

ACTIVITY REPORT 2019



Local  
Democracy  
Centre  
**LDA**  
Central and Southern Serbia

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# About

The Local Democracy Agencies (LDA) have been established in the Western Balkans by the Congress of the Council of Europe since 1992, as a support program to strengthen local democracy, foster respect for human rights and further sustainable development. Today there are 15 active Local Democracy Agencies based in Western Balkans, South Caucasus and North Africa coordinated by ALDA, on top of 3 LDAs - Operational partners, based in Croatia.

All LDAs function as self-sustaining, locally registered NGOs, but they are different from other local NGOs because of the international framework they operate in. Indeed, the LDAs develop partnerships with local authorities and NGOs from all over Europe giving to the whole network direct access to an international framework through the support of ALDA, the Council of Europe and the European Union.



*The network of LDAs and ALDA*

# Local Democracy Centre LDA Central and Southern Serbia

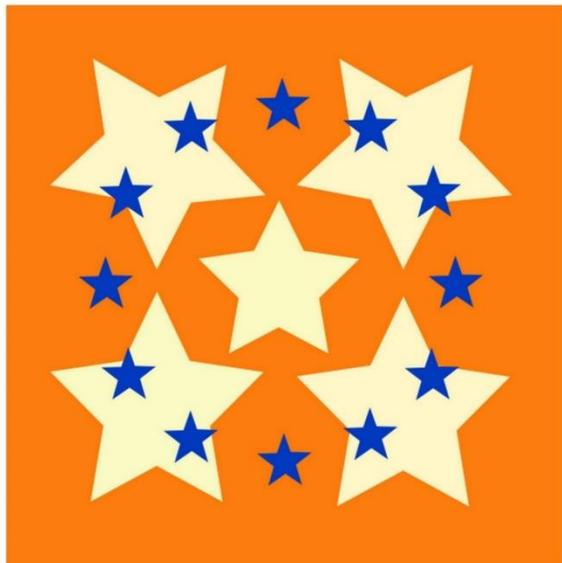
Local Democracy Centre LDA Central and Southern Serbia (LDA CSS) was established in 2001 under the auspices of the Council of Europe and officially registered as Serbian NGO in 2003.

LDA CSS aims to contribute to democratic, social, economic and cultural development of local communities in Eastern, Southern and Central Serbia thru capacity building programs based on the principles of active citizenship and establishment of concrete mechanisms for citizens' participation in democratic, social, economic and cultural development of their communities.

In line with this, LDA CSS implements: 1) Activities at the local level; 2) Activities at the international level, through the European Association for Local Democracy ALDA and Balkan Network for Local Democracy BNLD.

Host city: Knjaževac, Serbia

Lead partner: Associazione Trentino con i Balcani, Italy



**Local  
Democracy  
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# Projects implemented in 2019

During 2019 Local Democracy Agency Central and Southern Serbia LDA CSS implemented total of eight projects and numerous activities.

1. **Regional YOUTH COMPACT for Europe**, funded by European Commission (IPA Civil Society Facility and Media Program 2016-2017) and co-funded by Balkan Trust for Democracy, a project of the German Marshall Fund of the United States

**Applicant:** Centre for Democracy Foundation (Serbia)

**Partners:** 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).

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.



This project is funded  
by the European Union



**B | T | D** The Balkan Trust  
for Democracy  
A PROJECT OF THE GERMAN MARSHALL FUND

## Activities in 2019

- Coordination activities with the project partners
- The **First Regional Thematic Forum and Annual Conference of BNLD**, Tirana, Albania, February 26-27. Those two events were a momentum of exchanges among stakeholders of the Western Balkans engaged in the furthering of the EU accession processes of the Western Balkans countries. The events gathered more than 80 participants including representatives of civil society organisations and networks, regional structures, public bodies, academia and youngsters. This diverse public created a dynamic exchange of thoughts and proposals for the key reforms needed for the progress of the society in the Western Balkan countries. The Regional Thematic Network Forum brought insight into regional structures and policies beneficial for the institutions in charge of the pre-accession processes. The general message transferred through the Forum is that the future of the European Union and the Western Balkans is tightly interconnected and the only way to move forward is together.



