of Mostar is implementing in cooperation with the UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina office. On December 27, the Committee for Development of the City of Mostar adopted the draft Strategy of the City of Mostar for the period 2022-2027.

Citizen's Assembly of Mostar

As a precursor to the project "Building democratic participation in the City of Mostar", a meeting of representatives of the action Elect Mostar, led by representatives of LDA Mostar, with the Reflection Group for Mostar of the CoE and the EU was held. The whole process ultimately resulted in the aforementioned Council of Europe project, which provides an opportunity for the citizens of the City of Mostar to participate in democratic processes. In May the director of LDA Mostar and a member of the Supervisory Board, Dženana Dedić, participated in a meeting organized by the Council of Europe in BiH within the project "Building democratic participation in the City of Mostar". The results of the survey of the citizens of Mostar were presented at the meeting. Moreover, the LDA Mostar participated in the first meeting of the Supervisory Team of the project "Building democratic participation in the City of Mostar" implemented by the Council of Europe - Office in Sarajevo. of the supervisory team and participates in the whole process. In July, Marité Moras, Head of the Cooperation and External Relations Department of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, together with Damjan Jugović, project officer of the "Building democratic participation in the City of Mostar" and associates, visited LDA Mostar. Finally, the second hybrid meeting of the Supervisory Team of the Citizens' Assembly, formed through the project "Building democratic participation in the City of Mostar" was opened by Andreas Kiefer, Secretary General of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe and Marite Moras. The entire process that led to the formation and implementation of the Citizens' Assembly, the continuation of its activities, and the evaluation of the deliberative process and the results of the online survey on citizens' perceptions were presented at the meeting.

Network for Building Peace

On January 13, the Network for Building Peace Assembly was held, at which a new Steering Board and the President of the Assembly were elected. Members of the Assembly have appointed a representative of LDA Mostar, Dženana Dedić, to the position of a member of the Steering Board of the Network. It is an exceptional privilege and honor for our organization to participate in the management of the Network that builds peace in our country and has a great impact on building peace in the region. On May 20, the director of LDA Mostar and a member of the Steering Board of the Network for Building Peace, Dženana Dedić, participated in the Conference "SYNERGY OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN BIH - Strengthening Cooperation between Associations, Foundations, Media and Trade Unions" organized by the Network. Director of LDA Mostar Dženana Dedić, participated in one in a series of focus groups dedicated to individual development. Practices, experiences and thoughts were exchanged, thus helping to design programs through which the Network for Building Peace will work to strengthen the development of individuals from civil society.

LDA Northern Morocco



Delegate: Mouna Saihi

Established: 2019

Key partner:

- Local communities (Chefchaouen, Tetouan, Larache, Tanger)
- Local CSOs
- Fond Mallorqi
- Fond Menorqi

Main objectives:

- Defend human rights
- Develop social and solidarity economy
- Support and train young people
- Strengthen the associative action in the region
- Strengthen and improve good local governance in partnership with local actors
- Promote sustainable development, environmental and rural tourism and citizen participation in local environmental policies
- Encourage the exchange of good practices between local actors and develop partnerships
- Encourage intermunicipal administration to improve best services
- Encourage decentralized cooperation in the region

In Morocco, the ADL has been operational since April 2019 thanks to the support of the Fons Mallorqui de Solidaritat i Cooperació. The different opening ceremonies in the above-mentioned branches have made known the actions of the ADL, its future projects and the support it provides to the different actors in the field (based also on the reference of the consequent work carried out so far by the ADL of Kairouan in Tunisia, with the presence of the mayor of Kairouan and the delegate of the ADL Tunisia), a real support on technical issues related to citizenship and participatory processes. The ceremony therefore specifically brought together interested audiences, particularly CSOs and Local Authorities (LAs), as well as ADL's international and local partners who work together with ADL to implement projects and ensure good financial and administrative management. Other institutional and non-institutional actors also took part in this event in order to give visibility to ADL's actions.

LDA NORTHERN MOROCCO IN THE FIELD

Projects and activities

1. EGAL (Egalité de Genre dans l'Action Locale /Gender Equality in Local Action)

Useful information	
Timespan	From January, 2020 to May 2021
Funded by	Fons Menorqui

Based on the experience of the 5 targeted rural municipalities, as well as on the achievements of EGAL 1, EGAL 2 is aimed at enhancing the living conditions of women in the Tétouan province in Morocco, while pursuing the path towards a greater inclusion of the gender dimension in local policies, empowering local elected women in leadership skills and gender-sensitive budgeting.

Main achievements: Publication of the report focusing especially on the three events entitled: “Gender inclusive participatory activities”; “GRB a tool for equality in local public action” and “Coaching in female leadership”.



“Today we are proud to have contributed to building a positive dynamic for social change, which has given rise to new collective and inter-communal ideas-projects that aim to improve the socio-economic and environmental rights of the local population. And this is only the beginning of a new journey towards inclusive and sustainable municipalities!”- **LDA Northern Morocco Staff**





2. Other activities

Participation in local life

Stimulate the inclusion of young people and their active participation in local life, especially in decision-making processes.

My City is a Citizens

A.5.1. Organisation of an ideas competition for young people (in 4 workshops) in the 4 partner municipalities on the theme "My City is a Citizen".

Youth

A.5.2. Participation of the ADL in a citizen's café on the theme of "the inclusion of young people in public life" on the occasion of the International Youth Day with a view to capitalising on the Youth in Government project



LDA Prijedor



Delegate: Dragan Dosen

Established: 2000

Key partner:

- Association Project Prijedor, Italy (Lead partner)
- Municipality of Prijedor, Bosnia and Herzegovina (Host city) • ALDA Office in Vicenza, Italy
- Association Tavolo Trentino con Kraljevo, Serbia
- Association Tavolo Trentino con il Kosovo, Kosovo

The Association Project Prijedor includes:

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

Main objectives:

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

LDA PRIJEDOR IN THE FIELD

Projects and activities

1. RYCE - Regional YOUTH COMPACT for Europe

Useful information	
Timespan	From April, 2018 to April, 2020
N. of partners/Associated	The Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA) (Strasbourg / Francuska), ALDA Skopje (Skoplje / BJR Makedonija), Local Democracy Agency Subotica (Subotica / Srbija), Local Democracy Agency Montenegro (Nikšić / Crna Gora), Local Democracy Agency Mostar (Mostar / Bosna i Hercegovina), Local Democracy Agency Prijedor (Prijedor / Bosna i Hercegovina), Local Democracy Agency of Kosovo (Peć / *Kosovo), Local Democracy Agency for Central and Southern Serbia (Knjaževac / Srbija), Local Democracy Agency Zavidovići (Zavidovići / Bosna i Hercegovina), Local Democracy Agency Albania (Vlora / Albanija), CRTA (Beograd / Srbija), Youth Act Center (Tirana / Albanija) i SODEM (Istanbul / Turska).
Funded by	European commission (IPA Civil Society Facility and Media Programme 2016-2017)

This project is designed to help enhance CSOs participation in policy design and in monitoring the process of EU integration in the Western Balkans and to engage youth to participate more actively in this process. What are the main issues addressed by this project? This project addresses main concerns that represent key challenges for West Balkans countries, in particular the issues of rule of law, fundamental rights and economic and social issues where employment is a priority topic for the citizens. An additional detail? This project is focused on involving young people in the decision-making process and raising awareness about their necessity and importance for society.

Objectives: The main objective of the project is the improvement and development of participatory youth policies and local democracy in communities of Western Balkans, supporting youth initiatives fostering active citizenship and participation of young people at the local level.



2. LINK 4 COOPERATION

Useful information	
Timespan	From January, 2021 to December, 2023
N. of partners/Associated	Local Democracy Agency Zavidovici, Local Democracy Agency Prijedor, Center for Development of Herzegovina Trebinje, ALDA – European Association for Local Democracy
Total Budget	545,897.00 EUR
Funded by	European Union

The project promotes principles of good governance with a view to effective and responsive performance of the local government units in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The project will empower the capacities of local authorities (elected leaders and civil servants) and civil society in implementing participative processes. Together they will identify concrete problems of the community that will find their solutions thanks to the participative approach. The project will therefore build capacities and solve problems, by consolidating the approach in the years to come.

Objectives: The projects aims at Creating stronger links to citizens by engaging in public policy process, reaching out to society as a whole including marginalized groups and grass root communities and encouraging civic activism and public participation in policy-making; supporting capable, transparent and accountable LAs; effective CSOs. In addition, LAs have enabling policies and rules for grass root organizations and civic initiatives; while CSOs created network for coalition-building for increased impact in campaigning and advocacy.





