

Association of Local Democracy Agencies

Activity Report 2010



With the support of the European Union.
Support for organizations active at European level in the field of active citizenship.

Association of Local Democracy Agencies

Activity Report 2010



Index

Part I: ALDA's Activities

I.1	President's Foreword	7
I.2	ALDA as an international stakeholder	9
I.2.1	The engagement of ALDA in the Civil Society Forum for Eastern Partnership	11
I.2.2	MED Strategy	12
I.2.3	Enlargement process and strategy in the Balkans and Turkey	13
I.2.4	Cooperation with the Council of Europe	14
I.2.5	Draft list of activities 2010	13
I.3	ALDA working in networks	17
I.4	ALDA members	19
I.5	Institutional activities: Governing Board, General Assembly and international conferences, working groups, country meetings	23
I.6	Assessment activities	26
I.7	Training for Staff and the Local Democracy Agencies	27
I.8	Media and Communication Strategy	28
I.9	ALDA's Projects	31
	<i>Projects on Active Citizenship</i>	
I.9.1	All 4 EU	31
I.9.2	MoDE - Mobility for Democracy in Europe	32
I.9.3	CITIES - Creativity and Innovation in Town-Twinning Initiatives in Europe and South-eastern Europe	33
I.9.4	e-panels - Fostering citizens' participation and volunteering in a wider Europe	34
I.9.5	INTACT - International Network of Towns Active Citizenship and Town Twinning	35
I.9.6	E-FoR - Education for Remembrance	36
I.9.7	PEACE (follow-up of E-FoR) - Peace Education for Active Citizenship in Europe.....	36
I.9.8	Module active citizenship	37
I.9.9	SALTO Training	45
I.9.10	Activities in Brindisi	47

I.9.11	Project with Slovenia and CNVOS	48
I.9.12	International Conference on how local authorities and Civil Society fight against global crisis	49
<i>Projects in Southern Caucasus</i>		
I.9.13	PBA Georgia	51
I.9.14	Process of opening an LDA in Armenia and Azerbaijan	52
I.9.15	Kutaisi/Monfalcone	53
I.9.16	Kutaisi/Vicenza	53
I.9.17	Kutaisi Process and Cooperation with the Congress	54
<i>Projects in the Mediterranean Area</i>		
I.9.18	Capitalize Migrants Capacities	55
I.9.19	Aix-en-Provence/Morocco	55
I.9.20	Conference "From Mixed to Shared: The Haifa Alternative", Israel	56
<i>Projects on Decentralised Cooperation</i>		
I.9.21	France/Balkans	57
I.9.22	Lower Normandy/Macedonia	58
<i>Others</i>		
I.9.23	Relaunching activities for LDA Kosovo	59
I.9.24	CARDS Subotica - Civil Society Empowerment	59
I.9.25	ReACT - Civil Society Development in Belarus	60
I.9.26	Youth Empowerment in Kosovo	61
I.9.27	Lille: technical assistance for Interreg IV C	61
I.9.28	Youth-the right direction – Southern Caucasus and Balkans	61
I.9.29	Reconciling for the future: stability instrument for Western Balkans	62
I.9.30	Cooperation with School of Political Studies – Council of Europe	63
I.9.31	Seenet II	64
I.9.32	Microcredit	64

Part II: LDAs

Albania

II.1	LDA Albania	65
------	-------------------	----

Bosnia and Herzegovina

II.2	LDA Mostar	67
II.3	LDA Prijedor	73
II.4	LDA Zavidovići	76

Croatia

II.5	LDA Osijek	81
II.6	LDA Sisak	85
II.7	LDA Verteneglio/Brtonigla	89

Georgia

II.8	LDA Georgia	92
------	-------------------	----

Kosovo

II.9	LDA Kosovo, in progress	96
------	-------------------------------	----

Montenegro

II.10	LDA Montenegro	98
-------	----------------------	----

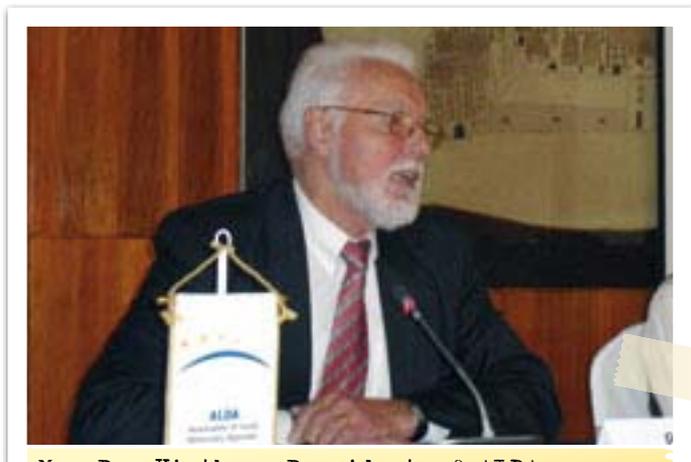
Serbia

II.11	LDA for Central and Southern Serbia	101
II.12	LDA Subotica	106

Membership form	112
-----------------------	-----

Contacts	114
----------------	-----

I.1 President's Foreword



Mr. Per Vinther, President of ALDA

Dear Readers,

ALDA can with pride look back at another successful year in 2010. In spite of the persistent financial crisis it has been possible to maintain a high level of activities both for the individual Local Democracy Agencies and for the ALDA network as a whole. The worry remains, however, that the number of partners for each LDA will continue to shrink making it difficult for them to make ends meet. In spite of this they are all doing an amazing job with many worth-while projects as you will be able to see further on in this report.