- The first international workshop for youth, “Rule of law and fundamental rights – why is it important for the youth and how youth can contribute to monitor reforms in these fields”, Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina, March 25-26.



This project is funded  
by the European Union



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- **Politea Western Balkans Summer School**, Danilovgrad, Montenegro, April 1-6. Participants, 25 young people from the Western Balkans region and Turkey, had the opportunity to understand the strategic approach to reforms, designing of action plans, methodology of planning, implementation and monitoring.
- **Second regional training for the Balkan Network for Local Democracy, “The role of monitoring and evaluation in evidence-based advocacy on local level”**, Knjaževac, Serbia, September 10-12. Participants were presented with varied tools for monitoring and evaluation, as well as evidence based advocacy actions at the local level. This capacity building programme aimed to improve efficiency and effectiveness of local policy reforms in the Balkan region, in particularly those related to Negotiation Chapters 19, 23 and 24. All trainees are expected to develop a common methodological approach to analyse and compare local policies from their own communities in the context of the European integration process.



- **Second workshop for the Regional youth working group, Prishtina, Kosovo\*, November 5-6.** The workshop had an objective to deepen the youth group’s common understanding of the accession negotiation process with particular focus on the Chapter 19: Social Policy and Employment. Focus of the work was on the employment policies and labour market reforms in the Western Balkan countries. Experts from the region shared their expertise in labour market reforms, work opportunities, social cohesions, youth mobility and more. The youngsters had the opportunity to take part in group discussions, debates, different types of practical exercises and a bit of traditional lectures.
- **Regional Youth thematic forum, “Youth in the region: seeking strategic responses to meet the challenges of demography and labour market trends”, Prishtina, Kosovo\*, November 7.** The main goal of the forum was to establish a network of young students and activists from the Western Balkans empowered for monitoring EU related reforms within the EU integration processes. The youngsters had the opportunity to discover the project and the value of the Regional Youth compact for Europe Network and to talk about the future modalities of work of the Network: research, activism and communication. The participants gave their opinions on how to improve the platform and make it more community friendly, to increase trust in civil society and create a sense of belonging.



- **Regional Youth Compact for Europe Internship programme, started in December 2019 with a public call for Interns.** This programme offers one-month internship for Balkan youth in one of the offices of the project partners. It allows young participants to gain first-hand experience about the functioning of CSOs and the work they do but also to assist in finding out and establishing innovative, youth friendly, forms and content of communication, leading to increased youth participation in civic initiatives, policy design and structured dialogue. This activity will last until April 2020.

2. **CLINK - Cultural heritage as a link diversity of Europe**, funded by European Commission (Europe for Citizens) - Lesson 2: Democratic engagement and civic participation

**Applicant:** LDA Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

**Partners:** LDA CSS, LDA Subotica (Serbia); Association des agences de la Democratie Locale (France); LDA Prijedor, LDA Zavidovici (Bosnia and Herzegovina); LDA Sisak (Croatia); LDA Niksic (Montenegro); Omma Studio (Greece).

The project aims to deepen the connection between people from 10 communities from 3 EU (CRO, FR, GR) and 4 non-EU countries (BiH, SRB, MN, AL) and the heritage that surrounds them, as well as to raise

their awareness on connections and place their own cultural heritage has in the tapestry of Europe's rich and diverse cultural heritage.



