LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES

ACTIVITY REPORT 2015

ALDA
European Association for Local Democracy

The Congress
Le Congrès

COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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ABOUT ALDA

The European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA) is an organisation dedicated to the promotion of good governance and citizen participation at the local level. ALDA in particular focuses on activities that facilitate cooperation between local authorities and civil society in the European Union and its Neighbourhood.

ALDA, established in 1999 at the initiative of the Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, among its activities coordinates and supports a network of Local Democracy Agencies, created in the early 1990s. The Local Democracy Agencies are self-sustainable, locally registered NGOs acting as promoters of good governance and local self-government in their regions.

ALDA is a membership based organisation gathering more than 200 members – including local authorities, associations of local authorities and non-governmental organisations – from over 40 countries. It is funded through membership fees as well as project funding from the European Commission, the Council of Europe, and other public and private donors.

What is unique about ALDA?

Most of ALDA's work is based on the method of multilateral decentralised cooperation. This method involves a multi-stakeholder approach, which focuses on strong partnerships between local authorities and civil society organisations. These partnerships create positive synergy and ensure that common goals are reached jointly and successfully.

What we do and where we work?

In the framework of promoting good governance and citizen participation at the local level ALDA focuses on various themes, such as European integration, decentralisation, civic initiatives and volunteering, human rights, and sustainable economic development.

The activities of ALDA are articulated around three main areas: ALDA Europe, ALDA Cooperation, and ALDA Plus.

THE NETWORK OF LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES OUR *RAISON D'ÊTRE*:

Supporting good governance and citizen participation on the field

ALDA coordinates and supports the network of 10 Local Democracy Agencies (LDAs) and 3 Operational Partners (OPs) in their activities. Most of the Local Democracy Agencies are located in the Western Balkans, but ALDA is more and more active in the European Neighbourhood. In 2006 it expanded its network to Southern Caucasus.

The LDAs and OPs are supported by more than 100 partners (local authorities and civil society organisations) all over Europe, providing financial and political support to fulfil their mandate and to accompany local democracy, civil society empowerment and participation in the decision-making process at local level.

Most of ALDA and LDA's work is based on an innovative and successful method of multilateral decentralised cooperation, which involves a multi-stakeholder approach and focuses on partnerships between Local Authorities and Non-Governmental Organisations. These partnerships create synergy and ensure that common goals are reached in a successful way. It focuses on mutual benefit of the cooperation, on a participative and long term approach in order to strength the real effectiveness of the impact on both communities. The multilateral approach allows a better sustainability as well as a multicultural input to the initiatives.

The LDAs partnerships by means of multilateral decentralised co-operation have been developed through two main lines of action:

1. Territorial based approach, involving all the actors of the communities concerned on a geographic base;
2. Thematic networking focused on specific, commonly determined issues connecting different local communities.

Objectives of the activity of Local Democracy Agencies and Operational Partners are:

- To promote good local governance and support initiatives aimed at improved citizen participation.
- To enhance institution and capacity building at local level through exchange of know-how and training of local elected representatives and administrators.
- To develop a Europe-wide network of citizens committed to respect for human and minority rights.
- To foster the development of a civil society in which all sections of the community participate.
- To support intercultural dialogue and diversity management capacities in multicultural local communities.
- To promote the respect for human / minority rights in local communities.

Financial sustainability of the LDAs

A study carried out by ALDA in 2013 shows that the overall budget of the LDAs per year constantly increased since 2009 despite the economic context, guaranteeing a sufficient availability of resources for the implementation of the respective action plans. The available funds are managed by the LDAs themselves or by the members of the partnership established for the implementation of a specific project. Following the implementation of projects and activities, financial reports are drawn up to ensure transparency and appropriate use of the funds.

There are three different types of funding sources:

1. Funds resulting from the LDA's fundraising
2. ALDA's support to the LDAs
3. Fees of the LDAs' partners.

The funds resulting from the fundraising activity of the LDAs have steadily increased over the years, representing in 2012 a total of 87,10% of the total available budget. These funds come from European, national and other international supporting programmes originating from the EU, the Council of Europe, national, regional and local authorities and other international organisations. At the same time, the other two sources, partners' fees and ALDA's support to LDAs, considerably decreased in terms of financial support.

ALDA pursues its coordination and supporting mission to the LDAs by providing them with adequate expertise at all stages of the implementation of projects (funding opportunities, establishment of new partnerships, project implementation, and exchange and sharing of good practices, technical support, joint projects etc.). ALDA has been involving in several projects and providing support of all kind to the Local Democracy Agencies in order to further the promotion of local democracy and citizen's participation at local level.

DETAILED PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES OF LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES IN 2015

LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCY ARMENIA

Delegate: Lusine Aleksandryan

Established: in 2011
Partners: Region Rhône-Alpes, France (Lead partner); City of Gyumri (Host city); Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia (Italy); Urban Foundation for Sustainable Development (Armenia); Journalists' Club "Asparez" (Armenia); "Shirak Centre" NGO (Armenia); Community Finance Officers Association; International Centre for Human Development (Armenia).

Our main objectives:

- To develop the consolidation of the role of LDA foundation in Armenian local democracy landscape and to implement LDA Armenia as a stakeholder on decentralization policy in Armenia
- To establish LDA foundation Armenia as a convincing actor for enhancing Citizen Participation & Human Rights
- To promote young population participation in decision-making processes and women's integration into society
- To generate tourism and cultural development initiatives
- To foster cooperation with the French and Italian Embassies, European Institutions and local authorities and enlarge network with other LDAs in particular with LDA Georgia and LDA Ukraine and to assist the realization of the main challenges of Civil Society Forum for Eastern Partnership Armenian National Platform together with relevant stakeholders

Our goals:

- The promotion of concrete initiatives to consolidate democracy at local level
- The development of institutions at the local level thanks to the exchange of knowhow, training of the local councillors and territorial local servants
- The promotion of entrepreneurship initiatives through local democracy
- The promotion of respect of Human rights especially women and children

❖ Projects in 2015

The year of 2015 can be considered as cooperative and successful for Local Democracy Agency foundation in Armenia (LDA Armenia) after the difficult circumstances in the stabilization and establishment processes. The cooperation with the French Embassy, Council of Europe, and European stakeholders promoted the implementation of many initiatives in the field of local democracy.

1. Cooperation with the French Embassy

The French Embassy in Armenia in cooperation with the "Local Democracy Agency" foundation in Gyumri organized the concert of the band "Collectif Medz Bazar" in Gyumri, in the framework of the FRANCOPHONIE DAYS in Armenia on 22nd of March. The concert was of great success having the full hall in the theatre. The youth in Gyumri showed its positive potential attitude towards such initiatives at best. The concert met the foundation's mission for cooperating with the European and local communities and institutions at the cultural level as well. The French Embassy representatives expressed their contentment for the greatest organization of the concert to LDA foundation and promised to implement more projects in Gyumri as this concert showed that Gyumri can support cultural and educational initiatives.

Following the cooperation with the French Embassy in Armenia, on 13th of November the foundation office had the honour to receive the French Ambassador Mr. Jean-François Charpentier, the head of the culture and cooperation department Mr. Jean-Michel Kasbarean, and cultural attaché Mrs. Natalia Tsagris.

The meeting with LDA Armenia and active civil society representatives was scheduled as a part of the Ambassador first official visit to Gyumri to get acquainted with the governor of Shirak region, the Mayor of Gyumri and with the students of State Pedagogic Institute.

The ambassador wanted to get feedback regarding the difficulties of working with the Local Authorities and citizens, the administration reforms project on the consolidation of the communities and the upcoming referendum on the Constitutional Reforms. Mkrtcih Tshartaryan, the director of the Union of Non-Governmental Organizations of Shirak region, argued that the consolidation of Armenian communities brought forward the doubt about the community leaders and staff that would lose their jobs. Citizens did not want to be dependent on other community

or for the solution of one question pass long directions for reaching the local administrative centre or department. Levon Barseghyan, from "Asparez" Journalists' club, mentioned that if "YES" wins then the citizens will be deprived to participate in the local elections which underestimates the local democracy principles in Armenia.

During the meeting the ambassador also mentioned the Rhone-Alpes –Armenia cooperation in the frame of which the promotion of local democracy is one of the priorities. The meeting once again proved the cooperation between the French Embassy in Armenia and the "Local Democracy Agency" foundation.

2. EYES- European Youth Environmental Sentinels project

The European Association for Local Democracy, in partnership with ISBEM and other 18 organisations active in environmental protection and youth participation, implemented the international training EYES (European Youth Environmental Sentinels) for 44 youth workers from all over the world. The training took place from 21-28 June, 2015 in Vicenza, Italy. The topics were citizen participation, health and environment. LDA foundation was also a partner, and sent two participants from two famous environmental organizations in Armenia: Anna Tahmazyan from Biosofia NGO (Gyumri) and Heghine Hakhverdyan from Urban Foundation for Sustainable Development (Yerevan).

The project aimed at putting the civic participation of young Europeans at the service of health and environment by offering young people from diverse backgrounds an opportunity to interact, share knowledge and debate.

Here is the feedback from Anna Tahmazyan about the seminar:

"*I have spent 8 wonderful days in Vicenza. Every day, the activities program was a novelty and interesting. We were trying to find different methods to solve ecological problems in a team. We were taught to listen to each other, to share our opinions, come to a common conclusion, and find out new and productive ways.*

At the beginning we spoke out about our organizations. I presented "Biosophia" Healthcare, Environment and Agriculture Centre NGO and talked about our activities, achievements, programs, and team. They were impressed by our working methods. The second step was to present our city, and culture. It helped us to communicate with each other and was too important to not have an

intercultural shock. We had a cultural tour not only in Vicenza but also in other cities of Italy, meetings with some authorities in Vicenza. We also visited Oasidi Casale WWF, at CooperativaInsiemeSociale. It helped us to understand problems in the regions of Italy. We also had a chance to talk about problems in our region and to find solution. It was the third step in our mission. We got deeper knowledge in the direction of health and environment linking.

I would like to thank European Association of Local Democracy for such a great initiative and "Local Democracy Foundation" for considering my participation".

3. Rhone-Alpes region and LDA cooperation

To promote tourism perspectives in Armenia a workshop on "Tourism in Armenia and Cooperation" took place in Gyumri, on 11-12 June, 2015 at the initiative of Region Rhone-Alpes, France United Cities of France, Armenia Country Group, "Local Democracy Agency" foundation in Gyumri.

The workshop brought together local authorities, tourism operators, Rhone-Alpes region-Armenia cooperation partners, and representatives from the French Embassy in Armenia to discuss the main priorities and problems in three thematic issues: "Hiking and valorisation of natural areas", "Guesthouse development" and "Tourism information and promotion".

The seminar was officially opened by the Head of External Relations and Programs of Gyumri Municipality, Armen Hovhannsiyan, who underlined the importance of tourism promotion for Gyumri as a city which has really great potential that should be developed.

The Head of Tourism Department of the Ministry of Economics, Mekhak Apresyan, presented the difficulties in the sphere and the expectation from the seminar.

Ela Horoszko, Project Manager and Eastern Partnership Coordinator of European Association for Local Democracy, attended the workshop and brought her contribution for the opening session.

As Rhone-Alpes region is implementing projects in Armenia since 2007, the seminar summarized the main directions and enabled the possibility how to proceed further. Anna Fiorini Beriot, the responsible of Cooperation with Armenia and Mediterranean Countries from Region Rhone-Alpes, stated: "*It is clear for us that we will try to promote the development of local tourism working with the citizens of these areas*."

The second day of the seminar was followed by a technical work that summarized the results of the three thematic workshops, pointing out the main difficulties and solutions, and the further road mapping.

Region Rhone-Alpes is the lead partner of "Local Democracy Agency" foundation in Gyumri and the foundation took the responsibility for all organizational issues for the seminar. This initiative enabled the foundation to become visible among tourism stakeholders and establish further cooperation with communities in Armenia.

4. Cooperation project with Council of Europe

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe in the framework of the project “Support for the Consolidation of Local Democracy in Armenia'' organized two seminars on “Promoting citizen participation in Armenia” in Yeghegnadzor and Aghveran on 14 and 16 July, 2015.

Secretary General of European Association for Local Democracy, Antonella Valmorbida and the Delegate of the LDA Armenia, Lusine Aleksndryan, participated in the events and were moderators of one of the breakout sessions "Practices and methodologies of citizens participation at the local level" with the mayors and community council members.

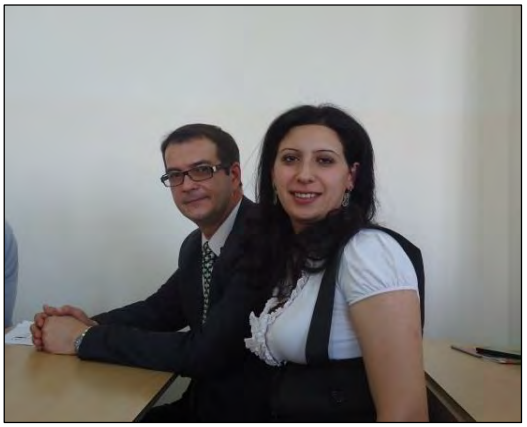
During the breakout sessions Antonella Valmorbida shared her deep knowledge on European experience and presented the possibilities of citizens' participation and the use of the Code of Good Practices of the Conference of INGOs. Lusine Aleksndryan got more engaged in the discussion and presentation of the participatory ways and corresponding legislation on citizens' participation in Armenia.

These seminars enabled almost 200 representatives of communities to get better understanding and skills on citizens' participation in decision-making processes at the local level, and how to engage and motivate the communities in daily processes.

After the seminars Antonella Valmorbida and Lusine Aleksandryan elaborated guidelines on citizens' participation, including main points on the concept, Armenian legislation, European experience and tools for promoting citizens' participation.

5. "Conference on Good Governance"

With strong support and cooperation from ALDA Urban Foundation for Sustainable Development and "Local Democracy Agency" foundation organized a conference on "Good Governance" for the students and lecturers in Gyumri branch of Armenian State University of Economics, on 1st of October, 2015. The conference was conducted by representatives of the European Network for Training Organizations (ENTO), Paul Crugrola, the professor of Public Administration (Switzerland) and Genth Fieguth, professor of Applied Sciences (Germany).



The presentations included topics such as how and in what circumstances the concept of Good Governance was born, the principles that constitute good governance, and success stories from European municipalities.

The audience got very much interested in the topic and strong discussions took place on issues regarding the right method of governance, the conceptual difference of "governance" and "government", if it is more reasonable to have good participative governance with bad results or bad governance with results that satisfy the population. There were also some opinions that good governance and economic development are not always interlinked but depend on each other, government means and country values are quite different things.

Local press highlighted the event and the role and mission of European Association for Local Democracy and "Local Democracy Agency" foundation in Gyumri.

6. Assisting Gyumri kindergartens

To continue and promote the cooperation with Gyumri community, "Local Democracy Agency" foundation handled over a small project funded by the European Association for Local Democracy for the assistance of 24 kindergartens in Gyumri whereas the community has its own contribution.

The project involves the distribution of small packages to 24 kindergartens. Each working package includes things for the administration, literature and toys for the children. The project aims to make visible the conditions of kindergartens controlled by the community, assist kindergartens by promoting local democracy principles in cooperation with Gyumri Municipality. For the implementation of the project "Local Democracy Agency" foundation has cooperated with the head of Educational Department of Gyumri Municipality, Mr. Hayk Sultanyan.

The meeting was held in the municipality hall on 29th of October, 2015. LDA Armenia director, Lusine Aleksandryan, presented the foundation, its mission, and the aim of the project to the municipality educational department representatives. 23 directors presented the conditions in their kindergartens outmost problems (mostly the renovation, heating and furniture), other financing opportunities. Lusine made the mapping of those problems in order to use them in the possible joint projects. The small packages were distributed to all kindergartens as the first step of joint cooperation.

This project was of great importance for LDA foundation, since it once again confirmed the necessity of foundation mission as a partner of Gyumri city.

7. Black Sea NGO forum, 8th edition

LDA network delegates from Armenia and Georgia had the opportunity to participate in the Black Sea NGO forum 8th edition, from 2-3 November in Tbilisi, Georgia. The forum aimed to define a strategic framework for regional cooperation at the Black Sea. For the opening plenary session all speakers mentioned the Importance of the Black Sea NGO forum for further developments in the local civil sector of each country, international partnerships. Mr. Justin Kicullen, co-chair of CSO partnership for Development Effectiveness- CPDE, Mr. Brian Tomlinson, mentioned that CPDE envisages a world where respect for human rights, participatory democracy, social and environmental justice, sustainability, gender equality and equity, decent work and sustainable change are achieved. He also called for other civil society organizations to become a member in their network for future joint project initiatives.

A report on "Enabling Environment for Civil Society Development in the Black Sea Region" was presented that really showed the state of civil society state in Black Sea countries.

Lusine Aleksandryan and Nino Tvaltvadze participated in the thematic workshop: the Island of Integrity and Effectiveness – a new approach on anti-corruption. The session moderator was an expert from Romania, Ane Vasilache, who made a productive presentation and interactive discussions on corruption and honesty in all administrative sectors and in the local Self-Government. At the end she concluded with following words: "*Honesty is not a consistent, inherent trait and is considerably influenced by the context*".

During the work group Delegates of LDA Armenia and LDA Georgia made a project on civic engagement, with the representatives from Turkey, Romania, Ukraine, Moldova and Ireland. The project passed with voting and FOND organization will fund it after the project full application.

The Black Sea NGO Forum 8th edition provided with concrete recommendations and proposals to the participants, about the donor organizations that enable the applicants with real funding opportunities and is a true platform of dialogue and partnership possibilities.

8. Special Initiative of LADDER project on the Eastern Partnership

In the framework of ALDA's LADDER project, the second special Initiative with focus on the Eastern Partnership, took place in Georgia from 1-4 December 2015. The event was organized by NALAG in cooperation with ALDA and UBBSLA. LADDER project is about Development education & Awareness raising as a tool for a change of attitudes. The plenary session took place in Tbilisi and was opened by Mr Stephan Stork, Head of Operations of EU Delegation to Georgia, Mr David Melua, Director of NALAG, and Mrs Imislawa Gorska, Vice-President of ALDA.

Mrs Antonella Valmorbida, Secretary General of ALDA, presented the LADDER approach, the goals and content of the project. There were presentations by some representatives of LADDER partnership, namely Mrs Mariana Ivanova from UBBSLA (Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities) Mrs Natalia Shovkoplias from UTCS (Union of Towns and Cities of Slovakia), Mr Dmitriy Sokol from Lev Sapieha Foundation of Belarus, and Mr David Melua, Director of NALAG and the director

of “Local Democracy Agency” foundation. Lusine Aleksandryan participated in the EAP session with the presentation of Civil society situation in Armenia and EU role in projects.
From the 2nd day the participants were deployed in three cities of Georgia for the thematic sessions: Thematic Group A in Brojomi: “Towards energy efficient municipalities- Strengthen the alliance with cities and municipalities through New Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy”; Thematic Group B in Kutaisi: “Migration and Mobility – a challenge or an opportunity for local development”, and Thematic Group C: “Sustainable Agriculture – success models for rural municipalities” in Telavi.

Lusine Aleksandryan with the representatives from the LDA Ukraine participated in the activities in Kutaisi, city where the office of LDA Georgia is located. This group was coordinated by Mrs Nino Tvaltvadze, Delegate of the LDA Georgia, and addressed the problems of migration and mobility in Georgia, and visited a Migrants information centre to get better understanding of the issue at the local level.

Apart from the activities in Kutaisi, a side meeting of EAP Local Democracy Agencies took place. The representatives of Georgia, Ukraine and Armenia, namely Nino Tvaltvadze, Anzhelika Pilipenko and Kiril Batalov, and Lusine Alekandryan met with ALDA Secretary General, Antonella Valmorbida, and EAP coordinator, Ela Horoszko. The meeting put forward the main issues with the projects and partners, and an important discussions about the experience exchange to promote the agencies. An issue about creation of the EAP agencies network was raised by Antonella Valmorbida that would bring an added value for the joint initiatives and strengthening of agencies. It was agreed to make steps towards this concept and to elaborate the Memorandum of Understanding.

9. CHOICE –Cultural Heritage

CHOICE is the partnership program of ALDA (France), EuroBelarus (Lithuania), Centre for Cultural Management (Ukraine), ICOM (Moldova), Millennium Foundation (Armenia) and Centre of Social Innovations (Belarus), which aims to preserve cultural heritage and strengthen the cooperation among the organizations working on the sphere of culture. The project is implemented in Armenia, Moldova, Belarus and Ukraine in the frames of EAP project. The partners in these countries announced a call for proposal for the organizations, to organize afterwards workshops for the applicants that passed the 1st phase, to disseminate information about the demands of the 2nd phase.

In Gyumri 5-7 December, Millennium foundation organized the workshop for Armenian applicants with the participants from Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus. “Local Democracy Agency” foundation that also applied to the call and passed the 2nd phase participated in the workshop.

The workshop was animated by an expert from Belarus, Igor Rahansky, who presented the concept of "heritage", "culture", perceptions of those concepts from the perspective of different cultures and values. The director of "EuroBelarus", Tatyana Poshevalova, presented the main demands and strong points of the application for the 2nd phase, and Vyacheslav Chernyavski, Financial manager of "EuroBelarus", delivered the points of project financial management and reporting. The workshop was accompanied by active discussions, answers and questions that promote the perception of the project more understanding and tangible. The president of Union of Non-Governmental organizations Mr. Tshartaryan, gave a speech about the cultural program in Armenia and Gyumri, difficulties and visions.

The workshop was of success as it really addressed the understanding of the cultural heritage and the concrete steps for further elaboration of the applications with the positive remarks. It should be mentioned that in the end, about 35 projects will get funded from the 4 above mentioned countries.

10. Meetings

- On 21st of January LDA director Lusine Aleksandryan participated in an event organized by the Council of Europe. The objective of the meeting was to present the Call to Government to the RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Emergency Situations. The Call comprises the results and main proposals on subsidiarity principal, administrative-territorial reforms and inter-municipal co-operation, finance and taxes, strengthening the role of councillors and citizen participation by 150 mayors and councillors throughout Armenia during the aforementioned regional seminars. The Communities Association of Armenia (CAA), Armenia Municipal Councillors' Association (AMCA), and Communities Finance Officers Association (CFOA), who were main partners and played key roles during the regional seminars, presented the key elements of the Call on behalf of the participant communities.

- Lusine Aleksandryan kept on participating in the meetings of EaP CSF Armenian National Platform taking place in the office of Eurasia Partnership Foundation. More than 40 members of the Platform were attending the events. For one meeting ANP new facilitator Mikayel Hovhannisyan presented the results of the last Steering committee meeting which took place on February 4-5 in Brussels. He also briefed the ANP members on the activities of the Civil Society Forum amid the upcoming Eastern Partnership Summit in Riga, this May. The strategy of activating ANP work along with the future activities of ANP working groups were discussed during the meeting. The last issue on the agenda concerned the amendments to the ANP organizational principles. In order to have a more productive and inclusive discussion, the participants decided to circulate the draft amendments with the mailing list of the ANP delegates and discuss it online. For another meeting at the beginning there was the voting for

the NGO's that would participate in Eastern Partnership annual assembly in Kiev and LDA foundation participated as well in the counting of the bulletins. Then group discussions were held to notify some recommendation on different issues suggested by the European Union.

- On 25th of March Lusine Aleksandryan participated in the event organized by journalists club "Asparez". The world of mass media celebrates 25th of March as a Day of Free Speech, even though it is not an official holiday in Armenia. This day has a specific meaning and goes back to the date, when GALA TV, an oppositional channel, was forced to be closed. There was a big campaign from the government side to close the channel .The journalists and active citizens stood up for their rights and fought against the campaign. Now the channel is running and this date became a tradition to celebrate. This year again a big event was organized and very famous and active journalists from different cities were invited. Seven nominations were awarded to those journalists that had significant input in journalism and free speech last year.

- On 3rd of July, 2015, Lusine Aleksandryan participated in the discussion that referred to three regulations approved by the community city council: 1) on Citizen Participation, 2) on Formation of Advisory Body Attached to the Head of Community, 3) on Public Hearings and/or Discussions implemented in the frames of the CELoG project organized by our partner Communities Finance Officers Association. Among the participants were representatives from the Minister of Emergency Situations and Territorial Administration of Republic of Armenia, USAID, consortium of CELoG project, international and local organizations. Many proposals have been made on the regulations and mostly on legislative issues.

- LDA delegate participated in the conference on local democracy in the Eastern Partnership countries that took place on 18th of September, in Yerevan, Armenia. The conference aimed to present the role of local democracy and local and regional authorities in the development of the EU's Eastern Partnership and information about the latest activities in the area of local government in the partner, possible synergies and key strategic objectives were shared. One of the sessions "The role of local democracy and citizen participation in pursuing the goals of the Eastern Partnership" was introduced and moderated by the Secretary General of ALDA Antonella Valmorbida. Some presentations were held by the mayor of the City of Gdansk Mr. Pawel Adamowicz, Deputy Minister of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia Mr. Tengiz Shergelashvili, Centre of Expertise for Local Government Reform, Gennadiy Kosyak etc. Short video gave useful information about EAP cooperation touchable results: water project in Batumi and use of new trolley-buses in Chisinau.

