

# OPENING OF THE LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCY IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN SERBIA

Lead Partner, Carlow County Council, Ireland  
**With the support of the Irish Government**

**Nis, 24th of November 2001**

After several months of activities, supported by the Irish Government, in the framework of activities of the Stability Pact co-ordinated by the Council of Europe, the Association of the Local Democracy Agency promoted the opening of the Local Democracy Agency in Central and Southern Serbia, based in Nis, on the 24<sup>th</sup> of November 2001. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Goran CIRIC, Mayor of Nis and President of the Standing Conference of Yugoslavian Towns. The Council of Europe was represented by Mr. Rinaldo LOCATELLI, Executive Director of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, who expressed his satisfaction for such a wide participation and partnership for the new Agency.

Mr. Gianfranco MARTINI underlined the event as a further step of Serbia for the integration in the European family, soon as member of the Council of Europe and further on as a possible member of the European Union.

The official opening was prepared by a seminar for the partners, held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November 2001, in Nis. These two events are the conclusion of a process towards the establishment of the Local Democracy Agency in Central and Southern Serbia . The preparatory meeting of the LDA was held in Strasbourg on the 14<sup>th</sup> of September 2001



Inauguration of the LDA of Central and Southern Serbia, international partnership

The programme held throughout 2001, had the objectives :

- a) to raise the issues for the future programme and activities by working with local authorities and NGOs
- b) to identify the priorities
- c) to collect and interest partners for the opening of the LDA
- d) to define strategies and actions.

The results are :

- a) events organised in all the cities involved
- b) a wide representation of European and local partners
- c) contribution of partners with on-going programmes

The inauguration and the international seminar were held thanks to the financial and political support of the  
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October / November  
2001

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## “OPENING OF THE LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCY IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN SERBIA”

Council of Europe, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, thanks to the Heading 50216.



The panel of the partners of the new Agency is lead by **Carlow County Council**, Ireland. This is the very first time that an irish local authority is involved in the programme of the LDAs. The other members of the international partnership are local authorities ( Kent County Council, UK - City of Barcellona, Spain - City of Suresnes, France - City of Reggio Emilia, Italy), NGOs (Italian Consortium of Solidarity, Association for the LDA in Zavidovici, Table for Serbia Trento, Balkan Assist Association – Bulgaria, ANSDIPP italy, CO-DESS Sociale). The programme is supported also by East West Institute for a co-operation in a Transborder co-operation programme. The LDA will also implement, together with Cités Unies de France and the Standing Conference for Yugoslavian Towns a training programme for Southern Serbia. The City of Poitiers might check weather they are going to be partner in 20-02 or not. A representative of the city attended the inauguration.

The cities representing serbian partners are Nis, Kragujevac, Kraljevo and Leskovac.

The city of Nis offered to the Association of the LDAs and the LDAs partners the permises of the office, in the pedestrian street of Nis. The office was inaugurated by the Mayor of Nis, Mr. Goran Ciric, on the 24th of November 2001.

The partners appointed a Delegate, *ad interim* for six month, Mr. Daniel STOJANOVIC.

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or

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His role will be to follow the first phases for the establishment of the office, to follow the network of the partners, to develop an action plan for 2002 and to implement the first activities.

# Seminar "Local Government Management"

On 17th October 2001 LDA-Ohrid organised a seminar dedicated to the management and technical capacity of the Units of local self government. This activity was financed by the CLRAE of the Council of Europe.

The seminar was attended by 40 participants who have the capacity of Mayors, Presidents and members of the City Councils of eleven municipalities in the south-western part of 'the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia' as well as Heads and employees within the government local branch offices in the same area. The role of national expert had Mr. Cvetko SMILESKI - Ph. D. professor at the Institute of Sociological, Political and Juridical Studies in Skopje and main consultant at DETRA Management Institute in Skopje.

The MAIN TOPICS elaborated in the course of the seminar were:

1. *Methods for providing a minimum of employed proficient employees in the units of local self-government.*
2. *Exploring definitions and methods for creating the needs of the units of local self-government.*
3. *Organising joint public services for a group of neighbouring municipalities.*
4. *Management capacity of the employees within the municipalities*

In the course of the seminar were presented in details some methods for providing minimum of employed proficient employees and the necessity of training and development of professional skilfulness. Further on followed a brief introductory presentation on exploring different definitions and defining methods for creating the needs of the units of local self-government. In that respect, the expert made a categorisation of the needs giving partially explanation to the current and development needs, as well as to the individual and institutional needs. The expert put an accent on the methods for discovering the individual citizens' needs and in the same time analysed the development needs of the units

of local self-government. Concerning the third topic was pointed out that almost all municipalities are faced with the problem of organising joint public enterprises. The most commonly used methods in organising public enterprises were presented to the participants, while pointing out the positive and negative consequences from each method. In the introduction of the final, forth topic of the seminar was underlined the importance of increasing the number of proficient persons who will work within the units of local self-government and in that respect the expert pointed out the extraordinary importance of the quantitative side. On the other hand, underestimating the qualitative side of the issue could bring many problems, so the training and development of the skilfulness of the employees on a local level must be implemented.