1. Other activities

YOUTH AND SCHOOL EXCHANGE

1. Due to the impossibility of organizing still physical exchange between primary and secondary schools from Prijedor and Trento, we have organized various online meetings in order to maintain contacts and cooperation during the second year of Covid 19
2. Project to strengthen the distance exchange of students during the pandemic period, donation of 25 laptops to all primary and secondary schools in cooperation with the local administration of the City of Prijedor and financed by Municipality of Trento
3. Eighth edition of the project "Prijedor, city of murals", international prize "Paola de Manincor"

SOCIAL AREA

1. Continue to support the social centre with the public kitchen in Ljubija
2. Project "Distance adoption", support to the poor families in Prijedor from Italian families
3. On several occasions, organizing the procurement and distribution of hygiene and food packages, as well as protective masks for the needs of socially vulnerable families affected by the corona virus pandemic
4. Continuation of scholarships for university students in a state of social need

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

1. The third year of the three years project, started in 2019, called "Participatory territorial planning of local development" with the aim of realizing activities produced by results of an analysis of the situation and the needs of one of the marginalized rural areas of Prijedor.
2. Organizing an online training for micro-entrepreneurs and micro-enterprises.
3. Implementation of the microcredit program for small entrepreneurs from the Prijedor area

Know your past, Improve your future: Tolerance through shared history

This project, started in December 2020 and financed by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), aims at supporting young people in conducting fieldwork to map – online and offline – BiH monuments and architectural symbols from WWII and the SFRY, transforming these sites into public murals and conducting public presentations. The overall objective is the engagement and the connection of youth from different ethnic backgrounds, for the development of a common understanding and the dissemination of a unifying narrative of a shared history.



LDA Subotica



Delegate: Silvija Patarcic

Established: 1993

Key partner:

- Wolverhampton City Council, UK (Lead Partner)

Main objectives:

- Fostering democratic governance and citizen participation at local level • Strengthening socio-economic development
- Promoting youth volunteering
- Supporting the European Union integration

Local Democracy Agency LDA Subotica was founded in 1993 under the auspices of the Council of Europe and by an agreement with the local government of Subotica as a local NGO whose main mission was to promote local democracy and human rights in local multicultural community in the then war torn former Yugoslavia. Today LDA Subotica is registered as a local NGO, member of the European Association for Local Democracy – ALDA, consistently advocating democratic governance and participation and getting the accession negotiation process with the EU closer to citizens in local communities in Serbia and in multicultural Autonomous Province of Vojvodina in particular. Our main programmes are focused on capacity building, awareness raising and advocacy actions intended for three main target groups – policy and decision makers at local level, civil society organisations, youth and women's groups in particular. Educating for democratic citizenship, promoting intercultural dialogue, regional cooperation, cross-sectoral partnership building for local sustainable development are the main types of our activities including also networking at regional and European level.

LDA SUBOTICA IN THE FIELD

Projects and activities

1. Regional Youth Compact for Europe – Consolidating Regional Thematic Networks of Civil Society Organisations, European Commission

Useful information	
Timespan	From April, 2018 to July, 2021
N. of partners/Associated	Center for Democracy Foundation, Belgrade, 8 Balkan LDAs, ALDA Skopje, ALDA, Youth Act Albania, SODEM Turkey and CRTA Serbia

The project aims to empower CSOs, particularly youth organizations in the Western Balkans and Turkey to more effectively participate in policy design and in monitoring the process of EU integration. A combined set of awareness raising, capacity building and regional networking activities are aimed to strengthen the impact of CSOs in the reform process towards the EU integration. The Balkan Network for Local Democracy acting as a consolidated cooperation/consultation platform will be engaging local public authorities, CSOs and youth groups from across the region in EU integration related policy dialogue through innovative mechanisms for influencing public policies and reform process. Main project work packages are implemented at local and regional level including Capacity building, Monitoring and Advocacy, Regional Networking and Exchange, Public Campaign and Sub- granting Programme.

Main achievements: Partners of the Regional Youth Compact for Europe project adopted recommendations for expediting reforms and encouraging the EU integration process, subsequently submitted to the European Union and the governments of the West Balkan countries.



2. United by Diversity, Civil Society Facility Serbia, EU Delegation to Serbia

Useful information	
Timespan	From January, 2020 to April, 2022
N. of partners/Associated	European Movement Serbia, LDA Subotica, Timok club, European Movement in Serbia – Leskovac, Forum of civil action (FORCA)

Overall objective of the project is to increase capacities of the Serbian CSOs to address cultural diversity within reform process and EU integration process.

The project aims:

- to create institutional support for promotion of intercultural dialogue and cultural diversity by establishing the Network United by diversity of youth CSOs and CSOs dealing with youth in Serbia and to strengthen capacities of the Network members;
- to empower youth in Serbia on topics related to intercultural dialogue and cultural diversity as well as to enhance a consciousness of being a part of the same society as a whole.

Project activities:

- Establishing of the Network United by diversity
- Capacity building workshops for Network members
- Development of innovative methodology for intercultural exchanges
- Conducting competition My community in intercultural Europe in selected high schools
- 20 three-day exchanges for high school students, including 20 Intercultural European classes

Main achievements: The highlight of the project activities were intercultural exchanges conducted between 20 schools in Serbia. Among them creation of Quiz United in diversity and Board game Let's unite in diversity and creation and promotion of the short movie Intercultural puzzle of Serbia.



3. European Towns - Enacting Common Values of Solidarity and Intercultural Dialogue VALID, Europe for Citizens Programme

Useful information	
Timespan	From October, 2019 to September, 2021
N. of partners/Associated	Municipality of Peja, Kosovo*, ALDA; Municipality Zavidovici (BiH); Municipality of Niksic (MNE); Municipality Patos (ALB); Municipality Kumanovo (MKD); City of Ravenna (ITA); City of Larissa (GRE); Volunteer centre Novo Mesto (SLO), LDA Kosovo (KS); LDA Knjazevac, LDA Subotica (SRB).

The project VALID aims at building a strong network of towns committed to intercultural exchange, using a bottom-up approach and through promotion of cultural participation. Cultural participation is seen as a tool for improving social inclusion, active citizenship and intercultural dialogue, as well as fostering solidarity and respect for cultural diversity. The partnership involves Kosovo*, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, North Macedonia, Italy, Montenegro, France, Greece and Slovenia. VALID pinpoints cultural participation as an effective tool for establishing and upholding this process, generating counter narratives and providing a more inclusive pathway for citizen's participation in policy making while raising awareness on key social issues.

Main achievements: Four International events were followed by local paths in included local communities promoting the principles of interculturalism as inclusion tools for local development, models for policy making and fostering continuous culture of dialogue and open space for public cross-cultural discourse.



4. CSOs networking for better local democracy in the Balkans, Balkan Civil Society Development Programme

Useful information	
Timespan	From January, 2021 to October, 2021
N. of partners/Associated	Balkan Network for Local Democracy

The main focus of the project was to address the challenges of civil society organizations within the region of the Western Balkans. It was implemented by the Balkan Network for Local Democracy and funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. Overall objective: CSOs contributed to a conducive environment for civil society development that enables them to be influential actors in society.

Specific objectives:

- Strengthen the BNLD capacities to contribute more effectively to regional civic space
- Improve regional exchange of experience and skills of BNLD network members on evidence based advocacy and monitoring EU integration and reform agenda in WB countries

- Create a regional CSOs co-operation and learning resource for advancing active citizenship at local level.

The project has the goal of being a resource point for civil society in the region, through methods such as research, providing and spreading information, and encouraging further capacity building in the sector, on local and regional levels. To be able to accomplish that sort of goal, a knowledge sharing platform is necessary, which was developed through the project.

Main achievements: The project results were highlighted with the Best Practice Fair, a two-day hybrid event in Skopje that brought together multiple CSO representatives, BNLD members, public authorities, and other stakeholders, where the individual delegations present their best practices for encouraging participation of citizens in local government. This event provided a good opportunity for the participating parties to exchange ideas and programmes. The research comparative studies and the individual case studies were presented here, along with their findings and accomplishments respectively.



5. Other activities

Citizens Forum Subotica – FOGRAS

LDA Subotica in the scope of Citizens Forum Subotica organizes an annual event entitled Palic Talks, gathering representatives of public institutions, academia and CSOs on topics related with the development of local good governance. This year, the event entitled Local Democracy in Serbia – challenges and perspectives, focused on local democracy from the aspect of exercising the right of citizens to participate in the creation and adoption of public policies, as well as views on the good and responsible governance at the local level in the context of the recently adopted Public Administration Reform Strategy of Serbia.

Public Administration Reform – Membership in National Working

LDA Subotica is member of:

- *Special Working Group for the preparation of the Action Plan for the implementation of the Public Administration Reform Strategy beyond 2021 which is coordinated by the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government.

- * Special working group for the drafting of strategy for enabling environment for the development of civil society in the Republic of Serbia for the period 2021-2030 coordinated by Ministry of Human and Minority Rights and Social Dialogue

- *National working group for Public Administration Reform within the WeBER Platform

LDA Tunisia



Delegate: Afaf Zaddem

Established: 2017

Key partner:

- City of Kairouan (Tunisia)
- ALDA
- COPE (Italy)
- Fons Mallorquí de Solidaritat i Cooperació (Spain)
- Cities Alliances
- T4D Tamkeen for Development
- Mitost IV (Germany)
- Passengers (Moroccan NGO)
- Other Tunisian NGOs

Main objectives:

- Building a platform of dialogue territorial analysis and training (TAT) with local administrations and local authorities ;
- Facilitating cooperation between civil society and local authorities in conducting citizens' initiatives (culture, social, public life...);
- Encouraging citizen participation and sharing best practices through meetings and sensitization workshops with youth, and families;
- Capacity building for different targets and beneficiaries.