Co-funded by the  
Europe for Citizens Programme  
of the European Union

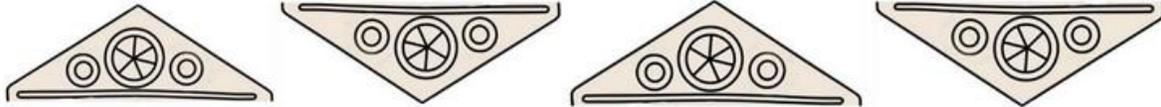
### Activities in 2019:

- Participation in the kick off meeting of project partners and first international event, "Citizens' participation in preservation of cultural heritage in their communities", Caen - Normandy, France, 15th and 16th May. The event gathered around 80 participants who exchanged practices on various forms of cultural heritage as well as its preservation, prevention of deterioration and promotion through raising awareness methods. A study visit to the "Fabrique de patrimoines" was organized. Based on the event's conclusions, specific document "Recommendations for Citizens' Participation In Preservation And Promotion Of Cultural Heritage In Their Communities" was produced. Delegation from Knjaževac included Vladana Stojadinović, librarian advisor and director of the Municipal Library Njegoš, and Bojana Ilijić, Senior Curator Archaeologist at the Knjaževac Homeland Museum. They presented their practice and experience with cultural heritage programmes and participation of young people in educational programs of their cultural institutions.



- During the summer and autumn 2019, a series of pop-up galleries presenting the art inspired by local cultural heritage were organized in 6 countries by 9 partners. At least 225 youngsters were directly involved in this activity and more than 4500 citizens were involved as public. Pop-up gallery in Knjaževac was organized on the 5<sup>th</sup> of September and presented digital collages inspired by local cultural heritage created by youngsters of Knjaževac.
- The second international event, “Cultural heritage as a source of urban regeneration: comeback of the craft-making culture”, Knjaževac, 12th and 13th September. More than 80 state and non-state cultural actors, entrepreneurs, craftsmen/women, young designers and civil society organizations from 10 different countries gathered to explore traditional crafts and to discover innovative ways of creative and sustainable use of cultural heritage for social and economic development of communities. Main event was organized as a best practice fair in the Archaeo-Ethno Park complex in the village of Ravna, near Knjaževac and a collection of best practices presented will be published as on-line publication.
- Youth Cultural Forum, organized on 29<sup>th</sup> of November, with the aim of connecting youth and cultural actors (state and non-state) in order to boost up participatory approach to preservation

and promotion of cultural heritage. Forum resulted in joint recommendations for the advancement of youth. Besides Knjaževac, youth forums were organized in 8 more partner communities in 6 countries participating in the project.



Co-funded by the Europe for Citizens Programme of the European Union

### 3. Cultural Heritage 2.0, funded by Knjazevac Municipality

**Applicant:** LDA CSS

**Partner:** Municipal Library Njegoš, Knjaževac

The project represents a continuation of last year's project and aims at contributing to the promotion of the preservation, protection and promotion of the cultural and historical heritage of the municipality of Knjaževac through artistic interpretation of youngsters.

#### Activities in 2019:

- Creation of a group of young explorers of local architectural heritage of Knjaževac municipality;
- Photo safari through the municipality to collect photo material for the artistic workshop;
- Educational and artistic workshop where youngsters created digital collages using collected photo material about local architectural heritage;



- Printing and distribution of postcards with digital collages created by youth;
- Open air public exhibition of created collages.



4. **Monumental 9**, funded by Reginal Cooperation Council (“Support to the implementation of the RCC Triple-P Tourism in SEE: Promotion, Policy and Pilots Grants Work Programme”)

**Applicant:** Local Democracy Agency Nikšić, Montenegro

**Partners:** LDA CSS, LDA Subotica (Serbia); LDA Mostar, LDA Prijedor, LDA Zavidovici (Bosnian and Herzegovina); LDA Kosovo\*; ALDA Skopje (North Macedonia).