After the fruitful discussion, the seminar participants together with the expert pointed out the most interesting closing conclusions:

- Increasing the number of proficient persons who will work within the units of local self-government is real necessity. Therefore, training and development of the skilfulness of the employees on a local level is undoubtedly necessary.
- Different and sophisticated methods for exploring and creating citizens' needs and needs of the units of local self-government should be implemented.
- The idea for organising joint public services for a group of neighbouring municipalities must be supported besides many difficulties and problems of different kind and nature.
- Management capacities and capabilities of municipalities' employees must be enlarged in order to contribute in strengthening the role of the units of local self-government in the Republic of Macedonia.

Mirjana LOZANOSKA  
Delegate of the LDA-Ohrid

# LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCY SISAK

## Youth participation

**October 2001**

During October, LDA Sisak has organized two training that opened the pilot project.

### **Training course on Youth participation in Local Administration – Establishment of Youth Councils.**

The project is aimed at establishing Youth councils inside the local community that follows the model of existing local adult Councils. These youth councils will represent a forum where youth will be able to express their opinion and discuss with local administration and other decision-making bodies. The Councils' aim is to strengthen youth representation in community in order to promote their own projects, interests and needs. The youth councils are constituted through elections organized and held according with rules indicated in the Electoral Law within community.

The Croatian youth councils will enjoy the support of the city partners' youth councils already existing. Some representatives will give help, support and will provide with expertise and skills to the trainees in an optic of intercultural exchanges.

This programme is connected to a previous activity which was supported by the LODE programme for establishment of a Youth council in Sisak.

The programme is also connected with previous Youth project (implemented in Sisak and Banovina area in 1999 and 2000 in cooperation with LDA's partners) that was supported by OSCE CC Sisak and Veneto region and it foresees the functioning of Info-point for

youth providing the information on education, employment, cultural activities and information about the activities and events in LDA's partners' network

In Sisak on 26th of October 2001 and in Petrinja on 30th of October was held the round table dedicated to the issue of **Youth in decision making process – interests and needs**. The event in Sisak gathered representatives of local authorities (Petrinja, Sunja, Glina, Hrvatska Kostajnica, Lekenik and Kutina) and youth representatives from Petrinja, Sisak, Hrvatska Kostajnica (youth groups, NGOs and School councils). During the round table it was presented European charter on youth participation in community life, organization Youth planet and different examples of good practices.



After the presentation participants were split into two working groups aimed to analyse, discuss and present:

- ◆ Youth interests and needs at the local level ;
- ◆ Youth participation in local community life.

◆ Their identification of youth interests and needs was mostly based on education, social assistance, human

rights and participation in decision-making.

Youth participation in local community life exists mostly through the work of few youth NGOs, but without the dialogue and any kind of organized and structured cooperation with local authorities.

Therefore, round table brought the common conclusion for the urgent action towards the fostering of youth participation.

*Tanja Puskaric*  
Delegate LDA Sisak

# ROLES OF LOCAL LEADERS LDA MONTENEGRO

“Roles of local leaders” is the title of seminar held in Zabljak 08-10.November in Zabljak, Montenegro, in organization of LDA Niksic. This seminar was part of



ToT project and it is conducted after training of trainers seminar held in Novigrad (Croatia).

Participants were employees of local government from five Montenegrin municipalities (Niksic, Plav, Kotor and Podgorica). This three-day seminar provided them with skills and knowledge needed in everyday job. Spe-



cial attention was given to roles of local leaders as Facilitators, Communicators and Conflict managers. They

were also given basic information and tools for conflict analysis and conflict resolution.

Trainers trained according to UN habitat program developed for people working in governments on local level, and this program has been slightly modified according to the requests of participants because their particular needs. Reactions of participants to the training were positive and they were interested in further education in this field.

Trainers were Dragutin Djekovic and Boris Raonic.



This seminar had very good media coverage. Information about beginning and the end of the seminar was published in daily newspaper "Pobjeda" (Please, find those articles scanned, together with other photos from seminar). Also, information about seminar, its topic and other details was on Radio Crna Gora (national radio station), and it was announced on morning program of TV Crna Gora (national TV station).

*Dragutin Djekovic*  
Delegate LDA Montenegro

# TRAINING FOR LOCAL AUTHORITIES SUPPORTED BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE

Programme on going in all the LDAs ...

Local Government Initiative supported the Training of Trainers for “leadership and communication skills”. Two trainers for each LDA have been invited to attend the TOT in order to organize a training of three days within the end of the year in their own Agency. The final trainees are local authorities (civil servants and elected officials) of the cities and regions where the LDAs are from.

The TOT and the programme of training have been implemented thanks to the co-operation with FPDL Romania. The AADL is member of the Steering Committee of the programme “Working Together” and many staff members of the Agencies have attended TOT in the programme of “Working Together”. The senior trainers of the TOT in Croatia are Mrs. Ana Vasilache, Director of FPDL, and Mrs. Daniela Plugaru, trainers of FPDL. These two programmes benefit from each other by 1) enlarging the experience of training 2) developing the network of training agencies for local authorities.