The LDA Tunisia represents a platform that facilitates citizen participation at the local level through implementing participatory democracy tools. On a long-term basis, the main objectives of the LDA are to improve decision-making at the local level, to mobilize various actors to develop joint citizen initiatives, to encourage trust and dialogue among actors to better meet the needs of the groups, and promote an inclusive city. The LDA Tunisia designs its work following a “bottom-up” and multi-stakeholder approach. It consults focus groups, potential beneficiaries, and other stakeholders to encourage them to get involved in the design and implementation of cooperative actions. Also, the LDA's work strategy focuses on developing solutions to improve local governance. It relies on direct meetings with the community and actively listens to their preoccupation to assess their needs. This helps the agency to identify the relevant partners and mobilize support. Hence, this approach ensures a precise and impactful intervention that is in tandem with the aspirations and needs of the community.

LDA TUNISIA IN THE FIELD

Projects and activities

1. Ricomincio Da Te

Useful information	
Timespan	From November,2019 to June, 2023
N. of partners/Associated	9
Total Budget	877.640,534 EUR
Funded by	The Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)

This project is Co-financed by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) and implemented by the Italian association COPE – leading the partnership together with the Ministry of Social Affairs (MAS), the Municipality of Kairouan and the LDA Tunisia. It aims at promoting the rights of young people with disabilities while reinforcing their associations' capacities. Specifically, the project activities are designed to strengthen the role of Tunisian CSOs promoting rights and services for people with disabilities and establish a multi-sectoral dialogue at regional level to improve the training and employment possibilities of young people with disabilities, focusing on themes like social and economic inclusion, city and transport mobility and accessibility.

2021 activities

- Development of a community-based rehabilitation program aimed at the socio-educational inclusion of young people with disabilities;
- Establishment of a public-private organizational structure to promote vocational education and employment for young people with disabilities;
- Organization of three social theater workshops in specialized centers for people with different disabilities: children participated in the workshops on a weekly basis to arrange three different theatrical pieces;
- Empowerment of specialized rehabilitation care centers through financial and logistic grants, as well as capacity-building training for the staff; renewal of 03 buses of the specialized rehabilitation centers;
- The conduct of a study on the accessibility of people with disabilities to services and their mobility in the city of Kairouan.

Main achievements:

- Reinforcing the capacities of more than 30 educators from rehabilitation centers of people with disabilities on concepts and knowledge related to community based rehabilitation approach, inclusive approach, and innovative activities adopted from social theater and psychomotricity. The educators are practicing what they have learned in the training sessions in their classes and

giving positive feedback as the used material is recycled and affordable and the activities are fun, flexible, and productive.

- The administrative staff of three rehabilitation centers developed financial skills and became more familiar with the required procedures to receive funds and purchase useful furniture and equipment. The LDA Tunisia was the facilitator of the process and ensured its success.
- The Children with disabilities feel more comfortable and enjoy the trip to and from the rehabilitation center after the makeover of the buses of the three rehabilitation centers.
- 30 children with disabilities in three rehabilitation centers developed artistic capacities and performed theatrical pieces, poetry, and choreography.

Covid impact:

- Decreasing the number of participants to less than 10 in some training sessions and meetings.
- Using the online platform more often instead of the physical one to organize the activities during the confinement.



"We are grateful for the opportunity as our center and pupils benefited in many ways. The children enjoy traveling on the bus as it has become more comfortable and elegant. The workshops have better and needed equipment, and the staff now are practicing in their classes their newly learned competencies. That's really awesome. "
- the director of the center for rehabilitation and specialized education for pupils with hearing disabilities ASDA Mr. Hamadi MASROUKI.



2. Inclusive City – in City Project

Useful information	
Timespan	From November, 2019 to October, 2021
N. of partners/Associated	5
Total Budget	164 229 EUR
Funded by	Cities Alliance

Funded by Cities Alliance and implemented by the National Union of Tunisian Women of Kairouan, leading the partnership together with the Municipality of Kairouan, LDA Tunisia, Association AIKA and Tunisia Ecotourism, this project aims at contributing to the inclusive and sustainable development of the city of Kairouan through alternative tourism, the promotion of the development of local capacities and the social and economic integration of youth and women, particularly from rural areas.

2021 activities

- Online multi-stakeholder workshops on immigration.
- Supervising the process of the creation of 08 market stalls that are flexible, eco friendly as a model for an organized market.
- Organization of the event “Orient Bazar One Thousand Nights and Night”, inaugurated during local religious celebration, and the stalls exhibited the products of local artisans.
- The organization of Forum de la Vie, which constituted a meeting platform for national and international partners along with local NGOs, youth, and experts to exchange ideas and provide insightful and practical recommendations on youth and women, and migrants’ participation in public life.

Main achievements:

- Increasing the LDA Tunisia network with national and internal partners and collaborators.
- Providing multi stakeholder and participatory platforms for dialogue and exchange that came up with productive and practical recommendations.
- LDA Tunisia contributed to the creation of a common vision among the stakeholders and the citizens.
- The creation of 08 stalls as a model for an eco-friendly and mobile organized market.

Covid impact:

- Delaying the dates for events to ensure the presence of a bigger number after the end of restrictive sanitary measures.
- Shifting to the online platform to carry out the activities and meetings.



“We thank the LDA Tunisia for its unwavering contribution to the benefit of the community, we definitely support and encourage the agency and its productive social initiatives.” - **the Mayor of Kairouan’s municipality Mr. Radhouen Bouden.**



3. Zoomers

Useful information	
Timespan	From October, 2020 to March, 2021
N. of partners/Associated	3
Total Budget	51 50 EUR
Funded by	AICs

The “ZOOMERS” project is a 6-month project aimed at promoting socio-cultural activity and civic engagement of young people in Sbikha, Kairouan to ensure consistency in social relations and prevent their marginalization and risky behavior. The project activities are designed to establish a synergy between the various stakeholders in youth structures at local level, thus involving and engaging youth in Sbikha. The municipality, therefore, will be more aware of the importance of youth participation in local life, empowering the youth commission within the city council.



2021 activities

- Capacity-building trainings of stakeholders, improving their cooperation with new approaches to cultural activities benefitting local youth: 11 representatives of local youth structures (Municipality of Sbikha, Municipality of Dar Jamaiya, Youth House, House of Culture, The public library) participated in trainings focused on the relevance of socio-cultural inclusion of young people, social innovation and participatory approach;
- Trainings and engagement activities for a group of 20 young people;
- Filming of a short documentary in which young people expressed their opinions about social issues, political topics, culture and general perspectives of today’s youth.

Main achievements:

- Raised awareness among the workers and agents in the youth centers and local administrations about how to communicate effectively with the young people.
- Reinforce the capacities of more than 15 young people in theater, leadership, and soft skills.
- Increased network and the creation of an engaged community in the Sbikha region.

Covid impact: Rescheduling some activities and extending the project span.



“This project reached out to the youth who are full of energy and keen on being engaged and further participate adequately.” - **the theater coach Mr. Mohamed Atiri.**



4. WE CHABAB

Useful information	
Timespan	From April, 2021 to December, 2021
N. of partners/Associated	2
Total Budget	7 500 EUR
Funded by	MitOst e.V.

The project is within the framework of the Tandem 360 ° program, an initiative implemented by MitOst e.V. and supported by the German Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The collaboration is part of the WE Chabab project, a new project managed by the ADL in partnership with the Passengers association. The born project from this collaboration, WE CHABAB lasted for 8 months from May to December. 16 young people from Morocco and Tunisia have become youth actors in local development. These youth have strengthened their capacities in communication and in citizens participation tools.

2021 Activities:

- It provided meetings and training sessions to ensure effective communication between young people and the municipalities of the two regions and to promote the participation of young people in local affairs.
- The conduct of a social initiative in Sbikha region that consists of a sculpture “WE LOVE SBIKHA” and graffiti that addresses the problem of lack of spaces for pupils during break time, and it is drawn by a young artist from Sbikha. This initiative is proposed and organized by the participants.
- Active involvement of the youth and also thanks to the collaborative local authorities and administrations such as the municipality, the youth sporting center, the cultural house, and the local associations such as JCI Sbikha and the Changers.
- Mediterranean cooperation and youth placement.
- Within the Tandem 360° program, a youth exchange program was established to encourage sharing best practices and peer to peer learning. The placement between the LDA Tunisia and Passengers, Morocco, took place between 12 and 24 October 2021. The members were Mouna Alouini, project manager, and Idriss El Fateh Hadeb, president of Passengers association in an effort to explore and learn. Mouna has learned new methods of management and project development. The journey lasted 5 days in Oujda and participated in activities and discussions, and it was a great opportunity for her to see how an art organization can be managed. At the personal level, the exchange and travel to morocco helped her to discover and adapt to a new culture.

The closing activity in Tandem 360°, took place in Finane, Jordan with the participation of the young managers from all over the Mediterranean to evaluate the impact of their implemented projects.

Main achievements:

- A network of young Moroccans and Tunisians that share a common vision of a better future for youth has been built.

- 16 young people have strengthened their capacities in soft skills, project development and implementation, and in design thinking.
- 16 young people enlarged their network at the local level and got in contact with local authorities.
- The LDA Tunisia project manager further developed her capacities and explored new cultures.
- The successful installation of a sculpture and painting a graffiti that gained wide visibility and appreciation within local community and media outlets thanks to the multi stakeholder and participative approach.
- The LDA Tunisia and the association Passengers, Morocco have developed their skills in managing international projects.

Covid impact: The activities dates were selected carefully according to the sanitary situation.