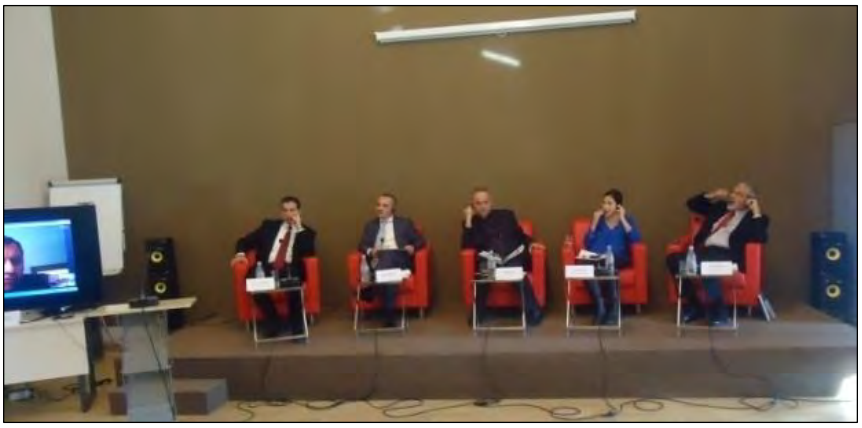
- On 28th of September the Dissemination Conference of the "Strengthening of Local Elected Representatives' Leadership" programme implemented by CoE Congress of Local and Regional Authorities took place. The conference aimed to disseminate the results of the project in partner communities of Armenia, arrange brain storming about the local

democracy issues. During the first session the partners discussed and presented their achievements and lessons learned. Within the second session the presentation of the four communities gained experience and project implementation procedure (Urtsatsor,Vardenik, Akhtala and Artik): All participants highly evaluated the huge contribution of CoE project in local democracy and expressed willingness to any possible further cooperation.

- On 30th of October, 2015 Lusine Aleksandryan participated in the Open House of Moving Forward Children's Centre for getting acquainted with the centre, daily activities, and staff. The centre is established by the American "Paros" foundation that implements social projects in Armenia.

- LDA Armenia delegate Lusine Aleksandryan participated in the meeting with the head of EU delegation to Armenia, Dr. Piotr Świtalski, in the "Shirak Centre" office with other civil sector representatives of Shirak region on 27th of November. The meeting aimed to get acquainted with the civil sector priorities, project initiatives and feedback on the situation in Armenia.

- On 8th of December 2015, Lusine Aleksandryan participated in the Gyumri development Forum that aimed to present all possible ways, initiatives and investments for the city development.



11. Conclusion

The year 2015 opened new opportunities and initiatives for "Local Democracy Agency" foundation Armenia in the implementation of its mission at the local and international level. The cooperation with the French Embassy, Council of Europe, lead partner Rhone-Alpes promoted the realization of many initiatives that covered different spheres of stakeholders and beneficiaries.

In 2015 LDA Ukraine was established by European Association for Local Democracy that encouraged the creation of EAP countries LDA's network for further joint cooperation and projects. The delegate of LDA Armenia initiated the local democracy trainings in Gyumri schools and has preliminary agreement from the directors, hopefully the process will commence in 2016. Cooperation with the French Embassy and "Paros" foundation are among the main priorities of LDA foundation mission implementation.

LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCY ALBANIA

Delegate: Madlina Puka

Established: in 2008 and re-established in October 2015.
Partners: Metropolitan City of Bari, Italy (lead partner); Apulia Region, Italy; UNISCO, Italy; Learning Cities, Italy; Region of Vlora, Albania (host partner); Municipality of Vlora, Albania (host partner); Municipality of Patos, Albania; Municipality of Fier, Albania; and Centre for Research Cooperation and Development, Albania.

The Local Democracy Agency Albania was established in 2008 in Shkodra, but its work ended in 2014. After a year of inactivity, this LDA is now back in action after being re-located and re-opened in Vlora, in the south of the country, in October 2015.

The LDA's thematic priorities are:

- Strengthening cross-border and regional cooperation
- Supporting capacity building for local authorities and NGOs
- Supporting citizens participation
- Supporting European Union integration

❖ Projects in 2015

The Local Democracy Agency Albania has been established in 2008 in Shkodra, in the north of the country. The experience in Shkodra ended in 2014. After two years of inactivity, the Association "Local Democracy Agency in Albania" was re-opened in Vlora, in October 2015 in the south of the country. The aim is to be an intermediation and dialogue development place, promoting mutual exchanges at every level (cultural, social, and economic) between the communities in Albania and European Community partners. The LDA was re-opened with the main purpose of (1) promoting concrete initiatives for the consolidation of the democracy at local level, (2) developing capacity of institutions at local level through exchange of its expertise and experience, (3) training of local councillors and civil administration, (4) developing of a network of European cities for the protection of human rights, including minorities in the broad sense of the word, and (5) building a pluralist society including all the social convictions and the promotion of intercultural and interethnic dialogue and of human rights respect. The organization aims to spread its activity in the entire territory of the Republic of Albania by opening branches in other counties and municipalities, as well as in other states. The main mission is:

- To facilitate the participation of civil society in decision-making at the local level.
- To promote interest, sensitivity and the ability of citizens to participate in decision making at the local level.
- To promote sensitivity and ability of local authorities to meet the needs of citizens
- To promote interest and information exchange between Albania and other countries in Europe with the aim of promoting best practices through close cooperation and continuous.

LDA's new host town, Vlora, is a region situated in the south of Albania. The Municipality of Fier and Patos, are close partners also located in the region. These comprises a population of 432,000 inhabitants and extends over an area of 1300 km2, covering a significant territory of Albania. Vlora used to be a location of big exporting factories, but today it is developing as a more tourist area, besides having the second biggest port in Albania. Fier is known for its agriculture and rural development.

The need for the activity of the LDA in this area is justified and for its best development the association will organize joint programs with other institutions that have the same purposes, in Albania and abroad. Among others it will focus on the following activities for the accomplishment of its objectives:

- Human rights and democracy at local and regional level
- Citizen Participation
- The development of civil society and a pluralist democracy
- Strengthen the capacity of local and regional authorities
- Education and culture
- Inter-regional and European collaboration
- Economic and sustainable development
- Agriculture and rural development
- Environment, in close relation with the field of public health and planning, management and protection of natural resources of the territory.

On 24 October the official re-launch of the LDA took place, by undersigning the Memorandum of Understanding and the Statute. This event was also an occasion for the international seminar on "Citizen Participation and Good Governance at Local and Regional Level in Albania" with particular focus on its intercultural element.

LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCY CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN SERBIA

Delegate: **Sasa Marinkov**

Established: in 2001
Partners: Municipality Knjaževac, Serbia (host city) Associazione Trentino con i Balcani, Italy City of Aarhus, Denmark Association CORDIA – Center for education and development of open society, Serbia Association ZAdrugarice, Serbia Associazione per l'Ambasciata della Democrazia Locale a Zavidovici Onlus, Italy
Priorities:

- Fostering democratic governance and citizen participation at local level
- Youth empowerment
- Supporting the process of Serbia's EU integration

LDA Central and Southern Serbia was established in 2001 in the City of Niš, Serbia. In 2003 it was officially registered under the name Centar lokalne demokratije LDA under Serbian law.

With the aim of spreading its program further onto the territories in need, in April 2014 the LDA has moved its headquarters to Knjaževac, a city in South-Eastern Serbia. The LDA covers wider region by working in Niš, Knjaževac, Kraljevo and Kragujevac.

The LDA aims to contribute to development of local democracy in the communities of Eastern, Southern and Central Serbia through capacity building programs based on the principles of active citizenship and establishment of concrete mechanisms of citizens' participation in development of their communities.

❖ Projects in 2015

LDA Knjazevac has been involved in the following projects during 2015:

1. Balkan Regional Platform for Youth Participation and Dialogue

Funded By: European Union through Civil Society Facility Operating Grants to IPA CSO Associations - Support to Regional Thematic Associations
Partners: European Association for Local Democracy ALDA, Local Democracy Agencies from Mostar, Prijedor, Zavidovici, Niksic, Peja, Subotica and ALDA Skopje.

Through the creation of the Balkan Regional Network for Local Democracy and a series of locally and regionally implemented activities, this project aims to contribute to structure regional thematic cooperation and coordination between CSOs and public authorities from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Macedonia, Kosovo* and Serbia and to improve the environment for youth activism and participation, in particular of young people with fewer opportunities from Mostar, Prijedor, Zavidovici, Niksic, Peja, Subotica and Skopje. During 2015 we initiated the creation of several local mechanisms for youth participation: Local Youth Advisory Group, Youth taking over day in the Municipal Council, My City – Youth City – mapping of Knjazevac from the

youth perspective, Youth Art Workshop and Exhibition, Fund for Youth initiatives and Info point – youth information service. Besides this, alongside with all the other partners, we took part in the regional activities: creation of Regional Youth Working Group, internet campaign on youth activism, visit to the National Parliament of Montenegro, Regional Youth Forum for Local Democracy and regional research on youth participation in the Balkans.

2. T-TRUST – Training On Techniques & Research on Unemployment, School-Leaving Of Teen-Agers

Funded by: European Union through Erasmus+ Programme
Partners: Margherita Societa' Cooperativa Sociale - Italy, European Association for Local Democracy ALDA – France, Fundación Privada Indera – Spain, Drustvo za razvijanje prostovoljnega dela Novo mesto – Slovenia, Union of Bulgarian Black Sea local Authorities – Bulgaria, Local Democracy Agency Niksic – Montenegro, Local Democracy Agency Osijek – Croatia.

T-TRUST was the international project aiming to make a contribution to prevention of early school leaving during the transition from the Middle to the High School. The main activity of the project was a five day thematic seminar specifically targeting educators who deal with activities for/about/with students from 11 to 17 years of age. The participants from seven European countries had the opportunity to interact with different professional figures as well as to learn new educational and relational methods and skills from different cultures that could be utilized in prevention of early school leaving. Our team was composed of experts from the field of social welfare and education. Upon returning to Knjaževac, they all acted as multipliers passing on the knowledge gained during the international seminar in Italy.

3. 10 Wonders of Knjaževac – A Tourist Guide through Knjaževac by Youth for Youth

Funded by: Knjaževac Municipality
Partners: Tourist Organization of Knjaževac Municipality, Public Library ''Njegos'' Knjaževac, Homeland Museum Knjaževac

The main aim of this project was to advance tourist promotion of Knjaževac while increasing youth activism. Through the creation of specific tourist guide, young people from Knjaževac brought closer beauties of their town and surrounding area and provided practical information to their peers from Serbia and abroad. The guide was printed in English and Serbian in a form of foldable map, practical for young tourists, especially backpackers. Activities included selection of 10 most attractive sights from Knjaževac Municipality according to the local youngsters. In addition, a competition for youngsters for the best photography and slogan about Knjaževac took place. This guide, made by youth for youth, was distributed via a network of associates, such as hostel owners, students' dorms, youth centres and organizations from Nis, Belgrade and Novi Sad.

This project was received very positively both among the youngsters and other citizens of Knjaževac. As a special follow up Tourist Organization of Knjaževac Municipality included this guide among the publications they offer to tourists visiting the city and presented it at the international tourist fair Vakantiebeurs in Utrecht, Holland. They will also support printing of the second edition of the guide. Further to this, students from Technical school in Knjaževac used our guide as the basis for their project for development of youth tourism in the Municipality.

The electronic version of the tourist guide ''10 Wonders Of Knjaževac'' is available on the website: http://lda-knjazevac.org/images/publikacije/projektne_publikacije/vodic_10_cuda.pdf

4. Youth with a Plan

Funded By: European Union through Erasmus+ Programme
Partners: Local Democracy Agency Mostar - Bosnia and Herzegovina and 14 youth organizations from 10 countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia, Slovenia, Turkey, the Czech Republic, Romania, Italy and Belgium.
The project aims to build the capacity of youth workers and leaders of youth projects and their organizations' in order to develop the quality international projects related to youth and youth work within the E + / YiA. One international seven days seminar in Mostar will take place during 2016. We are acting as one of two national partners from Serbia.

5. Application Successful

Funded By: European Union through Europe for Citizens Programme,
Partners: European House Budapest - Hungary Center for Peace, Non-Violence and Human Rights, Osijek – Croatia, Local Democracy Agency, Subotica - Serbia

The "Application successful" project aimed at promoting activities for the benefit of current and potential stakeholders of the Europe for Citizens Programme (ECP) in a regional setting and making well-targeted circles of citizens of the participating countries aware of EU policy agenda issues, shared values, questions of participatory democracy and citizenship. The project consisted of series of working visits and regional information and training sessions in Croatia and Serbia where local stakeholders had the opportunity to learn the potential of the ECP and exchange experiences. During 2015, acting as local support to LDA Subotica and the applicant, we took part in a knowledge-sharing information and partner search meetings organised in Germany.

6. WE-NET - Working For Environmentally Educated Towns

Funded By: European Union through Europe for Citizens Programme
Partners: Comune di Thiene, Thiene – Italy, European Association for Local Democracy ALDA, Strasbourg – France, Zwiazek Stowarzyszen Multikultura, Krakow – Poland, Liga Ochrony Przyrody Zarzad Okregu Podkarpackiego, Rzeszow – Poland, CNJ - Confederação Nacional de Jovens Agricultores e Desenvolv, Lisbon – Portugal, Comune di Cervino, Cervino – Italy, Drustvo za razvijanje prostovoljnega dela Novo mesto, Novo mesto – Slovenia, Local Councils Association Malta, Marsa – Malta, Fundación Obra Social y Monte de Piedad de Madrid, Madrid – Spain, RSN Ricerche e Studi Naturalistici Biosphaera s.c.s., San Vito di Leguzzano – Italy, Istituto Scientifico Biomedico Euro Mediterraneo Scpa – ISBEM, Brindisi – Italy, Municipality of Knjazevac, Knjazevac - Serbia

This project brings together people from eight countries coming from economically, historically and culturally different backgrounds representing a great opportunity to work together on issues of mutual concern and to exchange ideas. The project seeks to initiate discussion on the subject of environmental protection, recycling and sustainable development, as well as promoting active participation, providing a platform to voice citizens' opinions. The biggest emphasis of the project is on young people who will contribute as protagonists to the discussion on the topics foreseen in local activities. The launching international event took place in Thiene, Italy, where 12 delegations got to know each other and discussed about the strategies for sustainability at the local level. Within the scope of this project we are acting as local coordinator on behalf Knjaževac Municipality.

7. "Day of the European Union At The Festival Of Youth Culture Of Serbia"

Funded By: Knjaževac Municipality
Partners: EU Info corner Nis – Serbia, Homeland Museum of Knjaževac

Within the scope of the project BET on EU, seizing the opportunity of the 54th Festival of Youth Culture Serbia, on 7th August, acting on behalf of Knjaževac Municipality, we organized Day of the European Union in Knjaževac. The program included presentation of the EU programs for youth by guests from the Tempus Foundation Belgrade, presenting programs and scholarships available for students from Serbia, and organization ''Let's...'' from Belgrade, the contact point for Erasmus+ in Serbia, presenting opportunities for volunteering in the EU to young people from Knjaževac. Besides this, the program of the Day of the European Union included a week long exhibition of caricatures entitled "Myths and prejudices: how Serbia sees the EU and how the EU sees Serbia", at the gallery of the Homeland Museum of Knjaževac. The exhibition, that spark

much interest among the citizens of Knjaževac, consisted of a series of works by well-known Serbian caricaturists, submitted for the competition organized by the EU Delegation in Serbia last year.

LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCY DNIPROPETROVSK REGION

Delegate – Anzhelika Pylypenko
Deputy – Kirill Batalov

Established: in 2015
Partners: Lower Silesia Region, Poland (lead partner); Region Alsace, France; Dnipropetrovsk Regional Council, Ukraine; NGO Merkury Foundation, Poland; NGO East-West Mutual Understanding, Poland; NGO Agency for Regional Development of the Dnipropetrovsk Region, Ukraine; NGO Tamarisk, Ukraine; NGO Public Initiative of the Lugansk Region, Ukraine.

Priorities:

- Facilitate the participation of civil society in the decision-making process at the local level;
- Increase the interest, awareness and capacities of citizens to take part in the decision-making process at the local level;
- Increase the awareness and skills of the local communities and local authorities to address the needs of citizens;
- Increase the interest and sharing of information between Ukraine and other European countries and stakeholders to enable closer cooperation and an ongoing exchange of best practices.

The Local Democracy Agency of the Dnipropetrovsk Region was established on 18 May 2015. The LDA is intended as a platform of cooperation, dialogue and exchange of experience and best practices across several aspects of regional engagement (cultural, social and economic) between local authorities and civil society in the EU and in Ukraine.

The LDA will foster citizen participation at the local, while it will aim at mobilizing Civil Society Organizations and Local and Regional Authorities to develop joint initiatives. 2015 became the year of great beginnings. Thanks to all partners and stakeholders, with a huge preparatory work done, we have managed to establish the 1st Local Democracy Agency in Ukraine, in the Dnipropetrovsk region.

Enormous energy was involved into this process. The contribution of all valuable parties, like Lower Silesian Voivodship, Region Alsace, Dnipropetrovsk Regional Council and of course ALDA (the main "pusher"), made the wish of LDA creation come true.

❖ Projects in 2015

Since its start, the LDA has been working hard in different projects and actions towards its objectives. Below, the description of the activities undertaken since the opening day:

1. May: Grand opening, training and creating partnerships

On the 18th of May – the day of the grand opening – we put the start for fruitful changes in local democratic society. On that day we also conducted the 1st Partner Meeting in Dnipropetrovsk, at which we set the LDA priorities: decentralization issues like consultations and providing methodology of reforming the society, dealing with internally displaced people and those returned from the military zone, providing them support and connection with special local services. Also, we added the priority of "youth topics" in different ways of development.

During the first months of LDA work, we were trained by ALDA – European Association of Local Democracy – and received very important knowledge in communications, financing, strategic planning and project development. We've met many people working in ALDA like in a big strong family. Thus, we got involved in all this huge democratic things happening around us.

We started rather good promotion campaign and attracted new LDA partners like NGO Tamarisk from Dnipropetrovsk, NGO Public Initiative of the Luhansk Region from Luhansk, NGO Merkury Foundation from Walbrzych and NGO East-West Mutual Understanding from Wroclaw, Lower Silesia (Poland), and later – Lower Silesian Federation of Non-Governmental Organizations.

We participated in many local and all-Ukrainian conferences and workshops to promote LDA and make partnerships with national Platforms, local organizations, activists and other stakeholders, interested in cooperation with LDA. One of the best examples is the Reform Office in Dnipropetrovsk Region, headed by Olena Tertyshna, the powerful organization promoting the reformation system in the area and consulting people in all important things concerning the changes in legislative sphere and surrounding in general.

2. June: Promotion on the radio, cooperation and submission of proposals

In June we were "on air" in the live program at Channel 51 (broadcast on Dnipropetrovsk region). The topic was "Self-organization in the Community", presentation of LDA of the Dnipropetrovsk region. With us was also Sergey Ivanchenko – the head of the partner organization Public Union "Наш Дім – Дніпропетровщина", who also represents the Resource Center to promote the development of local democracy in Dnipropetrovsk region (network of resource centers under the coordination of Andrei Krupnik): www.youtube.com/watch?v=KvHs7-JEPWw. Later in June we've had a meeting with Adam Sauer – representative of International Solidarity Fund (Poland). We discussed the main directions of activity and outlined possible topics for cooperation like decentralization experience exchange between Poland and Ukraine. And on the 25th of June we met the representatives of the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), Senior Program Coordinator in Europe and Eurasia, Yoanna Rohozhinska, program coordinator and deputy, Vitaly Shpak. During the meeting, they proposed the LDA to participate in the Call for Proposals. Two

projects have been drafted. One of them is now recommended for financing (the final result will be during the NED Board Meeting on March 26, 2016).

3. July: Strengthening partnerships, doing promotion and identification of priorities

In July we met the representatives of public organizations of Dnipropetrovsk region, which suffered from Maydan time, they revealed a desire to control the activities of local government: the members of the Permanent Working Group of NGOs to monitor the activities of the Dnipropetrovsk Regional Council, and execution of its decisions (http://oblrada.dp.ua/coord_rada) and other interested organizations. We made a presentation of the LDA, gave explanations on the issues raised, suggested partnership. Then, for two day (10.07-12.07) the LDA Delegate participated in the exit meeting of representatives of Resource centers to facilitate the development of local democracy in 10 cities of Ukraine (Lutsk, Lviv, Lugansk, Artemovsk, Kherson, Nikolaev, Dnipropetrovsk, Kyiv, Rivne and Kharkiv), organized by the All-Ukrainian public organization "Association for the Promotion of self-organization of the population" (Andrei Krupnik). We studied the positive experience of self-organization of the population and the development of local democracy, discussed and developed a plan of cooperation of the All-Ukrainian public organization "Association for the Promotion of self-organization of the population" with LDA of the Dnipropetrovsk region.

On July 15, 2015 we had a meeting with our friend and supporter – Bartek Ostrowski (Poland). During the meeting, we outlined the main topics for further cooperation like expert support of Polish specialists on decentralization issues and the implementation of this process in Ukraine; training the condominiums' rulers using the experience of Poland; referring to the Polish experience, cooperation in drafting the Law or local regulatory Act on financial support for non-governmental organizations (as in Poland, 1% of taxes of citizens can be directed to the support of public organizations) etc.

On July 20, 2015 we had a meeting with a representative of the European Parliament – Vincenzo Greco. The meeting was also attended by our partner, Director of the Center for Support of Civil and Cultural Initiatives "Tamarisk", Tatiana Karelska, the LDA Delegate, director of the Development Fund of Gorky Village, Alexander Mitkov, and Director of the Development Fund of Podgorodnoe City, Vitalii Morgun. During the meeting we discussed the problematic issues of the Dnipropetrovsk region and which support is needed by civil society organizations. We identified several main themes: there is a need for assistance of foreign experts in the solution of the problem of "burnout" to restore the psychological stability of the volunteers who worked with internally displaced persons (IDPs) and those who have returned from the ATO area; there is a need for assistance of foreign experts in the psychological recovery of ATO soldiers returning to

civilian life; they need support of donor organizations for more projects that deal with IDPs and the problems of soldiers and their families.

Later we met the representatives of the OSCE Mission to Dnipropetrovsk region – Juozas "Jaw" Kazlas and Filippo de Danieli. The meeting was devoted to the political situation in Dnipropetrovsk region and the city of Dnipropetrovsk in particular. Juozas and Filippo discovered the activity of LDA and made a short report to their head office.

4. August: meetings, assembly, new partnerships and energy efficiency

August tried to be the hottest month ever, but concerning the LDA activity. We participated in the opening event of the Assembly of European Regions office in Dnipropetrovsk. Later on we attended the celebration of the Youth Day in Oles Honchar Dnipropetrovsk National University, made the LDA presentation and communicated with students. The discussion was focussed in a partnership between the LDA and the University, in the preparation of projects to receive grants from international donors, and youth exchange programs.

In the middle August we were invited to the meeting in the Dnipropetrovsk Regional Council on the issues of training specialists in psychosocial rehabilitation of displaced residents from the ATO area on the basis of psychology departments at the universities.

On August 20, 2015, we participated in the award event of winners of the competition on energy efficiency and conservation among the local communities. As part of the discussion with Bartek Ostrowski about threads in increase of the competence of houses, there could be organized a process to introduce new technologies that contribute to energy saving.

5. September: Regarding local elections, education, energy efficiency and gender issues

In September LDA Delegate participated in the Roundtable: "Civil Sector role in promoting transparency of the local elections", organized by the All-Ukrainian charitable foundation "Gorenie" (Director – Mr Denis Grechko, Pavlograd city, Dnipropetrovsk region) with the support of Hanns Seidel Stiftung department in Ukraine. Besides the LDA, other organizations participated, for example: Public Union "Nash Dom Dnipropetrovshchina" (Director – Mr Serhiy Ivanchenko, Dnipropetrovsk city), NGO "Kazatskiy Patrul Rodiny" (Director – Mr Valentin Romanov, Nikopol city, Dnipropetrovsk region), NGO "Maidan of Ordzhonikidze city of the Dnipropetrovsk region" (Board Coordinator – Mr Dmitriy Nosevich, Ordzhonikidze city, Dnipropetrovsk region), Regional NGO "Kodak Branch of the Cossack Lower rote" (Director – Oleh Chernenko, Dnipropetrovsk city), NGO "Zolota Palanka" (Director – Ms Liudmila Grebeniuk, Dnipropetrovsk city), NGO "Dmitriy Dontsov New Society" (Board Coordinator – Mr Serhiy Karnoza, Dnipropetrovsk city), Dnipropetrovsk branch of the Students League of the Association of legal officers of Ukraine (Head – Ms Yulia Romanenko, Dnipropetrovsk city) etc. They discussed issues concerning local elections in Dnipropetrovsk region, civil sector role in promoting transparency of the local elections, and joint initiatives of the civil sector of the Dnipropetrovsk region in support of the citizens' rights in decision making during the elections process in the region. After the Roundtable the participants were proposed to sign the Memorandum on joint efforts of the civil sector of the Dnipropetrovsk region in promoting transparency of the local elections.