As set out in the policy paper on enlargement of the LDA network the Association is investing a lot of time and resources in preparing the ground for such enlargement to Armenia and Azerbaijan, using LDA Georgia as a stepping stone for the achievement of this objective. We are confident that an LDA Armenia will join the network in 2011, due to a good deal of welcome interest and support from

French municipalities and others as well. On the contrary, the uncertain democratic situation in Azerbaijan has made us accept that we need to proceed with additional care in that country. All this, however, falls well within the framework of our involvement with the Eastern Partnership of the EU where ALDA and LDA experience has a strong voice thanks to the fact that our Director is co-chairing the Steering Committee of the Civil Society Forum.

ALDA continued its cooperation with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe with the aim of bringing the Associations of Local Authorities of the countries of South Caucasus to increase their mutual cooperation for the benefit of cooperation at the national level. A second conference with this objective was held in Kutaisi late last year, and a further conference is scheduled for early 2012. This is clearly a difficult process but I am convinced that with a little bit of good will some concrete progress could be achieved.

Promoting civic participation and active citizenship in general has also been a large part of ALDA activities in the past year. We feel that involving our members and partners in this kind of activity goes hand in hand with ALDA philosophy also reflected in our efforts to promote democracy in South East Europe and in South Caucasus. Active citizens are needed not only to hold politicians accountable but also to generate new ideas for the benefit of the community. Through the EU programme "Europe for Citizens" we have obtained not only funding for specific projects in this field as you can read in this report but also much needed operational support for which we are extremely grateful.

At this point I would like to express a whole-hearted thank you to members and partners across Europe for their confidence in and unfailing support to the Association. Equally, I would like to thank the European Institutions whose support we are enjoying but also for their belief in the benefit of what we do: the Council of Europe and the

Congress, the European Commission, the Committee of the Regions and many more, too many to mention them all. Last but not least I would like to express my recognition of the tireless work and commitment of ALDA staff under the guidance of the Director, Antonella Valmorbida. Without this commitment our achievements might not be quite as spectacular. In the same vein I thank the LDA Delegates and their staff for their equally strong commitment in the field!

I would like to conclude on a forward looking note with reference to recent developments in South East Europe. With the arrest of some of the last alleged war crimes suspects still at large the region, in which ALDA and the LDAs have been active for more than seventeen years, should finally reach the point where the countries can concentrate on EU membership and good neighbourly relations. A situation where justice is not only done but seen to be done, where there is no longer a need to point fingers and argue about who is aggressor and who is victim, where rule of law is a matter of fact and where all citizens can enjoy all of the universal fundamental rights.

We might not be quite there yet but once we are all those members, partners, ALDA and LDA staff who have remained committed to our task and continued to support and encourage us to achieve more both in terms of quality and quantity will rightly be able to feel that they have contributed in some small or not so small way to this positive step towards a brighter future for all.

I wish you an interesting read of this excellent report.

Per Vinther
President


I.2 ALDA as an international stakeholder



Mrs. Antonella Valmorbida, Director of ALDA

We are all working to make the Association of the Local Democracy Agencies a growing international stakeholder for the promotion of local governance and citizens' participation in Europe and its Neighbouring countries. The process includes today more countries, more actions, policies and eventually people. The European policies and the next target of Europe 2020 (with the upcoming new programming period) will certainly focus on a renewed relationship between the great European project and the European citizens. The Lisbon Treaty sets the basis for this new and strong cooperation and we will all need to translate into action the words written in the Treaty.

Our objectives are also to engage new and many more local actors in Europe, civil society and local authorities. The concept of local governance and citizens' participation, partially adopted in the legislations and in the practices, needs now to be evaluated and a process of monitoring,

assessment and streamlining of the best practices should be started now. The Association of the Local Democracy Agencies puts at the centre of its interest and efforts the local actors, their participation in the decision making process and the true decentralisation process without which neither peace nor development are possible.

It is true that the term Active Citizenship appears quite recently in our glossaries. However, participation and engagement of citizens in the decision making process are not new concepts. Certainly, they represent an essential element of the democracy and every country in Europe adopts, to a certain extent, mechanisms to have a dialogue with citizens.

Today, is this the right time to have a certain assessment of our work to see if the path we followed is the best one to achieve – or at least to address – the big challenge of Europe in terms of social stability, growth, environment and peace? Is indeed local participation a guarantee for good governance and prosperous society? ALDA and its members are certainly convinced of this assumption and these are the elements, which are confirming our thoughts. We assert that Europe, internally and externally, should have a strong support to decentralisation and local citizens' participation in order to develop a sense of responsibility, ownership and good management of resources.

Very likely, in order to adapt to global challenges, the only way to address the problems will be to talk about "Participatory Democracy". Even in the countries which are aiming to join the EU or only which have established an articulate connection with its institutions (like the Union for the Mediterranean or the Eastern Partnership), the concept of Democracy will need to be articulated soon and now with its different participatory elements. Only through institutions, which will be able to engage in an innovative and constant relationship with citizens, shared and equal development will be possible. Indeed, Democracy, even in these last hours which saw the upraise of the citizens in Tunisia and Egypt,

can not be considered a process that first needs to be achieved through representative democracy and political parties. It is not possible to think that only when this process is over and well articulated, we could consider to tempt a participatory approach. Unfortunately, or fortunately, none of the processes regarding development are regular lines but they are rather messy processes, which are benefitting from the experiences held somewhere else and in different times.