“My journey to Morocco was eye-opening! I learned to live and explore a new culture and adapt to new lifestyle and customs. In Jordan I lived for a week with youth from different countries around the Mediterranean in a 100% eco friendly place. The project helped to learn new competencies and how to manage projects successfully.” - **Mouna Alouini, the WE CHABAB project manager.**



5. Increase participation, dialogue, and communication between local authorities and citizens

Useful information	
Timespan	From January, 2021 to December, 2021
Total Budget	8047 EUR
Funded by	Fons Mallorqui

This project is composed of three axes:

- A. Friendly Talk, a participatory local platform for dialogue and exchange: The Friendly talk has represented an opportunity for exchange, dialogue, and communication. It also provided a favorable platform for meeting people in the agency's headquarters, outdoors, and virtually. The participants were citizens and mainly youth. The direct beneficiaries were at least 10 for every session, and aimed to impact the views and perspectives of many more indirect beneficiaries who are the relatives, neighbors and colleagues of the 10 participants. The 5 dialogue sessions presented a golden opportunity for the exchange of best practices, learning about possible needed training courses for the youth, and encouraging citizens to travel and discover the attractions and sightseeing.
 
- B. Capacity building of families and learn home-practiced activities: The Agency organized several sensitization sessions and dialogue meetings with families to raise awareness of vital issues on psychological and health care such as mental health, health services, education, theater, sport. These meetings were moderated by specialists from several fields and coordinated with the LDA team. These activities are part of the Agency's concern for families and the upbringing of children with the aim to contribute to dialogue support and knowledge exchange and to spread best practices and to promote inclusion, and understanding.
- C. City Lab for youth capacity building in digital literature: City lab activities targeted 10 participants who then participated in several training courses in digital communication and digital tools. The LDA's efforts culminated with the creation of a mini audiovisual lab in the headquarters of the association. This lab allowed the project to be sustainable and also to respond to a real need of young people.

Main achievements:

- It provided the platform to share and raise awareness about social issues such as gender practices, civic participation, and equality of opportunity. Therefore, the activities have become a source for learning, communication, and also mobilization, and networking. Being a successful and regular activity awaited by several participants, the friendly talk activity was backed up by other virtual sessions named E-Talk and carried out through digital means.
- It provided family members and mainly parents with the best pedagogical practices to raise their children and contributed to the development of the different capacities whether they are linguistic, kinetic, cognitive, emotional, or social.
-
- The family meetings allowed the LDA Tunisia to gain a comprehensive and in-depth understanding of the needs and aspirations of families. It also helped to grow its network from parents to teachers and experts. The recommendations were highly insightful and thought-provoking for creating projects to address these issues such as means of transport and streets accessibility to people with disability, radio talks about children development, and coaching for parents' progress.
- The participants in the City Lab were able to create awareness videos and became active members of the LDA association and therefore backed up its mission of awareness-raising.
- The creation of a mini audiovisual lab in the headquarters of the association. This lab allowed the project to be sustainable and also to respond to a real need of young people. Indeed, the youth now can put into practice the acquired knowledge during the training and soon they can train other young audiovisual enthusiasts through peer education.

“This activity is very inspiring and we adopted it in our association as we see how it encourages Dialogue and communication among the youth.” - **Ghassen Kharrat a regular young active participant in the friendly talk activity.**

LDA Zavidovići



Delegate: Slađan Ilić

Established: 1997

Key partner:

- Associazione per l'Ambasciata della Democrazia Locale a Zavidovići Onlus – Impresa Sociale (Lead partner)
- Municipality of Zavidovići (Host city),
- Comune di Alba - Ufficio Pace
- Comune di Roncadelle
- Coordinamento enti locali per la pace Provincia di Cremona
- Associazione “Strani Vari” Alba
- UISP Brescia/Cremona

Main objectives:

- Activities in the sectors of Youth policies, Social Welfare and Sustainable Economic Development
- Increasing the net of local actors involved, promoting their role, animating and supporting them through LDA's partner network
- Enlarging the relationship with local and international NGOs, institutions and authorities
- Supporting local NGOs active in the social and educative field

The Local Democracy Agency in Zavidovići was established in April 1997, following many years of cooperation between Italian NGOs and local authorities with the host city of Zavidovići. It is located in the Zenica-Doboj Kanton, BiH Federation, Bosnia Herzegovina. Zavidovići and the surrounding area were severely affected by the war.

LDA ZAVIDOVIĆI IN THE FIELD

Projects and activities

1. Strengthening local participation and cooperation through partnership of Public Authorities and CSOs in Bosnia and Herzegovina- LINK 4 Cooperation

Useful information	
Timespan	From January, 2021 to December, 2023
N. of partners/Associated	6
Total Budget	545,897.00 EUR
Funded by	European Union

The project promotes principles of good governance with a view to effective and responsive performance of the local government units in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The project will empower the capacities of local authorities (elected leaders and civil servants) and civil society in implementing participative processes. Together they will identify concrete problems of the community that will find their solutions thanks to the participative approach. The project will therefore build capacities and solve problems, by consolidating the approach in the years to come.

The main target group of this project are the 40 local CSOs and grassroots organizations from Bosnia and Herzegovina and 12 Local self-government units – municipal administration and local councilors as local decision makers.

Overall objective: to strengthen the capacities of CSOs engaged in public policy processes to become skilled and reliable partners in policy-making and reform processes in B&H.

Specific objectives:

- Create stronger links to citizens by engaging in public policy process, reaching out to society as a whole including marginalized groups and grass root communities and encouraging civic activism and public participation in policy-making;
- Improve capability, transparency and the responsibility of local self-government;
- Increase the effectiveness of CSOs;
- Reach out to local government on a way for it to enable policies and procedures for civic initiatives of local organization;
- Create networks of CSOs for coalition-building for increased impact in campaigning and advocacy.

Main achievements:

- Establishing good cooperation with the project's beneficiaries;
- Projects team capacity building - ELoGE programme methodology implementation.

Covid impact: Due to the COVID-19 some of the local meeting had to be postponed.



2. Regional Youth Compact for Europe – RYCE

Useful information	
Timespan	From April, 2018 to June, 2021
N. of partners/Associated	14
Total Budget	832.400,00 EUR
Funded by	European Commission (Consolidating Regional Thematic Networks of Civil Society Organizations)

This project is designed to help enhance CSOs participation in policy design and in monitoring the process of EU integration in the Western Balkans and to engage youth to participate more actively in this process. This project addresses main concerns that represent key challenges for West Balkans countries, in

particular the issues of rule of law, fundamental rights and economic and social issues where employment is a priority topic for the citizens.

Objective: cooperation initiative launched by 14 CSOs from the EU, Western Balkans and Turkey with the aim to enhance the effective participation of civil society and youth organizations in the EU integration and accession negotiation process through capacity building, awareness raising and advocacy actions organized at local, national and regional level.

Activities 2021:

- Regional Thematic Network Forum
- Training for the members of the Network
- Workshop for Regional Youth Working Group
- Open local councils – My city – youth City
- Community Multi stakeholder platform
- Local youth Workshops “Regional Youth Compact for Europe – We are Europeans”
- Annual Conference „EU and the Western Balkans - Towards Renewed Trust“ organized in Belgrade on the 1. July 2021.
- Sub-granting Programme
- Promotional activities /production of on-line newsletter
- Direct Action with Citizens on importance of youth participation and European integration process.

Main achievements: Strengthening CSOs, particularly youth organizations in the Western Balkans and Turkey to more effectively participate in the design of policies and monitoring the process of EU integration.

Covid impact: Many project activities were modified or postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic. International events were changed to hybrid events. Some of the partners had to postpone local activities. However, each activity was successfully completed within the frame of project’s deadlines.



3. CSOs networking for better local democracy in the Balkans

Useful information	
Timespan	From January, 2021 to October, 2021
N. of partners/Associated	8
Total Budget	6.800,00 EUR
Funded by	Balkan Civil Society Development Network – Regional Civil Society Development HUB, programme funded by SIDA, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency.

The project action aims to create a regional civil society organization's cooperation and learning resource for advancing active citizenship at a local level. Moreover, the idea is to set local and regional capacity building, awareness raising and networking actions with the aim to address the main challenges of the civil society in our region. The activities will include research and comparative analysis of present state legal framework for citizens' participation in policy and decision making on local level in Western Balkan countries. Furthermore, there will be also Regional Best Practice Fair as well as social media campaign and e- newsletter.

The main target groups of the project are BNLD members and its network partners in all Western Balkan countries, other regional CSO networks and CSOs promoting democratic governance and inclusive participation at local level. Directly involved target groups will be the members of Balkan Network for Local Democracy.

Overall objective: CSOs contributed to a conducive environment for civil society development that enables them to be influential actors in society.

A two-day regional Balkan Network for Local Democracy (BNLD) event was held in Skopje on September 2nd, as part of the CSO Networking for Better Local Democracy in the Balkans project. Partners from the region presented their good practices of involving citizens in decision-making processes at the local level, as well as mechanisms for cooperation between local authorities and civil society.

The publication "Participation in Policy / Decision-Making Processes in the Western Balkans - Challenges and Perspectives" was presented. This publication focuses on participatory tools for local democracies in the Western Balkans.

Main achievements:

- Strengthening the BNLD capacities to contribute more effectively to regional civic space;
- Improving regional exchange of experience and skills of BNLD network members on evidence-based advocacy and monitoring EU integration and reform agenda in WB countries;
- Creating a regional CSOs co-operation and learning resource for advancing active citizenship at local level.