In September 16-17, 2015 LDA Deputy Delegate participated in the final conference of "PRIME" project: "Professional education reform in Ukraine", organized by the European Educational Foundation and Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine in Kiev. "PRIME" project current results in Ukraine were presented on the conference, and next steps were set, concerning the changes in financing, personnel, educational process, programs, network of communication, criteria for risks and advantages evaluation. LDA expressed the readiness to update its priorities to find ways of cooperation with the EEF concerning issues corresponding with the regional path of development.

From 17 to 18th of September, the LDA Delegate participated in Forum on Energy Security, organized by the OSCE, organization "Green World: Ukrainian land friends", Dnipropetrovsk Regional State Administration. Main speakers were Jenifer Betty, deputy head of the SMM OSCE team, Youzas "Jaw" Kazlas, observer, Ihor Kirilchuk, UNIDO, and Bruce Rich, expert in ecology, lawyer (Washington). On the Forum, some of the issues discussed regarded the promotion of energy saving technology in multistoried buildings and facilities, to reduce the energy consumption and minimize the costs on imported energy. There were also issues concerning EU and USA support to Ukraine to solve these tasks. LDA Delegate proposed to include these issues into the preparatory courses for the multistoried households Managers.

Later on the 22nd of September, LDA Delegate represented LDA at the IX Forum of Christian women, which was held in Dnipropetrovsk, in the House of the Unions. More than 300 people participated in the Forum – leaders of the NGOs, enterprises and different establishments, orthodox women of Dnipropetrovsk churches, members of parliament of different levels. The Forum was conducted with the support of the "Ukrainian Perspective" Foundation. On the Forum there were discussed issues to remain peaceful situation in Ukraine, to deal with retires, municipal tariffs. LDA Delegate proposed the participants to make cohesion in the development of local democracy and social protection of the local residents.

6. October: Say your word! Project, further work with students and self-governance issues

October was really full of talks and discussions. Since the 5th of October we got involved into the implementation of UCBI "Say your word!" project, supported by USAID. The project was implemented by All-Ukrainian NGO "Civic Platform of Ukraine" in Dnipropetrovsk region, involving LDA of the Dnipropetrovsk Region, and also the Reform Office in the Dnipropetrovsk region (Olena Tertyshna). 15 public discussions were held on the issues of local elections: election process circumstances, updates on the current legislation, rights and obligations of local members of the parliament, youth participation in local elections and self-government; LDA role in local democracy development and youth initiatives support; decentralization and community amalgamation process in Dnipropetrovsk region: risks and possibilities. Discussions were held for the students of different level educational institutions. Totally 860 students participated in 15 discussions

During the discussions, the students received valuable knowledge on the election process, changes in current legislation, local MPs' rights. The students actively discussed the interesting facts and modern approach in electoral programs and speeches, got to know how to solve the problems with the support from local MPs. Particular interest appeared while discussing the issue of students' self-government and its role in solvation of the local problems at the university. This form of cooperation has its value during negotiations with the MPs.

Students got interested in cooperation with LDA on the topics like twinning programs and studies abroad, fundraising and social projects management. The topic on decentralization was not very touchy, because of its tough formalization and less importance for the youth. Those who were the most active, explored the lack of their knowledge on the mentioned topics, and evaluated this project as rather important before the local elections. The project helped to raise awareness of the students' youth, and also made them think on how to make life better.

In October 9-10 in Kiev there was X All-Ukrainian conference on the issues of self-governance: "Attracting society to the community amalgamation processes". Representatives of 14 regions of Ukraine took part in the conference. Antonella Valmorbida, Secretary-General of ALDA made the introductory remarks, and admitted the importance of the self-organization in Ukraine, and also expressed the will to support this type of community and local democracy development by attracting projects to Ukraine. LDA Delegate presented the LDA work and suggested cooperation.

Later October, in "Menorah" center (Dnipropetrovsk), we met Mr Jean Marie Belliard, vice-president of the Region Alsace (France). We discussed the LDA work done and future plans, and also the contribution of the Dnipropetrovsk Regional Council to the operation of the LDA in Dnipropetrovsk. Mr Belliard expressed his readiness to participate in LDA Partner meeting in Wroclaw (Poland) on the 18th of November, 2015.

7. November: visit to Poland and Germany, LDA Partners Meeting and further joint activities

In November we prepared for the LDA Partner Meeting in Wroclaw and a big trip to Poland and Germany (November 17 – 22). On the 18th of November we got acquainted with our new partner organization – Lower Silesian Federation of Non-Governmental Organizations (DFOP) with the Chairman of the Board, Mr Waldemar Weihs, who is also a Director of Merkury Foundation. We had a presentation meeting at the DFOP office, where Waldemar and the staff presented us the possibilities of the Federation and shortly described the administrative structure of the Lower Silesia Voivodship.

Later we had a partner meeting with the representatives of the Marshall's office of Lower Silesia, Ms Celestyna Owsianko-Górczyńska, the Head of the International Cooperation Department, and her colleagues, Ms Anna Panenka and Ms Aleksandra Mirowska-Piałucha, as well as Mr Waldemar Weihs from the Merkury Foundation and the Lower Silesia Federation of NGOs and our colleague, Ela Horoszko, Project Manager and Eastern Partnership Coordinator. The Ukrainian partners joined via a Skype connection.

During the meeting we updated the partners on the activities of the LDA over the past few months including a number of speaking events in Ukrainian media to promote effective local self-governance and citizen participation. We also spoke about the plans for the near future such as developing a number of projects to support IDPs in the region, which are now being developed.

The Lower Silesia Federation of NGOs has also officially joined the LDA partnership.

Later 18th we got to the city of Walbrzych (Poland), where we attended the office of Merkury Foundation and had a fruitful talk there with Wademar and his colleague Yurii on joint efforts.

On the 20th of November, LDA of the Dnipropetrovsk Region participated in the meeting of the Association of Parity Organizations of Lower Saxony, which was conducted in Hanover, Germany. We got acquainted with the activities of several non-governmental organizations that are considering options for cooperation and ready to discuss future joint action plans.

By the end of the meeting, we had agreed on some particular activities:

1. Create special courses for professors from our universities on social studies;
2. Dealing with IDPs (psychological support);
3. Work with volunteers in Dnipropetrovsk region.

All these activities are vital for our work as the LDA dealing with IDPs and people from ATO area. And we cannot predict the escalation of the conflict that is why our future cooperation is very important for the fulfilment of LDA statutory obligations.

8. December: participation with LADDER, partnership with regional LDA's and trainings

The next important event was in December in Georgia – the Conference: Role of Municipalities in Promotion of Development Education and Research (LADDER), in which we took part, and also side project event by National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia (NALAG) on mobilized civil society for local democracy in Georgia.

The LADDER Conference was on 1-4 December. LDA participated in this event with the full staff involved. At the 1st session, the LADDER approach was presented, and also its main accomplishments and results so far. It was very interesting to know that the project helped many organizations to create activities and increase capacity at local and international levels by involving all-stakeholder cooperation in different fields of development.

Antonella Valmorbida, Secretary General of ALDA, explained the role of Local Authorities in promoting Development Education and Awareness Rising. In a respectful session we discussed development education in EaP countries and role of civil sector together with Miroslav Kobasa, from Lev Sapieha foundation, and other valuable speakers. Antonella Valmorbida, Mariana Ivanova and, our old friend, David Melua summarized all issues and finished the 1st day of the LADDER Conference.

On the 2nd of December participants, previously divided into 3 thematic groups, were transfered to different Georgian Municipalities:

- Thematic Group A – "Toward energy efficient Municipalities". Location: Municipality of Borjomi;
- Thematic Group B – "Migration and Mobility – a challenge or an opportunity for local Development". Location: City of Kutaisi;
- Thematic Group C – "Sustainable Agriculture – success models for rural municipalities. Location: The Municipality of Telavi.

LDA of the Dnipropetrovsk Region was in Group B, because that topic is very vital for our region, and we had to get as much experience as possible from the representatives of Georgian NGOs and municipalities. At the sessions we met Nino Tvaltvadze – LDA-Georgia Delegate, Archil Kakhiashvili from International Organization of Migrations (IOM Georgia) and others.

On December 3rd during the morning, a really epic event happened – three LDAs: Georgia, Delegate Nino Tvaltvadze, Armenia, Delegate Lusine Aleksandryan, and Ukraine, Delegate Anzhelika Pylypenko, met at the LDA Georgia HQ together with Antonella Valmorbida and Ela Horoszko (ALDA) to discuss the Strategy and benefits from future cooperation and set the particular aims of development.

We discussed topics such as development of women entrepreneurship in the local communities, youth exchange and development initiatives, migrants and IDPs support etc. We realized that Ukraine, Georgia, and also Armenia have plenty of similar issues to solve: dealing with IDPs, conflicts and other vital things. That sets the future partnerships automatically.

On the 4th of December we had the last day of the Conference. Each group presented the results of their personal sessions in municipalities and it was decided to compile it, so it can later be added on the general report of the activities.

Later, for 3 days (5-7/12/2015) there was a great training for leaders, mostly youth, selected from Georgian communities. From LDA we had the Deputy participating.

During the training, Anna Ditta (Project Officer from ALDA) presented EU funding opportunities for Georgia and EaP countries in specific thematic areas. Thanks to Anna, young leaders became

capable to write an effective project proposal and send it to donors for soft and concrete funding. We understood the process of project development, implementation and evaluation as well as basic management. We received information about EU technical assistance/aid, the logic of the calls for proposals and total understanding of EU call Guidelines. And also there was much fun due to Anna's energizers and games.

We developed a project proposal concerning support Program for IDPs in Dnipropetrovsk region and made a complete analysis of the issue guided by Anna Ditta.

LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCY GEORGIA

Delegate: Nino Tvaltvadze

Established: in 1996
Partners: City of Strasbourg, France (Lead partner); City of Kutaisi, Georgia (Host city); Municipality of Monfalcone, Italy; City of Tbilisi, Georgia; National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia; Kutaisi Branch of Georgian Young Lawyers' Association, Georgia; Partners-Georgia, Georgia; Kutaisi Newport International Association, Georgia; Newport Kutaisi Twining Association, United Kingdom.

Priorities:

- Capacity building programmes for local authorities and Non-Government Organizations
- Promoting active citizenship and good governance
- Promotion of women and youth rights
- Supporting and initiating cross-border and regional co-operation
- Promoting EU integration and European values at local level

Today LDA Georgia is in the situation to get a second wind. It is a chance to continue the work that has been done by the previous staff, while at the same time bringing some updates to give the organization fresh breath.

The biggest challenge for the LDA, and the whole country, is the newly signed and ratified Association Agreement with the EU. Because besides bringing new opportunities, it also brings responsibility that the government, civil society, and every citizen have to fulfil. The LDA Georgia, as part of ALDA family, can play its role in supporting the process of integration with EU, especially in the development of local democracy.

The second significant circumstance, also very challenging, is the ongoing reform of Local self-government in Georgia, together with the newly elected public officials. Which will bring to the organization new waves of opportunities, ideas and – hopefully – the support of donors, and all of this will produce change on the local level.

During the year 2015, LDA Georgia has taken active steps forward, to be more concrete:

- From November 2014 organization has moved to the new office;
- From the proposed projects 5 were funded;
- New staff was hired;
- Fruitful and active steps were taken toward strengthening trans-border cooperation with LDA Armenia;
- New international partner from Poland – Kujavian Pomeranian region expressed the will and readiness to join the LDA Georgia's partners.

❖ Projects in 2015

1. Kutaisi: IT WORKS

As part of the joint project "Kutaisi: IT WORKS" Local Democracy Agency (LDA) Georgia organized a training on program budgeting. It aimed to build the skills of local officials and members of the supervisory board created under the project in the issues concerning the program budgeting. This will enable them to involve citizens in budget planning and implementation. The training was conducted by Mindia Salukvadze and Nino Tvaltvadze, and took place in Daba Chakvi, Hotel "Oasis". The participants, 40 in total, involved two groups of the representatives of Kutaisi local authorities and civil society.

Group 1: August 29 - 31
Group 2: August 31 – September 2.

Training Participants:

- Kutaisi City Hall staff;
- staff of Kutaisi City Council administration;
- local journalists working in Kutaisi; and
- representatives of local non-governmental sector.

The participants were asked to fill feedback forms to help assess the effectiveness of the sessions. All the participants filled in the questionnaires and based on the analysis of their responses the training received positive evaluation.

Shota Murghulia, Mayor of Kutaisi and David Dvali, Chairman of the City Council discussed the training with the participants and evaluated it.

2. Protected Voice Guarantee of Effective Self-Governance

"Protected voice guarantee of effective self-governance" is a coalition project implemented together with Georgian Young Lawyers' Association with the financial support of Open Society Georgia Foundation. The project implementation started in November 2014, aiming to promote high level of independence of local public officials elected through general, direct and equal elections and create effective guarantees for improving the quality of local self-governance.

In the frame of the project 19 focus group meetings involving representatives of local self-governance and NGO sector were held throughout Georgia, in Kutaisi, Zugdidi, Ozurgeti, Poti,

Batumi, Gori, Rustavi and Telavi. 180 public officials and 99 NGO representatives took part in focus group sessions and the results were analysed.

The project also envisaged a study visit to Strasburg organized by LDA Georgia. During the visit there were meetings with

- Andreas Kiefer, Secretary General of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe,
- Lioubov Samokhina, representative of the Council of Europe GRECO (Group of States Against Corruption) DGI – Human Rights and Rule of Law,
- Agnieszka Szklanna, Secretary to the Committee on Legal Affairs and Human Rights, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
- Gunter Schirmer, Deputy to the Head of the Secretariat of this committee,
- Clément DOLISI Chargé de mission Europe et projets européens; European Affairs Officer
- Nawel Rafik-Elmrini, Vice Mayor of Strasbourg
- Representatives of the NGO 'Action against Hunger'.

The final document of the project combines legal regulations of Georgia and foreign states indicating standards of criminal immunity and prosecution. Recommendations have been developed, the findings of the study involving focus group interviews were presented in Zugdidi, Ozurgeti and Batumi and at each of these presentations the final document was handed out to the participants. The project was completed in September 2015.

3. Project IMERY - Joint Initiative of Municipalities of Imereti Regions

Project implementation started in February 2015. The presentation of the project took place in LDA Georgia office on February 23, 2015, then in Imereti Governor's office on March 27, 2015 and at the Advisory Council meeting with 42 people (34 Advisory Council members and 8 invited guests) attending. Thus, the total of 82 people has attended presentations. The presentation stage was followed by selection of settlements and conducting trainings in the selected areas. From April through June 2-day trainings were conducted in 9 settlements. In total 179 active citizens, 102 women and 77 men, attended to the trainings. On April 16-17, 2015 a 2-day training was offered to the Heads of Imereti municipalities and public relations officers in hotel "Tskaltubo Plaza", town of Tskaltubo. Natia Sirabidze was invited to conduct the training, where 26 participants attended, including 12 Heads of Imereti Municipalities/Mayors. 13 of the trainees were women and 13 men. As a result of the nine trainings, nine action plans were developed that aimed at solving problems. The following problems were identified: electricity metering, maintenance of internal road surface, rehabilitation of the sewerage system, household waste

collection and removal, kindergarten rehabilitation, natural gas system installation, bank protection works. On the request of village Tskhunkuri population the project team prepared an official letter to Energo-pro Georgia enquiring about the exact schedule of metering. Kutiri inhabitants with the help of the project team prepared a letter to Socar Georgia and addressed the local self-governance with a request for information concerning rehabilitation of the sewerage system. Similar letters were prepared by Gogni inhabitants. Collection of signatures is in progress and on submission of these letters the copies will be forwarded to the project team. Other activities are planned for the next reporting period.

In the frame of the project seven television programs were produced and shown on TV as well as uploaded to the organization Facebook page and YouTube.

1. Jvarisa, Tkibuli Municipality - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xh6kpjw-3UU
2. Dzirula, Zestafoni Municipality - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tUJs1U53h_I
3. Kutiri, Khoni Municipality - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0DdEpLtN8Lw
4. Etseri, Samtredia Municipality - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vMGnevdEvk4
5. Tskhunkuri, Tskaltubo Municipality https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZHNZUooMyP8&list=PLa7IKT6pxqlGVrTMtYDzfyvwA7HmwB1Us&index=1 (from 13:51)
6. Rokhi, Bagdadi Municipality - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WVQ9sQP4Q-8&list=PLa7IKT6pxqlGVrTMtYDzfyvwA7HmwB1Us&index=7 (from 9:03)
7. Gogni, Terjola Municipality - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y-bvkBXEBt0&list=PLa7IKT6pxqlGVrTMtYDzfyvwA7HmwB1Us&index=9 (from 7:45)

Also in the frame of the project TV Company Rioni started a series of TV programs in April. These programs were shown live on TV Rioni and the following 25 public officials participated:

- Inga Beridze – Advisor to the Head of Kharagauli Municipality,
- Maka Shukakidze – Specialist of Public Relations Department of Sachkhere Municipality,
- Eliso Jikia – Administrative Procedures Specialist of Khoni Municipality,
- Zeinab Khachidze – Assistant Head of Tskaltubo Municipality,
- Otar Kashibadze – First Deputy Head of Khoni Municipality,
- Ilia Kuparadze - Head of the Infrastructure and Supervision Department of Khoni Municipality,
- Alexander Dadunashvili - Assistant Head of Tskaltubo Municipality,
- Mamuka Makaridze - Head of the Infrastructure Department of Tskaltubo Municipality,
- Shalva Jishkariani - Deputy Head of Tkibuli Municipality,
- Mirza Khidasheli – Chief specialist of Imereti Reginonal Administration,
- Giorgi Jugheli - Head of the Infrastructure and Supervision Department of Zestafoni Municipality,
- Irakli Gegeshidze - Head of Bagdati Municipality,
- Valeri Potskhveria - Head of Samtredia Municipality,
- Temur Kochiashvili - First Deputy Head of Terjola Municipality,
- Naomi Sardaladze - Deputy Head of Terjola Municipality,
- Ioseb Khakahaleishvili - Vice-Governor of Imereti Region

All the programs have been uploaded to the TV Rioni webpage and YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLa7IKT6pxqlGVrTMtYDzfyvwA7HmwB1Us

Eleven programs have been produced so far and 74 people (25 officials and 49 local citizens) have taken part in the discussions.

4. Mobilized Civil Society for Local Democracy

The project is implemented in partnership with National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia (NALAG) and European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA). The project aims at mobilizing civil society and building capacity of regional civil society organizations for local democracy. The project is funded with EU support and spans the period of July 1, 2014 – June 1, 2016.

The following activities are planned in order to achieve the project goals:

- A study of civil society organizations (CSOs) will be carried out in cooperation with the National Association of Local Authorities.
- A report based on the findings of the study will be prepared.
- Community leaders will be identified in settlements throughout Georgia; the outcome will be a list of 500 citizens who will take part in the project's capacity building component.
- The organization will select participants for trainer training organized together with ALDA.
- Those who complete trainer training will conduct trainings in a number of municipalities.
- A list of contact persons containing data of 1100 individuals will be compiled.
- The organization will employ special mechanisms to ensure free exchange of information among contact persons and take on a role of a resource centre (using social networks, web portal www.genius-loci.ge).
- With the help of contact persons, information meetings with population will be organized concerning the issues of local self-governance reform.

The following activities were implemented in the frame of the project in the reporting period:

In the first year implementation of the activities planned in all three components of the project started simultaneously. By the end of the first year the following activities had been implemented:

- a national conference organized;
- 4-day trainer training held with 72 participants in total;
- 3-day training for civil society representatives held with 1125 citizens in total;
- Facebook page and web portal created;
- three press-conferences organized;
- EU –Georgia leaflet produced.

The way forward for reforms in the housing sector: empowering grass-root homeowners associations in Azerbaijan, Belarus, Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine

Together with international partners "Housing Initiative for Eastern Europe" (IWO) implements the project "The way forward for reforms in the housing sector: empowering grass-root homeowners associations in Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine". The three-year project aims, through the establishment of 10 technical assistance centres, to improve housing management and to promote energy efficiency refurbishment of residential buildings in the partner countries. The opening event took place on July 29, 2015 in the Georgian Parliament in Tbilisi.

In all countries involved, the housing sector is one of the primary concerns. Especially multi-storey apartment buildings, built as blocks, are in poor condition. The reasons for the large refurbishment backlog are manifold: inefficient housing administration, inadequate financial resources, lack of expertise and political support.

To overcome these obstacles the project has the following objectives:

- To promote housing management and energy-efficient refurbishment and also barrier-free living in multi-storey apartment buildings.
- To understand limitations and opportunities to implement energy efficient measures in the housing stock in Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.
- To support the national housing reforms and to strengthen the civil society organizations' (CSOs) role as watchdog.
- To implement capacity-building measures by trainings, workshops, seminars and study tours.

- To improve professionalism, organisational as well as institutional capacities of CSOs, in order to respond to calls for proposals.
- To improve the interaction between CSOs and authorities at the national, regional and local level.
- To encourage the CSOs to actively participate in policy-making processes promoting the ideas of multi-level participatory governance and enabling housing associations to become key stakeholders in development planning.
- To strengthen the cooperation between German and international organizations.

The project will support the residents, often being the apartment owners, to organize an effective administration. Although in some partner countries, the residents have to organize the administration by law, in reality residential buildings are often managed by the state administration companies. But the work of these companies is a permanent point of criticism, as they often lack transparency and qualified personnel. This results is a great need for a strong system of information dissemination and technical assistance to help homeowners form and operate homeowners' associations (HOAs) and to improve their situation. HOAs need structure and a system of support if they want to be sustainable. For this purpose, it is necessary to establish and to strengthen technical assistance centres, which will support relevant target groups in order to improve and increase their knowledge on housing issues.

NGOs in the field of housing sector (HOAs, social counselling centers, universities, etc.) can participate in a public tendering procedure and receive financial and technical assistance to establish or strengthen technical assistance centres.

Tasks and objectives of Technical Assistance Centres (TACs) are:

- to increase the knowledge and awareness of citizens about their rights in the property, principles and activities of homeowners' associations (HOAs)
- to organize and conduct seminars and trainings on topics, such as the establishment and running of HOAs
- regular telephone consultation hours "Hotline"
- to provide training for HOAs accountants
- to support the organization, implementation and participation (if necessary) of HOAs' meetings
- individual consulting and training of local residents
- bundling of proposals from NGOs, HOAs in the development of recommendations for changes in legislation
- dissemination of best practices by HOAs in the partner towns
- establishing links with international foundations and organizations in partner cities for the purpose of organizational and financial support of HOAs

Project partners in Georgia include Charity Humanitarian Centre "Abkhazeti" -Tbilisi, Civil Society Institute - Batumi, Local Democracy Agency Georgia - Kutaisi.

5. Vision of New Generation

Implementation of this Council of Europe funded project started from July 2015 in partnership with Georgian Young Lawyers' Association and Central Election Commission. The project aims to increase participation of young women at the local level, their involvement in public, political life, electoral processes and to promote youth participation and interest in elections.

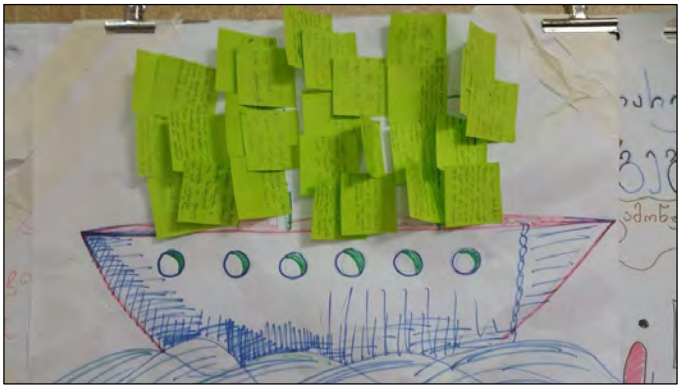
In the frame of the project LDA Georgia made presentations in Kutaisi, Batumi and Zugdidi attracting 66 students in total. Ten active young women were selected in each location (Kutaisi, Batumi and Zugdidi). The selected participants successfully completed the "Election

Development School - 2015" organized by the Central Election Commission. Memoranda of cooperation were signed with Kutaisi Akaki Tsereteli State Univeristy, Zugdidi Shota Meskhia State University and Batumi Shota Rustaveli State University and three initiative groups were created on the basis of these higher educational institutions.

As part of the project "Vision of New Generation" LDA Georgia organized a training on gender and minority rights in Batumi on September 5-6, 2015. The first day of the training conducted by Madona Basiladze, Public Defender's regional representative, focused on gender equality and minority rights. Equal attention was given to both theoretical material and practical activities. After making initial introductions and working out the rules, the participants stated their expectations and at the end of the training their comments showed that these expectations had been fully met. The trainees found out more about human rights and freedoms, became familiar with the concept of discrimination and its types, watched videos on gender issues and tried to apply this knowledge in practical activities.

