

ACTIVITY REPORT 2017



Local
Democracy
Centre
LDA
Central and Southern Serbia

Knjaževac, January 2018

LOCAL DEMOCRACY CENTRE LDA

REPORT 2017

Lead Partner

Associazione Trentino con i Balcani, Italy; providing financial contribution for local expert on local development and youth empowerment as well as programme partnership.

Host City

Municipality Knjaževac, Serbia; providing in kind contribution (rent-free office space), programme partnership and financial support through open call for CSOs' project proposals.

Project partners

- Cooperativa Margherita, Italy;
- Patrimoine Sans Frontiers, France;
- E35 Foundation for international Projects, Reggio Emilia, Italy;
- Municipality Vlasotince, Serbia;
- Association ZAdrugarice, Niš, Serbia;
- Association GAMA, Niš, Serbia;
- Association Timočki klub, Knjazevac, Serbia;
- Association Timočki omladinski centar, Zaječar, Serbia;
- Association Centar za kreativni razvoj, Knjaževac, Serbia;

Priorities

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

Activities implemented

1. **“Balkan Regional platform for youth participation and dialogue”**, funded by European Union through Civil Society Facility Operating Grants to IPA CSO Associations - Support to Regional Thematic Associations and Knjazevac Municipality

Partners: European Association for Local Democracy ALDA - FRANCE, Local Democracy Agencies from Mostar, Prijedor, Zavidovici – BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, Niksic - MONTENEGRO, Peja – KOSOVO*, Subotica – SERBIA and ALDA Skopje – FYR MACEDONIA



Through the creation of Balkan Regional Network for Local Democracy and a series of locally and regionally implemented activities, this project aims to contribute to structuring regional thematic cooperation and coordination between CSOs and public authorities from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Macedonia, Kosovo* and Serbia and help improve environment for youth activism and participation, in particular of young people with fewer opportunities from Mostar, Prijedor, Zavidovici, Niksic, Peja, Subotica, Knjaževac and Skopje.

During 2017, the third year of project implementation, main achievements at the local level in Knjaževac, were establishment of the Council of Youngsters, an informal youth advisory body to the local self-government for issues relevant for youth in Knjaževac Municipality and a practice of regular meetings of youngsters with representatives of local self-government in order to coordinate youth related activities. Besides this, a series of trainings on youth activism has been conducted for the students of two high schools in Knjaževac and two youth initiatives have been supported: international photo exhibition “Knjazevac – where the friends are” and mini festival “We share the Planet with...Brazil”. As a recognition, in March, we won an award for the best project in 2016 that supports youth activism through international cooperation by Serbian Umbrella Youth Organization KOMS.

2. “Establishing voluntary youth info service – Info point Knjazevac”, funded by the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Republic of Serbia

Partners: Centar za kreativni razvoj Knjaževac – SERBIA

Project increased the availability of mobility programs to young people of Knjaževac and created incentive conditions for their activism and volunteerism through the establishment of the first local voluntary youth info service in the Municipality of Knjaževac.

The capacities of the service initiated within the project “Balkan Regional platform for youth participation and dialogue” have been raised through the creation of a volunteers team (5 volunteers) and special promo tool box. Training program for the members of the volunteers team and other interested youngsters has been conducted and covered the following themes: Team work and peer education; Collecting and selecting information; Public appearance and public relations; Youth and volunteering. Total of 72 youngsters raised their knowledge and skills through aforementioned training program.



The service, organized by young people for young people, has been gathering, selecting and distributing information about programs and services that enable national and international mobility of young people from Municipality of Knjaževac. Team of volunteers also provide support to youngsters when applying for participation in these programs. In addition, this service deals with the promotion of importance of youth mobility not only among young people but among their parents and teachers and promotion of volunteerism and youth activism through examples of good practice particularly from the local community.

3. “Our citizens for our municipality”, funded by European Union, Government of Switzerland, Government of Republic of Serbia through programme European Progress

Partners: Municipality of Vlasotince – SERBIA



The aim of the project was to advance good governance in the Municipality of Vlasotince through:

- Improvement of procedures for financing local citizens' associations from the municipal budget and
- Creation of conditions for active participation of citizens and local CSOs in decision-making and creation of strategic documents at the local level.