Covid impact: Due to the COVID-19, all the meetings were held online and the BNLD event in Skopje in a hybrid form.

4. Sigurno Mjesto: Services and Activities for Women

Useful information	
Timespan	From January, 2021 to December, 2021
N. of partners/Associated	1
Total Budget	2.000,00 EUR
Funded by	Comune di Alba

For many years now the activities of the Association have been supported by the Local Democracy Agency Zavidovići and the Municipality of Alba. The association organizes educational and interactive workshops on violence with pupils of elementary and secondary schools, parents of pre-school children, marginalized groups of women, educational workshops for pregnant women with expert associates, gynecologist and



midwife, providing its contribution to development and strengthening of the healthy family, organization of creative workshops with the goal of quality use of free time for women, organizes and participates in meetings, round tables, public debates, seminars and events which are gathering women and which are mostly discussed about improving the position of women in society, promotion of laws that protect women's rights, and the fight against prejudices and stereotypes based on gender and sex.

Activities:

- Workshops for pregnant women;
- Workshops on domestic violence with high school students;
- Workshops on domestic violence with women in rural area;
- Public debates on domestic violence;
- Meeting and support groups for economical empowering of women;
- Support desk, reception and tutoring;
- Promotional activities and marking of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

Main achievements: Implementation of measures to prevent domestic violence and raise awareness about the gender relations and to strengthening of the local Network Against Domestic Violence.

Covid impact: Some of the meeting had to be postponed in accordance with current Covid sanitary restrictions.

5. CSOs Wim Laboratories Iuvenis II

Useful information	
Timespan	From November, 2021 to November, 2024
N. of partners/Associated	11
Total Budget	393 830,00 EUR
Funded by	Agence Erasmus+ France

WIM Laboratories Iuvenis II Project is applying to the Erasmus+ programme to continue this work of learning foreign languages through theatre, and in so doing to meet two needs:

- If theatre is a great vehicle for languages, it can be for all disciplines, thanks to thematic writing. It forces students who engage their bodies and wills in the theatrical process to research and write about topics that interest them, to invent ways of inhabiting a stage space to talk about the past, history, geography, or whatever. The WIM Laboratories Iuvenis II project responds to a clear need to think of new, openly inclusive ways of learning that are easier to access for students who are struggling in the traditional system, to see global teaching levers emerge.
- Theatre forces the consideration of otherness. Playing is only possible through the acceptance of the other in the stage space that one occupies. The stage is a place of shared citizenship. Based on this analysis, we ask young Europeans from all over the continent to explore their individual histories of conflicts, migrations and dictatorships, and to explore the individual and collective memories that surround them. In doing so, they construct new narratives of the continental past for the stage. Then, playing with each other, moving to France, Italy and other countries they confront these narratives to see everywhere that European History is made up of individual narratives which everywhere are those of the escape from conflicts, of the suffering in their time, of the protection of one's loved ones and of the will to go towards peace. Considering on stage or as an audience the work of other young Europeans, they fully measure the commonality of their experience, they measure the European identity, the values of peace and dialogue that it carries. The WIM Laboratories Iuvenis II project responds to a need for mutual consideration between peoples, between individuals on a continental scale, for dialogue and therefore for democracy. Creating a regional CSOs co-operation and learning resource for advancing active citizenship at local level.

6. Ludobus - Activities for children in rural areas

Useful information	
Timespan	From January, 2021 to December, 2021
N. of partners/Associated	1
Total Budget	1.500,00 EUR
Funded by	Associazione Mimi

“Ludobus” is a service that offers recreational, cultural, educational, sport and creative activities for children in parks, schools, streets and green areas of the city and villages. Activities are implemented by young people with the assistance of teachers. “Ludobus” is a mobile playroom that has a great ability to gather, attracts and animate children through the game as a basis to socialize and acquire new experiences. “Ludobus” with the simplicity can be involved in various programs (school and extracurricular) and events in the city and beyond. LDA Zavidovici is actively involved in the development of non-formal education and creativity for children through fun and educational workshops with “Ludobus”. In the previous period, “Ludobus” visited almost all schools in rural Zavidovici and the activities involved a large number of children.

Main achievements: Development of non-formal education and creativity for young people and children through fun and educational workshops.



7. Family Gardens

Useful information	
N. of partners/Associated	1
Total Budget	15.000,00 EUR
Funded by	Fondazione Intesa Sanpaolo

The "Family Gardens" project characterizes the cooperation activities of LDA Zavidovići with partners in Italy since 2014 and continues throughout the years in providing education and assistance to women engaged in agricultural activities, in order to increase production and quality of products for own consumption and sale on a small scale. Food security, sustainability and productivity of family farming are a basic resource for many families in the context of economic stagnation and serious impoverishment of large sections of the population.

Activities are:

- Educational workshops for women beneficiaries of the project ;
- Advisory field visits;
- Procurement of seeds, sieve equipment, fertilizers, etc. ;
- Workshops for processing and canning of fruits and vegetables;
- Procurement of stands and organization of promotional events of local production in cooperation with the municipal administration and local associations;
- Realization of questionnaires and analysis of collected data on migration processes.

Main achievements: Assistance to women engaged in agriculture on a small scale in order to increase production and product quality covering own needs for food.



8. Youth City – My city

Useful information	
Timespan	From June, 2021 to December, 2021
N. of partners/Associated	1
Total Budget	1.500,00 EUR
Funded by	Federal ministry of culture and sport

My city - city of youth Vol.2 "aims to provide young people from the municipality of Zavidovići the opportunity to participate in educational workshops that will improve their skills that will benefit them during their schooling, entering the labor market, knowledge to participate in public calls for youth projects, also educating young people automatically improves their position in society and volunteer activism in the community.

Main achievements: This project contributed to the implementation of the Youth Policy Strategy of the Municipality of Zavidovići 2018-2023.





9. Solar Bench

Useful information	
Timespan	From November, 2020 to June, 2021
N. of partners/Associated	1
Total Budget	2.000,00 EUR
Funded by	Zenica-doboj Canton, Municipality of Zavidovići

Aware of the accelerated lifestyle and use of the smart phones, we came up with the idea to apply the project "Solar Bench" to the Ministry of City Planning, Communication and Environment of the Zenica-Doboj Canton, in order to provide our citizens with access to charger for telephone and other devices that use a USB charger that will be available to them at some outdoor location in our city.

Activities:

- Procurement and installation of a solar bench in the area of Zavidovići.
- Arranged staircase location and painted staircase in the city - Campaign "For a more beautiful city" conducted

Main achievements: Promotion of the use of alternative energy sources in order to reduce environmental pollution and strengthen the ecological culture of citizens.

LDA Albania



Delegate: Jerola Ziaj

Established: 2008

Key partner:

- Metropolitan City of Bari, Italy (lead partner)
- UNISCO, Italy
- Learning Cities, Italy
- Region of Vlora, Albania (host partner)
- Municipality of Vlora, Albania (host partner)
- Municipality of Patos, Albania
- Municipality of Fier, Albania
- Centre for Research Cooperation and Development, Albania

Main objectives:

- To facilitate the participation of civil society in decision-making at the local level.
- To promote interest, sensitivity and the ability of citizens to participate in decision making at the local level.
- To promote sensitivity and ability of local authorities to meet the needs of citizens
- To promote interest and information exchange between Albania and other countries in Europe with the aim of promoting best practices through close cooperation and continuous.

The Association “Local Democracy Agency in Albania” was re- opened in Vlora, in October 2015 in the southern part of the country, with the aim to be the intermediating and dialogical development place, and providing mutual exchanges at every level (cultural, social, economic) between the communities in Albania and the European Community partners. The main purpose of LDA Albania is to promote the concrete initiatives for the consolidation of democracy at the local level as well as the development of the institutions capacity by means of exchange of expertise and experience, training of local councilors and civil administration, the development of a network of European cities in the field of human rights protection which includes minorities as a whole, a social pluralist society inclusive of all convictions and which act as a promoter of intercultural and interethnic dialogue and of human rights respect.

The LDA Albania has suffered operational problems during 2021, but we are working to make it fully active!

Operational Partner Osijek



Delegate: Miljenko Turniski

Established: 1993

Key partner:

- City of Lausanne, Switzerland (Lead partner)
- City of Osijek, Croatia (Host city)

Main objectives:

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

The LDA Osijek was opened in 1993. It is located in a border area close to Serbia and the Vojvodina Region as well as Hungary. The Osijek area, in particular the city of Vukovar, was very affected by the war. A part of the region was under UN administration until the end of 1998. Since the accession of Croatia to the European Union in July 2013, the Agency is an Operational Partner of ALDA.

OPERATIONAL PARTNER OSIJEK IN THE FIELD

Projects and activities

1. PEACEBUILDING SCHOOL AWARD PROGRAMME

Useful information	
Timespan	From December, 2020 to December, 2021
N. of partners/Associated	6
Funded by	Active citizens und (Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway) and the City of Osijek

PEACEBUILDING SCHOOL AWARD was established to support teachers, professional associates, students and parents in their persistent efforts and commitment to peace education. They become a model and a role model, their school becomes a model and a role model. It has been awarded each year since 2015.