The topic of the second day of the training was women's participation in politics and the session was led by Nino Tvaltvadze, Executive Director of LDA Georgia. Following the review of history and statistics of women's political engagement the participants performed a workshop activity identifying problems and solutions in this area. The trainer also briefly reviewed Georgian legislation concerning gender equality. Training participants worked out their own personal development plans that were sealed in envelopes. They will return to their authors in a year's time. Some organizational issues connected with the project were discussed. The participants were awarded with certificates after completing this extremely informative 2-day training, which received an overwhelmingly positive feedback.

In the reporting period the young women organized three public discussions on the following topics: "Women in politics with or without quota", "Gender, women and elections", "Gender equality, elections". Over 100 students, NGO representatives and academic staff took part in the discussions. Seven more public discussions are planned for future in the frame of the project. The project finishes in December, 2015.



OTHER ACTIVITIES

1. Trainings for SOS children village

In May-June 2015 LDA Georgia and Association SOS Children's Villages Georgia signed an agreement envisaging trainings on children's rights for children living in small family-type homes of Children's Village Kutaisi programme. Madona Basiladze, Public Defender's Representative was invited to conduct the trainings. During the training the children received information about the adoption of the "Convention on the Rights of a Child" and its importance. The discussion focused on the rights to life, development, protection and participation. The children were also informed about the Public Defender as a mechanism to protect children's rights. They got involved in a variety of activities according to their age, interests and wishes.

Trainings were held in the following homes:

1. May 26, 2015 – a small family-type home in Sachkhere, address: village Bajiiti, Sachkhere– 8 children attended
2. May 30, 2015 - a small family-type home in Zestafoni, address: village Kvaliti, Zestafoni– 6 children attended
3. May 31, 2015 - a small family-type home in Khoni, address: 28, Khvichia St., Khoni, – 7 children attended
4. June 5, 2015 - a small family-type home in Ambrolauri, address: 8 Tsereteli St., Ambrolauri - 6 children attended
5. June 19, 2015 - a small family-type home in Chkhorotsku, address: 24 Shengelia St., Chkhorotsku - 6 children attended
6. June 19, 2015 - a small family-type home in Tsalenjikha, address: village Mazandara, Tsalenjikha - 7 children attended
7. June 19, 2015 - a small family-type home in Tsalenjikha, address: 20 Dadiani St., Tsalenjikha - 5 children attended

Also, on June 1, 2015 a training on children's rights was conducted in a small family-type home in Kutaisi (address: 17, Dadiani St., Kutaisi). 8 children attended the training. An animation on legal order was also shown, and then they took part in the discussion. The meeting was co-facilitated by Madona Basiladze and Nino Tvaltvadze, Executive Director of LDA Georgia.

On June 1, children from small family-type homes in Kutaisi received McDonald's products to celebrate the *International Day for Protection* of *Children*.

All the family-type homes that hosted the trainings received information booklets from Public Defender "Mandate of the Public Defender of Georgia" and "Children's Rights under the Convention" as well as Dictionaries of Civic Education.

During the meetings, the children expressed their wish to be involved again in similar meetings on the topics of child abuse, age of criminal responsibility for minors, equal rights and protection of personal data.

2. International and Trans-border Cooperation:

- **LDA Georgia – LDA Armenia**

On September 7-9, 2014, a delegation from LDA Georgia visited Gyumri, Armenia the city where the Local Democracy Agency Armenia is based. The delegation consisted of: Nino Tvaltvadze, Executive Director of LDA Georgia; Nodar Jikia, Kutaisi Branch Program Director, Young Lawyers' Association of Georgia; and Zviad Javakhia, Head of Administration, Kutaisi City Hall.

The visit proved to be interesting and productive. The delegation members met with their partners from LDA Armenia and discussed plans for future cooperation. They also took part in a Council of Europe seminar on local self-government.

- **Strasburg –Lead Partner**

In the reporting period the Executive Director of LDA Georgia made a number of visits to Strasburg.

In November 2014, Nino Tvaltvadze attended the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities. She was also invited to Strasbourg Club meeting and to the World Forum for Democracy, where she presented information about LDA Georgia's ongoing and completed projects.

In December 2014, on the invitation of the Council of Europe the Executive Director of LDA Georgia took part in the closing study visit of the COE project in Georgia "Electoral assistance to Georgia ahead of parliamentary (2012), presidential (2013) and local (2014) elections". This fruitful visit prepared the ground for future cooperation with the Council of Europe.

3. World Forum on Local Economic Development

On October 15, the Executive Director of LDA Georgia took part in the 3rd World Forum on Local Economic Development (LED Forum). In discussions with representatives of other Eastern Partnership countries she spoke about the projects implemented by the organization and the issues of local self-governance in Georgia. The session was organized by ALDA. The World Forum took place in Turin, Italy on October 13-16 and gathered over 2000 participants from 130 countries.

4. ALDA's 15th Anniversary

Executive Director of LDA Georgia – Nino Tvaltvadze attended the 15th anniversary of ALDA which was held in Podgorica, Montenegro. The event was very important for the LDA Georgia, because it was a chance to get to know other members of ALDA and operational Agencies.

5. Youth Exchange Programme - Erasmus +

In 2015 LDA Georgia was involved as a partner in the implementation of two Erasmus+ youth exchange projects.

- **"All the ways we…"** – Youth exchange project which took place in Lecce between 17 and 23 June, 2015. Participants included Nino Tvaltvadze, Executive Director of LDA Georgia; Tamar Ebralidze, Legal practitioner, Akaki Tsereteli State University Law Clinic; and Nino Khukhua, Head of Zugdidi Branch, Young Lawyers' Association of Georgia. The trainings aimed to reduce and help to eradicate discrimination, support personal development, provide information on inclusion and discrimination, encourage discussion and improve practical skills. There were 31 participants of the training, who represented Georgia, Azerbaijan, Moldova, Spain, Slovakia, Romania, Malta, Hungary and Italy.

- **"EYES - European Youth Environment Sentinels"** – A project implemented by ALDA, which aimed to put the civic participation of young Europeans at the service of health and environment. An international seminar organized for this purpose gathered representatives of many countries, including two participants from Georgia: Maka Tsertsvadze, Lawyer, Kutaisi Branch of Young Lawyers' Association of Georgia and Teona Golodze, Akaki Tsereteli State University staff member. The training helped to identify the major health and environmental problems and it focused on non-formal learning methods. The seminar was held in Vicenza, Italy on June 22-28, 2015.

LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCY KOSOVO

Delegate: Elbert Krasniqi

Established: in 2011
Partners: Association Trentino con i Balcani, Italy (The Lead partner, which helped financing and organizing the activities mention below); Municipality of Peja/Pec, Kosovo (Host city); Amici dei bambini, Italy and Kosovo; RTM Region Third World, Italy and Kosovo; Only Equal Rights Association S.U.D, Italy; ALFA Formation, France; Municipality of Yalova, Turkey; Association of Municipalities of Kosovo AKM.

Priorities:
- To promote the Local Democracy Agency of Kosovo and the local democracy related to the European Integration processes.
- To promote and strengthen the social areas regarding the youth, culture and equal opportunities.
- To foster dialogues among different communities in Kosovo.
- To improve the economic development.
- To support logistics for the LDA's partners.

Established in 2011, with the purpose to foster opportunities of meetings and constructive dialogue with the aim to improve relationships and the coexistence among communities through a shared reflection on the past, present and the future, in a perspective of conflict elaboration and transformation.

LDA Kosovo, has also gained relevant experience on how to improve the collaboration of different communities in Kosovo's society, within a regional perspective through an exchange of cultural and intellectual reflections. LDA Kosovo, by summing up the great results, strongly believes that using the culture as a tool on building bridges between communities in local and regional perspective, will bring general improvements of its citizens, and the key role of local democracy in a society.

❖ Projects in 2015

Some of the main projects implemented by LDA Kosovo, in 2015, were:
- Balkan regional platform for youth participation and dialogue – in which LDA Kosovo dedicated most of its attention and which introduced a combination of upgraded successful activities, that made us gain new strategies to manage the activities involving the youth actively and also made us achieve our goals and improvements for the future.
- Balkan animation 2015.
- Youth camps – making possible the participation of the youth from Italy and the youth of organisations in Kosovo in educational and formative activities.
- The conference on the protection of children's rights, named "*Peja child friendly city*" based on the in the framework of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

1. Project Balcanimazioni 2015

The project Balcanimazioni 2015, was a project implemented in Kosovo, organized by Local Democracy Agency of Kosovo, Associazione Trentino con I Balcani, in cooperation with Italian and Kosovo local partners. The participants were representatives from ATB, DSF and 10 young people from Coop Arianna and 20 NPU youth.

The Balcanimazioni 2015 summer camp took place from the 22 July – 09 August, and was divided in 3 main parts:

a. The first training (23 - 25 July 2015)

On July 23, in Pejë/Peć begins the training dedicated to 20 NPU volunteers in preparation to their active participation in the summer camp that will consist on entertainment activities with about 100 children of Xhamail Kada School, in the Shtat Shtatori district. The training, run by ATB and Cooperative Arianna, was meant to provide some necessary tools for activities that young volunteers will propose, in collaboration with Docenti Senza Frontiere, to the children of the school.

b. The summer camp (27 July - 08 August 2015)

On 27th July, the summer camp formally started by "Everybody at School...Also in Shtat Shtatori project". The summer camp was organized by Docenti Senza Frontiere in collaboration with Associazione Trentino con i Balcani, Cooperativa Arianna and NPU. Five Italian teachers, 20 young Kosovars (NPU) and 10 young from Cooperativa Arianna animated the two-week animation camp, with 100 children of Shtat Shtatore district.

The activities:

09.00-13.00 – Animation in the school with children divided in 4 classes (1. age 5-7; 2. age 7-9; 3. age 9-11; 4. age 11-13). DSF teachers leaded classes with the support and mediation of NPU volunteers. The activities were related with art, creativity and sport. Mid-morning snack and lunch were provided to children thanks to Cooperativa Arianna volunteers' support.

14.00-16.00 – NPU volunteers and DSF teachers were involved in the afternoon training during which they debated some issues related to the activities in the morning and coordinated for the activities of the following day.

The course dedicated to the 20 NPU volunteers was called "Becoming a Youth Worker: Building Competences". It consisted of a training and working practice, during which the volunteers had the opportunity to deal theoretically with educational and animation techniques used during the summer camp and to experience them first-hand, with the help of DSF and Cooperative Arianna. This training, was provided as part of Stand Hub! Project, and aimed to provide participants with skills that they can further apply in their working life.

Saturday 01 August – Mid-camp party: outdoor activities and games for children in the school yard

Saturday 08 August – Final party: with a final show with children singing and dancing. Parents were invited.

c. Cooperativa Arianna (27 July - 01 August 2015)

Ten young volunteers from Italy were involved to take part into the project. They were involved by Cooperativa Arianna, which follows the summer camp since 2007, in cooperation with ATB. This was the occasion to put in contact young people from Italy and Kosovo and to allow them to take part in the organizational activities of the summer camp and also in the activities done in the school. Cooperativa Arianna volunteers also took care of the creation of TG Balcanimazioni. Every day a 10 minutes video was created, telling all

the news and events of the day. They reported images of Kosovo, images of the activities, interviews to DSF and to NPU participants. All videos are a complete and interesting "report" of the activities done.

2. "Everybody at School...Also in Shtat Shtatori" - The Project

Docenti Senza Frontiere in cooperation with ATB proposed the EVERYBODY AT SCHOOL...ALSO IN SHTAT SHTATORI project, which with a 2-year duration, will encompass teachers and schools in Peja and in Trento. The project aims to promote reduction of early school leaving and the processes of social inclusion of pupils in Xhemail Kada School. In particular, it aims at supporting and strengthening school teachers on some specific issues, mainly dealing with by the *Action Plan for Integration of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in Kosovo (2009-2015)* developed by the government of Pristine. It intends to act both at the educational level and with families and the community, with the aim to promote those socio-economic inclusion processes necessary to promote local development. That is why the project involves key local partners, such as the Municipality of Pejë/Peć and the ATB (TcK) who have been working since many years with the school in Shtat Shtatore.

The project foresees therefore not only the organization of an animation summer camp, but also a training for teachers, an annual workshop of storytelling and fairy tales belonging to the heritage of all cultures present in Kosovo, an annual workshop on human rights and childhood rights and a series of initiatives and socio-cultural appointments addressed to Shtat Shtatore district and to Xhamail Kada School.

Moreover, another important activity that ATB promoted in partnership with the Municipality of Pejë/Peć, was a conference in occasion of children's rights day 20th November, occurring in the 26th anniversary of approval of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by the UN General Assembly. The conference was the final appointment of a day full of activity:

- November 20th at the Center for independent life
- November 20th at the Xhemail Kada school
- Workshop at the high school Bedri Pejani
- Meeting at the Xhemail Kada School (linked with the Everybody at school...also in Shtat Shtatore project)

3. "Peja – Child-friendly city" - The conference

The conference entitled "*Peja – Child-friendly city*", through the various interventions hosted, wanted to launch a challenge and open a path that makes Pejë/Peć city even closer to the needs and rights of children.

The conference was opened with the greetings of the President of the Council of the Municipality of Pejë/Peć, Mr. Islam Husaj. After an initial introduction on the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, Mr. Husaj remember that the Kosovo constitution adopts these principles and underlines the commitment of the municipalities in respect of these principles. Acknowledgment and greetings of Mrs. Laura Bettini, President of ATB, followed. In her speech, Mrs. Bettini framed the rights of the child in the broader universal declaration of human rights and recalled the example of Malala, the Pakistani girl who has suffered an attack for its commitment in affirmation of civil rights and especially the right to education of all children. Commitment to human rights means ultimately to decline local policies in terms of environmental, economic sustainability, liveability and well-being in a convergence of development and solidarity, she maintained.

Following, the intervention of Massimiliano Pilati, president of the Trentino Forum for Peace and Human Rights. The President emphasized the right to participate, referring to the workshop that took place with 40 students of the Gymnasium Bedri Pejani in the past few days, a commitment that has positively amazed because of the high participation and commitment of the young students involved in discussing this issue.

The Director of the Istituto Comprensivo Aldeno e Mattarello, Mrs. Antonietta Decarli, emphasized that the Declaration "is the foundation for building a Child Friendly City, the prerequisite for making of a city and a territory, an educational community". Danila Buffoni, president of DSF, linked to the speech of Mrs. Decarli, spoke about the project “Everybody at school...also in Shtat Shtatore” promoted by ATB and DSF associations and Xhemail Kada school in Pejë/Peć. She highlighted that the project activities are targeted at supporting processes of inclusion and active participation of all students in the school, and at supporting, among the others, the strengthening sense of belonging to their community, in favour of a more and more child-friendly city. The intervention of the director of Xhemail Kada School, Mr. Niman Alia, was next. He gave an overview of the activities connected to the project and implemented in the school, noting the steps taken by the school in the direction of an increasing attention to the rights of the children.

Following, the Director of education of the Municipality of Pejë / Peć, Mr. Besim Avdimetaj took the floor. He took part in October in the study visit organized in Trentino as part of the project “Everybody at school...also in Shtat Shtatore. The Director reiterated the importance of making Pejë/Pec a child-friendly city, ensuring institutional support to this important process.

The final intervention was that of Vllaznim Krasniqi, President of NPU Association. NPU is an association of young people, which has been working for many years with ATB in the organization and realization of summer camps at the school in Shtat Shtatori. The association, in collaboration with Save the Children, will take care for next year of a project whose goal is to build the registry of some schools attended by children belonging to minorities, who are often not formally registered. Vllaznim Krasniqi pointed out the importance for NPU volunteers of the experiences made during the summer camps, both in the past and during the last summer camp organized in cooperation with ATB and DSF.

Mr. Maurizio Camin, ATB director, closed the conference recalling the interventions of all speakers. Mr. Camin reiterated the importance of building a child-friendly city through real and concrete action, referring in particular to the school of Shtat Shtatori, which worked for years with ATB. He underlined the key role of participation processes such as that stimulated through the workshop organized at the Gymnasium Bedri Pejani. In view of making Pejë/Peć a more and more child-friendly city, the director took up the invitation of President Bettini turning it to the Municipality of Pejë/Peć. The invitation was related to think about the municipal planning and budgeting based on a lowest common denominator built on indicators and benchmarks which take account of the world of youth participation, ensuring in practice both the respect of children's rights and the real participation of the youth.

The conference brought together the interventions of Pejë/ Peć and Trentino actors who contributed for many years through projects and building relationships to activate processes of support, attention and participation of children and young people in the life of the community, aimed at making Pejë/ Peć concretely a child-friendly city. The day was exactly dedicated to that and to the memory of Rossana.

4. November 20th at the Centre for independent living and Xhemail school Kada

The conference of 20th November was just the last activity of a full day dedicated to the Declaration of the Rights of the Child and Adolescent. The Xhemail Kada School organized, in cooperation with DSF, an open doors day. Student's families were invited to school to see a dancing and singing show organized by the school with the children, but also to start sharing some stories and fairy tales that will be collected in a short book, as activity foreseen by the project from the project Everybody at school...also in Shtat Shtatore.

Also the Centre for an Independent Life, the centre in Pejë/ Peć that works with disabled people and that cooperates with ATB, celebrated this anniversary in a special way. In the sunny space in front of the centre, the users of the centre exposed the products they have created during the year. They also prepared music and dance moments. The director, Mrs. Fitore Haxhihasani, warmly welcomed guests from Trentino and told them about the Centre and its activities. The guests were also invited for some dancing activities.

5. Workshop at the high school Bedri Pejani

A special activity was organized on 18th, 19th and 20th November by ATB. It consisted of a three-day workshop with 40 students of the Gymnasium Bedri Pejani of Pejë/Peć. The workshop, coordinated by Mr. Maurizio Camin, aimed at discussing with young people the issue of youth participation. It was a successful project, considering the huge participation of the young participants. During the first meeting the discussion focused on the concept of participation and its forms in the life of the young people; they also discussed how much they perceive their opinions are listened to by adults and by the society they live in. During the second day of work,

the Declaration of the Rights of the Child and Adolescent was introduced and more technical elements, related to participation, were given. Participation was analyzed through Hart-scale of participation instrument. The students were divided into groups, with the task of writing for the 55th article of the Declaration exactly on the issue of participation.

During the last meeting, which was also attended by Massimiliano Pilati, participants were again divided into groups to simulate the presentation and possible acceptance of Article 55 by the International Court. The young participants identified their roles in an exemplary manner, making the simulation particularly interesting and emphasizing the importance of listening to young people. The event was closed with the awarding of diplomas and the proposal to continue in this path. An important contribution was given by Vullnet Gusia, of Youth Center and Stand Hub! of Pejë/Peć.

6. Everybody at school...also in Shtat Shtatore

Everybody at school...also in Shtat Shtatore is the project promoted by Teachers without Borders, in collaboration with ATB and with the contribution of the Autonomous Province of Trento, which aims at facilitating the reduction of early school leaving and social inclusion processes of the pupils of the school Xhemail Kada of Pejë/ Peć. This is achieved by supporting and strengthening educational activities of the school teachers. The purpose of the project is to reduce segregation and school dropout, providing educational and operational tools that allow to update the educational offer of the school and to promote the inclusion and motivation of marginalized students.

The project started with the Summer Camp 2015 made at the Xhemail Kada School. The field has involved 6 Teachers without Borders, 20 young members of NPU, 10 young Arianna Cooperative of Trento and 150 children between 6 and 15 who took part in the activities. The activities organized at the school in the afternoon followed a training course for young volunteers and organizing activities with Italian teachers.

In October, there was an educational exchange in Trentino which involved four teachers of Kosovars Xhemail Kada School, the Director of the school and Alderman, the Municipality of Pejë / Peć and 4 young youth workers of NPU.

These training sessions were aimed at providing the skills and the foundations for the creation of tools for school inclusion, constructive encounter between cultures and understanding of the 'other'. For example, with the use of the fairy tale tool, already used in some Italian contexts, to facilitate the creation of opportunities for interaction and reflection on the differences not

intended as a separation element but as a bridge between different cultures. The training course has hosted important meetings with experts in the global and inclusion education sector and institutional meetings with Trentino's related to the phenomenon in question to visit.

On the occasion of the visit of some DSF in Kosovo for the conference on 20 November, we organized update courses regarding the performance of the project and the collection of fairy tales. The next step were defined, for creating a booklet of fairy tales which will be used both in the Pejë / Peć schools and in Trentino. In order to give continuity to the training of teachers and intervention for children and the most disadvantaged young people, another summer camp in 2016 will be organized.

7. Kosovo, a country of young people

Kosovo is the youngest country in Europe. With a population of 1,780,000 inhabitants, the average age of the population is 30.2 years and approximately 40% of the population is under 18 years. The policies on childhood and adolescence have therefore a very large impact on the population. Although the country is going through a stage of development, including in the areas of protection of children's rights and education, some problems persist. In the pre-school education field, Kosovo denotes the lowest frequency at European level and the percentage decreases further in the case of children from the most disadvantaged social groups, the minority children and children with disabilities. Important is also the phenomenon of school drop-outs, especially among the most disadvantaged classes. As for the field of children's rights protection, the European Union's progress report underlines the need to strengthen both, the security services of children's rights and other mechanisms for coordination, and the management of these services. To help preventing and protecting children from all forms of violence, particular attention must be put in the most disadvantaged groups and in the rights protection coordination.

LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCY MONTENEGRO

Delegate: Kerim Medjedovic

Established: in 2001
Partners: Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region, Italy (Lead partner); Municipality of Nikšić, Montenegro (Host city); Municipality of Kotor, Montenegro; Municipality of Rozaje, Montenegro; Union of Municipalities of Montenegro; Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Montenegro; Association Betton-Montenegro, France; City of Neuchatel, Switzerland

Priorities:
- Local administration capacity development
- Human rights and peace building
- Youth participation
- Local economical development
- European Union integration processes

❖ Projects in 2015

1. Local coalitions for community development - LCCD

LEAD PARTNER: European Association for Local Democracy - ALDA
OTHER PARTNERS: PALGO Centre Serbia, Local Democracy Agency Subotica – Serbia, Local Democracy Agency Nis – Serbia.
ASSOCIATE PARTNERS: Municipalities of Nikšić, Kotor, Rožaje, Ulcinj and Bijelo Polje.

DONOR: Delegation of the European Union to Montenegro (IPA 2011 Civil Society facility development programme)
TIMING: December 2012 – June 2015

PURPOSES:
To help strengthening the capacity of community based organisations for service provision to citizens. To help improving capacity of CSOs for participation in policy/decision making and raise awareness of CSO initiated actions. To develop capacity of CSOs for cross-sectoral partnership building and reinforce the role of CSOs as a relevant stakeholder in public administration reform and EU approximation process. To contribute with the strengthening and sustaining of the role of CSOs in community development through training and networking for policy reforms.

ACTIVITIES:
- EU standards of good governance at local level – series of training seminars for CSOs and local authorities.
- Citizen participation in policy and decision making at local level – series of local public debates in six municipalities.
- Building local capacities for EU project development and implementation – series of trainings for local CSOs.

- Sub-granting Programme for local CSOs.
- Information campaign and networking activities.

SUCCESSES STORIES: Sub-granting program has been fully realized, and sub-grantees implemented project activities in their communities with support of ALDA and LDA. Capacities and skills of local CSO for the cooperation at local level, for project development and for building partnerships with other institutions have been enhanced, as well as capacities for participation and civil dialogue have been developed. This project improved public awareness and role of the CSOs in local community development. Visible and tangible results and lasting impact of 8 projects were presented through documentary films.

2. Centre for Social Economy Development - CRSE

LEAD PARTNER: COSM – Cooperativa Salute Mentale, Italy
OTHER PARTNERS: Interland – Consorzio per l'Integrazione ed il lavoro(Italy), NGO Sjore od mota Kotor (Montenegro)

DONNOR: Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region
TIMING: April 2014 – June 2016

PURPOSES: Development of the social economy and social entrepreneurship in Montenegro. The project aims to provide start up process for the new social enterprises in Montenegro, and to provide support and strengthen the organizations that perform activities having the elements of the social economy, as examples of best practices that will contribute to legal regulation of this area. Promotion of the inclusion of vulnerable groups (especially youth) into the economical processes and development in their communities.

ACTIVITIES:
- Creation of a feasibility study that underlines the strategic determinants of the government regarding the possibility, the mode and the resources necessary for creating strategy and structure dedicated to the social entrepreneurship development in Montenegro.
- Planning, organizing and setting up an agency/service centre for the start up support, training and the development of the social enterprises in Montenegro.
- Activities of sensitizing the public and state institutions, and the civil society organizations on the topic of social economy.
- Realization of the training courses for the establishment, planning, setting up and management of the social enterprise.
- Exchange of the best practices between FVG and Montenegro on topic of social economy.