The challenges for development and stabilization are embedded in many revolutionary changes. In these we should consider the importance of the capacity of citizens to be informed through technology and wide education. The global markets are unifying the people and today – more than in any other times in history – each of us is connected with what happens on the others' courtyard. Even the most repressive regimes can not block this globalization of experiences and information. And therefore, politicians – even the dictatorial ones – are now at stake and have to be confronted with a constant interaction and evaluation by citizens. New forms of consultations and dialogue must be identified today and should be based on the local approach, through a strong support to local authorities and civil society.

2010 was a very dynamic year for ALDA even though difficult because the crisis affected all our main partners and members. It produced though ideas and projects, which will be useful to find solutions as well.

Our reflection and activity engages institutions, members of ALDA, civil society groups, exchanges with experts in order to find a common line of understanding and practices to produce a change, for a better Europe promoter of sustainable development, human rights and peace.

Antonella Valmorbida

Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'A. Valmorbida', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

I.2.1 The engagement of ALDA in the Civil Society Forum for Eastern Partnership

In November 2009 ALDA attended the first meeting that launched the Civil Society Forum of the Eastern Partnership. The event was of major relevance and gathered 200 NGOs from the six partner countries from the Partnership (Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia). During the 2 days meeting, representatives of the civil society organisations that have been selected by the Steering Committee discussed in working groups and made recommendations. The four working groups were divided as follows:

- a. Democracy and Democratic values
- b. Economic integration and convergence with EU policies
- c. Environment, climate change and energy security
- d. Contacts between people

Civil society and non-governmental organisations play a crucial role, within their societies, in providing policy input, following new initiatives and in holding governments accountable. They can be active actors in promoting democratic and market-oriented reforms based on shared values,

i.e. respect for democracy and human rights, the rule of law, good governance, principles of market economy and sustainable development. These are also the values and objectives of the European Neighbourhood Policy, including the newly created Eastern Partnership.

ALDA, through its director Mrs Valmorbida, was elected as one of the Steering Committee members.

The active participation of ALDA in the Civil Society Forum of the Eastern Partnership realises its commitment to develop ties with and support the civil society in the 6 countries of the Partnership.

The activities for the Civil Society Forum in Berlin focused on the setting up for the Conference in Berlin held in November 2010. The attendance to the Steering Committee was in March 24th and 25th in Kiev, in July in Brussels and in September in Tblisi.

The methodology on active citizenship was disseminated by ALDA in Kiev on the 25th of March to some Ukrainian NGOs and during a meeting of the EESC.

Official website: www.eap-csf.eu



I.2.2 MED Strategy

Since 2009, ALDA is operating in the Med countries together with European partners to promote Civil Society and Local Governance. The recent situation in the region requests an even larger engagement of local actors in the MED countries.

The conference in Palermo, on the 30th of October 2010, confirmed the wish of ALDA members to be engaged in this area.

Decentralization, citizens' participation and civil society empowerment in the MED area are the priorities to focus on.

Migration has been identified as one of the main topic to consider in its different aspects as well as intercultural relations, culture and professional training for young people and local authorities.

The good relation established with Algerian representatives of the Chamber of Commerce stimulated to develop initiatives on local economic development. Moreover the EC-UNDP project evidenced the interest of young people at local level in launching social enterprises thanks to international remittances from Europe.



ALDA Conference in Palermo (Italy), 30th October 2010, Mr. Nouredine Sbia, FACM President

The concept of European active citizenship promoted by ALDA includes the necessary debate about development of a dynamic and intercultural European society promoting activities at European level for integration of all.

Even if the positive and useful relation established between European and Algerian partners involved in the EC-UNDP project represented for both of them a significant starting point to continue the cooperation in future, a long evaluation process would be needed for the future.

Next steps

ALDA will identify opportunities for cooperation in the MED area (as MED program, and Union for Mediterranean) at European level and monitor the EU funding programmes.

New partnership could be established with European regions and platforms working on MED area (for example ARLEM and Committee of the Regions) and ALDA will enlarge its network involving new actors with common interests and active in the area.

ALDA will organize a strategic meeting in the region hosted by Algeria and Morocco thanks to the relation already established in those countries.

ALDA will conduct an internal research to identify members active in MED area and it will proceed with general data mapping and elaboration of results about governance, active citizenship and migration in the area. It will also monitor initiatives and network at European and national level.

