



# Local Democracy Agency

## For Central and Southern Serbia - LDA CSS

### LDA CSS PARTNERS

Lead partner: City of Suresnes (France)

International:

Reggio Emilia (Italy), Municipality of Vefsen (Norway), Municipality of Saltdal (Norway), Municipality of Hemnes (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

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Project activities of the LDA CSS :

Actions of capacity building for local authorities and civil society

Together-Balkans in Europe, Europe in the Balkans

Handicap and Integration

A new partner of LDACSS

Handing over

2007. projects

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## “Actions for capacity building for local authorities and civil society in SEE”

2006. was the final year of implementation for the project named “Actions for capacity building for the local authorities and civil society in SEE”, ALDA ANCI partenari. During the months of October and November LDACSS carried out the majority of project activities planned for this year.



**Training on Participatory planning process** took place in Kraljevo, on 25th and 26th of October. Overall objective of this seminar was to raise awareness and capacity of the participants for better understanding of the Participatory planning process, but also to influence on their capacities to accept and practically apply received knowledge and skills in planning municipality budget, as well as to use available resources and integrate them in purpose of developing their communities. This activity has been realized as part of an ongoing ‘Put Vode’ project of Tavolo Trenton con la Serbia, and has been seen as added value for this project and for strengthening of the partnership

between the Tavolo Trentino and the LDACSS. Beside the representatives of local communities involved in Put Vode project, the participants were the representatives of other local communities and relevant municipality department for work with local communities.

**Youth workshop** took place in Kraljevo between 17th and 19th of November. This activity has been carried out in cooperation with local NGO ‘KVART’ and Tavolo Trentino con la Serbia with participants delegated by the LDA Kosovo and LDA Prijedor and young people from Kraljevo, Leskovac and Nis. Besides developing and providing the opportunities for exchange and meetings between young people from the region (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Kosovo), general theme of this year’s workshop was youth activism. The workshops were organized in a way to provide this group of young people with the knowledge in the field of intercultural communication, conflict resolution, values clarification, strategic and action planning in the context of youth activism and lobbying.

**Training on European funds and projects** took place in Nis, between 22nd and 24th of November. The participants were representatives of the local self-governments and other stakeholders from Kraljevo, Leskovac and Nis. Objective of this seminar was to raise participants’ awareness of the practical value of the knowledge on how to write a project proposal and to raise their capacity for successful

obtaining EU funding thru improving their practical skills for writing projects according to the standards of the European Commission and EU project management and introduction to the EU funding possibilities for Serbia for the next programming period 2007-2013.

**Info Point** in the premises of LDACSS was operational during implementation of all other activities in the framework of ALDA ANCI project, and between 15th and 17th of November, together with the Student’s parliaments of two secondary schools in Nis, organized two public campaigns. Young people involved with Student’s Parliaments decided that the issues of importance to them were violence among students and bullying and the state of youth culture in the city. In the framework of the first public campaign, named ‘Without violence!’, a research among students of secondary schools in Nis on violence between peers was organized and the results were presented on a public platform. The second campaign, ‘Enlighten yourself! Visit everything!’, included a three day interactive public art workshop and an exhibition of art work of young artists of Nis. Both campaigns were exceptionally successful, from the point of response from the public and, what is even more important, from the point of impact they had on enthusiasm and motivation of young people to be active participants in the life of their communities.



## 'Together-the Balkans in Europe, Europe in the Balkans'

The opening activity of the Project entitled 'Together- The Balkans in Europe, Europe in the Balkans' took place on the 1st of December in Strasbourg, France. Four young journalists from FYRMacedonia, Serbia and Kosovo participated in the study visit to the Council of Europe and news conference in TV Arte..

During the study visit at the Council of Europe the journalists from the Balkans met Press Officers and the Head, Alun Drake, from the Council of Europe's Press Division. News conference was organized in order for young journalists to meet their coaches, experienced journalists from TV Arte, and to define themes for the documentaries and production teams that will be working on them. Agenda for the activities within this project has also been defined.

The project is financed thru CARDS Regional Media Support Programme of The European Community. And 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.