SUCCESSES STORIES: The Center for the development of social economy is established and functional. Results of the work of the center have quickly become visible, with the creation of the feasibility study for development of social economy in Montenegro, and the organization of series of workshops and seminar for the promotion of social economy. Center tends to develop cooperation among actors that are promoting social economy or have social entrepreneurship activities. The Memorandum of cooperation among the stakeholders is produced and the network for this cause is being established. A number of production and services activities- new cooperatives is launched.

3. TITLE: "Balkan regional platform for youth participation and dialogue"

LEAD PARTNER: European Association for Local Democracy - ALDA
OTHER PARTNERS: Local Democracy Agency Mostar, Local Democracy Agency Zavidovici, Local Democracy Agency Prijedor, Local Democracy Agency Subotica, LDA Central and Southern Serbia, Local Democracy Agency Kosovo, European Association for Local Democracy – ALDA SKOPJE

DONNOR: European Commission; Program: Civil Society Facility Operating Grants to IPA CSO Associations; Cofounded by Ministry of finance Montenegro
TIMING: January 2015 - ongoing

PURPOSES: To contribute in structuring regional thematic cooperation and coordination between CSO and public authorities from targeted countries, in order to improve the environment for youth activism and participation, in particular of young people with fewer opportunities.

ACTIVITIES:
- Network coordination and management of activities.
- Network capacity building.

- Awareness raising and visibility actions.
- Exchange of good practice among the region countries.
- Research and analysis.

SUCCESSES STORIES: Within this project the regional platform for dialogue between public authorities and civil society has been established. This platform works on analysis, monitoring, capacity building, practicing and promotion of youth participation and social inclusion of young people. It has strengthened the capacities of youth from targeted countries for active citizenship and participation at policy and decision making processes. Inclusion of youth with fewer opportunities was increased in local and regional activities related to the promoting of good practices of youth participation. The focus of public authorities in targeted countries was increased, regarding the needs of youth in policy-making according to the EU standards.

4. Welcomes

LEAD PARTNER: Monfalcone Municipality
OTHER PARTNERS: Comune di Dolegna del Collio; Kotor Municipality, Comunita Nazionale ltaliana del Montenegro, LDA Subotica, Municipality of Subotica.

DONNOR: Autonomous Friuli Venezia Giulia Region
TIMING: May 2015 – December 2016

PURPOSES: To promote social cohesion, foster intercultural relations and institutional strengthening with the deployment of an integrated plan of action for the improvement of local social services for the younger generations and to the persons in distress, for educational programs and for the development of democratic participation with the involvement of civil society of the third sector.

ACTIVITIES:

- General coordination
- Social innovation actions
- Non-formal and informal education
- Intercultural initiatives
- Institutional strengthening
- Activities of dissemination

SUCCESSES STORIES: Establishment of "collective associations" to provide services regarding to youth problems. Implementation of psychosocial rehabilitation interventions; and realization of opened phone line for youth in risk. Establishment of Services Centre to support civil society organizations. Organization meetings to promote European citizenship.

5. T – Trust: training on Techniques and Research on Unemployment and School – leaving of Teenagers prevention

LEAD PARTNER: "Margherita" societa' cooperativa sociale - Italy
OTHER PARTNERS: Fundación Privada Indera – Spain, LDA Central and Southern Serbia, Association for Developing Voluntary Work Novo Mesto, Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities UBSSLA, Local Democracy Agency Osijek

DONNOR: Erasmus + Programme of the European Union
TIMING: February 2015 – February 2016

PURPOSES: To prevent early school leaving during the transition from the middle to the high school. To support the professional development of education professionals, training and youth with a view to innovate and improve the quality of youth activities across Europe. To integrated good practices and new methods into daily activities. To promote opened synergies with organizations active in the social, educational and employment fields. To improve competences, linked to the participants' professional profile. To broaden the understanding of practices, policies and systems in education, training and youth across countries. To promote a greater understanding of interconnections between formal and non-formal education. To increase the ability to address the needs of the disadvantaged.

ACTIVITIES:
T-TRUST is structured as follows:

a) Online steering committee – Preparation phase to present a first overview of all partners. The partners' representatives agreed on the methods and possible activities to implement, according to the economic, professional and cultural origin of participants.
b) Seminar for 'educators' - 5 working days in Sandrigo, Italy 23-27 June.
c) Follow-up activities – Done online, in the months following the seminar with all partner organizations. The goal is to share the impact of the training done, good practices implemented and/or limitations encountered when returning to the country of origin.

SUCCESSES STORIES: The participants of this training used the opportunity to interact with different professional figures as well as to learn new educational and relational methods and skills from different cultures. This, helped them to integrate best practices and new methods in daily activities regarding the prevention of early school leaving.

6. War and peace in Europe: (Only) a contradiction?

LEAD PARTNER: European Academy of Otzenhausen, Germany
OTHER PARTNERS: Maison de l'Europe des Yvelines, St Germain-en-Laye; BREZA Youth Association, Osijek

DONNOR: ASKO EUROPA-STIFTUNG, OFAJ DFJW, Stiftung Europische kultur und bildung, European Association for Local Democracy - ALDA
TIMING: April – November 2015

PURPOSES: To deconstruct the intrinsic dialectic of the terms "war and peace" through political-aesthetic education. To raise awareness for the complexity and the different ways in which the theme is perceived. To analyse the personal, cultural, historical and political influences behind these perceptions and emotions. To enhance information dissemination through a public event at the end of the project. To acquire and deepen social and creative skills (e.g. teamwork, communication). To enhance intercultural competences and raise the interest for other languages and cultures.

ACTIVITIES:
The main activities of this project are:

- Training with topic “War and peace in Europe: (Only) a contradiction?”
- Organization of public event with different kind of performance regarding on the project topic by training participants.

SUCCESSES STORIES: The project referred to history (French-German history, the history of the Balkans and the history of the European integration process) on one hand, and on current developments in Europe on the other hand. The participants discussed about to what extent the history of European Union can be considered a peace process and also, and to what extent is possible to speak of peace in today's EU and Europe. The participants were learning how to draw conclusions from the past for themselves and for society and how to become active in (civil) society within and for a "more peaceful" Europe.

In the one-week training course the participants launched a project, which represents their perspective on the topic of the seminar in a creative way. The "result/s" were presented to the public at a performance that took place following the youth seminar. This event was organized in a former industrial area in Saarbrücken (Römerkastell), in addition to the performances prepared by young at this event, other civil society actors (musicians, photographers, dancers, youth groups etc.) took their part, and they presented their views on the theme of the project.

7. Beingpreneur, Be business, Man!

LEAD PARTNER: Open Doors
OTHER PARTNERS: Erasmus Plus (Albania), Council for Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (Macedonia) FYROM, Arhipera Association (Romania), Kecioren Municipality (Turkey), International Centre for Sustainable Development (Greece), Youth Activism Center (Kosovo), Club for Youth Empowerment 018 (Serbia)

DONNOR: Erasmus + Programme of the European Union
TIMING: May - November, 2015

PURPOSES:
To provide youth workers with knowledge on how to lead young people in their personal development. To highlight the role of the Key-Competencies within Youth pass for finding a job. To foster inclusion and empower youth workers who work with youngsters with fewer opportunities; to start new initiative toward youth entrepreneurship. To improve youth workers' competencies on fostering entrepreneurship initiatives of young people and promoting their active participation. To promote Entrepreneurship Education, sharing of knowledge, ideas & good practices among participants. To promote intercultural dialogue and valorising the active contribution of all participant. To provide knowledge on “Erasmus +” program on how to use international mobility experiences – EVS, youth exchanges as well as youth initiatives - as a tool to motivate young people and how to guide them in the project writing phase. To establish a network between all the participants.

ACTIVITIES:

- Implementation of a 9 days long Training Course.
- Visit to local NGOs, Mediterranean University of Albania.
- Meeting with Local government officers.
- Informal meeting with local young people.

SUCCESSES STORIES: The benefits of this project are settled in promotion of citizenship and active participation, and skills like better understanding between people, ability to work in teams and self- reflection, the sense of initiative, adaptability and self-confidence. It is also strengthen their social skills and background and enhancing them to be more confident to face the challenges of youth unemployment.

LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCY MOSTAR

Delegate: Dženana Dedić

Established: in 2004
Partners: Apulia region, Italy (Lead Partner); City of Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina (Host city), City of Monfalcone, Italy; Province of Brindisi, Italy; NGO IPSIA, Italy; City of Kragujevac, Serbia; Municipality of Vejle, Denmark

Priorities:

- Creating active citizenship by involving citizens in decision-making processes
- Building the capacities of local authorities for better local self-government
- Supporting youth activism and the position of women
- Strengthening partnership networks (national and international) to develop strong national and regional cooperation programmes

❖ Projects in 2015

1. Balkan regional platform for youth participation and dialogue

PARTNER: ALDA Skopje (FYROM)
CO-APPLICANTS: LDA Mostar, LDA Montenegro, LDA Zavidovici, LDA Prijedor, LDA Central Serbia, LDA Subotica, LDA Kosovo.

DONOR: European Commission
TIMING: 12 months

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: This one-year project submitted within the priority 5 – promotion of social and economic inclusion of age groups that risk marginalisation and in particular youngsters, as the Operating Grant intended to support the work of LDAs in the Western Balkan countries to contribute more effectively in structuring regional thematic cooperation and coordination between CSOs and public authorities from targeted countries and help improve environment for youth activism and participation, in particular of young people with fewer opportunities.

PURPOSES & ACTIVITIES: The first Project activities hosted by the LDA Mostar team members, consisted of the Steering group meeting, Regional Network meeting for consultations and preparing the draft Regional Co-operation Platform, combined with the trainings for youth engagement workers and the LDA Delegates from Western Balkan countries.

The main project activities include capacity building and thematic networking promote social and economic inclusion of age groups that risk marginalisation and in particular youngsters, and will be implemented by LDAs in the Western Balkan countries through structured regional thematic

cooperation engaging CSOs and public authorities to help improve environment for youth activism and participation, in particular of young people with fewer opportunities. Capacity building, knowledge and information share will serve as the main tools to strengthen youth groups for active citizenship and participation in policy / decision making at local level, but even more at regional level through monitoring the implementation of public policies towards EU integration of the Western Balkans. Specific attention will be given to awareness raising among policy and decision makers at regional and local level on EU standards and practices of youth participation and EU Programmes 2014-2020 intended for youth.

With this in view, the LDAs involved in the action will be working together and provide all necessary support to newly appointed Youth Engagement Workers (members of the Regional Youth Working Group) and Local Youth Advisory Groups to contribute to achieving the project results. In addition, the project enhances the preparation of the Regional Co-operation Platform for the adoption at the level of Regional Network group meeting.

2. ERASMUS + Youth with the Plan

LEAD PARTNER: LDA Mostar
DONOR: funded through the program ERASMUS +, K2, Capacity Building Youth - Western Balkans, EACEA.
TIMING: December 2015 – December 2016

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Project brings together 14 youth organizations from 10 countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia, Slovenia, Turkey, the Czech Republic, Romania, Italy and Belgium. The partnership on this project consists of organizations that advance had successful cooperation, together with the new organizations. Youth with the Plan project will be implemented in Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina).

PURPOSES: The project aims to build capacity of youth workers and project managers related to youth work, and their organizations', in order to develop high-quality international projects related to youth and youth work within the E + / YiA, which are in line with the priorities of the E + program, with all the necessary knowledge about quality preparation, implementation, evaluation and monitoring process after the implementation of activities.

ACTIVITIES: The main two activities are:
- The short meeting related to capacity building for project team.
- Seven days 'mobility' activity aimed at youth workers who already have experience with the program Youth in action (as participants or leaders), or who want to go a step further and develop their own international projects in their organizations. 33 youth workers from 10 countries and 14 youth organisations will be the participants.

THE ROLE OF LDA: LDA Mostar as the coordinator within the project brings together all the project partners and organise all the project activities, including administrative and finance project management and reporting.

3. Centre for Architecture, Dialogue and Art - ADA Mostar

Established within the LDA Mostar in April 2015 as an independent platform on which citizens, public institutions, associations and representatives of economic and social areas can meet and consume the city as a cultural expression through art and architecture beyond the theory.

Projects and activities of Centre ADA realised in 2015:

- **Mostar LAB**

More information: http://www.cadamostar.com/en/mostar-lab-project

It was a four-day laboratory, an experimental presentation of the Centre for Architecture, Dialogue and Art ADA Mostar. The goal of the program is to present the importance of the existence of an independent cultural and social platform in Mostar, through dialogue, practical work and exchange of experiences.

Through a colourful array of events from corporate social commitment, spatial planning "emerged" architecture, "expressive art" in the service of local community, educative work with children and youth, Mostar LAB sends a message: "The Physical and Spiritual matrix of the city depends of your personal involvement."

- **Summer school Urban Synapse**

More information: http://www.cadamostar.com/en/summer-school-results

Synapse is the place of communication between two neurons. This is where the signal is transmitted from one neuron to another. Applying this concept we suggest that the Centre for Architecture, Art and Dialogue – ADA Mostar is place for communication where all interested citizens, visitors, and enthusiasts can come and be part of the story, contributing with the process of reading and building the city itself.

The participants were 25 students from the Universities of Mostar, Sarajevo, Tokyo, Vienna, Zagreb and Belgrade. The Summer School produced a number of design proposals for ADA Centre: http://www.cadamostar.com/en/summer-school-results

An important part of Summer School program was the Public lecture by one of the world's most famous architects, prof. Kengo Kuma, who was also the President of the Jury of the Summer School.

- **Building Blocks**

More information: http://www.cadamostar.com/en/building-blocks-project
https://vimeo.com/142010559

"Building Blocks" is a program for the children and their ideas at the heart of contemporary architecture, developed by Fargfabriken, Foundation for contemporary Art and Architecture. It is a playful process that offers children an opportunity to turn their creative vision into reality. This is a new way of thinking and innovative educational methods, but above all, this program provides a concrete picture of how children can be involved in the process of creating a space in which they live.

- **ADA on the days of Mostar in Mikser, Savamala, Belgrade**

MIKSER is a multidisciplinary platform that encourages the development of the creative economy of the country and the region, and establish a dialogue between contemporary global trends and local and regional practices. ADA Centre has the honour and the opportunity to be part of the project entitled "Mostarske Kise in Savamala" with the exhibition of the Old Bridge, cultural heritage of Bosnia and Herzegovina, shows part of the exhibition "Patchwork of narratives-Mostar", the story of the city and its citizens told intertwined experiences of the past, present and future.

The exhibition was opened in the Mikser 6.11. 2015.

- **Caravan Next Creative Europe**

LDA Mostar is not partner, but will be the host of one event.

Activities in 2015:

- **Action: "How much per month you pay the government" in cooperation with Centre for public interest advocacy**
  Within the project "Public finances: public information to active citizens" financed by Open Society Fund (Sorosh), Foundation Centre for the Public Interest Advocacy (CPI) organized two-day street actions in 3 BH cities (Sarajevo , Banja Luka and Mostar). The action was

entitled "How much per month you pay the government?" LDA Mostar was a partner in the organization of the event in Mostar.

During the action the citizens had a chance to get the bill calculation that shows their personal financial allocations for the maintenance of government. The account shows that the citizen with an average salary in BiH who is not serving any family member, for the state allocates 51.89 % of its total revenue through contributions, income tax and VAT and that 189 days a year working for the state.

- **Integral development strategy of the City of Mostar**
  LDA Mostar actively participates in creation of the Integral development strategy of the City of Mostar. The process was initiated by UNDP program of support to local self-governments and implemented by the team of experts and the City of Mostar development team consists of 11 members of which one member is the LDA representative.

- **Pro – Future (Trust , Understanding , Responsibility for the Future) Program**
  It is a four-year USAID project aimed at building reconciliation and trust among citizens from all ethnic groups in BiH. Project activities will be implemented in 30 municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and will involve youth, NGOs, associations/organizations of women, religious groups, the media, and various levels of government institutions, which will together contribute to better coexistence of the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina. LDA Mostar representative is actively involved in organisation and realisation of all project activities, as the member of working group for the City of Mostar and Municipality of Nevesinje as the partner cities on this program.

LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCY PRIJEDOR

Delegate: Dragan Dosen

Established: in 2000
Partners: Association Project Prijedor, Italy (Lead partner); Municipality of Prijedor, Bosnia and Herzegovina (Host city); ALDA Office in Vicenza, Italy; Association Tavolo Trentino con Kraljevo, Serbia; Association Tavolo Trentino con il Kosovo, Kosovo

Priorities:
- Supporting citizen participation
- Supporting the democratic process at the local level
- Fostering the social network between citizens, organizations and institutions
- Supporting social inclusion and local economic development
- Contribution to the work on memory

❖ Projects in 2015

These two projects have been developed with the support of ALDA:

1. Balcan Regional Platform for Youth Participation and Dialogue

The Local Democracy Agency of Prijedor implemented the project "Balcan Regional Platform for youth participation and dialogue" during the year 2015. The project duration is one year, with the possibility of a further extension for three years, depending on the results obtained in each year.

The project is funded by the European Commission through the Civil Society Facility, Operating grants IPA CSO Associations, Support to regional thematic associations.

The leader of the project is ALDA (European Association for Local Democracy Agencies), while the co-applicants are the LDA offices in the Balkans. In addition to the City of Prijedor, the other members represent the municipalities and cities of: Zavidovići, Mostar, Skopje, Niksic, Subotica and Niš. The role of the members is to support the activities and actions by participating in different conferences, meetings and events taking place in the framework of the project. The City of Prijedor participate in the project as associate partner.

During the first year of the project the following activities were implemented:
- Identification of young people for the local group of leaders.
- Opening the information desk at the office LDA Prijedor.
- Participation in the training workshop in Serbia (Knjažeac).
- Carried out a study visit to the Parliament of Montenegro,
- Implemented the voluntary exchange (LDA volunteers from Prijedor were in Subotica and the Knjazevac volunteer was in Prijedor - helped the Municipality of Prijedor in the organization of the event Days of Poetry on Mount Kozara)

- Executed creative workshops for young people (art and painting workshops) and organized the exhibition works in the lapidary of the Museum of Prijedor and LDA office.
- Participation in the First Balkan Youth Forum for the promotion of local democracy in Subotica.
- Organised and implemented the laboratory of art “My city - City of youth”.
- Realized the visit of the Youth Council of high school students to the local parliament where they were able to know how the local government system works, focusing especially in the role it has in the creation of youth policy and how young people can realize their ideas with the support of the Municipality.
- Made a research to identify the problems and needs of young people today.
- Signed the Memorandum of Understanding between LDA Prijedor and Prijedor City on the establishment of a fund for young people which will finance at least two small youth initiatives.

2. Project Decide

From 8 to 11 June 2015 the LDA of Prijedor, within ALDA's network of LDAs in the Western Balkans, has oranised an international three-day conference, regarding the involvement of the associations of civil society in the decision-making process through the collaboration between civil society organizations, local authorities and other stakeholders. The aim was to encourage participation and dialogue with focus on enhancing the participation of all marginalized groups, especially young people.

This conference was the final stage of the European project DECIDE “Democratic-Compact: Improving Democracy in Europe" and is a key initiative for the promotion of citizen participation in social life and in decision-making at the local level. The conference gathered participants from twelve EU countries and the Western Balkans, including France, Italy, Denmark, Spain, Romania, Slovenia, Malta, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Croatia, Macedonia, Hungary and Albania. The conference also enriched the event Youth fair. SONVO 2015, that the LDA traditionally had been producing for the last six years.

* In addition to these two projects, the activities below were implemented within the three-year program 2014-2016 "Horizons of reciprocity toward Europe 2020" guided by the Association Progetto Prijedor, Partner leader of LDA Prijedor. Below the highlights and most important activities undertaken in the year 2015:

3. Project Youth and memories – summer camp

LEAD PARTNER: Associazione Progetto Prijedor, Trento, Italy
OTHER PARTNERS: International organization CISV Trento

DONNOR: Autonomous Province of Trento
TIMING: February 2015- January 2016

PURPOSES: The project provided a thematic summer camp for young people from Trentino and Bosnia, between 14 and 17 years, in line with the objectives set out in the three-year program. The year 2015 became of exchange and youth research on the theme "1914-2014. One hundred years after the outbreak of the first world war." The purpose of these exchanges of youth groups is indeed to act as real laboratories of good peer relationships, essential prerequisite on which to base further and more ambitious projects with the youth of Prijedor as protagonists that are aware, competent and recognized.

A group of 12 young people from Prijedor, aged 15 to 25, was in Trento during the period 7 to 14 July 2015. The aim was to exchange information with their peers from Trentino on the topic of shared history under the Austro-Hungarian Empire in the period the First World War.

At the same time, a research in the local area was done, where young people from Prijedor were based on the opening of the iron ore mine in Ljubija in the year 1916. During that time the local population of the area, had their fate tied to the mine. A large quantity of old photographs, biographical data, and oral stories, will be gathered in an outdoor exhibition, whose opening will be in the occasion of the centenary celebration of the opening of the mine, in the first half of August 2016.

ACTIVITIES:
During the year 2015 the activities are part of a project of cross-cultural education and peace education, and will involve twenty young people. These activities include:
- Formation of youth groups.
- Research and collection of materials (photos, documents, testimony) on the theme of the mine and the life of the population during the First World War.
- Exchange of experiences during the summer camp with peers from Trentino who worked on the same topic.
- Exchange family accommodation in Trento and Prijedor, for the group of youngsters from Trentino and Bosnia.

SUCCESSES STORIES:
- Offer experience of living in a multicultural society.
- Educate to listen, to dialogue.
- Take responsibility both in the ordinary and in the group management issues.
- Learn to be careful in reading the signs of history in the environment, society, and traditions.
- Open up a comparison with other people and other stories.
- Assume the knowledge that each of us has a role of responsibility in society.

4. SONVO 2015 Youth fair

LEAD PARTNER: Local democracy agency of Prijedor
OTHER PARTNERS: Youth association Info Point from Prijedor,

DONNOR: Municipality of Prijedor
TIMING: May 2015–June 2015

PURPOSES: The 6th international fair of youth organizations was created with the aim of presenting, networking, educating and improving the quality of youth organizations from Prijedor, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the other surrounding countries. This year's fair was held under the theme "Youth and networking".

The participants involved over 10 local youth organizations; and this year the event was also attended by international organizations from France, Italy, Denmark, Spain, Romania, Slovenia, Malta, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Croatia, Macedonia, Hungary and Albania. The participants gathered to attend an international conference on the issue of involvement of civil society in decision-making through collaboration among the organizations of civil society, local authorities and other actors, to encourage participation and dialogue with focus on enhancing the participation of all marginalized groups and especially young. The event took place from 8 to 11 June 2015 in Prijedor.

ACTIVITIES:
The official opening ceremony started at 18:00. The event was inaugurated by the representative of the local authorities in Prijedor. This was followed by a presentation of the organizations on the stand started at 18:30 in the small square of Prijedor, where the organizations were able to share their promotional materials and their activities. They also had the opportunity to showcase their work and their activities undertaken to date, ongoing projects and projects they would like to accomplish in the future with new partners and associates. The participation of the organizations was appreciated, and during the closure of the event the winner of the youth sports activities was announced and the cups to the winner teams were delivered.

SUCCESSES STORIES:
- Promoted youth activism.
- Created links between youth organizations in Southeast Europe through the promotion of instruments in common.
- Created links between youth organizations in Southeast Europe and the EU residents.
- Better visibility of youth organizations by strengthening the work locally and internationally.

- Information disseminated about the different possibilities and conditions to achieve good quality projects and sustainable to young people and people interested in the youth.
- Creation of a working group composed by representatives of youth organizations that can work together to get the local authorities and state funding for the next editions of the fair.

4. Born for reading

LEAD PARTNER: Associazione Progetto Prijedor, Trento, Italy
OTHER PARTNERS: National Coordination of "Born to Read", provincial working group of "Born to Read" of Trento, pediatric wards of the hospital and the House of Health in Prijedor, Preschool Prijedor.

DONNOR: Autonomous Province of Trento
TIMING: February 2015 – January 2016

PURPOSES: Born to Read aims to promote reading aloud to children aged between 6 months and 6 years. The purpose is to stimulate and provide sense of security to the child next of the adult reading and telling stories and because the pleasure of sharing the story is incomparable.

ACTIVITIES:
During the year 2015 the following activities were carried out, allowing the implementation of this project by reading to children in pediatric wards, kindergartens and needy families:
- Creation of posters, brochures and printed t-shirts with the support and approval of national NPL (Italy).
- Implementation of a training program for the manufacture of interior canvas made for books at the space center for disabled adults Neven, Prijedor.
- Realization of fifty handmade books from the association for disabled people Neven that will be distributed to families with small children.
- Implementation of a training for volunteer readers made by a forming of Prijedor, who participated last year in training in Italy, organized by the National NPL.

SUCCESSES STORIES:
This project contributed to spread among parents the habit of reading aloud every day with and for their children as early as 6 months of age. It promoted opportunities for sharing between parents and children through the tool of reading, spaces marked by intimacy, complicity and affection. It improved the emotional relationships between family members, stimulated the ability to learn and think from an early age and helped to build vocabulary and the existential and cultural universe of children.