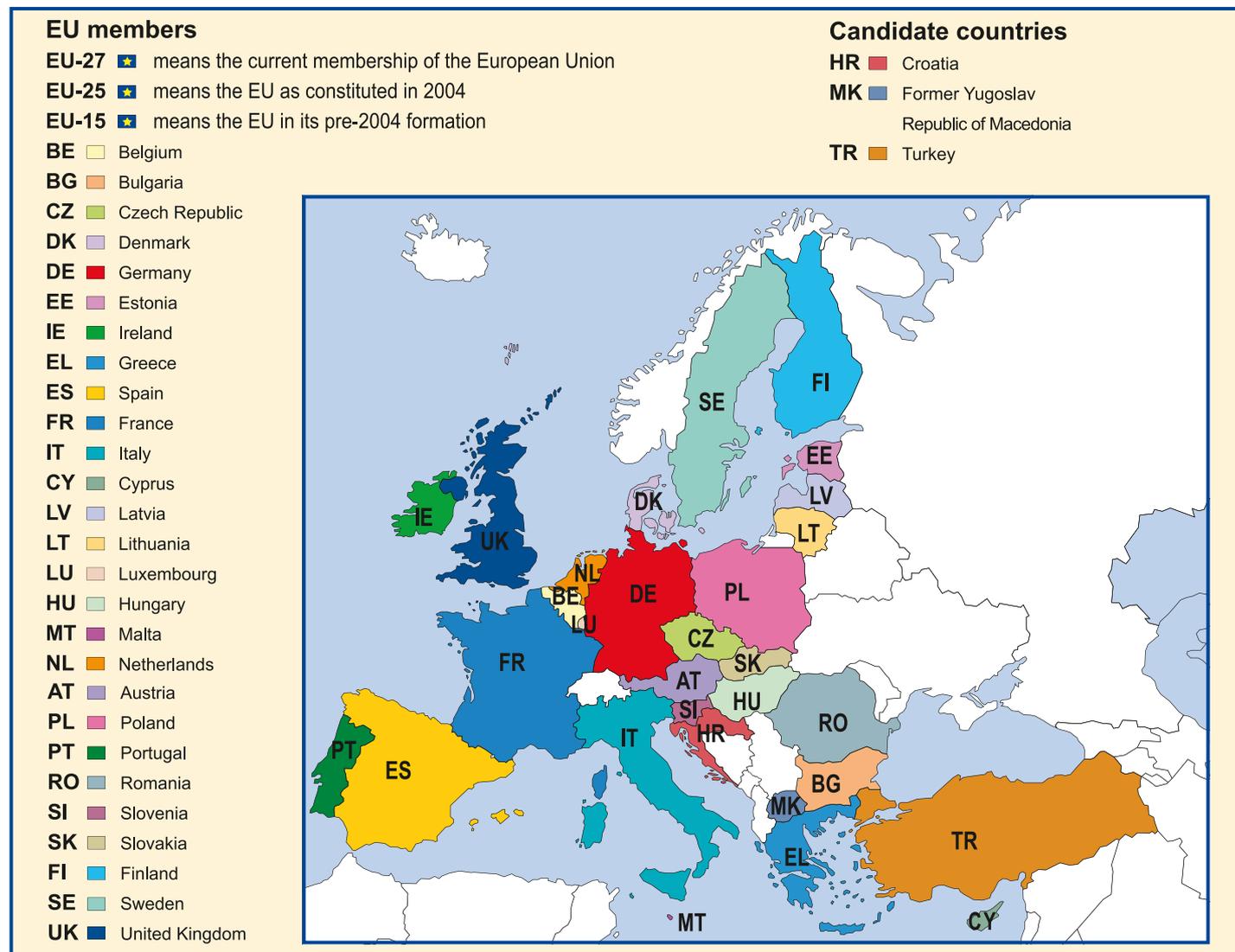
ALDA will establish a MED working group and confirm/ identify a member of the Governing Board in charge for MED initiative. The aim is also to establish, thanks to our network, new partnerships and memberships in the region. ALDA has to consider the establishment of a dedicated membership for MED members, fees and status to be identified.

1.2.3 Enlargement process and strategy in the Balkans and Turkey

ALDA follows all the development of the enlargement process of the European Union in the Balkans and in Turkey.

The Local Democracy Agencies and the members of

ALDA are strongly committed to promote local governance and civil society participation at the local level by being active in public policy drafting, implementation and suggestions. The LDAs are involved in many IPA (Instrument for Pre-accession programme) in the countries of Western Balkans (see in the different activity reports of the present document).





Info point of LDA Verteneglio/Brtonigla (Croatia)

Since 2010, Turkey became a relevant target for ALDA, with the organisation of fact finding mission, investment in new relationship with Turkish municipalities and NGOs and the definition of new programmes for 2011.

1.2.4 Cooperation with the Council of Europe

ALDA is a supporting programme of the Congress of the Local and Regional Authorities. It works closely with the European institutions to support local democracy and the full implementation of the European Charter of Local Self Government.

ALDA shares priorities and objectives, in particular in Eastern Europe and Southern Caucasus with the Congress. It contributes to an exchange of experiences and information and elaboration of common strategies.

1.2.5 Draft list of activities 2010

Contacts with European institutions and European programmes/networks

- Alliance for the Year of Volunteering, 17th of December, Brussels
- Presentation IPE Strasbourg, 21st of January
- Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, Steering Committee meeting, 21st and 22nd of January
- INGO Conference, 26th of January – Commission and promoting of the Code on Good Practices
- preparation of European Local Democracy Week, Strasbourg, 2nd of March
- Nomination human right platform Imka Gorska
- Consultation citizenship, Stakeholder meetings
- Meeting with Anna Lindh Foundation coordination, France, 25th of October
- Sustainable Tourism day, Paris, 2nd of June
- European Foundation week, Paris 2nd of June
- Event in Novi Sad for Hungarian presidency, 18th and 19th of June
- Meeting Concord, 5th of October
- Forum on citizens participation, 16th of December
- Structured Dialogue Active Citizenship, Bruxelles 12th of January
- Contribution to European Parliament elections
- Meeting with responsible of Valencia strategy, 25th of January
- MAE France, 29th of January
- Meeting representative of the Council of Europe in Belgrade, 25th of February
- Organization of the session of the Open days
- Meeting with Congress, 17th and 18th of March