The topic of the award-winning study-educational trip is PEACE IN OUR HANDS. We designed the program so that students, teachers, professional associates and parents of the school that received the PEACEBUILDING SCHOOL AWARD could improve their peacekeeping strength by awarding them with public recognition and gratitude, a pleasant and stimulating space for better mutual acquaintance, connection, common thinking about the school and sharing of experience.

The program was developed and jointly implemented by six organizations that contribute to the same goal in different ways - building peace in their community: Center for Peace-Osijek, Mediation Center "MSvijet", European House Vukovar, Victory Association, Local Democracy Agency and Auxilium Association. We work together to give the visiting school the best we have.

Activities implemented in 2021:

- promotion of the Forum of Peacebuilding Schools among primary and secondary schools in Croatia
- selection process of the school nominees and election of the Peacebuilding Schools
- preparation, organisation, and implementation of a study visit programmes to Osijek and Vukovar region for two awarded schools
- preparation of the Peacebuilding School Award Ceremony
- Peacebuilding School Award Ceremony (organized as a part of the Krunoslav Sukuć Award Ceremony for Peacebuilding, Nonviolence and Human Rights)
- training course on New European Curriculum for Nonviolent Conflict Transformation for teachers and educators (national level)
- evaluation and reporting

Main achievements: Peacebuilding education promoted among primary and secondary schools in Croatia. Promotion of the Forum of Peacebuilding Schools as an informal network of schools, NGOs, and individuals for the exchange of experience and resources on peacbuilding. Students and teachers from the Elementary School Vladimir Nazor Potpićan, Croatia and the Elementary School Ivana Brlić-

Možuranić Ogulin, Croatia spent four days together on the awarding study trip and participated and jointly created the program PEACE IN OUR HANDS.

Covid impact: Some of the project activities had to be postponed and adjusted to the current pandemic situation in Croatia



“Elementary school Vladimir Nazor Potpićan teaches us how a small school from, so to speak, a small, distant city "emits a vibe" that encourages, inspires. It is an example of how a non-violent environment can be stimulating for teaching and creative community; an example how modeling relationships in the classroom can be transferred to the school, from their small school to their community and how that same vibe connects them to the world!” - **the Centre for Peace, Nonviolence and Human Rights Osijek, Croatia.**



2. THERE IS NO PLANET B

Useful information	
Timespan	From January, 2021 to September, 2021
N. of partners/Associated	1
Total Budget	1.500,00 EUR
Funded by	City of Lausanne, Switzerland

Main objectives:

- to raise awareness of young students about the importance of the environmental protection
- to promote active citizenship among young students
- to encourage participants and young people to make changes in the life of their communities

Project description: Project There is no Planet B is a local project that aimed to raise awareness of elementary school students about the importance of environmental protection and sustainable development in their local communities. During the project elementary school students had a chance to learn and think about this issue in the frame of various creative and innovative activities: film presentation and discussion, participation in a wider campaign of the Green Peace Croatia by implementation local community challenge “If the trees could speak...”, marking of the Earth Day by creating of a school board, by sending of their environmentally friendly messages to parents, students, teachers and their local community at the end of the school recital.

Activities in 2021:

- presentation of the project

- selection of participants
- introductory workshop on environmental protection, sustainable development and active citizenship
- peer engagement - film presentation and discussion
- preparation for the local community challenge "If trees could talk..."
- implementation of the local community challenge "If trees could talk..."
- marking of the Earth Day at school
- promotion of the project in local community

Main achievements: Students have raised their awareness about the importance of the environmental protection and active citizenship for our planet and have promoted environmentally friendly practices and attitudes in their local community.

Covid impact: Because of the pandemic the final school recital had to be performed outdoors.

“You wouldn’t be here if I wasn’t there.” - **Message written and hang on a tree by a student during the local community challenge “If the trees could talk...”**



3. CREATIVE INTERCULTURAL CLUB

Useful information	
Timespan	From November, 2019 to March, 2021
N. of partners/Associated	2
Funded by	the City of Osijek

Main objective: To establish platform of local volunteers and create space for diverse activities aiming to improve social, intercultural and creative competences of young people in the suburb of Osijek

- Activities implemented so far:
- animation of local volunteers
- development of programme for creative and intercultural workshops
- restructuring of the programme for creative and intercultural workshops in line with protective measures to prevent COVID-19 transmission

Activities in 2021:

- project team meeting and cancellation of the project

Covid impact: Although the programme has been re-structured several times to meet all required preventive measures of the Republic of Croatia in power and related to prevention of COVID-19 transmission, due to very small premises of the association the project team has decided to cancel this project for 2021 as its implementation required face to face contact of its associates, participants and beneficiaries and in the given circumstances it was not possible.

Operational Partner Sisak



Delegate: Paula Raužan

Established: 1996

Key partner:

- ALDA (Lead partner)
- Municipality of Sisak, Croatia (Host city)
- Municipality of Hrvatska Kostajnica, Croatia
- Municipality of Petrinja, Croatia
- Municipality of Dvor, Croatia
- NGO “Going to Europe”, Modena, Italy
- International School for Peace Studies, Northern Ireland

Main objectives:

- Local democratic processes development by citizens’ participation in decision-making, planning and development of pluralistic and multicultural society;
- Promotion, education, development and advocacy of human rights, active citizenship and volunteering;
- Fostering and development of life-long-learning and non-formal education;
- Support to civil society organisations and local authorities in sustainable and participatory democracy development;
- Social innovations and community services development;
- International cooperation development.

The LDA Sisak was opened in 1996 in Sisak, Croatia, in a very difficult area which was heavily damaged by the conflict from 1991 to 1995. The region went through an economic turmoil at the end of the industrial period which determined the economic landscape for decades. LDA Sisak is established with the aim to support local democratic processes, promote human rights, active citizenship and international cooperation. It is strongly involved in the local development through its programs: Local democracy, Active citizenship, Volunteer’ Centre Sisak and Sustainable development education. Since the accession of Croatia to the European Union in July 2013, the LDA Sisak is an Operational Partner of ALDA.

OPERATIONAL PARTNER SISAK IN THE FIELD

Projects and activities

1. Earthquake relief help in Sisak area

Useful information	
Timespan	From February, 2021 to March, 2021
Total Budget	1.300 EUR
N. of partners/Associated	Associate: Građanska inicijativa „Moj grad Sisak“
Funded by	British Embassy Zagreb

The project is contributing to the development of local partnership, solidarity and social capital in the earthquake effected Sisak and the Sisak-Moslavina County area through the development of quality and diverse volunteer programs.

It is implementing through the two main activities:

1. Coordination of volunteers and support to volunteer' organisers,
2. Filed support for elderly, disabled people and other vulnerable groups – social support, humanitarian help and assistance in filling up diverse damage request forms.

Main achievements: Citizens received information on volunteering possibilities in the community. New volunteers engaged in volunteering. Developed new volunteer program for emergency relief of vulnerable groups in earthquake effected area of Sisak and its surroundings that can be replicated as much times as needed. 19 families (51 person) received psycho-social support and humanitarian help, including help to elderly people living alone in chopping and storing wood.

Covid impact: Due to vast natural catastrophe, COVID-19 was not a subject of any impact. The lives of people were in danger and all staff and volunteers engaged were taking care of its own protection, as well as providing citizens with protective equipment (gloves, masks, disinfectants).



2. Community in the Centre – Social-cultural Centres as a Space of Collectiveness and Solidarity

Useful information	
Timespan	From April, 2021 to September, 2021
Total Budget	4.986,69 EUR
N. of partners/Associated	Croatian Youth Network (leader), Association IKS, Association Operacija Grad
Funded by	Active Citizens Fund Croatia from Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, through the EEA Grants.

The project's aim is to support local CSOs damaged in the devastating earthquake in Sisak-Moslavina region of Croatia, whose work is hardened or completely impossible due to the loss of working premises. One of the solutions is social-cultural centres (SCC) as a successful model in creating conditions for social development and increasing life quality. Besides ensuring premises and resources for the activities' implementation, SCCs provide citizens to create, consume, shape and propose contents of public interest by establishment of participative management models.

Main achievements:

- Needs assessment, suggestions and recommendations of **citizens** in the context of SCC Sisak see [here](#).
- Needs assessment, suggestions and recommendations of the **CSOs and public institutions** in the context of SCC Sisak see [here](#).
- National online conference of the citizens' needs in earthquake recovery area of Sisak and Petrinja.
- Crowdfunding campaign for equipping temporary spaces of the SCCs in Sisak and Petrinja.



“Our research showed that the citizens are missing cultural activities, as music and film manifestations, direct support, as legal and psycho-social counselling and educational activities the most. Therefore, it is important that the CSS creates activities lacking in the community. It is a process of joint community planning – creating new activities tailored to (wo)man.” – **Barbara Marjanović**, program assistant and volunteers’ coordinator in the LDA Sisak.

3. Social-cultural Centre Sisak

Useful information	
Timespan	From June, 2021 to April, 2022
Total Budget	11.130 EUR
Funded by	Foundation SOLIDARNA, Relief Fond 5.5.

The project objective is to create concept design of the Social-cultural Centre Sisak (SCC Sisak) building as a precondition for establishment of the cross-sectoral platform contributing to the community relief and development by cooperative management and usage system of the polyvalent SCC Sisak premises.