5. Prijedor – city of mural

LEAD PARTNER: Associazione Progetto Prijedor, Trento, Italy
PARTNER: Association of Artists of Prijedor, family of Paola de Manincor, Association Andromeda, City of Lavis, Association Pro Eco-museum of the Dolomites to the Ga

DONNOR: Autonomous Province of Trento

PURPOSES: In continuity with the third edition of the international prize named Paola de Manincor, action provides for the organization of the editions 2014, 2015 and in 2016 the competition. Paola de Manincor was an artist from Trentino who in 1998 painted, with the support of the City of Trento, the first mural in Prijedor.

Each year an invitation to participate in the competition will be issued and the best proposals will be selected. The selected proposals will then be exhibited in one of the galleries of Prijedor and during the opening night of the exhibition, the winner of the competition will be announced.

Three months after the announcement of the winning work, the selected work will be taken out on the facade of a building in the city of Prijedor. Between editions, the initiative will be adequately promoted through the production and dissemination of communication materials that will be published on the website and multimedia platform of this project and through promotional events.

ACTIVITIES:
- Writing and publishing the competition on the website of the Association and social networks – April 2015
- Closing of the competition and sorting and publication of submitted proposals - the first half of July 2015
- Judging and selection of winners - July 2015
- Realization of the winning mural – August-September 2015
- Inauguration of third mural in Prijedor – October 2015

SUCCESSES STORIES:
- Contribution for development of the culture and touristic sectors of the city of Prijedor, building on the brand of Prijidor as a cultural and touristic destination in the map of Europe
- Contribute to the improvement of the offer of cultural and touristic experiences in Prijedor
- Enhancing the promotion of tourism in Prijedor as a city of art and artists
- Improving the appearance of the spaces in the city through the rehabilitation and beautification of surfaces that need technical and aesthetic interventions

- Improve the visibility of artists from Prijedor
- Increase the motivation of people to look after them aware of the art of cultural and artistic themes
- To train and spread a positive view on art and culture
- Provide more information to citizens about the past artistic and cultural city
- To encourage an increased sensitivity of policy makers towards art and culture in general

6. Daily centre for people with mental disabilities over 18 years of life

LEAD PARTNER: Associazione Progetto Prijedor
OTHER PARTNERS: Center for social work, Association for mentally disabled people from Prijedor

DONNOR: Autonomous Province of Trento
TIMING: February 2015 – January 2016

Five times a week, it is provided a day centre for adults with mental disabilities. In the centre is organized the distribution of meals and different occupational activities are made with an occupational therapist, based on the interest of the users (sewing, embroidery, processing and creation of puppets, bags, key chains, etc.).

Other activities organized were excursions, entertainment activities, and sports activities, in order to increase the inclusion of these people in the community. In addition, newsletters and promotional materials were published, and round tables were organized, to raise public awareness and reduce prejudices.

ACTIVITIES:
- Day centre for mentally disabled people over 18 years of life, opened five times a week.
- Preparation and distribution of meals for the users of the daily centre.
- Development of different occupational activities with an occupational therapist, based on the interest of the users (sewing, embroidery, processing and creation of puppets, bags, key chains, etc.)

SUCCESSES STORIES: Improved lives of people with intellectual disabilities over 18 years of life. The persons with mental disabilities have been more integrated in the community. In addition, decrease in the solitude and reduction of poverty of people with disabilities; rise of public awareness and reduction of prejudices and stereotypes.

7. Daily centre with public kitchen for elder people in Ljubija

LEAD PARTNER: Associazione Progetto Prijedor
OTHER PARTNERS: Prijedor Municipal Administration, Social Service Centre Prijedor, Municipality of Trento, City of Levico, elderly day centre Ljubija, Ljubija Social Council

DONNOR: Autonomous Province of Trento, City of Trento
TIMING: February 2015 – January 2016

PURPOSES: A particularly problematic aspect of Prijedor is the presence of a large group of elderly without family support. Seniors over sixty, especially from single-families, have to meet their daily needs by themselves, which makes them vulnerable to the possible problems typical of this age. The detachment of the nuclei has as consequence various forms of isolation in the elderly's daily life. For these factors, a large number of older people is at risk of the extreme poverty; situation that is worsened by the poor accumulation of economic resources in the public funds, inadequate health care and not being fully assured. This situation is particularly acute in the constituency of Ljubija, 14 km from Prijedor, which has a socio-economic situation even more critical than in the capital.

To address these issues, the APP in recent years has proposed to expand the services offered by the Day Centre Ljubija, opened in 2001, and is intended for seniors and elderly members of this community. The Centre provides an opportunity for the elderly to spend their days doing activities of socialization and creation of products made by hand.

The activities of 2013 led to the restructuring of the House of Health made available by the Municipality of Prijedor to expand the spaces of the Day Centre. To date, the House of Health has become the first Polo Social Prijedor hosting, also offering outpatient services, a registry office, a canteen service that meets the needs of disadvantaged people, a service to the person (showers) and a space of socialization and socio-cultural animation.

ACTIVITIES:
- Continue to support social centre Ljubija, specifically by financing the coordinator of the centre and the coordinator of the elderly day centre
- Support the expenses for another year of the public kitchen in Ljubija

SUCCESSES STORIES: The support of working spaces for social inclusion through the opening of spaces and services has enabled the improvement of the quality of responses given to cover the needs of the most vulnerable groups, and therefore the well-being of the community in general.

8. Remote adoption

LEAD PARTNER: Associazione Progetto Prijedor
OTHER PARTNERS: Committee entrusts Prijedor, Social Services Centre, Prijedor municipality

DONNOR: Private donors
TIMING: February 2015 – January 2016

PURPOSES: Since 1997 the PROJECT DISTANCE ADOPTIONS (entrusts) has involved up to 811 families in Prijedor and as many Trentine (for most). These are still outstanding 281 reports. This activity has gone beyond economic aid, since a stable relationship and reciprocity have been created among many families, organising meetings in Prijedor and exchanges in Trentino.

ACTIVITIES:

- Distribution of material assistance equivalent to 120 euros every four months
- Visiting the families of the donors once a month
- Exchange of letters or e-mails between the donors and the families who receive the donations

SUCCESSES STORIES:

The economic aid, while important, becomes an instrument to create relationships that go beyond this dimension, and help to feed Prijedor's population with greater hope for the future, fighting against the apathy that is currently one of the major problems of the area. The travel - visit organized by APP for "foster" families is an effective "travel report". The recipients of this aid are especially families in economic distress, lonely elderly and students of secondary schools and universities, who need the support to be able to continue their studies to become a productive professional for the future of their community.

LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCY SUBOTICA

Delegate: Silvija Patarcic

Established: in 1993
Partners: Wolverhampton City Council, UK (Lead Partner)
Priorities:

- Fostering democratic governance and citizen participation at local level
- Strengthening socio-economic development
- Promoting youth volunteering
- Supporting the European Union integration

❖ Projects in 2015

1. Balkan Regional Platform for Youth Participation and Dialogue

LEAD PARTNER: Association of local democracy agencies - ALDA
PARTNERS: 7 Western Balkan LDAs and ALDA Skopje

DONNOR: European Commission, Civil Society Facility, Operating Grants to IPA CSO Associations - Support to regional thematic associations
DURATION: January 2015 – December 2015

PURPOSES: From January 2015 ALDA and the Balkan LDAs started the implementation of the Operational grant – Balkan regional platform for youth participation and dialogue, a new platform through which the Balkan network for local democracy was established. It is composed by organisations and local governments that will contribute in structuring regional thematic cooperation and coordination between civil society and public authorities from the targeted countries. The aim is to improve environment for youth activism and participation, in particular of young people with fewer opportunities.

ACTIVITIES: Through the progress of the project a series of conferences, trainings, exchanges, workshops and meetings were held in five targeted countries from the region, through the following main components of activities:

- Network coordination and management of activities
- Network capacity building
- Awareness raising and visibility actions
- Exchange of good practice among the region countries
- Research and analysis

2. Local Coalitions for Community Development

LEAD PARTNER: Association of local democracy agencies - ALDA
PARTNERS: LDA Montenegro, LDA Subotica, LDA CSS and PALGO Centre Serbia

DONOR: European Commission, Civil Society Facility, Delegation of the European Union in Montenegro
DURATION: December 2012 – May 2015

PURPOSES: The aim of the project was the promotion of good practices in the cooperation between local authorities and civil society organisations, as well as fostering their active involvement in the process of EU integration of Montenegro. The main objectives of this project were: improving the capacity for efficient and transparent functioning of the local self-government; involvement of civil society in decision-making; and building local partnerships in the planning and implementation of the development priorities of the local communities.

ACTIVITIES: The main focus of the project was the Sub-granting programme for local NGOs in Niksic, Bijelo Polje, Kotor, Ulcinj, Rozaje, Danilovgrad which are active in local democracy development, human/minority rights protection, social service provision, gender equality, youth empowerment, local sustainable development and environment protection.
Other activities included: information campaign and networking activities, series of training seminars for NGOs and local authorities, local public debates in six municipalities, trainings for local NGOs for building local capacities for EU project development and implementation.

3. Marking the Day of Europe – Presentation of EU funded projects in Subotica

LEAD PARTNER: LDA Subotica
PARTNERS: City of Subotica, Delegation of EU in Serbia

DURATION: April - May 2014

PURPOSES: The aim was to raise awareness of citizens, in particular of the youth, about the EU values and possibilities that the EU promotes. The programme included an information campaign and exhibition of EU funded projects implemented in Subotica in the framework of the IPA 2007-2013 programming period.

ACTIVITIES: Exhibition of EU funded projects during the Day of Europe in the City Hall vestibule with the aim to raise the visibility of EU funds and to inform the general public about the achieved results of projects implemented by the local government, organisations and institutions that have contributed to the development of local community in various sectors. Furthermore, informative promotional publications of the EU Information Centre of the EU Delegation in Serbia were disseminated at the exhibition, with the purpose to increase the awareness of citizens about the EU, its member states and institutions.

SUCCESS STORIES: Through this traditional event in which the main objective is sharing the knowledge about Europe and European values among the citizens, LDA Subotica, Delegation of the EU in Serbia, and the City administration had the opportunity to once again work together for a common goal. Furthermore, the exhibition gathered interested citizens, motivated to discover something new about the EU during this Europe Day promotional activity.

4. Building Bridges of Democracy phase 2: the DANUBIANA project

LEAD PARTNER: NGO European House – Budapest
PARTNERS: LDA Subotica and NGOs from 7 EU member states

DONNOR: European Commission, Europe for Citizens Programme
DURATION: September 2013 – February 2015

PURPOSES: As the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUDRS) entered into a pilot phase of implementation in the 14 states of the Danube region, the objective of the 2nd phase of the "Building Bridges of Democracy" project is to contribute to the successful implementation of the EUDRS and to promote active European citizenship, through civil society organizations from 9 countries. During the project a number of programmes are organized to increase the visibility and public understanding of the EUDRS.

ACTIVITIES: Street actions, nine-country monitoring of implementation of the EUDRS on national level, a two-week volunteer exchange programme, the holding of Danube classes in schools (one per country) with the use of an educational kit and research work on Danube identity vis-à-vis European identity. The project also compared the experience of the EUDRS and the Baltic Sea Strategy through a study trip to Sweden. An interactive project activity was the geocaching "boxes" which were placed along the Danube to be found by interested parties.

5. Application Successful

LEAD PARTNER: NGO European House – Budapest
PARTNERS: LDA Subotica and Centre for Peace, Non-violence and Human Rights Osijek, Croatia

DONNOR: European Commission, Europe for Citizens Programme
DURATION: January 2014 – March 2015

PURPOSES: The project aimed to increase the knowledge of the new Europe for Citizens Programme (2014-2020) in Croatia and Serbia, and to develop skills to run quality projects and promote partnerships across Europe.
The projects objective was to promote activities for the benefit of current and potential stakeholders of the Europe for Citizens Programme in a regional setting and making well-targeted circles of citizens of the participating countries aware of EU policy agenda issues, shared values, questions of participatory democracy and citizenship.

ACTIVITIES: Regional information and training sessions about the Europe for Citizens programme in the partner countries (Croatia, Serbia) where local stakeholders learned about the potential of the ECP and exchange experience. Knowledge-sharing information and partner search meetings organised in Hungary, Germany and France. Evaluation session in Brussels with the presentation of project results to policy makers

6. Development network of Subotica

LEAD PARTNER: LDA Subotica
PARTNERS: City of Subotica, Regional Development Agency Panonreg

DONNOR: Provincial Secretariat for local self-government and interregional cooperation – Government of Vojvodina Province.
DURATION: December 2014 – March 2015

PURPOSES: The overall objective of the project was to establish a cross-sectoral network for the development of Subotica through its functional empowerment as: (1) a partner to local government in the implementation of Sustainable development strategy 2013-2022, and (2) as the partner in building sustainable institutional mechanism of cooperation between CSOs and local government, in the function of improved information, consultation and participation in the implementation of public policy. In addition, the project aimed to empower the Development Network consisting currently of 30 members, including NGOs, cultural and educational institutions, and development agencies, for joint preparation and drafting of development

projects under the new IPA Programme 2014-2020 and the new available EU funds intended for CSOs and local governments.

ACTIVITIES: Preparatory meetings of the working group for drafting the mission and goals of the Network. Training seminar for network management, building cross-sector partnerships. Training seminar about the IPA II Programme 2014-2020 - New perspectives and new challenges of the EU integration. Creation of an online address book of the members of the network

7. Vojvodina.EU - The Collection of Success Stories IPA 2007-2013

LEAD PARTNER: LDA Subotica
PARTNERS: City of Subotica, NGO Prospero, Temerin, Serbia

DONNOR: Provincial Secretariat for local self-government and interregional cooperation – Government of Vojvodina Province
DURATION: December 2014 – June 2015

PURPOSES: The project aimed to promote the role of local governments and civil society organizations in Vojvodina as key actors implementing IPA Programme 2007-2013, and contribute to strengthening their capacities for building cross-sector partnerships for the challenges of IPA 2 Programme 2014-2020. The result of the project is an online and print publication/collection of EU projects implemented by local governments in Vojvodina during IPA I period.

ACTIVITIES: Preparation, collection and production of the database Vojvodina.EU: projects implemented in the IPA 2007-2013 period. Three contact seminars in Subotica, Vrsac and Ruma. Promotion of examples of good practice in EU projects. Preparation and production of the online and print publication. Collection of Success Stories and promotional activities.

8. Open Parliament Initiative

PURPOSES: LDA Subotica is a member of Open Parliament Initiative, a project which is implemented on local and national level by joint initiative of CSOs led by CRTA – Centre for research, transparency and responsibility from Belgrade. The main goal of the Initiative is to increase the transparency of the Parliament through informing the citizens about its work and the establishment of regular communication between citizens and their elected representatives. These activities are based on the values contained in the International Declaration on Parliamentary Openness.

LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCY ZAVIDOVIĆI

Delegate: Slađan Ilić

Established: in 1997
Partners: Association of Local Authorities of Brescia, Italy; Municipality of Alba, Italy; Municipality of Zavidovići, Bosnia and Herzegovina (Host city); Municipality of Roncadelle, Italy; Trade Union SPI-CGIL, Italy; Inter - University Consortium, Venezia, Italy; NGO Liberacion Carpenedolo, Italy; Local Coordination for Peace of Cremona, Italy; Arci New Organization, Italy; NGO CGIL, Italy; NGO SPI-CGIL, Italy; UISP Brescia, Italy; UISP Cremona, Italy; Friends of Emmaus, Italy; Municipality of Torre de Picenardi, Italy; Association Strani Vari, Italy; Association Donne in nero Alba, Italy

Priorities:

- Strengthening its activities in the key sectors Youth policies, Social Welfare and Sustainable Economic Development
- Increasing in each sector the net of local actors involved, promoting their role, animating and supporting them through DA's Italian partners and network
- Enlarging the relationship with local and international NGOs, Bosnian institutions and foreign authorities
- Supporting local NGOs, active in the social and educative field to become more sustainable

❖ Projects in 2015

The projects done with ALDA were:

1. Balkan Regional Platform for Youth Participation and Dialogue

LEAD PARTNER: Association of Local Democracy Agencies – ALDA
OTHER PARTNERS: LDA Montenegro, LDA Mostar, LDA Zavidovici, LDA Prijedor, LDA Central Serbia, LDA Subotica, LDA Kosovo, ALDA Skopje

DONORS: EU (IPA OG)
TIMING**:** 01 January 2015 – 31 December 2015

PURPOSES: The main project activities include capacity building and thematic networking to promote social and economic inclusion of age groups that risk marginalisation, in particular youngsters. It will be implemented by the LDAs in the Western Balkan countries through structured regional thematic cooperation engaging CSOs and public authorities to help improve environment for youth activism and participation, in particular of young people with fewer opportunities. Capacity building, knowledge and information share will serve as the main tools to strengthen youth groups for active citizenship and participation in policy / decision making at local level, but even more at regional level through monitoring the implementation of the public policies towards EU integration of the Western Balkans. Specific attention will be given to awareness raising among policy and decision makers at regional and local level on EU standards

and practices of youth participation and EU Programmes 2014-2020 intended for youth.

With this in view, the LDAs involved in the action will be working together and provide all necessary support to newly appointed Youth Engagement Workers (members of the Regional Youth Working Group) and Local Youth Advisory Groups to contribute to achieving the project results.

In addition, the project launch activity was dedicated to preparing the Regional Co-operation Platform for the adoption at the level of Regional Network group meeting.

2. DEmocratic Compact: Improving Democracy in Europe (DECIDE)

LEAD PARTNER: Association of Local Democracy Agencies – ALDA

DONORS: EU (European Commission - Education, Audio-visual and Communication Executive Agency (EACEA), within the programme: Europe for Citizens)
TIMING: 30 May 2013 – 29 May 2015

PURPOSES: DECIDE aims at developing, through the establishment of a thematic network of towns and by adopting a bottom-up approach, a democratic compact, namely a set of measures that are needed in Europe to increase the quality of democracy and citizen participation.

Other projects, not jointly worked with ALDA were implemented as well:

3. Safe Place – Services and Activities for Women

LEAD PARTNER: LDA Zavidovici
OTHER PARTNERS: Association "Sigurno mjesto" Zavidovici

DONORS: Municipality of Alba (Italy)
TIMING: continuous (since 2011)

PURPOSES: The main purpose of this initiative is to fight domestic violence by using many different activities. The basic goals that are outlined in the project are the implementation of prevention and sensitization activities, extending them to rural areas; the strengthening of the Association, which has grown from a local network for the prevention of domestic violence; and the provision of direct services to support victims. In addition, the aim is to provide continued training of local subjects on specific forms of assistance to victims, promotion of local protocol on

the procedure in cases of domestic violence and exchange of experiences between the Italian and Bosnian entities.

ACTIVITIES: The new project "Safe place – services and activities for women" was launched in 2015. By now, the project has succeeded to reinforce and strengthen activities in the field of prevention of domestic violence and raising awareness, all in cooperation with partners from Alba, Italy.
The project activities in 2015 included: workshops for pregnant women; workshops on domestic violence with students; workshops on domestic violence with rural women; public debate on domestic violence; meeting and support groups for economical empowering of women; support desk; reception and tutoring; promotional activities; and marking the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on November 25th 2015.

4. B.EST – Building rESilienT communities in BiH

LEAD PARTNER: Provincia di Gorizia
OTHER PARTNERS: Kallipolis – Associazione non profit per uno sviluppo urbano sostenibile, Oxfam Italia, operative office BiH, LDA Zavidovici

DONORS: Friuli Venezia Giulia
TIMING: July 2015 – April 2016

PURPOSES: The project activities will be developed in the Municipalities of Bratunac, Modriča and Odžak. The three municipalities are located in North East sector of Bosnia and Herzegovina, near the border with Croatia and Serbia. A severe flood hit these territories in May 2014 and it has aggravated the already precarious economic situation. A vast number of houses were destroyed, damaged or left underwater, leading to a significant number of displaced households. The effect on production activities and basic and social services varied, but there was a particularly large impact on the agricultural sector. The small farms of many families were affected because the floods and landslides washed away their newly planted crops, destroyed storage shelters and drowned livestock, causing an enormous effect on household income of local communities, since agriculture is the main economic sector of these areas.
Nevertheless, the natural disaster has also brought to light a positive aspect: local communities demonstrated a strong response in tackling the emergency, coordinating and bringing help where possible.

For this purpose, the project will support and promote the potential of local communities, increasing their resilience capacity and, through a participatory approach, it will enhance their capacity to minimize the effects of future emergencies. The project aims to activate participatory processes involving local stakeholders and local representatives. In Modriča and Odžak the project's activities will be addressed to the families, whereas in Bratunac they will be directed to the productive sector.

ACTIVITIES: Implementation of a participatory process in the beneficiary communities. Activation an institutional building component. Implementation of specific interventions. Dissemination of results and awareness raising in Friuli Venezia Giulia

B.EST
BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES IN BIH

5. Strani Vari

LEAD PARTNER: LDA Zavidovici
OTHER PARTNERS: Associazione Strani Vari (Italy), Association Ceker, elementary schools from Zavidovici, Association Sigurno Mjesto

DONORS: Associazione Strani Vari (Italy), YEPP Langhe (Italy)
TIMING: Continuous (since 2003)

PURPOSES: To support creative expression and imagination of children. To raise awareness of children on different themes. To involve indirectly the children's families and citizens. To support the joint efforts of Bosnian and Italian animators. To expand the participation of civil society organizations and to strengthen joint activities of social significance. To promote the association and voluntarism, by creating useful relations between the actors involved.

ACTIVITIES**:** This year edition of Strani Vari Project was carried out from 27th July to 7th August 2015 in the Municipality of Zavidovici. As usual, this was a summer activity with workshops for all the children from the city, in two primary schools (first and second elementary school Zavidovici) and in five schools in rural areas (Gostović, Hajderovići, Kovaci, Brezik and Ribnica). Around 30 Bosnian youth from the Association Ceker (Zavidovici) and 25 young Italians were included as animators.

6. Kindergarten Exchange Alba/Zavidovići

LEAD PARTNER: LDA Zavidovici
OTHER PARTNERS: Kindergarten Alba and Zavidovici

DONORS: Municipality of Alba
TIMING: continuous (since 2008)

PURPOSES: To exchange experiences between kindergartens' teachers from Italy and BiH, and to improve the conditions of pre-school education for children.

ACTIVITIES: Continuous exchange between the kindergarten from Alba (Italy) and kindergarten from Zavidovici. In 2015 we organized the visit of teachers from Zavidovici who visited kindergarten in Alba. The representatives of Kindergarten Zavidovici joined to the education programme Nati per Leggere – Born to Read.

7. Ludobus

LEAD PARTNER: LDA Zavidovici
OTHER PARTNERS: UG Ceker, schools from Zavidovici area

DONORS: LDA Zavidovici
TIMING: Continuous (since 2006)

PURPOSES: To include children from rural areas in activities, and to give them an opportunity to play and learn with educators. To support growth and development of emotional skills, to offer a space for playing and entertaining children and adolescents in the school context. To offer trainings to youth leaders to ensure the continuation of the practices at the end of the project, skills development and extension of knowledge in the social- educational role of parents, and increase in capacity for intervention in rural areas of Zavidovići.

ACTIVITIES: Since spring we continued the activities of the project "Peace Games - Educational services for children and young adults in rural areas of Zavidovići", which are implemented in collaboration with the Association "Ceker". Around 10 animators and some new volunteers are regularly involved in the activities.

8. ERASMUS+

- **Meeting Generations 2015“- EVS**

LEAD PARTNER: System and Generation, Ankara, Turkey – hosting organisation
OTHER PARTNERS: LDA Zavidovici- sending organisation

DONORS: EU - Youth in Action
TIMING: 2015

PURPOSES: To build relations with youth and other citizens in the host country; to learn languages and meet different cultures; and to acquire practical experience while implementing projects.

Activities: Active participation of volunteers in the host organisation activities. Organising events/visits in the institution. Participating in different events where young people are active. Developing project ideas of volunteers. Participating in fundraising activities with the host organisation. Attending workshops, meetings, seminars; and other relevant activities as defined by the host organisation.

- **Acting for democracy - EVS**

LEAD PARTNER: Itinéraire International, Paris, France - sending organisation
OTHER PARTNERS: LDA Zavidovici- hosting organisation

DONORS: EU – Erasmus +
TIMING: 2015

PURPOSES: Building relations with youth and other citizens in the host country. Learning languages and meeting different cultures. Acquiring practical experience while implementing projects.

ACTIVITIES: Active participation of volunteers in the host organisation activities. Organising events/visits in the organisation. Participating in different events where young people are active. Developing project ideas of volunteers. Participating in fundraising activities with the host organisation. Attending workshops, meetings, seminars.

- **Being Citizen Today – bilateral youth exchange**

LEAD PARTNER: YEPP Langhe
OTHER PARTNERS: LDA Zavidovici

DONORS: EU Erasmus+
TIMING: July – August 2015

PURPOSES: The topic of the Exchange was LGBT and woman rights, and the aim was to empower young people against discrimination, stereotypes and prejudices, that can degenerate in a violent speech and violent behaviour.