- Meeting with Ambassador of Cyprus in Strasbourg, 18th of March
- Structural dialogue for citizens' consultation, 22nd of March
- Meeting EESC, Kiev, 25th of March
- Committee of the Regions, Commission Citizenship, 19th of April
- Promotion of the LDAs in the Civil Society meeting at the EESC in Brussels
- INGO: Biodiversity day and standing committee, 28th of April
- Istanbul presentation - Code of Good Practices, 3rd of May
- Meeting with ambassador Ospelt on Azerbaijan, Strasbourg, 27th of October
- Congress stand at the session 26/28th of October
- Forum for the future democracy, Yerevan, 19th and 20th
- Meeting with M. Keifer, Congress SG, 1st of June
- Meeting with Childerick Shapfeld, DGAP CoE, 1st of June
- Cor Fighting against Poverty
- Committee of the Regions, Structured dialogue 9th of June
- Civex meeting, 12th of October
- Istanbul, programme Moldova COE, 6th of October
- Message pour soutenir la Semaine de la démocratie locale
- Commission Civil Society and Democracy, Conference IONG, 5th of October
- Coordination Code of good practices, 5th of October
- Conference IONG in Strasbourg, 27th/28th of June
- Meeting with Xavier Pinon, Parliamentary Assembly France
- Preparation code on good practices – CoE 18th of June
- Nantes forum
- Summer University of the School of political Studies of the CoE
- Civex, 30th of June
- Coordination Code on good practices – follow up
- European civic forum, participation, 6th of July
- Meeting Evgeni Kirilov, EP, 14th of July
- Meeting for Code on Good Practices, Paris, 10th of August

Networking with members and partners

- Meeting with the city of Rimini, 21st of December
- Salto youth meeting, Lorient
- Meeting GEIE, Vibo Valentia, 18th of January
- Meeting, Festival della Cittadinanza Padua, 28th of January
- Contact with Platforma representatives, with CEMR
- Meeting with Zorica Vukelic. Standing Conference, 25th of February
- Meeting European contact of Europe for Citizens in Greece 19th of February
- Meeting with the City of Patras in Greece, on the 18th of February, with the City of Bydgoszcz
- Conference on regionalism, Novi Sad, 25th of February
- Mission to Norway, Intercultural cities
- Meeting with Belluno, Valdagno and Campobasso for membership
- Meeting Institut de la Gouvernance territoriale, 18th of March
- Meeting with Initiative on local government in Ukraine, Kiev, 25th of March
- ARE, 25th of March
- LDGK, 25th of March
- Reggio Emilia, 30th of March
- Meeting meeting with Regional Cooperation Council and EPC

- Central Eastern European programme, 31st March
- Presentation Forum Nantes
- Cidef, Paris, 13th of April
- Meeting with Reggio nel Mondo, digital cities, Vicenza, 16th of April
- Thiene, 16th of April
- Meeting with Learning cities, Vicenza 21st of April
- Meeting with members from Veneto, 23rd of April
- Meeting IUAV Vicenza, 23rd of April
- European Civic Days, Malaga, 7/8th of May
- Network local events Open Days
- Info day in Valdagno, 12th of November
- Meeting in Dijon, 10th of November
- Meeting with Brussels municipalities, 21st of October
- Meeting with Sacile, 14th of June
- General Conference of the Assembly of Romanian Municipalities, 24th of September
- Bydgoszcz Capital of Culture application
- Consultation CEMR
- Meeting Active Citizenship with AFCCRE, Nancy, 4th of September
- Hungary GECT, 7th of May
- Meeting Med and Regions, Palermo/Region Sicily, 14/15th of May
- Palermo – United in the Mediterranean, 14th of May
- Consultation Belarus programmes
- DAI meeting, London, 3rd of June
- Azerbaijan: youth course
- Eastern partnership civil society forum follow up, invitation for the next forum, circulation Newsletter
- Yerevan, 7/8th of October
- Meeting with AED for programme, 8th of October
- Meeting with UNDP in Yerevan, 8th of October
- Meeting with French Ambassador in Tbilisi, 24th of September
- Contact with Italian Ambassador in Tbilisi, 24th of September
- Meeting in GTZ in Tbilisi, 24th of September
- Steering Committee of the Civil Society Forum for Eastern Partnership, Tblisi, 23rd and 24th of September
- Civil Society Forum for EaP, 26th and 27th of July
- Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, Berlin, November
- Kick off meeting of the MED and SEES programmes in Salonika, Greece, 22-25th of September
- Implementation of the Code on Good Practices and Preparation of the meeting of the 5th of October
- Padua, seminar on local economic Development, 22nd of September

Launching new challenges

- Turkey, 25/27th of January
- Eastern Partnership, promoting CSF in Working group platform coordination, update
- Eastern Partnership Steering Committee, Kiev, 24th and 25th of March
- Civil society forum and contact with the CoE
- Meeting with Slovak Republic for the CSF Eastern Partnership, 29th of April
- Finsped, 30th of April

I.3 ALDA working in networks

- Member of the network: Working Together, coordinated by FPDL Romania (www.fpd.ro), trainers for local authorities in all Eastern Europe
- Observer at the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe
- Member of the Structured Dialogue of the European Commission on Active Citizenship programme
- Member of the Conference of the International Non Governmental Organisations of the Council of Europe (www.coe.int)
- Chair (Antonella Valmorbida) of the Commission Civil Society and Democracy
- Member of the European Civic Forum
- Member of the Civil Society Forum for Eastern Partnership, Antonella Valmorbida Elected member of the Steering Committee
- Regular contributor to the Policies of the Committee of Regions on Citizens' participation and governance
- Member of the Alliance organizing the European Year of Volunteering
- Member of the European Movement (www.europeanmovement.eu)
- Member of TER_RES, Territories Responsables (www.territoires-responsables.org)



Steering Committee of the Eastern Partnership CSF, Brussels, 22nd January 2010

Contacts between ALDA and European Institutions

ALDA aims at expanding its contacts with European institution (it exists already a good relation with a European but not EU institution: CoE). The Brussels office was created in 2007 as a liaison with the EC and its different agencies (especially with the EACEA). ALDA's staff continues participating in meetings, workshops, conferences or be observer of others in order to understand the subtitles of the system and reaffirm its commitment as European promoter of local democracy and participatory activities.

