



“Running the Local Democracy Agency for Central and Southern Serbia - LDACSS”

Activity Report 2009

LDA: Central and Southern Serbia

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Summary

In the period between 1st of January 2009 to the 31st of December 2009, on the bases of the Consultancy contract between the Association of Local Democracy Agencies and Local Democracy Agency for Central and Southern Serbia (further LDACSS), we have been implementing activities within the project “Running the Local Democracy Agency for Central and Southern Serbia 2009”. The project is funded through ALDA by the following partners of LDACSS: Municipality of Saltdal (Norway) and Reggio Emilia (Italy). Additional funding came from Tavolo Trentino con Kraljevo, the Cities of Suresnes (France) and Aarhus (Denmark) and fonder as stated in the table Programmes 2009.

Personnel engaged: Ms. Maja Uscumlic, Mr. Ilija Petronijevic, Mr. Sasa Marinkov

Programmes 2009

During 2009. LDACSS has successfully implemented the following programmes

Project title	Thematic field	Main results	Supported by	Partners
1. Microcredit Scheme For Start-Up Activities For Young Entrepreneurs In SEE	Local economic development	Distributed credits in total amount of 960.000,00 Eur	Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, CEB Bank, Intesa San Paolo	ALDA, Banca Intesa Beograd, Office for Local Economic Development of the City of Nis, Business Innovation Centre Kragujevac
2. Waste management : Raise	Capacity building for local authorities and institutions, Environmental	22 primary schools, 9 kindergartens and 6 local	Canton Geneva, the City of Geneva, the City of Suresnes, the	City of Kragujevac, Public Utility Company

<p>Awareness On Waste Management Through Education And Implementation Of Selective Compilation Of Cardboard And Pet Waste</p>	<p>protection and sustainable development</p>	<p><i>communities</i> actively involved; 57 containers for PET waste and 40 containers for cardboard waste purchased and distributed on the territory of the City of Kragujevac; Public educated on environmental protection issues; established process of collecting secondary raw materials in primary schools, kindergartens and local communities.</p>	<p>City of Kragujevac</p>	<p>Cistoca, Public Utility Company Zelenilo, Ministry of Education, School Department in Kragujevac, National Agency for Recycling</p>
<p>3. Institutional support of the City of Suresnes to the City of Kragujevac in defining city social policies</p>	<p>Capacity building for local authorities and institutions, Social welfare</p>	<p>Two module training for the representatives of local government in Kragujevac on the methodology of transversal approach in defining city social policies; Study visit to Suresnes.</p>	<p>French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the City of Suresnes, the City of Kragujevac</p>	<p>Preschool Institution Nada Naumovic</p>
<p>4. Youth – the right direction</p>	<p>Youth empowerment</p>	<p>Formed group of 12 youth ambassadors educated in peer to peer methodology; Established network of peer educators; Realized 4 youth initiatives in a form of projects supported by Serbian Ministry of youth and sport and</p>	<p>European Commission, Youth in Action Programme</p>	<p>The City of Nis</p>

		European Commission; Realized the activity of job shadowing for one youth leader.		
5. One place for all youth, establishing the Youth Centre	Youth empowerment	Realized series of 20 workshops for students in all secondary schools in Nis; Published Manual for peer educators; Published informatory on the faculties of the University of Nis; Campaign on promotion of volunteerism.	Serbian Ministry for Youth and Sports, the City of Nis	The City of Nis
6. Together toward local strategy paper for youth	Capacity building for institutions and civil society organizations, Youth empowerment	Study of the needs and problems of youth in Nis; Established local network of 18 NGOs working in the field of youth; Given recommendations to local authorities for the defining Local Strategy Paper for Youth; The City Assembly made official decision to start the work on Local Strategy Paper for Youth.	Serbian Ministry for Youth and Sports, the City of Nis	/
7. Economy and management of NGO in Serbia	Capacity building for institutions and civil society organizations	Networking the Universities of Banjska Bistrica and Nis; Initiated process of defining master course on economy and management in NGOs	Bratislava - Belgrade fund	CVNO, Faculty of Economic in Niš, University of Matej Bel from Banska Bistrica, Slovakia
8.	Capacity building	Training on the	Norwegian	Association for