Activities:

- Local stakeholders networking and cross-sectoral cooperation
- Workshop of live projecting of the SCC Sisak
- Preliminary design of the SCC Sisak building
- Concept design of the SCC Sisak building

Main achievements: Representatives of civil, public and private sector and citizens jointly programed the future building of the SSC Sisak, facilitated by the architects. Live programing workshops included the results of the needs assessments done with citizens and CSOs and public institutions. Based on the workshop results, the architects did the SSC Sisak preliminary design.



4. Volunteer Centre Sisak

Useful information	
Timespan	From January, 2021 to December, 2021
Total Budget	2.600 EUR
N. of partners/Associated	Elementary school Budaševo-Toplovac-Gušće
Funded by	City of Sisak, own resources

Volunteers' Centre Sisak (VCS) is a social infrastructure available to all community' stakeholders, providing free-of-charge to citizens wanted to volunteer and legal entities needing volunteers, in accordance to legal framework and voluntary programs standards. The objective is to contribute to strengthening democratic society through development of local partnerships and active involvement of citizens, children and youth u public community life by building resources of potential and existing volunteering organisers and promoting positive impact of volunteering in Sisak area.



Main achievements:

- Celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Volunteer Centre Sisak work.
- New constitution of the City of Sisak Committee for Development of volunteering for the next 2 years' mandate.
- 8 individuals volunteer' coordinators schools awarded with the Sisak Volunteer Awards 2021.
- 6th Annual photo exhibitions of voluntary programs opened with photos of 20 organisations all over the Sisak-Moslavina County.
- 13th Annual Sisak Fair of NGOs and Institutions gathered 20 organisations.
- 46 legal entities supported in development of voluntary programs and in engaging volunteers.
- 257 citizens received support in informing and/ or finding suitable voluntary placement.

Covid impact: COVID-19 restrictions made impossible to have live opening of the exhibition and award ceremony of Sisak Volunteer Awards 2021. Although the activities are done online, it was lacking to have face-to-face contact among community members in order to share positive experience and motivate more citizens and legal entities to get involved into volunteering.

5. Volunteer' Network

Useful information	
Timespan	From January, 2021 to December, 2022
Total Budget	26.600 EUR
N. of partners/Associated	Town of Sisak, Elementary school "Budaševo-Topolovac-Gušće" Sisak, High school Gymnasium Sisak, Centre for Social Welfare Sisak, Centre for Social Welfare Hrvatska Kostajnica, Town of Hrvatska Kostajnica
Funded by	Croatian Ministry of Labour, Pension System, Family and Social Policy

The purpose of the project is to contribute to the development of local partnership, solidarity and social capital in the Sisak-Moslavina County through the development of quality and diverse volunteer programs that improve the services of volunteering organizers, increase the number of citizens involved in volunteering, especially young and disadvantaged, and through promotion and recognizing the positive impact of volunteering as an activity that affects the development of a more humane and equitable democratic society.

Main achievements:

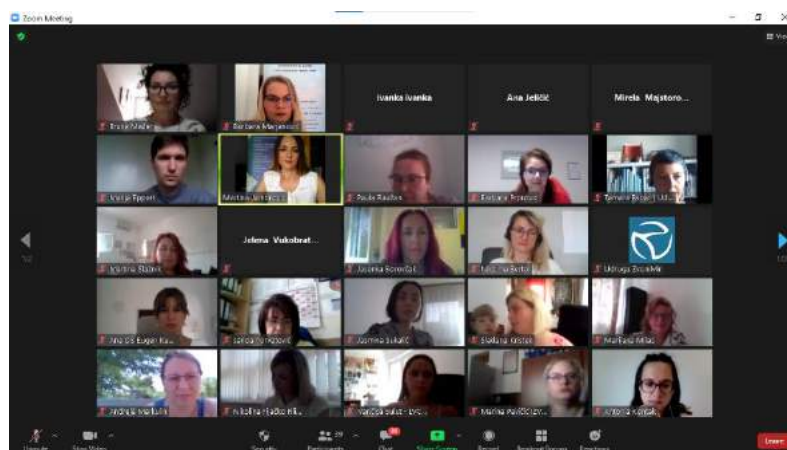
- 445 direct beneficiaries involved in the project activities, whereof 52% children and youth.
- 116 legal entities involved in the project activities and/or received support in development of their voluntary activities.
- 84 citizens involved in voluntary activities.
- Conducted the first ever need assessment on voluntary support among legal entities and citizens in Sisak-Moslavina County.
- 45 elementary and high school pupils organised and implemented 4 voluntary actions in their school.
- Developed new voluntary program for support to foster families of adults in rural area.



6. Follow my Steps! – Youth for a Sustainable Community

Useful information	
Timespan	From June, 2019 to July, 2021
Total Budget	152.000 EUR
N. of partners/Associated	High School Gymnasium Sisak, High School „Ivana Trnskog“ in Hrvatska Kostajnica, Sisak-Moslavina County
Funded by	Programme is co-financed by the Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs, Swiss-Croatian Cooperation Programme

The project contributes to the promotion of partnership between civil society organisations and educational institutions in the field of volunteerism, which contributes to economic and social cohesion and sustainable development in Sisak – Moslavina County. It will result of development of sustainable development education program through volunteering, by establishing 2 high school volunteer clubs in Sisak and Hrvatska Kostajnica whose activities are focused on the goals of sustainable development and increased local community awareness about the possibilities of cooperation between sectors in promoting sustainable development through the benefits of volunteering. The target groups are high school students (80), 2 High schools, 15 CSOs/institutions/administration. 40 volunteer students will develop new competencies and builds capacity for active involvement in the lives of their local communities.



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Main achievements: 2 high school volunteer' clubs focused on Global sustainable development goals; one in Gymnasium Sisak and one in High School "Ivana Trnskoga" in Hrvatska Kostajnica, had an online study visit to the Recycled Estate educational centre in Vukomerić. Final online national conference on Educational tools for children and youth education on sustainable development.

Covid impact: The COVID19 pandemic strongly impacted the project implementation since the schools had online classes or live classes but with restrictions of mixing students of different classes. That was a great challenge in adjusting learning and meeting methods. It took a lot of efforts to transfer voluntary actions in the online space but due to students' and teachers' creativity it was done successfully.

“First of all, I understood the basics of the sustainable development which motivated me to upgrade my future knowledge. Through workshops I gain more confidence in public speech and formal communication. We got to know more about volunteering and only at the education I realised that there is a legal framework. Until then, I perceived volunteering merely as helping other individual.”
– **member of the school volunteer club.**

7. Future: for us and for you!

Useful information	
Timespan	From June, 2019 to May, 2021
Total Budget	152.700 EUR
N. of partners/Associated	Red Cross Čakovec (leader), Elementary School Štrigova, ACT Group, Red Cross Sisak, Elementary School Ivan Kukuljević Sisak, Red Cross Donja Stubica, Matija Gubec Elementary School Gornja Stubica, Zagor Association Network
Funded by	Programme is co-financed by the Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs, Swiss-Croatian Cooperation Programme

As part of the Project Future: for us and for you! elementary school students from the Međimurje, Krapina-Zagorje and Sisak-Moslavina counties will be provided with an interactive education program on Sustainable Development for the purpose of acquiring competencies and active involvement of students and parents in the field of sustainable development. The aim is to strengthen the partnership between civil society organizations and elementary schools in the Međimurje, Krapina-Zagorje and Sisak-Moslavina counties in which a sustainable development training program is implemented. In addition to strengthening the partnership of civil society organizations, one of the goals is to strengthen the competence of children in the field of sustainable development and to enhance the active participation of children and parents in the sustainable development of the local community. The main activity of the project is to develop and implement a sustainable development training program for 3rd and 4th grade elementary school students and their parents / guardians and to provide professional support in its implementation.

Main achievements: Developed and tested 3 educational programs on sustainable development education for pupils of the 3rd and 4th grade of elementary school in 3 Croatian regions. The program included parents and concrete voluntary actions in the community.



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
Office for Cooperation with NGOs



Swiss - Croatian
Cooperation Programme

8. WalkON: Walking the path of reconciliation- empowering communities for a peaceful society

Useful information	
Timespan	From November, 2019 to January, 2022
Total Budget	138.569,50 EUR
N. of partners/Associated	Beyond Barriers Organisation, Albania (leader), Youth Cultural Club Bitola (North Macedonia), LENS (Kosovo), Educational Centre Kruševac (Serbia), Young Volunteers (Bosnia and Herzegovina).
Funded by	EU, Erasmus Plus Programme

This project aims to build the competences of youth workers, teachers, young people and community youth leaders in the Western Balkans, to address and work with reconciliation, countering hate speech and promoting peace building. Peace building cannot be reached if we do not all work together, therefore this project proposes a thorough approach in involving different stakeholders of the community and equipping them with skills and expertise how to fight these negative phenomena in their environment. The project seeks to establish a successful practice and with positive regards to establish a network of association in the WB and EU who are committed into promoting reconciliation, sharing know how and fighting hate speech a different level. By the combination of the working packages and the educational approaches this proposal not only makes a direct change at personal level of the directly impacted participants, but also promotes a greater sense of community cohesiveness and brings the reconciliation discourse to grassroots level, making it more sensible for the communities and reaching out to the youngsters as direct change makers.