ALDA and the LDAs have a close link with the Congress of the Local and Regional Authorities. We participated actively, with communication and a stand at the 2 plenaries of the Congress in March and October. A meeting was organised with the new Secretary General, Jagaland, early 2010.

ALDA is an active member of the structural dialogue on European Active Citizenship and participated in all the events in 2010. We also participated to all the consultations on Active Citizenship matters and last year on the Citizens' initiative.

Strong links are established with other European networks with regular meetings and exchanges, in particu-

lar with the CEMR and the ARE (this one being member of ALDA). Different meetings and exchanges took place also with the European Policy Centre (for assessing views and possibilities) and with the RCC (Regional Cooperation council in SEE).

ALDA is a regular contributor to the Committee of the Regions consultations and participates regularly to the Civex Commission. ALDA contributed to the White Paper on Multi-level Governance and in the programme on Danube Region.

ALDA, and its Director Antonella Valmorbida, is involved in the Conference of the International Non Governmental Organisation of the Council of Europe. Mrs. Valmorbida chairs the Commission on Democracy and Civil Society. She participated actively in the debate on citizens' participation and she is the coordinator of the implementation of the Code on Good Practices for NGOs. She participated in the Commission and plenaries in 2010.

ALDA is involved as coordinator of some training activities of SALTO for Youth, thanks to the expert support of M. Marco Boaria, working with ALDA.

ALDA organised a presence at the Plenary Session of the European Parliament, with a stand, in January 2011. Our specific projects on Active Citizenship were presented.

ALDA is part of the annual European Civic Days: in 2010, it held a presentation in Malaga in May.

Lobbying on the Western Balkans and the Southern Caucasus

Since 1999 ALDA with its activity seeks to promote the Western Balkans and the South Caucasus regions as actors in European cooperation in the field of human rights, local democracy, active citizenship and local economic development.

During 2010, ALDA's network spread knowledge about these countries at the European level, while at the same



Day of Europe, Subotica (Serbia), 7th May 2010

photo by Goran Cvijanov

time improving the countries' knowledge on the European institutions. ALDA, with the help of its network, designed programmes on topics related to human rights, local democracy and local economic development identifying means and resources relevant for the general fields of interest.

We strongly lobbied for the inclusion of Serbia, Turkey and Bosnia and Herzegovina in the programme Europe for Citizens, with our members and our LDAs.

I.4 ALDA members

MUNICIPALITIES

Albania

- Shkodra

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Mostar
- Prijedor
- Zavidovići

Croatia

- Sisak
- Verteneglio/Brtonigla
- Zagreb
- Osijek

Denmark

- Vejle

France

- Kingersheim
- Nevers
- Strasbourg
- Sainte Foy Lés Lyon

Greece

- Patras

Italy

- Bari
- Borgo Valsugana
- Brindisi
- Erchie
- Lainate
- Lavis
- Lecce
- Monfalcone
- Porto Cesareo
- Portogruaro
- Ravenna

- Reggio Emilia/Reggio nel Mondo
- Rovigo
- Russi
- Schio
- Thiene
- Trento
- Trieste
- Vicenza

Norway

- Saltdal
- Sund
- Vefsen

Poland

- Bydgoszcz

Republic of Macedonia

- Skopje

Serbia

- Kragujevac
- Nis
- Subotica

Switzerland

- Bellinzona
- Lausanne
- Lugano
- Neuchâtel
- Yverdon-les-Bains

UK

- Walsall
- Wolverhampton

PROVINCES OR COUNTIES

Italy

- Bari
- Trento

Romania

- Prahova

REGIONS

Croatia

- Istria

France

- Auvergne
- Lower Normandy

Italy

- Friuli-Venezia Giulia
- Apulia
- Sicily
- Veneto

ASSOCIATIONS OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Belgium

- ARE, Assembly of European Regions
- CCRE, Conseil des Communes et Régions d'Europe

France

- AFCCRE, Association Française du Conseil des Communes et Régions d'Europe
- ENTO European Network of training Organizations for Local and Regional Authorities

Georgia

- National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia

Italy

- AICCRE, Associazione Italiana del Consiglio dei Comuni e delle Regioni d'Europa
- ACTM, Associazione dei Comuni della Marca Trevigiana
- Consorzio dei Comuni Trentini
- CONSVIPO, Consorzio per lo Sviluppo del Polesine
- Tecla, Associazione di Province Italiane

Kosovo

- Association of Municipalities of Kosovo

Malta

- Local Councils Association

Norway

- Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities

Poland

- Douzelage Association

Republic of Macedonia

- NALAS, Network of Associations of Local Authorities
- ZELS, Association of the units of local self-government

Romania

- AMR, Romanian Association of Municipalities

Serbia

- Standing conference of towns and municipalities

Switzerland

- Causes Communes Ticino

NGOs AND ASSOCIATIONS

Albania

- Horizont NGO

Algeria

- FACM

Austria

- Europazentrum Wien (EZW)
- Foster Europe, Foundation for strong European Regions

Belarus

- Lev Sapieha Foundation

Bulgaria

- Association for European Partnership - AEP
- Balkan Assist Association
- National Forum API (Alternatives, Practice, Initiatives)

France

- ALFA Formation
- CIDEFE (Centre d'information, de documentation, d'études et de formation)
- Maison de l'Europe

Greece

- AKRO NGO - Active Creative and Reforming
- Institute of Entrepreneurship Development
- KMOP (Kendro Merimnas Oikoyenias kai Pediou)