The project aims to help create preconditions for new tourism product development to increase youth employment and income generating activities through engaging micro-localities, youth greeters and vloggers in regional co-operation programme. More specifically, it aims to:

- develop youth friendly innovative promotional actions to provide orientation and publicise the cultural narrative of the nine magnificent monuments from the WW2 in former Yugoslav republics;
- create youth friendly online platform to present sites, locations and cultural heritage of nine micro-localities;
- develop regional pilot youth intercultural exchange programme including exploration, storytelling, digitalisation of the new cultural tourism product: Monumental 9;

- help increase attractiveness for tourist development and income generating activities at nine micro-localities;



#### Activities in 2019:

- Signing the grant and partnership agreement
- Coordination activities between 8 partners;
- The first partner meeting in Prishtina, Kosovo\* on November 5th.
- Publishing the Call for trainers, experts on cultural tourism and communication for the upcoming training for young vloggers and greeters scheduled to take place in Prijedor, Bosnia and Herzegovina in February 2020.
- Publishing call for proposals for project web platform design and development.

5. **Local Economic Monitor**, funded by the European Union through grant scheme within project "Prepare to Participate P2P" implemented by European Policy Centre CEP

**Applicant:** LDA CSS

Project aims at enhancing the contribution of local CSOs to the negotiation process and meeting the economic criteria for EU membership. Specifically, it aims to improve participation of CSOs in monitoring

progress under Chapter 20 and proactive advocating for the implementation of practical policies at the local level, with particular emphasis on entrepreneurship development. Furthermore, the project will contribute to improved awareness of the local public and decision makers in the key challenges of industrial policy and entrepreneurship.



### Activities in 2019

- Signing the grant contract
- Coordination activities
- Preparation for the comparative review / study of the situation by municipalities - industry and entrepreneurship in ten municipalities (north and southeast of Serbia: Knjaževac, Zaječar, Sokobanja, Aleksinac, Svrlijig, Subotica, Kanjiža, Ruma, Sombor, Stara Pazova).

## 6. VOLS EUROPE - Volunteer Management in Europe's Youth

**sector**, funded by the European Commission, Erasmus+ programme - Capacity Building Youth  
- Western Balkans

**Applicant:** Local Democracy Agency Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

**Partners:** LDA CSS (Serbia), LDA Zavidovici (Bosnia and Herzegovina), LDA Niksic (Montenegro), ALDA Skopje (North Macedonia), United Societies of Balkans Astik Etairia (Greece), Genista Research Foundation (Malta), Association for the development of voluntary work Novo Mesto (Slovenia), Rede Portuguesa de Jovens para Igualdade de Oportunidades entre Mulheres e Homens (Portugal), LDA Kosovo (Kosovo) Fundacion Privada Indera (Spain), Consorzio Comunita 'Solidale Societa' Cooperativa Consortile (Italy)



The project aims to promote volunteering among young people and organizations dealing with youth issues in order to promote the Erasmus + program as a stimulus for volunteering, and especially the European voluntary service to strengthen counsellors for young people in their aspirations towards active participation (social / civil) young people how to European and local level.

### Activities in 2019

- National coordination and conducting the selection process of the young participants from Serbia. Three youngsters were selected to take part in the international training.
- Participation to the international training "Volunteer Management in Europe's Youth sector", in Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina) from March 27 till April 3. Training gathered 29 youngsters from 11 countries. Participants were enabled to articulate competencies gained through volunteering, were trained on how to plan, stimulate and evaluate the learning process of volunteers during the EVS activities.

7. **FOR Balkans – Integrated approach for Forest and River sustainable management in the Balkans: Development of an information system for decision-making support in the field of sustainable forest management**, funded by Autonomous Province of Trento (Programme of cooperation and development Trentino-Balkans 2018-2020)

**Applicant:** Associazione Trentino con i Balcani Onlus

**Partners:** LDA CSS (Serbia); Effetreseizero Srl (Italy); University Of Trento (Italy); Association Trentino con il Kosovo (Kosovo\*); VIS Albania (Albania).