The programme will increase the capacity of training and relations with local authorities of the staff of the LDAs for the specific following training but also for the other target groups of the activities of the Agencies. The programme involved 9 LDAs (4 countries involved). Thanks to the support of the Council of Europe (Congress of Local and Regional Authorities), the LDA in Montenegro could join the TOT and will implement a training for local authorities.

The trainers selected one or more roles of the local leaders and focuses on them for the training. The training have been carried out in November and December 2001.

## Compendium of the results of the training in 8 LDAs

### i. Trainers (16 trainers)

- LDA Ohrid : Mirijana Lozoska, Stojan Saveski
- LDA Subotica : Stanka Parac, Branko Krajniski
- LDA Prijedor : Sanja Kantar
- LDA Tuzla : Hald Smajic, Ismet Sejfija
- LDA Verteneglio/Brtonigla : Cristina Vojic, Marianna Jelichich, Umberto Ademollo
- LDA Sisak : Vlatka Jurasinovic, Julije Katancevic
- LDA Osijek : Sasa Jaksic, Ana Domazetovic
- LDA Zavidovici : *to be held in February 2002*

All of them (excluding Ismet Sejfia and Ana Domazetovic) have been trained in the TOT in Novigrad, in September 2001.

### ii. Participants

LDA	Participants	Local authorities represented
Ohrid	7	7
Subotica	20	11
Prijedor	13	1
Tuzla	15	13
Verteneglio/ Brtonigla	14	5
Sisak	11	1
Osijek	12	1
Zavidovici	12 (estimation)	5 (estimation)
<b>Total</b>	<b>104 trainees</b>	<b>44 local authorities</b>

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# BUILDING ENTERPRISES WITHIN THE CROSS-BORDER AND INTERREGIONAL COOPERATION: EXPERIENCES AND ISSUES

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## iii. Themes of the training

LDA	Issue
Ohrid	<b>The role of councillors as communicators, negotiators, decision-makers and leaders</b>
Subotica	<b>The role of councillors as Policy maker, decision maker, communicator and leader</b>
Prijedor	<b>Councillor in the roles of Communicator and Negotiator</b>
Tuzla	<b>Leader, Communicator, Decision-Maker</b>
Verteneglio/ Brtonigla	<b>Decision maker, facilitator, communicator</b>
Sisak	<b>Communicator, facilitator, decision maker, negotiator</b>
Osijek	<b>communicator, decision-maker, negotiator and a leader</b>
Zavidovici	<b>To be defined</b>

## **Brtonigla/Verteneglio (Croatia), Friday, October 26<sup>th</sup> 2001**

A meeting, organised by Friulia S.p.A., and the Local Democracy Agency in Verteneglio/Brtonigla, was held on the 26<sup>th</sup> of October 2001 as a conclusion of the 5<sup>th</sup> Sector of Intemigra Additional Project, the case “Grisovelli&Settimo S.r.l.” developed within the INTERREG IIC framework.

At the meeting a pool of building entrepreneurs from Friuli – Venezia Giulia Region were present together with some institutional and economic referents of the Istria Region in order to identify the possibilities for some kind of co-operation.

The workshop was operational and target oriented with a friendly, informal and effective sharing of experiences and ideas aims for giving to the entrepreneurs a general overview of the possibilities, in the building sector, offered by Istria Region, from the institution of joint-ventures to recruitment models and legal framework.

The workshop was considered a real opportunity to analyse future challenges and strategies in which institutional and economic entities of the previous mentioned areas will be involved, but it was also the occasion for developing and pushing further the already vivid co-operation of the cross-border region

# FEDRE – LDAs – MORE THAN SYNERGY!

The founders of the LDAs had an original and useful idea for the reconstruction of the civil society in the Balkans. As President of the Chamber of the Regions of the CPLRE from 1994 to 1996, then President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities from 1996 to 1998, I managed to mobilize our strengths to help them in their first years of existence which were – sometimes – difficult. Today, it is possible to verify how our first steps and actions were justified. The LDAs are better organised and gathered in the framework of an association, the LDAs are more professional and also more effective.

As the LDAs, the FEDRE foundation was born as an initiative of the CPLRE. It can count on a internet website in five languages (including Serbian and Croatian). It develops its actions by focusing on five main areas : transport, energy, water and waste

management. The FEDRE is also particularly active in South Eastern Europe where she promotes the establishment of networks at the local, regional and transborder levels.



Therefore, it appears natural that the co-operation among FEDRE and LDAs will be strengthened. In particular, the Foundation is involved in promoting the actions of the Agencies through its internet website and it is active with several local authorities in order to invite them to support the programme. This is one of our essential missions: to facilitate the synergies for assuring, in a new institutional framework, the improved functioning of civil society in South Eastern Europe.

*Claude Haegi*  
President FEDRE

*For further information please visit the site: [www.fedre.org](http://www.fedre.org)*