Main achievements:

- Produced the “Intercultural Learning a Tool for Peace” – the Training Toolkit that serves as a tool for teachers and youth workers, to support them in working with pupils and youngsters on how to be resilient to reconciliation, no hate speech and promote peacebuilding with their young people in community level. The Toolkit is bilingual – Croatian and English language; English version see here.
- Training for OCDs on no-hate-speech education for youth.
- Training for teachers on no-hate speech education for youth in formal educational system.
- International Training „Roots and branches of hate speech“ and youth exchange “Peace is the way” in Albania.

Covid impact: COVID-19 restrictions resulted with prolongation of the project since no mobility activities were possible to implement in originally planned timeframe.



“Unforgettable and crazy adventure that resulted with new friendships. I strongly recommend it and would love to do it again!”
– **Ana Brdar, participant of the youth exchange.**



9. Living with us

Useful information	
Timespan	From June, 2021 to April, 2022
Total Budget	6.600 EUR
N. of partners/Associated	DKolektiv (leader), Information Legal Center, Red Cross Osijek, Association for creative development – SLAP, City of Osijek, City of Slavonski Brod
Funded by	European Social Fund

The project aims are to prepare local communities in 3 Croatian regions for integration of people with grated international protection by: a) strengthening the role and capacities of local communities for the integration process throughout empowerment and networking of experts from the CSOs and social services providers; b) sensitising citizens and community for integration; and c) ensuring social support through volunteering.

Main achievements:

- Established Local coordination of CSOs/institutions and people with grated international protection in Sisak.
- Integration camp in Eastern Croatia.
- Long-term education for local experts on discriminatory practices and good practices in integration.
- Education for teachers on discriminatory practices and good practices in integration.
- Developed voluntary program for social support in local integration.
- Conducted needs analysis of people with grated international protection living in Sisak.

Covid impact: Local integration is effective if people can meet face-to-face and exchange their stories and ideas. COVID-19 restriction, followed with high number of infected and not-vaccinated people, made harder to provide live meet-ups. Moreover, the most of public spaces in Sisak are destroyed or damaged in the devastating earthquake which additionally challenged the integration.



10. European Social Fund

Useful information	
Timespan	From October, 2020 to April, 2023
Total Budget	144.400 EUR
N. of partners/Associated	Association KAS Sisak (leader), Red Cross Sisak, Labour Disability Association Sisak, City of Sisak
Funded by	European Social Fund

The project purpose is to increase capacities of the CSOs in topic of active ageing and life quality of retired people in the Sisak-Moslavina County. The activities are directed to elderly people as well, in the area of health, social networking, computer skills, occupational activities and volunteering.

Main achievements:

- Set of lectures for retired people in the Sisak-Moslavina region dedicated to health, disease prevention and mental health.
- Workshops on exercising in older age, computer literacy, follower arrangement and gardening.
- Regional round table on active ageing.

Covid impact: Due to COVID-19 restrictions and specific target group of elderly people, the activities were triple in number in order to avoid bigger groups of participants in the same time. We did more activities with same topic but with smaller number of participants.



11. White Water Lily Traveling Book

Useful information	
Timespan	From September, 2021 to September, 2023
Total Budget	517.400 EUR
N. of partners/Associated	Public library Lekenik (leader), Association PET PLUS, Municipality of Lekenik
Funded by	European Social Fund and Croatian Ministry of Culture

The project aims to increase availability of materials and activities which motivates reading and develop reading competences of elderly people, children and unemployed people of Lekenik rural area. Moreover, it aims to raise awareness on the importance of reading and literary for individual and social development. The project activities will be implemented in remote places of the Lekenik area in public spaces (where there are any) but in biblio-van as a travelling library that comes to the doorstep of each individual.

Main achievements: The project was presented to vast community stakeholders, inviting everybody to join as volunteers and to suggest relevant activities important to citizens of remote Lekenik area.



12. Other activities

Sisak-Moslavina Humanitarian Organisations

LDA Sisak is a member of the Sisak-Moslavina Humanitarian Organisations, established immediately in January 2021, after the devastating earthquake. The Coordination, among other relief activities, did the Humanitarian Needs Assessment of the Sisak-Moslavina County with the purpose to provide insight in the situation and provide adequate and immediate response to the citizens until the reconstruction will be done. The document in Croatian language please see [here](#).



Operational Partner Verteneglio/Brtonigla



Delegate: Umberto Ademollo

Established: 1996

Key partner:

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

Main objectives:

- Supporting the development of local democracy
- Supporting the European integration of the Region
- Fostering cross-border cooperation
- Raising awareness on human rights, minority rights and youth active participation



OPERATIONAL PARTNER VERTENEGLIO/ BRTONIGLA IN THE FIELD
Projects and activities

1. Project R.E.A.L.M.S. – “Recruit Engage Author in Local

Useful information	
Timespan	From June, 2021 to September,2022
N. of partners/Associated	4
Funded by	European Solidarity Corps

The long-term volunteer project R.E.A.L.M.S. represents an eleven-month structured program, which aims to bring the message of European values, principles and policies closer to local communities, connect young Europeans, giving them the opportunity to create and develop original models of European solidarity at the local level, to represent these values and messages in the rural communities of Brtonigla and Istria as a region and especially for young Istrians, to grow and develop their personal potential by involving them in various events and activities designed with our partner organizations, which will enrich their knowledge , train and practice new skills, increase their competitiveness and mutually add awareness and knowledge of the different national aspects of the common European culture.

Main achievements: Collection of audio and video material and interviews with local producers of wine, olive oil and honey in collaboration with the Touristic office of Brtonigla-Verteneglio.





2. „FROM M.E. TO E.U FROM Migrants' Engagement TO Europe Upgrade“

Useful information	
Timespan	From November, 2019 to April, 2021
N. of partners/Associated	8
Funded by	Europe for Citizens

FromMEtoEU is a project funded by EU, through Europe for Citizens programme. The project has the aim to put together European and migrants, to discover that Europe is not just a place to stay, but an opportunity to build inclusive society. The project started in November 2018 and will end in August 2020.

FromMEtoEU involves 8 partner countries: Albania, Belgium, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Macedonia, Poland, Spain, Greece.

Presented by Studio Progetto Cooperativa Sociale, based in Cornedo Vicentino, Italy, the project is composed by 3 different phases:



1° Phase_My Europe, My Story composed by:

- 1 International Training Course, Brussels, April 2019, which has the objective of sharing the idea of the project among partners, and learn about EU history and about migrant history.
- 8 local workshop with 26 participants each country. The workshop would teach participants to use storytelling to spread histories of migrants.

2° Phase_I need (E)U, E(U) need me:

- 1 International Training Course, Spain, July 2019, with the aim to search solutions to migrant' crisis and to set up a survey to be implemented locally.
- 400 video interviews, 50 for each country, to collect suggestions for intercultural engagement.
- 8 local workshop, 1 for country, to get concrete proposals of mutual help migrants-citizens.

3° Phase_S.O.S. Volunteers:

- A new web site will be online, with 8 different section, one for each partner country. The aim of the different local section will be to connect people and promote volunteering
- 1 local event for each country, to promote the web platform
- 1 International Final Conference, Italy, January 2020. Debating on the future of the project and to award best European collaboration experiences



Main achievements: Creation of a platform for helping the inclusion refugees as well as visit and help the center for refugees in Zagreb, Croatia.

Covid impact: The final event was postponed by one year.

3. “LEGAMI“

Useful information	
Funded by	Friuli Venezia Giulia Region

The project refers to the period, places and historical events connected with Dante's presence in the lands of the Patriarchate - from Friuli to Istria between 1303 and 1308 - to promote cultural, linguistic and artistic values. For the Friuli Venezia Giulia region it was a particularly prolific period from the cultural point of view in relation to the important role played by the Patriarchal territory and the Istrian marquis in the fourteenth century and, at the same time, these roots refer to the subsequent evolution that led to an extraordinary artistic-cultural osmosis with the Serenissima. The initiative celebrates the 700th anniversary of Dante's death by fully reconstructing the cultural expressions of the time and at the same time assumes Dante's primary role in linguistic renewal to accompany this cultural reconstruction with a great International Conference on Friulian linguistic identity and Istrian-Venetian in the territory in which the poet wandered.

Main achievements: Promote historical knowledge and the use of artistic excellence, artifacts, paintings, engravings and editorial works to enhance the importance that the FVG territory had in the evolution of the fourteenth century. Enhance the opening of the new Museum of the Walled City of Monfalcone.



Last farewell to Victor Cotruta

Project Manager and Coordinator in Eastern Europe

On September 14, 2021 passed away Victor Cotruta who was in charge of projects in Eastern Europe with ALDA team in Chisinau.

Victor will remain in the memory as a great colleague, motivated and committed to his work which he's always carried on with rare enthusiasm. Victor had an experience of over 25 years of working in the field of project management and coordination, with a particular focus on environment, participation and education.

Before joining the team, he was already a partner of ALDA, through his own organisation in Moldova, working together with ALDA for the establishment of the Civil Society Forum for Eastern Partnership, where Victor and Antonella Valmorbida, ALDA Secretary General, were members of the Steering Committee for the first years.

ALDA and its teams were lucky enough to work with Victor and got a chance to see what a great man he was.



Local Democracy Agencies ACTIVITY REPORT



LDA EDREMIT



AGENCIJA LOKALNE DEMOKRACIJE SISAK
Local Democracy Agency Sisak



Citizens, Equality, Rights
and Values programme

