



Local
Democracy
Centre
LDA
Central and Southern Serbia

ACTIVITY REPORT 2018

LOCAL DEMOCRACY CENTRE
LDA CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN
SERBIA

Knjaževac, January 2019

LOCAL DEMOCRACY CENTRE LDA LDA CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN SERBIA REPORT 2018

Lead Partner

Associazione Trentino con i Balcani, Italy; provides programme partnership.

Host City

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

Priorities

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

Activities implemented in 2018

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, Western Balkans Fund and Knjazevac Municipality

Partners: European Association for Local Democracy ALDA - FR, Local Democracy Agencies from Mostar, Prijedor, Zavidovici – BH, Niksic - MO, Peja – KS*, Subotica – SER and ALDA Skopje – MK

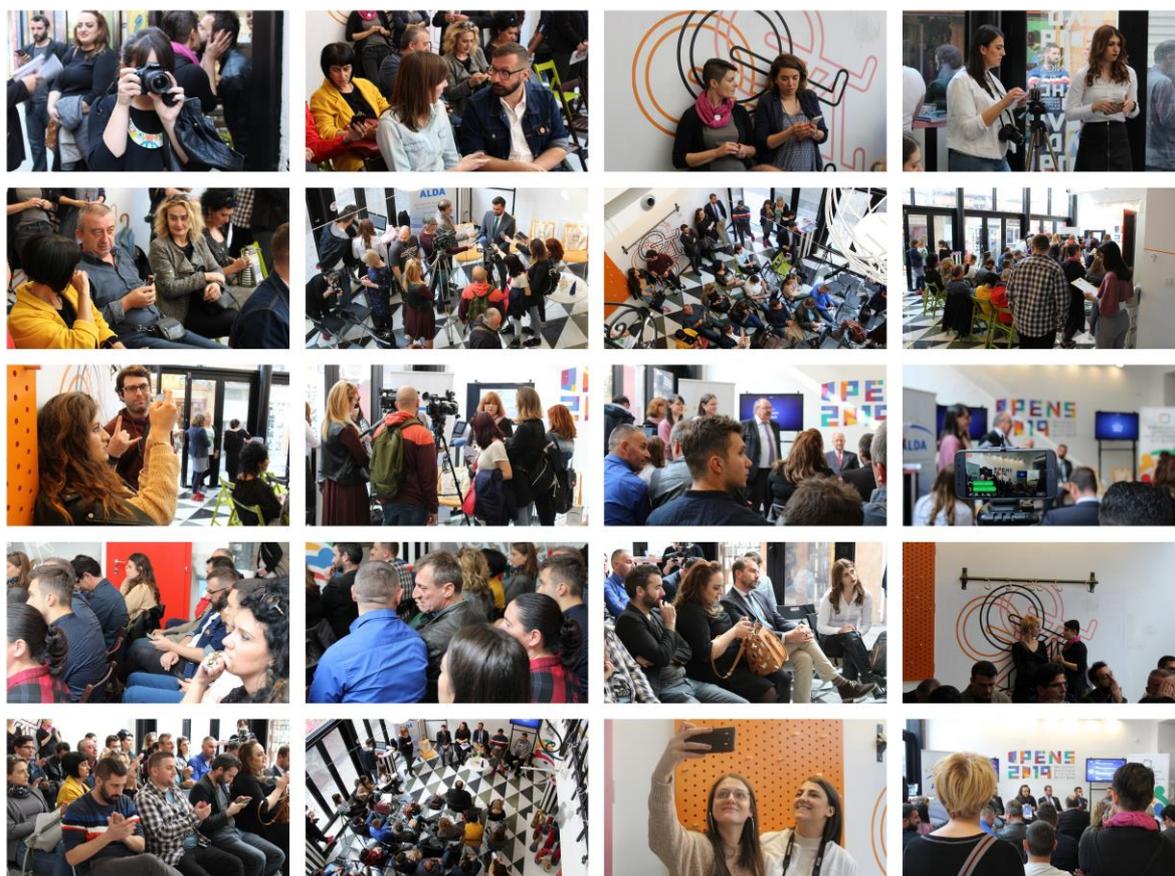
Through the creation of Balkan Regional Network for Local Democracy and a series of locally and regionally implemented activities, this project aims to contribute to structuring regional thematic cooperation and coordination between CSOs and public authorities from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, 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.