The key results achieved during implementation of the project are:

- Implemented a training program of five one-day trainings during which:
 - o 11 representatives of 11 local CSOs and 4 representatives local administration or institutions and companies founded by local selfgovernment were trained for the preparation of project proposals and reports according to the conditions of the call for CSOs' project proposals by Vlasotince Municipality
 - o 9 representatives of local administration from Vlasotince municipality were trained for evaluating project proposals of the local CSOs
 - o 11 representatives of local administration from Vlasotince municipality were trained for the assessment of CSOs' reports on the implementation of projects financed from the municipal budget
 - o 17 representatives of local CSOs and LS were trained on the topic of citizens' participation in local budgeting process
 - o 21 representatives of local CSOs and LS were trained on the subject of the participation of local CSOs in strategic planning
- Developed and adopted by the local authorities a complete package of documents for the implementation of a public call for financing CSOs' projects from the budget of Vlasotince Municipality
- Created Manual for transparent financing of CSO projects from the municipal budgets with a model of local legal framework and model of project proposal templates and templates for their evaluation
- For the first time, implemented public call for (exclusive) funding of projects of local CSOs from the municipal budget, in accordance with the Decision on the improved method of financing CSOs' projects from the budget of Vlasotince municipality. Total of 35 projects from 35 local CSOs were granted with total amount of 4,000,000 dinars.
 - o Formed Commission for the implementation of the public call that implemented newly adopted working procedures
 - o Local CSOs have applied to the open call following new guidelines and using new package of project proposal forms
- Two public debates held and attended by 71 people. Public debate on the draft decision on the municipal budget for 2017 was the first public debate on the local budget, which included, in addition to indirect budget users, citizens of Vlasotince Municipality.



4. "NET Or NEET – multi-stakeholders NETwORks prevent early school leaving and reduce NEETs promoting innovative integrated education techniques", funded by the European Union through Erasmus+ Programme

Partners: Cooperativa Margherita – ITALY, Kujawsko-Pomorska WK OHP – POLAND, Comune di Reggio Emilia – ITALY, LDA Albania – ALBANIA, Društvo za razvijanje prostovoljnega dela Novo mesto – SLOVENIA, Fundación Privada Indera – SPAIN, LDA Niksic – MONTENEGRO, European University of Tirana UET – ALBANIA, The European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA) – FRANCE

This Erasmus + project of Mobility for youth workers, took place in Sandrigo (Vicenza – Italy). Five day seminar has been organized by the lead partner - Cooperativa Margherita. The project builds up on the previous project "T-TRUST", which allowed understanding of the causes of Early School Leaving (ESL), and enabled creation of new networks in support of children and youth between organizations active in the youth field and other stakeholders at different levels; Promotion and adoption of new methodologies in youth organizations and schools that took part in the project; Spread information about ESL and continue the research on this issue.



5. "WE-NET – Working Towards Environmentally Educated Towns", funded by the European Union through Europe For Citizens Programme

Partners: Comune di Thiene – ITALY, European Association for Local Democracy ALDA - FRANCE, Związek Stowarzyszen Multikultura, Krakow – POLAND, Liga Ochrony Przyrody Zarząd Okregu Podkarpackiego, Rzeszow – POLAND, CNJ - Confederação Nacional de Jovens Agricultores e Desenvolv, Lisbon – PORTUGAL, Comune di Cervino – ITALY, Društvo za razvijanje prostovoljnega dela Novo mesto, Novo mesto – SLOVENIA, Local Councils Association Malta, Marsa – MALTA, Fundación Obra Social y Monte de Piedad de Madrid, Madrid – SPAIN, RSN Ricerche e Studi Naturalistici Biosphaera s.c.s., San Vito di Leguzzano – ITALY, Istituto Scientifico Biomedico Euro Mediterraneo Scpa – ISBEM, Brindisi – ITALY, Municipality of Knjazevac – SERBIA

Project brings together people from eight countries coming from economically, historically and culturally different backgrounds representing a great opportunity to work together on issues of mutual concern and exchange ideas. Project seeks to initiate discussion on the subject of environmental protection, recycling and sustainable development, as well as promoting active participation, providing a platform to voice citizens' opinions.