ACTIVITIES: The project was based on non-formal education methods, and wanted to accompany and support young participants in a path on knowing themselves, their limits and their instrument to get over them. Besides and to empower their knowledge, awareness and sensitiveness about two relevant civic and social topic like discrimination against woman and LGBT people. Participants had the opportunity to acquire new skills, to get the ability of work in a group and cooperate, in a multicultural frame, in order to realize a shared aim.

- **“YES – European Youth Environment Sentinels - training course**

LEAD PARTNER: ALDA
OTHER PARTNERS: LDA Zavidovici and others

DONORS: EU – Erasmus+
TIMING: June 2015

PURPOSES: The main objective was to involve youth workers active in the field of health promotion and protection of the environment, and to ensure that their views are heard at European level. Their participation in activities under the project aims to give a "multiplier" role to the local initiatives, by giving young people and other citizens in the community the opportunity to be active on issues related to health and the environment, and to make recommendations at the local, national, and European levels.
The objective of the activity was to train 44 youth workers already involved in environmental activities to become “sentinels” and promote multiplying effect at local level.

ACTIVITIES: Forty-five participants coming from 15 countries were involved in the training that since the first day gave them the opportunity to know each other, to learn more about the ERASMUS+ programme, and to start working on the exchange of good practices on health and environmental protection. Two representatives from the LDA Zavidovici (BiH) were between the 15 countries and forty–five participants. The project, funded by ERASMUS+ programme, aims to put the civic participation of young Europeans at the service of health and environment. By offering young people from diverse backgrounds an opportunity to interact, share knowledge and debate, this activity aimed to reduce the distance between citizens and Europe - both as an institution and as a combination of communities and cultures.

- **“W.O.SO.COOP” - training course**

LEAD PARTNER: Consorzio Leonardo
OTHER PARTNERS: LDA Zavidovici and others

DONORS: EU Erasmus+
TIMING: January 2015

PURPOSES: The aim of the project is to tackle youth unemployment by bringing together 40 youth workers from Azerbaijan, Armenia, Moldova, Ukraine, France, Czech Republic, Turkey, Romania, Georgia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, Macedonia, Croatia, Slovenia and Spain to exchange experience and good practices on social cooperation.

ACTIVITIES: Through a coherent set of tools including working groups, experts’ inputs and feedback, study visits and intercultural practices, the training course strengthened participants’ knowledge and skills in acting as multipliers in their own countries to promote the access of disadvantaged youth into the labour market.

- **“Gender Cooperation 1.0” – youth exchange**

LEAD PARTNER: Equamente Torino
OTHER PARTNERS: LDA Zavidovici (BiH), Union of the Women Center (Georgia), Seiklejate Vennaskond (Estonia), Creatorii (Moldova), System ve Jenerasyon Dernegi (Turkey)

DONORS: EU – Erasmus +
TIMING: July – August 2015

PURPOSES: The issue that the project faces relates to overcoming the dichotomy between the genders. This dichotomy is often understood as a clash of forces, since the issue of "gender" is traditionally biased towards the feminine pole, neglecting the relationship with the male one and giving only little attention to the complementarity of both, and the recognition and acceptance of differences. The objective of the program was to work in a purely intercultural environment where we can explore the different perspectives experienced in each country, in the mutual exchange and respect for differences.

ACTIVITIES: The activities were focused on the exploration of human relationships, on the various types of conflict and the related approaches to find creative solutions, on the assumptions of violence in interpersonal relationships and how to get rid of these, on cooperation as a resource of everyday life, and on sexuality, a fundamental part of the relationship between the genders.
The methodologies draw largely from non-formal education and peace activities, because those are the most active methods to experience abstract contents. Very much of importance was given to the cooperative learning techniques and to body language through the use of music and dance, in order to develop greater knowledge of oneself and of the others.
All this required the participants to take an active part in the research and to share new solutions with respect to the ways of living the gender.

9. Twining Zavidovici- Roncadelle – sport exchanges

LEAD PARTNER: LDA Zavidovici
OTHER PARTNERS: Municipality of Zavidovici, Municipality of Roncadelle, ŽOK Zavidovići

DONORS: Comune di Roncadelle
TIMING: Continuous (since 2008)

PURPOSES: To improve cooperation between Italian and BiH subjects, in the frame of the twinning agreement between municipalities Zavidovici and Roncadelle (Italy)

ACTIVITIES: LDA Zavidovici organised and supported the participation of a team from Zavidovići, Women's Volleyball Club "Zavidovici", in a volleyball tournament "Memorial Alessandra Navoni 2015" in Roncadelle. The exchange happened in December 2015, with the participation of players but also some friends and cooperates who have participated in previous years.

10. VIVICITTA' – athletic race for peace and solidarity

LEAD PARTNER: LDA Zavidovici
OTHER PARTNERS: UISP Brescia, UISP Cremona, Municipality of Zavidovici, Association of Zavidovici sport teachers, Basketball Club "Krivaja", Female Volleyball Club from Zavidovici, I.I.S. "Torriani" Cremona, Association Sigurno Mjesto

DONORS: UISP, LDA Zavidovici
TIMING: Annual (since 1998)

PURPOSES: The international event, whose general sponsor is the UISP (Unione Italiana Sport per tutti), takes place in 90 cities around the world, and also in Zavidovići since 1998. The aim is to promote peace, solidarity and friendship.

ACTIVITIES: "Vivicitta' 2015" was held in Zavidovici on April 05th 2015. The sports event was organized by the Association of Zavidovici Sport Teachers, in collaboration with the Municipality of Zavidovići and UISP Brescia and Cremona. The host of the event was LDA Zavidovići. Hundreds of athletes from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Italy and Turkey participated in the race. A female volleyball tournament and male basketball tournament were parts of this sports event.

11. AiutiAMO la Bosnia Erzegovina-post-emergency aid to vulnerable families victims of the flood

LEAD PARTNER: LDA Zavidovici
DONORS: Fondazione Intesa Sanpaolo

TIMING: 2015
PURPOSES: Material assistance to persons affected by floods and landslides.

On May 15th 2014, the whole area of Zavidovici Municipality was affected by a natural disaster caused by vast rains that produced floods and landslides that were never seen before on this territory. Many roads were destroyed by the flooding, mountain streams and vast rain. Immediately after the cease of rain, there were information about many landslides that were dangerous for people and for houses and other goods. As a consequence, over 1000 people were moved from their homes. In the valleys and hills, floods and vast rain have destroyed many agricultural fields, including grains, vegetables, and small fruit fields, that are the only source of income for many inhabitants.
LDA Zavidovici was included in the process of helping those affected by the floods from the very beginning. In the first days, when it was very important to act quickly to help the people who were left without anything, the resources of LDA were put in service of effectively disseminating humanitarian aid in the local communities.

ACTIVITIES: LDA Zavidovici identified 30 vulnerable households (elderly people, single mothers with minor children, persons with severe material situation) and assigned them an economic fund. Informative visits to leaders of the local communities in Zavidovici and associations active in the rural communities were done. A list of families and persons facing severe material difficulties, according to previously established criteria and objectives, was established. Visits to the identified households and distribution of funding via bank transfer.

12. SUPPORT TO ECONOMIC STABILITY OF WOMEN FROM AREAS AFFECTED BY FLOODS

LEAD PARTNER: LDA Zavidovici
DONORS: Foundation for Strengthening of Women

TIMING: 2015
PURPOSES: Material assistance to persons affected by floods and landslides

ACTIVITIES: At the beginning of 2015, LDA Zavidovici received a grant from Foundation for Strengthening of Women (Fondacija za osnaživanje žena), which was aimed to help women who were affected by the natural disaster. The funds were distributed in a form of material help to 12 women from rural and urban area.

13. ORTI FAMILIARI – FAMILY GARDENS

LEAD PARTNER: LDA Zavidovici
DONORS: private donors

TIMING: May – August 2015
PURPOSES: Material assistance to persons affected by floods and landslides

ACTIVITIES: One of the activities to help the affected area was reflected in the project "Orti famigliari", family gardens to give assistance to women who are engaged in agriculture on a small scale, in order to increase production and product quality covering own needs for food.
In cooperation with local women's associations (Udruženje Krivaja Iskra, Udruženje "Majska ruža", Udruženje "Žene Kovača") educational lectures on agricultural themes of interest to women from these areas were organized. During the trainings the following themes were covered: technology of cultivation of vegetables, cultivation and processing of medicinal plants, raising and maintaining of raspberry plantation. The education program was attended by 60 women and all participants had the opportunity to purchase certain materials for agriculture on their own needs as seeds, fertilizer, smaller tools, etc. After the workshop agronomist has conducted field visits and provided concrete advices and suggestions for improving the family gardens.

The project was done thanks to funds collected in Italy. Therefore, we would like thank everyone who supported our association in raising funds to help heavily flood-affected area.

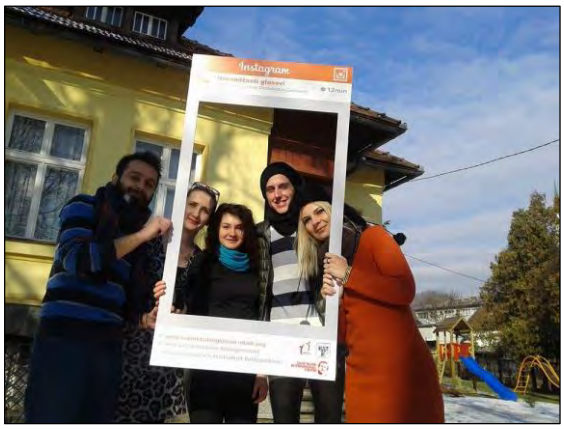
14. Youth Against Violence

LEAD PARTNER: LDA Zavidovici

DONORS: Institute for youth development KULT
TIMING: November - December 2015

PURPOSES: The project aimed to bring closer to young people issues like violence against women and girls and stopping peer violence.

ACTIVITIES: Educational workshops on "Peer violence and violence in adolescent relationships" and "Violence on the Internet", were carried out with high school students of Zavidovici where the current topics in our society were presented.
Also as part of the activities there was a street campaign named "Orange Day". The goal of this campaign is to draw the attention of citizens on the importance of prevention, and sanction of violence against women and girls. During the street campaign, promotional materials related to the prevention of violence against women and girls were distributed.



15. # NO HATE COALITION IN ZAVIDOVICI

LEAD PARTNER: Coalition"Kultura mira"

DONORS: OSCE
TIMING: continuous

PURPOSES: Prevention of incidents motivated by prejudices.

ACTIVITIES: LDA Zavidovici is active member of the Coalition for prevention of incidents motivated by prejudices „KULTURA MIRA – CULTURE OF PEACE", that was formed at the beginning of 2014 in Zavidovici. The local Coalition is part of wider national network SuperCitizens, which has the participation of representatives of civil society, local communities and individuals working on the prevention of incidents and crimes of hate and contributing to the process of reconciliation. SuperCitizens come together in a coalition to oppose to hate, basing its unique work on the premise that real change begin at the local level. In 2015 the Coalition cooperated with the local authorities on drafting the Social Cohesion Action Plan, which was confirmed by the Municipal Council.

ALDA OPERATIONAL PARTNERS

ALDA OPERATIONAL PARTNER OSIJEK (LDA OSIJEK)

Delegate: Miljenko Turniski

Established: in 1993
Partners: City of Lausanne, Switzerland (Lead partner) City of Osijek,Croatia (Host city) Erdut Municipality, Croatia Municipality Montenero Di Bisaccia, Italy.

Priorities:

- Democratic governance and active European citizenship
- Social inclusion and intercultural dialogue
- Local Sustainable Development

❖ Projects in 2015

During year 2015 Local Democracy Agency was a beneficiary of institutional support of the National Foundation for Civil Society Development for stabilization and / or development organizations.

Financijski podržava
Nacionalna zaklada za razvoj civilnoga društva

1. Europeanization of Croatian Social Policy and Croatian Social Charter

LEAD PARTNER: Centre for Development of Non-profit Organisations, Zagreb, Croatia
OTHER PARTNERS: Local Democracy Agency Sisak, Local Democracy Agency Verteneglio, Healthy City, Split, Croatia

DONOR: National Foundation for Development of Civil Society, Croatia
TIMING: January 2015 – December 2015

PURPOSES: To strengthen capacities of regional stakeholders for facing the growing social risks in context of Europeanization of Croatian social policy.

ACTIVITIES: Research on social indicators for Osijek- Baranja and Vukovar Syrmium Counties. Educational workshops and public discussions on new social risks in Osijek, Verteneglio. Sisak and Split. Final conference in Zagreb.

SUCCESSES STORIES: Developed guidelines for the Croatian Social Policy Charter as frame for development of social policy which guarantees basic human rights, and is a starting point for further planning of social reforms with sustainable, efficient and socially equitable objectives available to a wider range of stakeholders.

2. Through the Past We Learn About the Future

LEAD PARTNER: Local Democracy Agency in Osijek
OTHER PARTNERS: State Archive in Osijek

DONOR: Croatian Employment Service
TIMING: December 2014 – May 2015

PURPOSES: To show importance of the river in the past and its influence on development of multi-ethnic society.

ACTIVITIES: Research and analysis of the archive. Collection of personal stories through interviews and social networks. Processing of collected data and material. Development of the internet publication in Croatian language. Translation of the internet publication into English language. Public presentation of the publication.

SUCCESSES STORIES: Publication titled "Through the Past we Learn About the Future - Looking Both Ways: Stories about Boats, Sailors and Passengers" developed and available to interested public on our web site in Croatian and English language: http://www.lda-osijek.hr/web/images/stories/publikacije/2015/BrosuraEN.pdf

3. Being Woman – Becoming Woman – Female Identities in Europe Today

LEAD PARTNER: Peuple et Culture, Paris, France
OTHER PARTNERS: Evangelische Schüler-und Schülerinnenarbeit im Rheinland

DONOR: French-German Youth Office
TIMING: January – August 2015

PURPOSES:
- To sensitize young people to other European cultures, enable them to live and understand those cultures
- To enable young people to learn to cooperate
- To foster linguistic learning
- To create a space for meeting of young women from different parts of Europe and exchange of their ideas about what it means for them to be a woman in their societal and cultural environments
- To strengthen the participants in their identity and promote their self-confidence as young women

ACTIVITIES: Preparation meeting of youth exchange leaders, Paris, France, 10th – 12th April 2015. International youth exchange, La Ferrier, France, 1st -8th August 2015. Evaluation and reporting. Preparations for the 2nd and 3rd parts of the youth exchange to take place in Germany and Croatia in 2016

SUCCESSES STORIES: Seven young women from Croatia spent a week with their colleagues from France and Germany learning about each other and their respective cultures and discussing position of a woman in the society today.

4. Goddess of Iroise Sea

LEAD PARTNER: Association Gwennili, Quimper, France
OTHER PARTNERS: Sachsische Landjugend, Dresden, Germany

DONOR: French – German Youth Office
TIMING: January - August 2015

PURPOSES:
- To sensitize young people to other European cultures, enable them to live and understand those cultures

- To enable young people to learn to cooperate
- To foster linguistic learning
- To enable young people to become aware of the endangered environment we live and motivate them to be eco-friendly citizens

ACTIVITIES: Preparation meeting of youth exchange leaders, Molene Island, France, 26th – 29th May 2015. International youth exchange, Molene Island, France, 17th -27th July 2015. Evaluation and reporting. Preparation of the international youth work camp to take place in 2016 in Croatia

SUCCESSES STORIES: Seven young persons from Croatia spent 10 day on the far away Molene Island in France restoring dry stone walls and fighting invasive plants. Together with their colleagues from Germany and France they learned about each other, their respective cultures and about importance of nature and heritage protection.

5. T-TRUST: Training on Techniques & Research on Unemployed, School-leaving of Teen-agers

LEAD PARTNER: Cooperativa Sociale Margherita, Sandrigo, Italy
OTHER PARTNERS: Local Democracy Agency Montenegro, Association des Agences de la Democratie Locale France, Centar lokalne demokratie LDA Serbia, Društvo za razvijanje prostovoljnega dela Novo mesto Slovenia, Fundacion Privada Indera Spain, Local Democracy Agency Osijek Croatia, Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities Bulgaria.

DONORS: EU, Erasmus +
TIMING: January –December 2015

PURPOSES:
- To prevent early school leaving during the transition from the middle to the high school
- To support the professional development of those who work in education, training and youth with a view to innovating and improving the quality of youth activities across Europe
- To integrate good practices and new methods into daily activities
- To opened synergies with organizations active in different social, educational and employment fields
- To improved competences, linked to the participants professionals profile
- To broaden the understanding of practices, policies and systems in education, training or youth across countries
- To contribute to greater understanding of interconnections between formal and non-formal education
- To contribute with the increase of ability to address the needs of the disadvantaged

- To increase motivation and satisfaction in daily work or activity

ACTIVITIES: Consultations with project partners. Identification of potential participants and selection of final participants. Preparation of examples of Croatian good practice. Participation in the international T-TRUST training in Sandrigo (Vicenza), Italy, 23-27th May, 2015. Evaluation and reporting.

SUCCESSES STORIES: 36 educators and teachers from 8 different European countries: France, Spain, Montenegro, Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia, Bulgaria and Italy exchange their good practice in combating unemployment and early school – leaving.

ALDA OPERATIONAL PARTNER SISAK (LDA SISAK)

Delegate: Paula Raužan

Partners: Association of the Local Democracy Agencies – France (acting as lead partner), the cities of Sisak, Hrvatska Kostajnica, Petrinja, Kutina, Dvor (Croatia); NGO "Going to Europe" (Italy); NGO «International School for Peace Studies » (Northern Ireland)

Member of the following councils and organisations:

- Association of the Local Democracy Agencies – Operational partner
- South East European Youth Network
- Croatian Network of Volunteer' Centres
- Sisak-Moslavina County Local Partnership for Employment

Vision: Society in which every individual has equal opportunities for using one's own potentials. Peace, human rights, tolerance, mobility and richness of diversity are characteristics of that society.

Mission: Local Democracy Agency Sisak by promoting human rights, preserving peace and strengthening local democracy contributes to local community development and active citizenship. By implementing non-profit programs, connecting and networking responds to the needs of individuals, local government and the wider community.

Programmes:

1. Local democracy
2. Active citizenship
3. Volunteer' program
4. For community without domestic violence
5. Organisational development

❖ Projects in 2015

1. Democratic Compact: Improving Democracy in Europe – DECIDE

LEAD PARTNER: ALDA
OTHER PARTNERS: Croatia - LDA Sisak, Town of Petrinja; Bosnia and Herzegovina - LDA Prijedor, LDA Zavidovići, Municipality of Zavidovići; Italy - Comune di Reggion Emilia; Denmark - Vejle Kommune; Spain - Municipality of Santa Eulalia de Gallego; Romania- The Mountain Community Iezer Muscel Association, Primaria Godeni, Primaria Comunei Domnesti; Slovenia- Association for Developing Voluntary Work Novo Mesto; Malta - Birgu Local Council; Bulgaria- Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities, Municipality of Balchik, Municipality of Nessebar; Slovakia- Center for Community Organizing, Municipality of Banska Bystrica; Macedonia- Town of Skopje; Albania - Agencija lokalne demokracije Albanija, Bashkia Shkoder; Hungary- Mórahalom Városi Önkormányzat

DONOR: European Commission, Europe for Citizens Program
TIMING: 30 May 2013-31 July 2015

PURPOSE: Developing, through the establishment of a thematic network of towns and by adopting a bottom-up approach, a democratic compact, namely a set of measures that are needed in Europe to increase the quality of democracy and citizen participation.

ACTIVITIES: The project resulted with the establishment of a thematic network of towns committed to increase the quality of democracy and citizen participation in the enlarged Europe, and with the democratic compact, a set of measures that have been tested and that can be further disseminated and implemented.

SUCCESS STORIES: LDA Sisak tested the measure "Public discussion" - as one of the tools for direct involvement of citizens on decision-making processes that are still rarely organised in Sisak, and mostly poorly attended by citizens. Participating processes therefore need to be practiced and tested until it will be proven as a good practice and as a desirable tool for a wider use. LDA Sisak initiated the process of the Sisak Voluntary Policy development, taking into account needs of all relevant stakeholders and the citizens themselves. One very important step of the Policy development is its presentation to the public and providing space for interested groups and citizens to give their comments and to be acquainted with the Policy.

LDA Sisak initiated process of designing Sisak Local Voluntary Policy due to successful work of Volunteer Centre Sisak that is operating within the LDA program, since 2011. Local network of representatives of 20 institutions and civil society organisations formed a working group for Sisak Voluntary Policy development. The members of the working group are coming from all the sectors entitled to use volunteers by Croatian Law on Volunteering. They have the particular interest in development of volunteering in local community, in fields such as: local government, social, health, children and youth, children in social care system, tourism, culture, animal protection, elderly people, democratisation, human rights and education. The Working group developed the Policy document entitled "Sisak Voluntary Policy 2015-2020" which was presented to the public during the local seminar that took place on 21 May 2015 and was available online for 3 weeks.

The participatory planning process ended with a public discussion that gathered all relevant stakeholders interested in the development of volunteering in Sisak. Changes accomplished by the whole process are going in two directions: development of a policy on volunteering for the first time in Sisak and introduction of a participatory process in social planning initiated by the civil society.

2. SPREAD II: Sustainable Partnership for REinforcement of Active Development

LEAD PARTNER: ALDA
OTHER PARTNERS: LDA Sisak, LDA Osijek, Lev Sapieha Foundation, Vitebsk Civic Association "Self-Government and Society", Shegomedconsult, Mahiliou Youth Center

DONOR: European Commission, ENPI Program
TIMING: 1 July 2014-30 June 2017

PURPOSE: SPREAD II aims at contributing to the promotion of an inclusive and empowered society in Belarus, by strengthening civil society's capacities to promote national reform, by increasing public accountability, and by supporting local authorities to reinforce governance and improve citizen's access to public services. More specifically, SPREAD II seeks to improve the capacity of NSA (particularly those representing the poorest sections of the population, including marginalized and vulnerable groups that have limited access to social services) to effectively participate in enhancement of living standards in Belarus notably through development strategies and programmes.

ACTIVITIES: The role of the LDA Sisak is to transfer the Croatian experience, both at national and local level, in self-government reform, rights on information and association, civil society work and support system to the civil society organisations. Moreover, to support local Belarusian partners during local activities implementation by counselling, informing and mentorship.

3. For Community without Domestic Violence

LEAD PARTNER: LDA Sisak

DONOR: own resources
TIMING: 1 January- 31 December 2015

PURPOSE: To reduce domestic violence in Sisak-Moslavina County area by giving first aid and strengthening the victims of domestic violence. To achieve more quality protection of domestic violence victims in and out of the institutions. To sensitize the public on issues of domestic violence and society's responsibility in providing help for the victims.

ACTIVITIES: Hot line for victims of domestic violence and virtual self-help group, supervisions for the hot line volunteers, and public awareness campaign on domestic violence issues.

SUCCESS: The project resulted with improved services for domestic violence victims and with bigger sensitivity of the wider community on domestic violence issues.

4. Volunteer Centre Sisak

LEAD PARTNER: LDA Sisak

DONOR: Town of Sisak, Sisak-Moslavina County
TIMING: 1 January- 31 December 2015

Volunteers' Centre Sisak (VCS) is a local volunteers' centre operating within the LDA Sisak, intended for volunteers' programmes in Sisak area. VCS is working on community developing throughout volunteering, connecting people who want to volunteer with the institutions and organisations that need volunteers.

Moreover VCS:

- In cooperation with public institutions and non-governmental organisations creates and implements quality local programmes based on identify needs of the local community and potential programmes' users.
- Recruits volunteers and keeping data in the database, provides their preparation if needed, organise education, supervision, monitoring, programme implementation evaluation, and secure legal volunteers' engagement.
- Raise capacities of public institutions and non-governmental organisations in order to set up unique quality and effective volunteers' management.
- Promotes and develops volunteering as such, in cooperation with public institutions and non-governmental organisations and works on local volunteer's policy development together with local authorities.

SUCCESS STORIES: 27 CSOs and public institutions received support and mentorship, 341 volunteers engaged on 35 voluntary programs in community that gathered 696 beneficiaries. Established the Town of Sisak Committee for Development of Volunteering, coordinating by the LDA Sisak.

LDA Sisak volunteer, Matea Vipotnik, one of the seven citizens who received the Town of Sisak Volunteer Reward in 2015.

Mayor of Sisak, Mrs Kristina Ikić Baničeк and LDA Sisak volunteer Matea Vipotnik

5. Sisak Volunteer' Network

LEAD PARTNER: LDA Sisak
OTHER PARTNERS: Home for elderly and independence persons Sisak, Town of Sisak

DONOR: Ministry of Social Policy and Youth of the Republic of Croatia, Town of Sisak
TIMING: 1 August 2014 - 31 July 2015

PURPOSE: The project is contributing to the development of volunteering and its impact to socio-economic development of Sisak by informing and providing opportunities for involvement into high quality community volunteer's programs to a wide range of citizens.