Main achievements at the local level in Knjaževac, were establishment of the Council of Youngsters, that aims at becoming an informal youth advisory body to the local self-government for issues relevant for youth in Knjaževac Municipality and participatory mechanism “Youth Taking Over day” - practice of regular meetings of youngsters with representatives of local self-government in order to coordinate youth related activities. Besides this, local voluntary youth info service established through this project – Info Point Knjaževac has organized a series of events to promote EU youth mobility programmes (Erasmus+) and trainings on youth activism for the students of two high schools in Knjaževac.

At the regional level, the results from the research study “Youth cultural participation in the Balkans” have been published and promoted and several important events happened: Network Coordination Meeting in Podgorica (MN), Balkan Youth Forum “Creative innovations towards active youth participation in the Balkans” in Skopje (MK) and Regional Round Table in Novi Sad (SRB). All these event gathered representatives of CSOs, local authorities and youth workers coming from different Western Balkan countries and enabled valuable networking and exchange of practices in supporting youth participation in the region.

Event in Novi Sad was also the possibility for all partners to evaluate and promote the achievements made over the past four years and to discuss the creation of the Balkan Network for Local Democracy BNLD strategy document as the comprehensive vision of the road map for working together in the forthcoming years.



2. **“Regional Youth Compact for Europe”**, funded by European Union and the Balkan Trust for Democracy, a project of the German Marshall Fund of the United States.

Partners: Balkan Network for Local Democracy BNLD, Center for Democracy Foundation (SRB), ALDA (FR), CRTA (SRB), Youth Act (AL) and SODEM (TUR).

This multi-annual project brings together 14 CSO partners from the EU, Western Balkans and Turkey and diverse stakeholders and opens up the space for increased youth engagement in policy dialogue, advocacy and monitoring of the EU integration progress achieved in Turkey and Western Balkan countries.



Project forsee capacity building, awareness raising and advocacy actions organised at local, national and regional level.

During 2018 main activities were:

- First regional training for Network members, "Western Balkans and the EU, a credible perspective of the reforms towards EU integration", in Novi Sad (SRB) and
- Official public presentation of the project followed by the Study Visit to National Convention on the EU in Belgrade (SRB).



3. "Do we know how to listen, watch and read correctly?", funded by European Union through Erasmus + programme

Partners: Cultural Heritage Institute, BG; Regional Advocacy Center, MK; JOL-LET, HUN; Bué Fixe Youth Organisation, PT

This youth exchange project aimed to advance media literacy with young people through development of their critical thinking, communication and digital technologies skills. LDACSS enabled participation of 5 youngsters from Serbia in this 10 day exchange that took place in Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria. Host of this international seminar is Foundation Cultural Heritage Institute from Zlatica.



4. **"Youth's advocate"**, funded by European Union through Erasmus + programme
Partners: Local democracy agency Mostar, Local democracy agency Prijedor, Local democracy agency Zavidovici, BH; Local democracy agency Subotica, SRB; Local democracy agency Brtonigla/Verteneglio, CRO; Open Doors Centre Tirana, AL; System & Generation Ankara, TUR; ALDA Skopje, MK; Local democracy agency Kosovo, KS*; Association of young ecologist Niksic, MN.

This project aimed at empowering young people for articulation of their interests and needs by using different models, mechanisms and techniques and strengthening capacities for participation in policy making process of youth workers from from 8 countries (Western Balkan countries, Croatia and Turkey).

Main activity of this project was a 5 day training on youth policy advocacy and lobbying campaigns for 35 youth workers. Youth workers had the possibility to learn more about the practical ways of participation and involvement in the creation of local policies and actions.



5. **"Italian volunteerRS promote active participation of disadvantaged youth"**, funded by European Union through Erasmus + programme
Partner: Cooperativa Margherita, IT.

The overall objective of the project was to contribute to the creation of an open and tolerant environment, favourable for active participation of young people of Knjazevac with geographical and economical obstacles in mobility programmes. more specifically we aimed to equip Italian volunteers, as well as local youngsters, with new communication and intercultural skill and promote EU values and EU supported youth mobility programmes through the local voluntary youth info point, targeting young people, their parents and educators, and raising awareness about intercultural issues and opportunities among general public in Knjazevac.