Project aims to promote collaborations and relations between Trentino and Balkan partners and experts in the field of forest management from three pilot areas (Val Rugova, Kosovo\*; Shkrel - Shkrel District, Malesi and Madhe Municipality, Albania; Knjaževac Municipality, Serbia) and identification of future opportunities for cooperation for development of common actions of mutual interest. Project foresees the study and development of a support tool for sustainable and multifunctional management of forests aiming at involving the whole community of aforementioned three ecosystems.

**Activities in 2019:**

- Signing the partnership contract;
- Mapping local stakeholders;
- Support for the field research in Knjaževac Municipality.

8. **Balkan Kaleidoscope**, funded by European commission, EACEA Europe for Citizens – Strand 1: European Remembrance

**Applicant:** Local Democracy Agency Subotica (Serbia)

**Partners:** LDA CSS (Serbia); European Association for Local Democracy - ALDA (France); LDA Mostar, LDA Zavidovici and LDA Prijedor (Bosnia and Herzegovina); KulturLife (Germany); Institute for National History of Macedonia (North Macedonia); Centre for Peace, Nonviolence and Human Rights (Croatia); Municipality of Ravenna (Italy); SPES – Centro di Servizio per ilVolontariato del Lazio (Italy); Sombor Education Centre (Serbia); Znanstvenoraziskovalni Center Slovenske Akademije Znanosti in Umetnosti (Slovenia);

The project aims to promote a deeper understanding of the common European history and common values, as well as to develop respect, tolerance and appreciation of European diversity based on memories of the Yugoslav wars and their consequences for modern Europe. More specifically the project aims to help young people across Europe to better understand the complexity and delicacy of the intercultural dialogue while developing the capacity of educators to use a methodology of multiperspectivity, personal testimony and narrative that nurtures critical thinking in their teachings of history.

**Activities in 2019**

- Creation of the collection of best practices in implementing multiperspective approach in history by the project partners;
- Reporting.

# OTHER ACTIVITIES IN 2019

## BNLD - Balkan Network for Local Democracy

Balkan Network for Local Democracy BNLD is founded by the European Association for local democracy (ALDA) and the 7 Local Democracy Agencies (LDA) from Western Balkans aiming to support regional cooperation. The network has been actively operating from 2015 and has been formally registered in Skopje, North Macedonia during 2019.



*The constituent assembly of BNLD, Skopje*

LDA CSS is one of the founding members of the regional network and LDA CSS delegate, Saša Marinkov, is one of the Governing Board members. In 2019, LDA CSS hosted first Governing Board meeting in Knjazevac, on 10th and 11th of September. The second GB meeting was held in Prishtina, Kosovo\* on November 6th, the day before the official public inauguration of the BNLD in Prishtina.

In the framework of the project “Regional Youth Compact for Europe”, the Balkan network for local democracy was officially launched on the 7th of November 2019, in the Europe House in Prishtina, Kosovo\*. More than 70 representatives of the civil sector, local authorities and media gathered to take part in this historical event for BNLD. They had the opportunity to hear about the vision and mission of the network, its origins and founders.



*BNLD Governing Board meeting, Knjaževac*

LDA CSS gives active contribution to the work of the Fundraising Group of BNLD. During the fourth quarter of 2019, 6 project proposals were created and submitted for potential funding to different international donors. “WB Cultural heritage in 24 hours” was the first official project granted to BNLD by the Tandem Western Balkans programme.



## Support to the Association Trentino con I Balcani

During 2019 LDA CSS supported its leading partner Association Trentino con I Balcani in the implementation of the activities foreseen within the framework of the community cooperation programme between Trentino and the Balkans, mainly the follow-up activities of "Global Citizenship Education" project that included cooperation between schools from Knjaževac (Tehnička škola) and Trento (CFP-UPT) and further developing of "Grasping the EU" project that includes awareness raising actions with elementary school students on Sustainable Development Goals, a collection of 17 global goals designed to be a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all".



*Knjaževac, January 2020*



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Central and Southern Serbia



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