



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 Herzegovina), 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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Partner meeting in Suresnes

After completing all the preparations, during a month of July, the partner meeting of LDACSS took place in Suresnes, France on 18th of September 2006.

This meeting had been attended by Mr. Jean Louis Testud and Ms. Valerie Gauda Da Silva, on behalf of our lead partner City of Suresnes, Ms. Serena Foracchia (Reggio nel Mondo, Italy), Ms. Vesna Surdilovic (City of Nis), Mr. Dobrica Milosavljevic (City of Kragujevac), Ms. Nina Nikolic (standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities, Serbia), Ms. Samuela Michelini and Mr. Emiliano Bertoldi (Tavolo Trentino con la Serbia, Italy), Mr. Martial Paris (ALDA) and Ms. Milijana Merdovic, Delegate LDA CSS.

After welcome address by Mr. Testud and presentation of the activities of the association of the LDAs with emphasizes on collaboration between ALDA and LDACSS by Mr. Paris, Ms Merdovic, reported to the partners on the activities and actions undertaken in the period from July 2005 till September 2006, as well on problems LDACSS has been facing for quite some time and positive results.

After the presentation of the Delegate the partners had an open discussion during which our local partners have presented their cities and their needs, interests and possibilities for cooperation with international partners, while inter-



national partners were exploring the possibilities of actively involving partners through joint projects design and preparation between LDA and the partners or between partners directly.

Main conclusions of this partner meeting were:

That the LDA has been working in the period from the last partner meeting very good and has achieved good results; The network should work on creation of strong partnerships based on common actions; There is a need for strengthening the LDA as already recognized tool for development cooperation.

Our lead partner, the City of Suresnes wants to cooperate with good defined structures and the LDA is a tool for cooperation with the City of Kragujevac, so they

concluded that in future all cooperation with Kragujevac will go directly through the LDA.

ALDA will look after international partners, check with existing and possible new ones.

The Local Cities will use the LDA as media for international cooperation and will try to find new partners between partners they are cooperating with and are not in the network of the LDA. They will also use the opportunity of different events to invite the LDA to present the Network of Partners.



A Grant Contract with the Commission of the European Communities



On the 14th of July Ms. Milijana Merdovic, on behalf of the LDACSS, and Mr. Helmuth Lohan, on behalf of the Commission of the European Communities have signed a Grant Contract for the implementation of the Project entitled 'Together– The Balkans in Europe, Europe in the Balkans'. Grant was awarded within CARDS Regional Media Support Programme of The European Community.

The project will be carried out in partnership with ALDA and LDA Kosovo, as well with TV ARTE, The Council of Europe and nine other LDAs located in the South east Europe, and with aim to improve the cooperation and co-production between media in the Balkans.

During project four TV documentaries on social and environmental issues (including youth, women's rights, water pollution and culture) will be produced by young production teams from Serbia, Kosovo/UMNIK and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and by giving them an opportunity to travel and work in another cultural surrounding (for example a team from Kosovo working in Serbia and vice versa) a cross-cultural perspective will be achieved. Through best practices exchange with and coaching by high quality associates from Europe this project will undoubtedly contribute to the empowerment of journalism in SEE.

The duration of this project is 18 months.



Training on PPP in Lecce



Regione
Puglia



Comune di
Lecce

LDACSS Delegate Ms. Merdovic together with the chef of Department for economy, sustainable development and environmental protection of City of Nis, Ms. Jadranka Stevanovic, participated in a

two day training on participatory planning process organized by the Region Puglia in Lecce, Italy on 18th – 19th July 2006. The participants were Administrators and officers from local authorities in Mostar, Subotica, Nis and Sisak, representatives from each LDA based in those cities and officers from Puglia local authorities. Training was a part of a programme "Exchanges of best practices in the framework of trans border

cooperation" and its purpose was bringing together Local authorities and civil society on the theme of planning public policies, through participatory processes to be implemented with the cooperation of institutions, associations and local authorities working at local level.