The project involved one Italian volunteer, Eleonora, committed toward volunteerism, open-minded and friendly, curious to discover a new culture and language, interested in working with youth, creative and motivated to implement activities to contribute to the awareness of young people of Knjazevac on intercultural issues and active citizenship topics.

Over the course of 4 months our Italian volunteer has supported local youth info service - Info Point Knjazevac by joining a team of local volunteers already running LDA's youth info service and by organizing special presentations that provided youth of Knjazevac with information and personal EVS experience focused on EU programmes promoting youth mobility and activism.





The volunteer also created her own programme to present elements of traditional and contemporary Italian culture in the context of Knjazevac, thus also promoting intercultural dialogue and tolerance by collaborating with local volunteers and LDA staff. Several events have been organized: the screening of contemporary Italian movie, Golden Boy, at the Street Cinema and two literary workshops presenting traditional Italian stories for kids in Municipal Library Njegos. Furthermore, our volunteer Eleonora has organised a donation of 200 Italian books to the same library. Donation has been made by an organisation from Rome, "Book-Cycle -Il Ri-Ciclo del Libro".

6. "Cultural Heritage That We Share: promoting the cultural and historical heritage of the municipality of Knjaževac through artistic interpretation of young people", funded by Knjazevac Municipality

This project contributed to improving the preservation, protection and promotion of the cultural and historical heritage of the municipality of Knjaževac.

A group of young people has, through research work in municipal cultural institutions as well as through the field work, collected and created photographic materials related to cultural and historical heritage present in the municipality of Knjaževac. With the support of young artists, youngsters have transform those materials and presented them in the form of digital collages that were published as set of postcards.



Postcards received excellent reception with the general public in Knjazevac and were also distributed to the Touristic Organization of Knjazevac and the Land Museum for further dissemination and use for promotional purposes. Based on the success of this project a follow-up project has been presented to the Municipality Knjazevac for further funding.

7. **“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, Piro; Ženska inicijativa, Knjaževac; Asocijacija za razvoj Kladova ARK, Kladovo – SER

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 2018 the network of CSOs from South-eastern Serbia – GREENist has raised its own capacities focusing on horizontal legislation and waste management, as topics in Chapter 27 within the EU negotiation process of Serbia. Members of the network continued to promote citizens participation in the decision making processes regarding the environmental protection.

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 2018 local pilot training modules were created and were implemented. Based on their own module, team of professors participating in the project on behalf of LDACSS conducted two history classes, first one with primary school children and their educators in the school “Milan Rakić” in Nis and the second one with high school students in Technical school in Knjaževac. Project concluded with the second international event, “Lecturers and students for multiperspectivity in the transfer of history and culture of memory”, in Mostar, BH, where partners from 7 countries exchanged their experiences with local pilot training modules.



9. **“Territorial cooperation Trento – Knjazevac”**, funded by Autonomous Province of Trento
Partners: Associazione Trentino con i Balcani, Knjazevac Municipality

During 2018, within this programme a working visit of the delegation of Knjazevac Municipality to Trento has been implemented.

The working visit was organized on the basis of the 2017's Agreement on Cooperation and within the Territorial Cooperation Program of the Province of Trento and the Municipality of Knjazevac.

The aim of the working visit was to identify specific areas and forms of cooperation between the Province of Trento and the Municipality of Knjazevac for the period until 2020. To this end, the delegation had meetings with a number of actors in the field of social entrepreneurship and co-operatives, environmental protection, sustainable economic development and rural tourism: PAT Depuration Agency, Trentino Sviluppo, Cooperative Sant'Orsola, Platform 125, Foundation Edmund Mach, Consolida - Consortium of social cooperatives of Trentino, Societa Turistica di Grumes.



10. **“The Global Citizenship Education (ECG) for the promotion of professional skills of the teacher in a complex social context”**, funded by Autonomous Province of Trento

Partners: Center for International Cooperation, Associazione Trentino con i Balcani, Asociacija Trentino sa Balkanom, Youth Office of Trento Municipality, Technical school Knjazevac

This project aimed to develop personal ties between teachers from two schools in Trento and Technical school in Knjazevac for the development of institutional links between their respective schools; to share visions and work together using teaching methods and resources acquired during joint training on global citizenship concept; to identify possible future joint projects between schools of Trentino and Knjazevac.

Activities in 2018 included training for teachers taking part in the project and two way teachers' exchange, one in Trentino and one in Knjazevac.