The biggest emphasis of the project is on young people who will contribute as protagonists to the discussion on the topics foreseen in local activities. During 2017, final international event took place in Brindisi, Italy, where 12 delegations presented results from the local activities they implemented within the scope of the project and discussed about the strategies for involvement of citizens in circular economy at the local level. Within the scope of this project we are acting as local coordinator on behalf Knjaževac Municipality.

6. **“GREENist – The future and challenges of sustainable development of South Eastern Serbia”**, funded by Regional Environmental Centre Serbia and SIDA - Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

Partners: Timočki klub, Knjaževac; Entuzijasti Kučeva, Kučevo; Resurs centar, Majdanpek; Pirgos, Pirot; Ženska inicijativa, Knjaževac; Asocijacija za razvoj Kladova ARK, Kladovo – SERBIA

Main aim: Project aims to strengthen capacities of CSOs from South-eastern Serbia to actively participate in the implementation of EU regulations in the field of environmental protection at the local level in the region of South-eastern Serbia; To motivate and involve local authorities and stakeholders to coordinate and cooperate in the implementation and monitoring of the implementation of the acquis of Chapter 27 at the local level in the municipalities of South-eastern Serbia; To motivate the public of South-eastern Serbia to actively participate in decision-making processes in the field of environmental protection in their communities.



During 2017 the network of CSOs from South-eastern Serbia – GREENist has been created to work focusing on the following topics in Chapter 27 within the EU negotiation process of Serbia:

- Horizontal legislation
- Waste management

GREENist network has conducted:

- a research on the implementation of the laws related to Chapter 27, at the local level in 20 municipalities in the eastern Serbia;
- produced and distributed via social networks two animated films on citizen participation in environmental protection;
- raised capacities of 7 CSOs, members of GREENist network;
- created regional base of pollutants;
- involved citizens through 28 focus groups and 4 public forums on the topic of environmental protection;
- created and distributed over 20 recommendations for relevant decision makers at the national level.

7. **“Ambassadors of Knowledge”**, funded by Municipality of Knjazevac

The main aim of the project is to further strengthen volunteers service Info point Knjazevac with a group of peer educators.

During the implementation period, following a public call for participants, 20 youngsters from Knjazevac primary and secondary schools were trained to become peer educators. They receive additional training on techniques of educational theatre in order to enable them to create educational programmes attractive for their peers. Following this training a final group of peer educators has been created, consisting of 10 youngsters. By the end of the project they designed and conducted their own educational programme for their peers. This programme reached 56 youngsters and was focused on the topics of prevention of peer violence, peer mediation in resolving conflicts, tolerance, peaceful conflict resolution and non-violent communication.



8. **“Balkan Kaleidoscope”**, funded by EU through programme Europe for Citizens, European Remembrance

Partners: LDA Subotica (SRB), ALDA (FR), LDA Mostar (BH), LDA Zavidovici (BH), LDA Prijedor, KulturLife (GER), Institute for national history of Macedonia (MK), Centre for Peace, Nonviolence and Human Rights (CRO), Municipality of Ravenna (IT), SPES - Centro di Servizio per il Volontariato del Lazio (IT), Sombor Education Centre (SRB), Znanstvenoraziskovalni center Slovenske Akademije Znanosti in Umetnosti (SI).

The project brings attention to importance and value of oral history and multiperspectivity in historic narrative. The project aims at promoting among young people a deeper understanding of Europe’s shared history, common values and at developing respect, tolerance and appreciation of European diversity on the background of remembrance of Yugoslav Wars and their consequences for contemporary Europe and its society, as well as its importance as a milestone in European integration efforts.

During 2017 first international event took place in Osijek, Croatia - Training for teachers on multiperspectivity in History teaching. Total of 22 teachers were familiarised about the project, its objectives, time frame and methodology applied, participated in the training and enlarged their knowledge in the areas of: Multiperspectivity in teaching history; Importance of oral history, personal narratives; Participative / interactive methods suitable for history classes.

These teachers also exchanged local teaching practices/methodologies, and set base for cooperation. Following aforementioned training, 15 local pilot training modules were created and will be implemented during 2018. in project partners’ communities.