Hungary

- NeTe, Centre Internationale de Formation Européenne

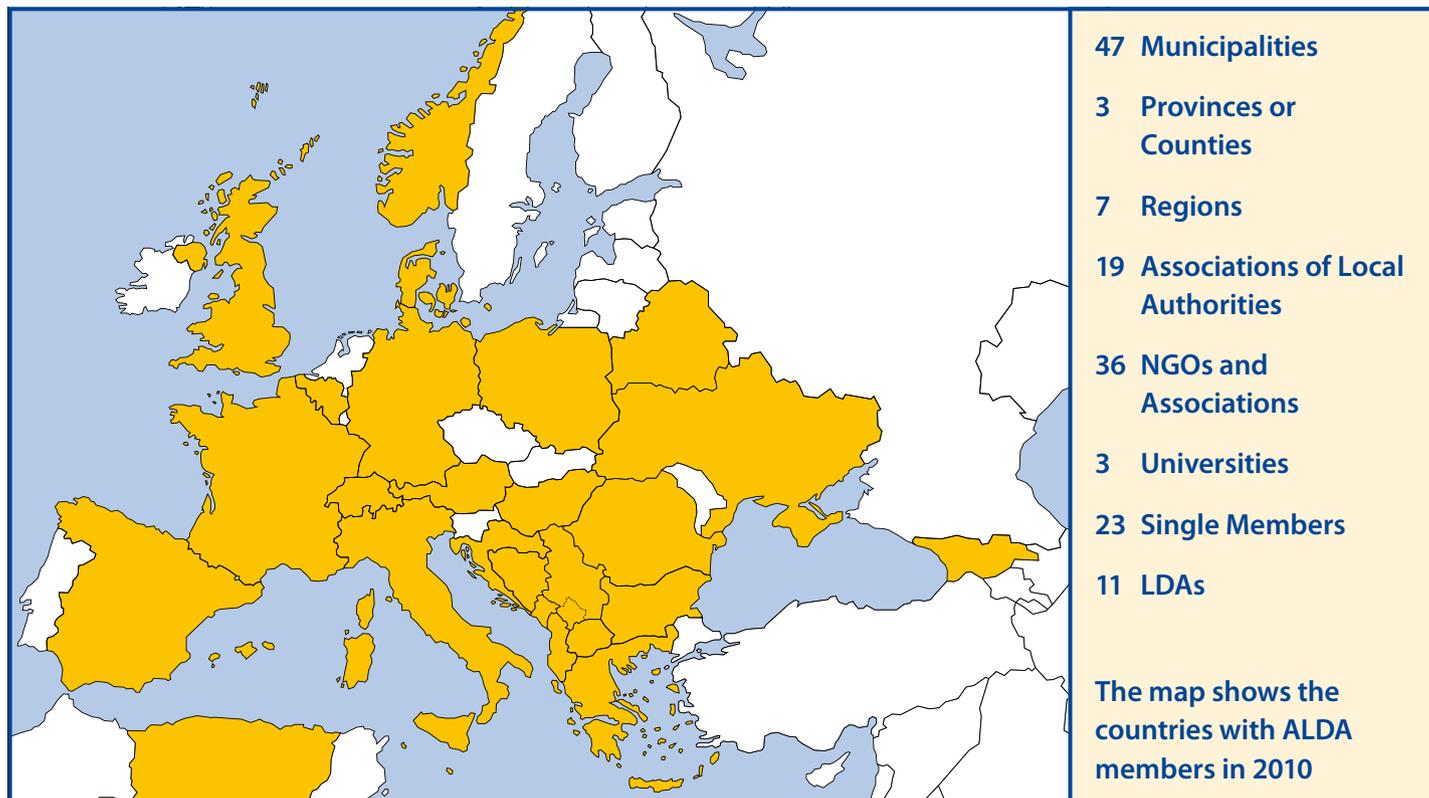
Italy

- Associazione per l'Ambasciata della Democrazia Locale
- Associazione Progetto Prijedor
- Cosmo s.c.s.
- Fondazione Opera Campana dei Caduti
- Identità e Dialogo
- IPRES

- Isbem
- Istituto Euromediterraneo
- Progettarte
- Putignanonelmondo
- Solo Uguali Diritti
- Tavolo Trentino con Kraljevo
- UNISCO - Network per lo sviluppo locale
- Vibo Sviluppo

Republic of Macedonia

- CIRA
- Community Development Institute Macedonia
- CRPRC, Centre for Regional Policy Research and Cooperation
- Sega



Spain

- DOCUMENTA - European Institute for Training

UK

- Newport Kutaisi Association

Ukraine

- Ukrainian Agency for Democracy and Local Self-Government

UNIVERSITIES*Italy*

- IUAV Venice University
- Padua University

Ukraine

- Agency for Legislative Initiatives - Ukrainian School of Political Studies

SINGLE MEMBERS*Belgium*

- Van Damme Lukas
- Vinther Per

France

- Affholder Sylvie
- Beck Colette
- Bohner Ulrich
- Brischoux Maud
- Fouconnier Alain
- Friederich François
- Vulcano Luigi
- Locatelli Rinaldo

Germany

- Schley Michael

Italy

- Bottacin Diego
- Cuonzo Maria Teresa

- Franco Lara
- Martini Gianfranco
- Rizzo Sebastiano
- Tenore Luigi

Serbia

- Kern Imre

Spain

- Fischer Dorothee

UK

- Mayer David
- Boorer Malcom
- Master Owen

Ukraine

- Zaychukova Vitalina

LDAs*Albania*

- LDA Albania

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- LDA Mostar
- Lda Prijedor
- LDA Zavidovići

Croatia

- LDA Osijek
- LDA Sisak
- LDA Verteneglio/Brtonigla

Georgia

- LDA Georgia

Montenegro

- LDA Montenegro

Serbia

- LDA Center South Serbia (LDA CSS)
- LDA Subotica

I.5 Institutional activities: Governing Board, General Assembly and international conferences, working groups, country meetings

Governing Board

The Governing Board is responsible for the management and administration of the Association. A new Governing Board was elected in May 2008 in Vienna during the General Assembly. Meetings of the Governing Board were held in Kragujevac on the 26th of February and in Skopje on the 27th of May, on the occasion of the General Assembly 2010. The third one scheduled for 2010 was held in Bydgoszcz in Poland on the 16th of November 2010.