Poverty Reduction: Civil Society and Responsible Government	for institutions and civil society organizations	monitoring the city budget; First round of monitoring the Budget of the City of Nis accomplished	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Institute for Sustainable Communities ISC	Protection and Promotion of Mental Health in Children and Youth
9. InterculturArt	Youth exchange, Youth empowerment	Young people from Italy, Montenegro, Kosovo and Serbia got together and worked for a week producing a street art performance on intercultural understanding and tolerance	European Commission, Youth in Action Programme	Cooperativa Or.So, Alba, LDA Montenegro, Balkan Sunflower
10. Run 2 Fun	Youth exchange, Youth empowerment	Young people from Italy, Serbia, Lithuania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro got together to discuss and exchange experience on constructive ways of spending free time	European Commission, Youth in Action Programme	Cooperativa Or.So, Alba, LDA Zavidovici, LDA Montenegro, SOS Children Centre
11. 1000 Young Serbian Leaders	Youth empowerment	Training on youth activism; research and public campaign on security in traffic	International Republican Institute IRI	/
12. Sportno poletje	EVS, Youth empowerment	Sending two volunteers that supported the summer programme of Youth Centre BIT	European Commission, Youth in Action Programme	Youth center BIT Crnomelj, Slovenia
13. Reconciling for the future – European perspective for the Western	Capacity building for local authorities and civil society organizations	National conference on EU perspectives of the Western Balkans	The European Commission, "Instrument for Stability Crisis preparedness component /Annual Action	ALDA, Center for regionalism Novi Sad

Balkans			Programmes 2007-2008/ Peace-building Partnership Support/Organiz ation of Round Tables	
14. Partner meeting I	LDACSS network capacity building	Annual meeting of LDACSS partners	ALDA, Partner fees	Tavolo Trentino con Kraljevo, The City of Rovereto
15. Partner meeting II	LDACSS network capacity building	Annual meeting of LDACSS partners	Partner fees	Partner leader, Central Denmark Office Brussels
16. Put Vode 2009, University Cooperation between Nis and Trento and Cooperation between Libraries in Kraljevo and Trento	Capacity building for local institutions	Summer Camp in Rudno with students and professors from both Universities; mapping of the sources of pollution in Rudno; Defined a project for reduction of the pollution; Two exhibitions of cultural heritage and two study visits, exchange between Libraries in Kraljevo and Lavarone	Autonomous Province of Trento through Tavolo Trentino con Kraljevo	SODALIS
17. Self – help: a good way to emancipate	Women empowerment	IT trainings for women	Autonomous Province of Trento through Tavolo Trentino con Kraljevo	Fenomena
18. School of life skills – Club Open doors	Social welfare, Youth empowerment	Raising the level of self-confidence and self-efficiency with mentally challenged children	Autonomous Province of Trento through Tavolo Trentino con Kraljevo	MNRL - Citizens association for help to mentally challenged children and youth
19. Adotta un	Support to elderly people, Social	Financial support to 25	Autonomous Province of	Center for Social Welfare

nonno della Sumadja	welfare	elderly people in Kraljevo from the people from Autonomous Province of Trento	Trento through Tavolo Trentino con Kraljevo	Kraljevo, Fenomena
20. Support for a better old age	Social welfare, support to elderly people, capacity building for local institutions	Research on a sample of 300 elderly citizens on their needs; Results publicized and distributed to relevant institutions; Renovated part of the House for elderly people in Mataruska Banja; Realized program of workshops and lectures for elderly people; Professional exchange between professionals working with elderly people in Kraljevo and Trento.	Autonomous Province of Trento through Tavolo Trentino con Kraljevo	House for old people Mataruska Banja, Fenomena

Partner network activities

With the aim to further strengthen the network, during 2009. we have organized two meetings.

28th of March 2009, Rovereto, Italy

Seizing the opportunity of LDACSS partner Tavolo Trentino's annual participatory planning process, first Partner meeting in 2009. was organized in Rovereto, Italy, in the premises of Fondazione Opera Campana dei Caduti, member of ALDA.

Partners discussed the work of LDA in 2008. and pending issues such as the election of new Partner leader. On behalf of the candidate for a new Partner leader, Mr. Flemming Meyer introduced the Municipality of Aarhus. After discussion this candidature was accepted by all partners.