## 'Handicap and Integration'

Since 2003, LDACSS and **CODESS SOCIALE** have been implementing the project entitled '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', The project was financed by Region Veneto, Basic idea of the project was to, indirectly by training of employees in civil sector and local authorities, improve the treatment and rights of children and adults with disabilities as well as to enable their participation in the society. Important results were achieved: establishing the first social cooperative in Serbia ("Vivere" in Kragujevac) and establishing the Daily Center for persons with mental disabilities within Social Cooperative "Vivere".

In this final year of the project,

our activities during the months of November and December included two trainings in Serbia, for the employees of 'Vivere' and relevant stakeholders in the social sector in Kragujevac, and a study visit to Italy. The aim of these activities was to give to the participants functional skills, which can be utilized in their daily work activities.



The first training, held from 7th to 9th of November, was dedicated to relations between public and private social sector agencies, economic and financial manage-

ment of a social cooperative and a presentation of Italian and Veneto model of welfare services outsourcing in social sector. Trainers were **Mr. Matteo de Marchi** and **Mr. Pier Paolo Petrucci** from Codess Sociale, Italy. Following this training, from 4th to 7th of December, a study visit to CODESS SOCIALE in Italy has been organized in order to observe in practice Veneto model and good practice of the social welfare services provided by Codess Sociale. The last activity took place between 11th and 14th of December. It was a training organised on the basis of the needs of employees of 'Vivere' expressed during the previous training. The participants gained more thorough knowledge on topics like budget planning, lobbying, fundraising and marketing positioning.

This time Mr. Matteo de Marchi was joined by **Ms. Erika Dorado** as a trainer.

At the end of this three-year project one thing came upfront: the model of social welfare presented by the trainers from Codess Sociale is truly applicable in Serbia.

Successful implementation of the project "Handicap and Integration" proves that point. There is a clear and real need for further trainings on this and similar topics and for further exchange of Italian experience and best practice in the field of private social welfare.



**CODESS SOCIALE**  
COOPERATIVA SOCIALE ONLUS

## Hemnes kommune: A new partner of LDA CSS

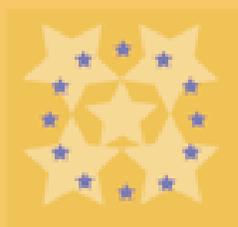


We are very pleased to announce that the **Hemnes Community**, Norway has become the new member of ALDA network and a partner of LDACSS. This good news comes after a meeting and a presentation of the ALDA network and LDA,s that **Mr.Martial Paris**, assistant to the director of ALDA, had for the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities. Hemnes is currently in talks with their friendship municipality, Prokuplje, regarding the planning of the projects for which they have received support from the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS) and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (UD).

We are looking forward to a fruitful cooperation.



### Handing over



This fall saw some changes in the LDACSS office. **Ms. Milijana Merdovic** left the position of the LDA Delegate and **Mr. Sasa Marinkov** became Delegate ad interim. Month of October was the time of handing over activities.

For all of us in LDA CSS it has been a great pleasure to work with Ms. Merdovic. We can only wish her all the best in her future professional and private life.



### Activities in 2007.

2007. will be a busy year for LDACSS. We will be implementing activities of several projects: **'Together-the Balkans in Europe, Europe in the Balkans'** (supported thru CARDS Regional Media Support Programme), **'Youth-The right direction'** (supported thru EU Youth Programme, Action 5), **'Raise awareness on waste management through education and implementation of selective compilation of cardboard and pet waste'** (supported by Canton Geneva), **'Platform Enhancing Adriatic Regions Links in Europe: PEARL.EU'** (supported thru INTERREG/CARDS-PHARE, Adriatic New Neighbourhood Programme), **'Local Economic Development part II'** (supported by French Foreign Ministry), **'Reggio Emilia in favor of Kragujevac'**, (supported by Reggio Emilia, Italy), **'Microcredit scheme for start-up activities for young entrepreneurs in South East Europe'** (supported by Norway).

We are entering 2007. with great enthusiasm.





## 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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