



Local Democracy Agency

For Central and Southern Serbia - LDA CSS

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LDA CSS PARTNERS

Lead partner: City of Suresnes (France)

International:

Reggio Emilia (Italy), Municipality of Vefsen (Norway), Municipality of Saltdal (Norway), Tavolo Trentino per la Serbia (Italy), Association of LDA Zavidovici (Bosnia and Hercegovina), Cites Unies de France

National:

City of Nis - host city, Cities of Kragujevac, Kraljevo and Leskovac, Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities

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Meeting of the LDACSS partner leader and partner cities in Serbia

On the 2nd of February 2007, in Leskovac, LDACSS organized a meeting of the LDACSS partner leader, the City of Suresnes, and Serbian partner cities: Nis, Kragujevac, Kraljevo and Leskovac.

Main aim of this meeting was to encourage communication and cooperation within the network of LDACSS local partners.

After the presentation of LDACSS, its goals, methodology, advantages that LDACSS offers as a partner, concrete actions that took place during 2006 in partner cities and activities planned for 2007, local partner cities got the chance to present themselves. The presentations introduced local partner cities, as really experienced in international projects and potent partners for future activities in that field. The representatives of these cities also presented the needs of their communities and project ideas, as well as some concrete project proposals that they are interested in developing and realizing within the international LDACSS network.

All four cities presented similar problems of their communities, which can be summarize into five themes:

Local economic development; Environmental protection and sustainable development; Social and health protection/welfare; Capacity building for local self-governments; Youth capacity building.

Recognizing these similarities led to a conclusion that a lot can be done on solving local problems with joint projects of the cities present. Representatives of Nis, Kragujevac, Kraljevo and Leskovac declared real commitment to establish more efficient communication among themselves, so conclusions of the meeting were supported with concrete action: each city appointed a contact person who will, from now on, be in continuous contact with LDACSS delegate and who will be working on future joint projects.

Meeting was attended by Mr. Jean Louis Testud representative of the partner leader, Mr. Matrial Paris, Director Assistant of ALDA, Mr. Dobrica Milovanovic, Vice President of ALDA, Mr. Benoit Schneider, Conseiller – adjoin de cooperation with the Embassy of France and high representatives of Nis, Kragujevac, Kraljevo and Leskovac.



“STOP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN”, THE CAMPAIGN



With an aim to support the campaign of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, “Stop domestic violence against women” and to raise awareness on this serious problem, LDACSS in partnership with NGO Autonomous Women Center – Belgrade and the City of Nis organized, on the 07th of March in Nis, a public round table “Fight domestic violence against women”.

Relevant representatives from the Ministry of Internal Affairs - Police department in Nis, Public Prosecuting Office, Center for Social Welfare, Shelter for women victims of violence, the Commission for Gender Equality, NGO Center for Roma women rights, SOS telephone for Roma women and a special representative from the Council of Europe Office in Belgrade took part in the discussion.

All participants of the round table agreed that the key for seriously dealing with the problem of domestic violence lies in forming and strengthening local network for fighting domestic violence against women and children. In a way this round table gathered all relevant subjects of such network so it was agreed that this was a first step in establishing a working group which is now going to continue with meetings on a regular basis in order to define precise strategy and next steps in establishing formal local network of institutions and NGOs that will be fighting domestic violence in local community.

Event counted around 40 visitors: different representatives of local media, secondary school student's parliaments, and representatives of several municipalities of the City of Nis, as well as citizens who took interest in this theme.

Following this public round table, on the same day an exhibition of posters and promotional materials of earlier actions on this subject was opened in a gallery in the main pedestrian zone of Nis.

Students from Art school in Nis who were distributing posters, promotional materials and flyers on the streets of Nis supported both activities.



THE PROJECT WITH HEMNES AND PROKUPLJE



Following an invitation from our partner, Hemnes Komunne, LDACSS participated in a meeting held on the 02nd of February in Prokuplje. Meeting was organized jointly by Hemnes Komunne and Prokuplje Municipality within their project planning activities. Main aim of the meeting was to define two projects, one on local administration and government and the other on environmental strategy for Prokuplje Municipality. LDACSS gave its contribution in shaping the former project. This project concerns the planning and execution of a survey with Prokuplje's citizens on the quality of services local government is providing. The survey aims to be the first step in a continuing plan to develop a dialogue between local government and citizens. Understanding that a successful survey like this will serve to strengthen the local democracy process, LDACSS is contributing to this project with the expertise knowledge on designing and executing public surveys.



By taking part in this project LDACSS has broadened its activities to a new, wider territory in Southern Serbia.

NEW COLLABORATION

Representatives of LDACSS took part in Tavolo Trentino con la Serbia Annual Event that was organized on 25th and 26th of March in Kraljevo. This event provided opportunity for meetings with different international and local partners and stakeholders of Tavolo Trentino.

Together with Youth organization from Rovereto "Calma Piatta", local NGOs "Imam Ideju" and "Kvart", LDACSS was active in Youth working group. After brainstorming on possible form of cooperation, this working group drafted a project proposal on youth exchange between Trento Province and Serbia, "Periferija". This project proposal was submitted by partners from Calma Piatta to the Autonomous Province of Trento.

The decision on funding will be announced during the month of June.

THE SERVICE GUIDELINES DOCUMENT

FOR SOCIAL COOPERATIVE "VIVERE", THE PUBLICATION

As one of final outputs of a three year long project "HANDICAP AND INTEGRATION: the Social – Educative Daily Center as job instrument and service in starting up Social Companies in the Central and Southern Serbia" our project partner Codess Sociale with the contribution of Region Veneto have made interesting publication, Service Guidelines Document for social educative centre for disabled persons "Vivere" in Kragujevac.

The value of this document is multiple.

The Service Guidelines Document presents the basic instrument to regulate the relations of service providers with their users. It is a declaration of intents guaranteed by the social cooperative "Vivere" in the Service management, in according to its key-principles and Serbian and International law on disability.

It is also a promotional document that can present to any reader what "Vivere" is. One can find everything about service issues and key-principles of social cooperative "Vivere", service organization, educative issues which are implying working methodologies, day-planning, laboratories, external planning and relations with the families.

This document is aimed to the Vivere Center stakeholders: users, families, the City of Kragujevac, Local Center for Social Welfare, other welfare services and all people who interact with the Service, so they could all be introduced with their rights and duties.

Project "HANDICAP AND INTEGRATION" ended on 31.12.2006.



LDACSS is happy to have been a part of this project. We express our gratitude to Codess Sociale for excellent work and successful cooperation. We do hope that end of this project will not be the end of our collaboration and that future will bring many more great co operations like this for Codess Sociale and LDACSS.



CODESS SOCIALE
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Local Democracy Agency for Central and Southern Serbia LDACS

Established by Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Council of Europe



Member of the Association of the Local Democracy Agencies



We are dedicated to

- Promoting practical initiatives to consolidate democracy at local level,
- Foster institution building at local level through exchange of know-how and training of local elected representatives and administrators,
- Develop a Europe-wide network of citizens committed to respect and promoting for human and minority rights,
- Foster the development of a civil society in which all sections of the community participate,
- Promote intercultural dialogue,
- Supporting the local sustainable development



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