ACTIVITIES: team meetings, training on volunteers' management, support to volunteer' coordinators, raising awareness campaigns, Celebration of the International Volunteer Day – 7th Fair of CSOs and public institutions, development of Sisak Local Voluntary Policy, national campaign "Croatia volunteers!", development and implementation of local volunteering programs.

SUCCESS STORIES: Developing of the Town of Sisak Voluntary Policy 2015-2020 in participatory planning process involving whole community. Organisers of volunteering in Sisak area connected in non-formal network. 19 people trained in volunteers' management. Increased number of volunteers, organisers of volunteering and voluntary programs. Increased community awareness and information on volunteering.

Volunteers in Home for elderly and dependent persons Sisak

Sport tournament in Home for elderly and dependence persons Sisak

Sport tournament in Home for elderly and dependence persons Sisak

CSOs and public institutions Fair – Celebration of the International Volunteers Days

6. Croatian Social Policy Europeanisation and Croatian Social Charter

LEAD PARTNER: CERANEO – Centre for development of non-profit organisations, Croatia
OTHER PARTNERS: LDA Sisak, LDA Osijek, LDA Verteneglio, Heath City Split

DONOR: Croatian National Foundation for Civil Society Development
TIMING: 1 January – 31 December 2015

PURPOSE: The project aims to increase the capacities of stakeholders at the regional level to deal with growing social risks in the context of the Europeanization of Croatian social policy.

ACTIVITIES: Public project kick-off. Local and regional social policies analyses in the 5 Croatian regions, through 5 regional discussions on new social risks. Manual "Croatian social policy Europeanisation" and publication "Croatian social charter". Participation at relevant international and national expert meetings and conferences. Evaluation and monitoring.

SUCCESS STORIES: Strengthen and networked 150 experts in the field of social exclusion, and established new cooperation throughout Croatia. For the first time the publication "Croatian social charter" was developed and published. An analysis on new social risks in Sisak-Moslavina County was incorporated in the official policy document "Sisak-Moslavina County Social Services Development Plan 2015-2020", adopted by the County' Assembly.

Regional discussion in Sisak on new social risks

7. Milestones of Learning Development: Strategic improvement and development of lifelong learning programs within Danube region

LEAD PARTNER: South East European Youth Network, Bosnia and Herzegovina
OTHER PARTNERS: LDA Sisak, Youth Center Bit Cernomelj – Slovenia, Cooperation for Voluntary Service – Bulgaria, BalkanIDEA Novi Sad – Serbia, Youth for Participation - Hungary

DONOR: EU Strategy for the Danube Region, START - Danube Region Fund
TIMING: 1 March 2015 – 31 March 2016

The main idea of the project is to immensely improve and enhance the content of our work regarding lifelong learning activities by identifying needs and requirements of users, establishing relevant partnerships, developing action plan and specific projects.

The expected result is to carefully plan and systematically develop an adequate action plan with methods, tools, agendas and programs to be implemented in future LLL programs/activities, in order for them to reach full potential and have a bigger impact on participants.

The final product will serve as baseline for partner organisations who work on non-formal education of young people, to enhance the after-effect of their programs and increase impact of learning on practical level.

Focus group on non-formal education

8. Training course "Advanced Volunteer Management"

LEAD PARTNER: Youth Centre BIT, Slovenia
OTHER PARTNERS: Albania - Beyond Barriers, Bosnia and Herzegovina - SEEYN, Bulgaria - Ideas factory, CVS, Croatia - VCZ, LDA Sisak, Cyprus - Youth Power, Czech Republic - Brno Connected, Estonia - ESTYES, Greece - AEGEE Athens, Hungary - Centre Youth Association, Italy - Associazione Going to Europe, ASD Balon Mundial Onlus, Latvia - Express Yourself, Macedonia - MKC Bitola, Creactive, Montenegro - ADP ZID, Poland - Fundacja 4YOUth, Romania - Asociaţia Tinerilor Activi Civic, Slovakia - A.D.E.L., Serbia - VEM, EC Krusevac, Slovenia - MC Bit, Spain - Fundació Catalunya Voluntària, Building Bridges

DONOR: EU, Erasmus + Program, Key Action 1
TIMING: 23-31 October 2015

PURPOSE: The objective of the training course was to provide participants with competences and tools for implementing effective volunteer management system; and improving participants' skills for creating their own local/international short/long-term volunteering programs. With this training course, we aim to increase social skills and personal development of participants and raise awareness of the importance and values of volunteering.

ACTIVITIES: Residential training course in Črnomelj, Slovenia for volunteer coordinators, managers and people who are directly involved with management of volunteers and have some previous experience.

SUCCESS STORIES: The seven-day training gathered 25 participants from 18 European countries, which gained advanced competences in the volunteers management for different projects, activities and every-day tasks, in organisations that work at a local, national and international level. The topics included were: active local participation, improvement of voluntary system, knowledge sharing, networking with different cultures, conflict management and many other. The trainings were carried out through interactive and group workshops conducted by international trainers.

Training on volunteer management in Slovenia

9. Training course "Creating Opportunities - Social Entrepreneurship for Innovative Youth"

LEAD PARTNER: TOG - Community Volunteers Foundation, Turkey
OTHER PARTNERS: Bosnia and Herzegovina - SEEYN, Bulgaria - Ideas factory, Croatia - LDA Sisak, Cyprus - Youth Power, Estonia- Seiklejate Vennaskond, Hungary - Centre Youth Association, Latvia - Express Yourself, Macedonia - MKC Bitola, Montenegro - S.O.S., Slovakia - A.D.E.L., Serbia – VEM, Spain - Fundació Catalunya Voluntària

DONOR: EU, Erasmus + Program, Key Action 1
TIMING: 12-20 December 2015

PURPOSE: The main idea of this training is to educate young people and youth leaders in the field of entrepreneurship, to encourage them to release their creativity and to directly support them to develop and carry out their innovative ideas, in order to encourage them to find solutions for employment.

ACTIVITY: A residential training course took place in Istanbul, Turkey for youth workers and young people with ideas for future entrepreneurial ventures and acquainted with "business with a cause" idea.

SUCCESS STORIES: The seven-day training gathered 22 participants from 12 European countries, which gained competences needed for successful development of socially aware entrepreneurship ideas.

10. CSOs thematic platform "Forum for Equality"

COORDINATOR: Croatian Legal Centre
MEMBERS: LDA Sisak, Centre for civil initiatives Zagreb, Centre for peace, non-violence and human rights Osijek, Centre for Peace, Legal Advice and Psychosocial Assistance Vukovar, CESI – Centre for Education, Counselling and Research Zagreb, Society for Sustainable Development Design Zagreb, Muscular dystrophy society of Istria, HOMO-Association for protection of human rights and civil freedoms Pula, Croatian Anti-poverty network, Institute for Social Research in Zagreb, LORI-Lesbian organisation Rijeka, Union of Autonomous Trade Unions of Croatia, Association for promoting inclusion

DONOR: Croatian National Foundation for Civil Society Development
TIMING: 1 November 2015 – 30 October 2016

The Forum for Equality is one of the platforms established by the end of 2015 with the intention for long-lasting work, gathering 14 CSOs throughout Croatia. The platforms are a new form of cooperation with civil society organisations, aiming to involve diverse partnerships based on particular themes.

The Forum for Equality grounds on the vision of having a society based on equality as a fundamental value of constitutional order of the Republic of Croatia. Every member of the society can use his or her full potential and contribute for the joint wellbeing, for a society where diversity is strength and people are free to express their identities because every person behave with respect and appreciation. This is the vision of society that supports and protects individual and group rights, and joint interests which are defined by dialog and consensus. Through its activities, Forum for Equality aims to influence processes related to achieving this society vision, primarily on making public aware of equality principles, its importance and its integration in public policies and legislative.

ALDA OPERATIONAL PARTNER VERTENEGLIO/BRTONIGLA (LDA VERTENEGLIO/BRTONIGLA)

Delegate: Umberto Ademollo

Established: in 1996
Partners: Municipality of Bellinzona, Switzerland (Lead partner); Municipality of Verteneglio/Brtonigla (Host city), Istria Region, Croatia; Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region, Italy; Province of Florence, Italy; Municipality of Portogruaro, Italy; Municipality of Ravenna, Italy; Municipality of Greve in Chianti, Italy; Municipality of Russi, Italy; Municipality of Duino - Aurisina, Italy; Province of Florence, Italy; Association "Marevivo", Italy; Association circle of Culture Istria, Italy; Association Causes Communes Switzerland.

Priorities:
- Supporting the development of local democracy
- Supporting the European integration of the Region
- Fostering cross-border cooperation
- Raising awareness on human rights, minority rights and youth active participation

LDA Brtonigla is one of the three LDAs in Croatia. It was founded in 1996 in Istria due to the specific ethnic and cultural structure of this part of Croatia. Its aim is to support and boost local democracy and improve the functioning of civil society in the Istrian Region. Therefore, the agency is involved in numerous projects working on the following: local democracy development; civil society development; institutional building at local level; cross border cooperation; inter-ethnic dialogue; intercultural learning; promoting human rights; promoting good governance; local economic development; promoting mobility and Erasmus + projects; helping raise young people's employability and skills.

❖ Projects in 2015

Description of the projects/activities implemented in 2015:

1. Project S.M.I.L.E. - Social, Multicultural and Inclusive Life in Europe

Founded by: Erasmus + programme

"S.M.I.L.E. - Social, Multicultural and Inclusive Life in Europe" is the seventh EVS project of LDA in which are involved 4 youngsters coming from Italy, France, Montenegro and Macedonia for a period of 11 months.

Since the beginning, the EVS programme had a fundamental importance for LDA as it is promoting multiculturalism, multilingualism, active citizenship and all the learning and mobility opportunities that the EU offers to young people. In fact, the project S.M.I.L.E. aims to increase the professional competences of the volunteers, thus increasing their employability, promoting cultural diversity and increasing intercultural communication, increasing the foreign language

competences of the volunteers, promoting EVS and Erasmus+ programmes to the local Croatian youth and raise awareness of the European values and European citizenship among the local population.

The activities currently carried out are taking place in Brtonigla, Buje and Novigrad. At the beginning of their service, Magdalea, Vincenzo, Čedo and Guillaume were able to choose their activities, based on their interests and needs. Currently, in LDA office they assist in the project preparation and organization of general activities. They are also involved in the organisation of meetings with local youngsters and high students in order to promote the European Voluntary Service and other mobility projects. Moreover, thanks to the excellent working relationship that LDA has with local municipalities, schools and local authorities, volunteers had the opportunity to be engaged in activities that allow them to develop their skills by giving them confidence in work fields that they never considered before. So, additionally to their work in LDA, they are active at the Italian Elementary School "Edmondo De Amicis" of Buje, at the Open Popular University of Buje by offering free language and fitness courses, at the tourist Board and the Agency for rural development of Brtonigla, as well as at the Center for the inclusion of Buje, who deals with activities for disabled children. In addition, during their service, volunteers are attending free language courses of Croatian and Italian in order to improve their language skills and to have the opportunity to be included in the best way in the local community.

2. Project Y.E.S. - Young Europeans' Solidarity (founded by Erasmus + programme)

"Y.E.S. - Young Europeans' Solidarity" is the sixth EVS project of LDA in which were involved 4 young volunteers coming from Macedonia, Lithuania, Italy and France. During 11 months of activities, Egidio, Lucas, Dijana and Goda had the opportunity to work at LDA office as a support in the realization and implementation of projects, as well as in the activities that LDA carries out in order to development the territorial cooperation such as meetings, seminars and various events. Thanks to the excellent cooperation that LDA has with other local institutions, the four volunteers were also able to conduct some activities in the local institutions such as elementary and middle schools in Buje (Italian and Croatian), the Italian Community of Buje and Umag, the Open University of Buje, the City of Buje, the Agency for Rural Development and the Tourist Board of Brtonigla. In this way they were able to develop, through a non-formal learning approach, their skills and also increase their interests and aspirations.

In addition, volunteers were able to understand thoroughly the interaction with locals the traditions and the culture of Istria region. They appreciated the multiculturalism of the area and, on the other hand, they made the local communities to know their countries of origin and culture. Our devotion to this programme is based on the positive experience that we had with volunteers until today and we truly believe that is a great opportunity for the volunteers who are growing professionally and personally. But also is a great experience for the local community and the

people that during these 11 months were directly related with volunteers as a way of opening the mind of the local community toward new different cultures and languages.
Besides, the work of volunteers was also to promote the Erasmus + program and the European Voluntary Service. Several meetings were organized with youngsters in high school, as well as in the universities in Pula and Rijeka (in both sections - Italian and Croatian).

Besides, in 2015 the LDA of Brtonigla - Verteneglio was partner in the following projects:

3. Europeizacija hrvatske socijalne politike i hrvatska socijalna povelja - Europeanisation of the Croatian social politics and the Croatian Social Charter

Founded by: Nacionalna zaklada za razvoj civilnog društva – Demokratizacija i razvoj civilnog društva

The project implemented on National level in Croatia aims to increase the regional capacity of the stakeholders in dealing with the growing of social risks in the context of Europeanisation of the Croatian Social Policy. The project consisted in the organisation of several workshops - one in each partner region - with the aim to gather together all the interested parties in order to identify problems and challenges in the field of social policies with the idea of finding qualitative answers to the growth of social risks. The meetings were focused to facilitate the creation of innovative and workable solutions to new social problems.

According to the project activities, each partner had to research and analyse the social policies on regional level, as well as the attention that the local/regional authorities give to them. The data, collected by the various partners in the six Croatian regions were analysed, processed and incorporated into a publication that was distributed in the final meeting that was held in Zagreb in December 2015.

The complete research is available to the following link: http://www.ceraneo.hr/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/CERANEO-Hrvatska-socijalna-povelja-2015..pdf

4. Waves of citizenship, Waves of Legality

Founded by: the Europe for Citizens programme

The project aims to reinforce the role of organized civil society in combating and preventing crime and fostering the co-operation between the public entities and civil society, stimulating processes of participative democracy. Applicant of the project is Fondazione Giovanni e Francesca Falcone and it involves partners from 10 different countries: Associazione Informagiovani (IT), Association Young Volunteers Firefighters Sfera (MK), Beyond Barriers, Calistrat Hogas National College (RO), Fundatia Calistrat Hogas1911 (RO), Euroopa Projektijuhtimise Assotsiatsioon Portapolis (EE), Tallinn University (EE), Antigone - Information and Documentation Centre on Racism, Eco (GR), H2O - Associação de Jovens de Arrouquelas (PT), International Solutions (BG), Visshe Uchilishte Mezhdunaroden Kolezh (BG), TSS-SMSI "Leonardo da Vinci" Buje-Buie (HR), Udruga Agencija Lokalne Demokracije (HR), International Educational Center GEMS (CZ).

The partnership was involved in activities connected to the promotion of culture of legality, civic commitment and awareness on the role of citizens toward crime prevention.

The project is based on the following activities:
- Cycle of debates with representatives of organised civil society committed to the prevention and fight against organized crime.
- Cycle of meetings with different institutional representatives (at local, national and European level) of the law enforcement system and the participation to the celebrations and the initiatives connected with the 23rd anniversary of the murder of the judge Giovanni Falcone, killed by mafia.
- International seminar on the possible cooperation between law enforcement institutions and organized civil society to combating and preventing crime.
- Local dissemination of results in each partner country and evaluation.

Through the involvement of different stakeholders (journalists, representatives of associations, teachers, social workers, law enforcement, etc.) and the adoption of different methodologies, participants were stimulated to act as single citizens or as organised civil society, to prevent and fight against this phenomenon. Additionally, the project created synergies between the actions of civil society and the work carried out by the institutions, allowing the "cross-fertilization" between the two perspectives: cultural prevention and fight against crime.

***LDA's role as a project partner**:* The LDA has conducted a research related to the state of organised crime in Croatia and the ways to contrast it, both at legislative level and civil society level. In cooperation with the SMSI "Leonardo Da Vinci" of Buie, the LDA has selected the

participants for various meetings and organized local activities which started in November 2015 and ended in March 2016. The LDA also contributed in the dissemination of project results and its promotion on local level. A presentation of project results was organized by the LDA in the local High school of Buie in which were present Gloria Carlesso, magistrate in the Court of Appeal of Trieste (former magistrate in Sicily and Ferrara). At the event were present also the Vice president of the Region Istria, Giuseppina Rajko, and the representative of Circolo Istria, Livio Dorigo, who contributed to enrich the discussion and the outcomes of the event. Besides, In April 2016 is scheduled one more dissemination event in Istria organised in the field of the project "Waves of citizenship, waves of legality" which will involve Salvatore Cusimano, Italian journalist, currently the director of RAI Sicily, who in the past used to report facts related with corruption and mafia in the South of Italy.

5. WOSOCOOP – Work on Social cooperation

Founded by Erasmus + programme

The project addresses the problem of youth unemployment by promoting the participation and inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities. The cornerstone of the project is a training course entitled "Youth unemployment: working in social cooperation". The course, based on non-formal learning method, brought together, in February 2015, youth workers and those who work with young people from different European countries (including non-EU) to address the problem of youth unemployment, with particular attention to social work and cooperatives in the sector.

6. REACT – Act Local Think Global

Founded by: Erasmus + programme

The project aimed to promote youth participation in the local community. This is a very actual and meaningful topic that has great importance both socially and economically. This project was an excellent opportunity for the 6 young participants sent from LDA to discuss and exchange views and experiences on the theme of youth inclusion.

Also, during the exchange – with the participation of young people aged 18 to 27 years from Croatia, Portugal, Poland, Czech Republic and Sweden – the European program for youth Erasmus Plus was presented, explaining all the possibilities that this instrument of non-formal education can offer. Furthermore, the exchange served to the participants to learn more about other countries, cultures and traditions.

7. Are You(Th) Visible?

Founded by: Erasmus + programme

The project activity was a seven-day training course focused on the Erasmus Plus program and in particular on key actions 1 and 2. During the week of the course all the project methods, in the context of these two key actions, were analysed as well as the dissemination of the results and visibility of the project. A network was also created among the participants for a future collaboration.

The topics covered during the training course are:

- Overview of the Erasmus Plus program
- Management and key action planning under KA1: Mobility for young people and youth workers
- Management and planning under Action KA2: Strategic Partnerships in education, training and youth
- Definition of Visibility and Dissemination
- SWOT Analysis
- Model AIDA

LDA role in this project was to select the participants in the seminar and issued at the local level the results obtained and the objectives achieved.

8. PLAY – Passion, Love, Active Participation, Employability

Founded by: Erasmus + programme

A 7 days seminar held in Recoaro Terme (VI) focused on methods of sharing traditions, art and sport, in order to motivate unemployed young people to use their talents to become entrepreneurs. The participants were young people from Italy, Croatia, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, Romania and France. The topics covered during the workshop were:

- The development and improvement of creative and entrepreneurial skills of young people through arts and sport
- The sharing and search of non-formal learning methods, through sport and the arts and recognizing the values and traditions
- The motivation of unemployed young people to discover new talents and new cultures
- The method of how to find new strong points that enable young people to develop entrepreneurship, in particular social one
- How to create a network of partnerships that can collaborate on the Erasmus Plus program projects in the Key Actions 1 and 2

The LDA promoted the results at local level.

9. Getting in Touch with Cyber-Youth

Founded by: Erasmus + programme

The training of the duration of 10 days was held in October in Turin, Italy, and was attended by four teachers from elementary and high schools in our region. It provided methods and tools for those who work with young people to help the latter to improve the use of IT means and social networks in order to intensify efforts to combat cyberbullying and incitement to hatred online. The training, based on non-formal education methods, posed an interactive and participatory approach, through active working groups, role play and plenary sessions for discussion. Particular importance was given to the fact that the skills acquired are sustainable and transferable in the realities of the various participants.

The project aimed to improve the capacity of participants in the campaign against cyberbullying and the consciousness of using new means of communication, such as social networks. This occasion was also used to create a network among the participants, for the exchange of methodologies and approaches to the problem and for future collaborations in Europe.

In 2015 the LDA of Brtonigla-Verteneglio implemented the following initiatives/activities on local level:

- **Presentation and promotion of the European Voluntary Service in the Istrian Croatian and Italian high schools: SMSI "Dante Alighieri" of Pula, SMSI "Leonardo Da Vinci" of Buie and High school "Vladimr Gortan" of Buje**

Like every year, this year also the Brtonigla LDA team and its European volunteers have organized several meetings to promote the Erasmus Plus program among young people. The meeting at the Italian High School in Pula has become a tradition. It's addressed to the last year students who are increasingly interested in the topic and in the participation in the various activities proposed by the program. Another consolidated meeting is also the one with the SMSI "Leonardo Da Vinci" Buie attended also by the last year students. In the last year it has also intensified its collaboration with the Higher School "Vladimr Gortan" Buje where some meetings with students were

organized during which our volunteers have spoken not only of the European Programme Erasmu + , but also about the volunteering at local level.

On the occasion of December 5th (European Volunteer Day) our EVS volunteer, Egidio Lacanna was invited to give a presentation of his experience in Croatia and of his previous experiences with Gruppo Lucano of Civil Protection (and its humanitarian trips to Syria), organized for this occasion by the City of Umag.

- **Celebration of the Francophone Week**

On the occasion of the month of Francophonie, in cooperation with the Open University of Buie and with the patronage of the French Institute of Zagreb, the LDA of Verteneglio organized the Celebration of Francophone Week. The French volunteer of LDA, Lucas Grux, has organized an exhibition dedicated to the history of the French comics and to the great writers. There were screened documentaries on France and the works created for the occasion by the students of the elementary schools were exhibited: Croatian Italian in Buie.

There were numerous groups of young people who visited the exhibition, always accompanied by the LDA volunteer who guided them, presenting their own country, their own language and culture.

- **Celebration of the European week and Europe Day**

The LDA celebrated the European Week in particular in primary and secondary schools of Buie. The young European volunteers from LDA organized workshops with elementary school children focused to introduce them, through games, the concept of Europe and of European citizenship. Also, , they have organized meetings with the students of the higschool on the possibilities that Europe offers them and how to take advantage of the dedicated European programs.

- **Award ceremony in Bruxelles for the EVS project "Get Involved in Local Democracy"**

The EVS project "Get Involved in Local Democracy" of the LDA, hosted between 2012 and 2013 with the partnership of the city of Buie, involved six young people from Italy, Poland, Spain and Macedonia, who represented Croatia at the European Week Youth, whose celebrations were held in Brussels in May 2015. The project was awarded as an example of good practices. The representative of the LDA, Elena Bernich and the volunteer from Macedonia, Jasna Petrovska, who had participated in the project, were guests of the Croatian National Agency and participated in the Yo! Fest and the High Level Debate held by representatives of the Commission and of the European Parliament.

- **Round table "Common territorial challenges: Europa 2014 – 2020"**

The association LDA of Brtonigla and the City of Novigrad organized, on 7th of May 2015, the round table that was attended by the mayors / representatives of the municipalities and the Croatian, Slovenian and Italian cities which are part of the GECT – Gruppo Europeo di Cooperazione Territoriale. The main topics of the round table were the 2014-2020 European programming and the GECT as a tool for future cooperation for the development of the territory. Thirty representatives of local authorities from the three neighbouring states came together to discuss a common strategy leading to more and more intense and concrete collaborations for the development of an area that has great potential and which, although divided into three states, has a common history that facilitates collaboration at high levels and in various fields (economy, tourism, culture, etc.).

After the welcome greetings of the Mayor of Cittanova, Anteo Milos and the President of the LDA, Umberto Ademollo, Dr. Giorgio Tessarolo introduced the theme of European programming 2014-2020. The second part, introduced by the Councillor of the City of Muggia, Dr. Loredana Rossi, focused in particular on the GECT – Gruppo Europeo di Cooperazione Territoriale and its importance as an instrument of cooperation between the City and the Municipalities of the Region of Istria, Friuli Venezia Giulia and the Slovenian municipalities in the border regions.

- **Eventorganised in the honour of Gino Bartali**

It was organized in cooperation with the cooperative "The Bridge", the event was organized in February 2015 at the headquarters of the Italian Community of Buie. The relator, Giacinto Bevilacqua, presented the book "Gino Bartali, 100 anni di leggenda ". The journalist recalled the figure of one of the most famous Italian cyclists. The event was attended by a large audience, including many representatives of the Buie cycling club, who listened with attention the history and anecdotes of the life of this great Italian sportsman.

The event was created thanks to the new partnership between the LDA of Verteneglio and Leonardo Consortium of Pordenone, which is part of The Bridge. It is a strong partnership that in the last year has brought to numerous collaborations.

- **Presentation of the book/CD “Turno di Notte” of Marco Anzovino**

In collaboration with the association "Open Heart" of Buie and with the cooperative "The Bridge", in July 2015, the Italian singer Marco Anzovino presented at the theatre of Buje his latest work, dedicated to the stories of young people who found themselves in the drug scene and who are coming out of it with the help of the Venice community in which Marco works.

Marco Anzovino is a social worker with the Community for the recovery of addicts "Villa Renata" at the Lido of Venice, he is also a songwriter, musician and producer. The event was a combination of stories and acoustic concert that entertained and made the audience reflect on important and current topics.

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