Meeting for 2009. was organized thanks to the EU operational grant scheme support of ALDA and with support from the Municipality of Rovereto, Italy, which generously provided financial support for the travel costs of LDACSS staff and SKGO and accommodation costs

for all the participants. Crucial assistance to LDACSS staff was provided by Tavolo Trentino con Kraljevo regarding all the logistic issues.

25th of May 2009, Brussels

Seizing the opportunity of ALDAs General Assembly, LDACSS partners meet for the second time.

Continuing the work started during the previous Annual LDACSS Partners' Meeting, partners discussed the status of LDACSS partnerships with the aim to define the list of active partners in 2009/10. and the first step in planning LDACSS Programme 2009/10 was made through the exchange of information on present partners' current projects in Serbia and their activity plans.

With the support from the Partner leader, International Office of the Municipality of Aarhus, meeting was held in the premises of Central Denmark EU Office in Brussels.

2009. was a productive year for LDACSS in networking with different stakeholders. We have established new project partnerships with:

- OFAJ/DFJW, Deutsch-Franzosisches Jugendwerk/ Office franco-allemand pour la Jeunesse (www.ofaj.org)
- The Youth Education Centre Blossin, Germany (www.blossin.de)
- Internationales Jugendgastehaus Dachau, Germany (www.jgh-dachau.de)
- Association for Protection and Promotion of Mental Health in Children and Youth, Serbia (www.oknis.org.rs)

- Equally important are strategic partnerships we established on a local level through networking. During 2009 :
 - LDACSS became member of the Green Network of the City of Nis – ZELENIS. This network was initiated by the Council for environmental protection of the City of Nis and it gathers all the local stakeholders in the field of environmental protection and sustainable development: institutions, private sector and NGOs.
 - LDACSS has initiated the creation of a network of youth NGOs and NGOs working with youth in Nis area. The success of this network is embodied in the fact that the City of Nis has officially started the process of producing Local Strategy Paper for Youth.

Human resources development activities

In 2009. LDA has invested in its personnel through several internal trainings but also by sending them to different trainings, seminars organized by other organizations:

- February 2009. training on European Voluntary Service (EVS), (ALDA), Prcanj - Montenegro
- February 2009. SOHO (European Voluntary Service project: Sending Organization and Hosting Organization) European Training Course, SALTO SEE RC in cooperation with CIMO Finland, Sipoo Finland
- March 2009, Seminar " Strengthening capacity of Youth offices for cross-boarder cooperation Serbia-Bulgaria", organized by Civil society development center "PROTECTA" in cooperation with Youth office in Nis, Pernik, Bulgaria,.
- March 2009, Training "Local Voluntary Service and volunteers' management", organized by Voluntary Center Vojvodina, Novi Sad, Serbia,.

- May 2009, Simulation of the European Parliament and seminar on the functioning of the European Union Project: EU4U
- May 2009, Training: Public Advocacy, Institute for Sustainable Communities
- July and Sep 2009, Training for Project manager, Project: Youth Organization's Capacity building, Serbian Ministry of Youth and Sport
- October 2009. training "Skills of public appearances" organized by the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities of Serbia – SKGO
- November 2009, Training course "Innovations in management of local volunteering services trough European cooperation", organized by MKC Bitola, Macedonia,
- November 2009, Seminar "Decreasing of poverty: Civil society and responsible Government", organized by "Open club" Nis, Soko Banja,.

Promotional activities

One of the goals set for 2009. was to make the work of LDACSS more visible to local stakeholders and citizens.

Information on LDACSS activities are spread through the following web pages:

- <http://ldacss.tumblr.com/>
- <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#/group.php?gid=35526308448&ref=ts>
- www.ldacss.org

Besides appearances on TV stations and articles in written media, this year we have set up an *Open day for the media* and realised two such events. Those events were opportunity to host representatives of, mainly local, electronic and written media in our premises and give them the opportunity to meet our activists in person. The activists presented all realised LDA activities as well as our plans for future. This enabled us to strengthen our contacts with the media and for a data base of media contacts.

We, also, supported and/or realised several voluntary activities where we promoted our work:

- International Summer Jazz Festival Nisville
- A Fair of short electronic form KEF, organized by Cultural Centre REX Belgrade and Group 'Caj odlican'
- NGO Fair, organized by NGO Association for Protection of Mental Health of Children and Youth
- A Visit of the ambassadors of the countries of EU, organized by NGO Millenium