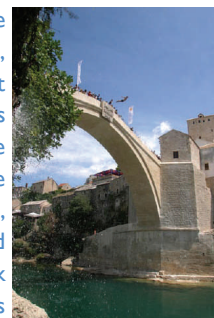
Training of Trainers



A view on Ohrid

From the 19th to 24th of July, as a part of ANCI/ALDA programme 'Strengthening Local Authorities and Civil Society in South East Europe' for this year, a training course on Participatory Planning Process was held in Ohrid, FYRoM. Ms. Violeta Stankovic and Mr. Lazar Nisavic, trainers from LDACSS, took part in this training which was designed to go into further detail of what has been already treated in the first training on this topic in 2004 and 2005. The hypothesis of this training was: 'Participation in public policies and planning as a tool to cope with a growing complexity of decision-making systems'. Several topics were discussed during three days: Participation and public policies, Participation in planning, Participation at different levels: approaches, tools, case studies, Participation and local economic development, Environmental and local conflicts and conflict resolution strategies. Trainers were **Ms. Carolina Pacchi, Mr. Claudio Calvaresi and Mr. Luca Romano**. On the basis of the knowledge gained during this course LDACSS will organize a training for stakeholders in Kraljevo Municipality. The beneficiaries will be, not just the public officials authorized for implementation of PPP, but also the different categories of private sector involved in an ongoing project 'A Route of Water', project of Tavolo Trentino con la Serbia, partner of the LDACSS.

As a part of the same ANCI/ALDA programme, another training course was held in Mostar, BH, from the 26th till 28th of September. Training was conducted by **Mrs. Marie Defrance**, trainer from Welcomeurope, Paris, France and it was designed according to the needs of participants of an earlier training on the same theme and it included these topics: External cooperation funding programmes (with focus on funding opportunities for the Balkans during new programming period 2007-2013, more precisely on IPA instrument), Conceiving a project according to the rules of EU external aid funding programmes (planning and analysis, building a logical framework matrix, filling in the application form, designing a budget) and the follow-up of the project (grant agreement, management of the partnership, reporting obligations). Beside this, trainer presented the participants with numerous valuable practical advises based upon her experience with EU projects. On behalf of LDACSS, trainers Ms. Maja Uscumlic and Mr. Sasa Marinkov took part in this training. The follow-up activities are planned to include trainings for the representatives of local communities from Nis, Kraljevo and Kragujevac, with the focus on local communities that weren't included in trainings on this topic so far.



Famous bridge in Mostar

Interview meetings with professors and researchers from University in Italy

Professor Giuseppe Gangema from University of Padua, Italy (Department of Historical and Political studies) visited the LDA office in Nis and the office in Kraljevo, supported by the Tavolo trentino con la Serbia, together with his colleagues Francesca Gelli and Damiano Fanni from the University of Venice—Italy on 27.09.2006. Their visit is in the scope of the Mahlde.net project (Interreg IIIA) which has LDAs and ALDA partners. The project and the research is about local democracy practices and local experiences in the Adriatic Area. Within this context they have visited most of the LDAs in the last year. The interviews were with the Delegate Ms Milijana Merdovic in Nis and Mr Ilija Petronijevic in Kraljevo.

Coming activities

In the following months, within an **ANCI/ALDA programme 'Strengthening Local Authorities and Civil Society in South East Europe'**, we will organize several activities which will include trainings on PPP and EU funds for local stakeholders in Kraljevo, Kragujevac and Nis, a youth workshop in Kraljevo and a competition for the best public campaign on relevant themes related with young people for students from several secondary schools from Nis.

Within the project '**Handicap and Integration: the Social and Pedagogical Centre as work instrument and service in which developing the social enterprise in the Centre-South of Serbia**', in cooperation with **CODESS SOCIALE** and financed by Region Veneto, we will organize a three day training on relations between public and private social sector agencies and economic and financial management of a social cooperative, and there will be a presentation of Italian and Veneto model of welfare services outsourcing in social sector. Training will be held in Kragujevac, and the participants will be the representatives of social cooperative 'Vivere' and local government administration. Following this training, there will also be a study visit to **CODESS SOCIALE** in Italy.

Beside this, we are looking forward to planned activities within a framework of three other projects: '**Together-the Balkans in Europe, Europe in the Balkans**', '**Youth-The right direction**' and '**Raise awareness on waste management through education and implementation of selective compilation of cardboard and pet waste**'.



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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