For 2010, Mr Alain Fremont, Vice Mayor of Nevers (FR), and Mr Jean-Claude Mairal, Vice president of Region Auvergne (F), were included a member of the Governing Board, following his prerogative as President.

Bureau

The Bureau and the President, in liaison with the director, are responsible for the day-to-day management of the Association and they are in charge to coordinate ALDA day-by-day functioning.

The meetings of the Bureau are usually convened 3/6 times each year. In 2010 the Bureau met in Kragujevac, Skopje and Bydgoszcz, before the Governing Board meeting.



ALDA Governing Board, Bydgoszcz (Poland),
16th November 2010

General Assembly

The General Assembly sets the Association's activities in broad outline and lays down guidelines for developing these activities. It also monitors conduct these activities and approves the annual financial and narrative report. It aims at analysing the results and general achievements of the past year (according to the plan of the previous Assembly) and it aims also at analyzing new challenges and decides what are the appropriate methods in approaching them e.g. challenges risen with the economic crisis at pan-European level.

The General Assembly 2010 was held in Skopje (Macedonia) on the 28th of May. It is a fundamental event in the life of the organization gathering the 180 members (local authorities and civil society groups). It was hosted by the Municipality of Skopje, a new member of ALDA in 2010.

During the GA were presented: the report of activities 2009, the approval of accounts 2009, the Treasurer's report 2009 and the approval of the membership fees. The core of the day was represented by the presentation of programme and budget for 2010 followed by a video about the Microcredit Scheme and presentation of the Working Groups.

Thematic Working Groups

The working groups for the members have several different topics:

- Local governments issues, good governance and decentralization – one of the meetings with the LN/MK project in Caen
- Participation of civil society, civil society empowerment – Volunteering – Human rights protection awareness (debates raised in Patras)
- Situation in South-east Europe and in the Caucasus – to be picked up
- Local Economic Development-debate with LDAs in Vicenza
- EU enlargement-meeting in Brindisi for the Lisbon Treaty
- The participating members have the opportunity to exchange their views, practices and experiences, and have the chance to promote networking and cooperation on the addressed topics. In this framework, the working groups provide a beneficial unbiased platform for debate, by promoting mutual exchange of experiences



Meeting on Lisbon Treaty, Brindisi (Italy), Nov. 2010, M.Ciullo, A.Valmorbida and P.M. Kaczynski

among the members as well as an in-depth understanding of the above-mentioned topics. The international thematic working groups aim also at enhancing the knowledge on specific topics, identified and shared by both ALDA members and LDAs. Moreover, the Working Groups' programme seeks to produce qualified project ideas involving ALDA members and to draft a sort of position papers based on participants' common views on the specific topics. In addition, the Working Groups are an outstanding chance to favour the involvement and participation of ALDA members.

Country meetings

ALDA promotes, on annual basis, several meetings to gather together the organisations (local authorities and civil society) established in the countries where the Association has the highest number of members.

These meetings aim at promoting exchange of experiences and best practices on topics of European interest (Active European citizenship, democracy, local governance, citizens' participation, youth...). They provide an opportunity to "launch" new joint ideas and initiatives at the local, national, and European level, focusing on the most vivid European topics, in order to build and/or strength new partnership and relations among ALDA members.

From mid-March on, several meetings were prepared and on the 6th and 7th of May a country meeting was held in Denmark.

A coordination meeting with the French municipalities involved in the Balkans and promoting Active Citizenship was held Paris and Auvergne on the 12th of January and 9/10th of February 2010 in Clermond Ferrand, Auvergne.

Events were organised also at the Association of Municipalities of Romania in Bucharest, for Romania, in Greece at Patras and in Bulgaria.

LDA partners' meetings

It is the forum of partners participating in co-operation programmes with the LDA; represents an opportunity for designing common proposals for bilateral and multilateral co-operation.

On an annual basis LDAs' partners' meetings are organised with participants of host and partner cities to exchange good local practises in building local structures for improved citizens' participation through co-operation with civil society organizations in order to subsequently enhance communication with citizens. In particular, these meetings endeavour to promote in LDAs' regions EU values at local level, standards in education for democratic citizenship, participation of youth in public life, intercultural tolerance and understanding. Specific priority is usually given to:

- a. mechanism and institutions of citizens participation and consultation, including thematic forums of citizens.
- b. capacity building of local youth groups and exploring the opportunities for collaboration within the wider European Youth in Action programme.

During 2010 for each LDA there were several partners' meetings with ALDA as coordinator.

To set up the renewal of the LDA in Albania, several meetings with potential delegates were held in Italy (7th and 8th of January in Vicenza and on the 14th of January in Bari). The new delegate for the LDA Albania was appointed on the 16th of February in Tirana.

At the beginning of the 2010 the follow up for the LDA Mostar was carried on with the appointment of a new delegate and a partners' meeting.

For the LDA Georgia a meeting was held in Nantes on 27th of January. It was followed by a letter of support from the Municipality of Nantes.

The LDAs network was constantly followed in 2010 by a dedicated staff.



LDA Kosovo Partners Meeting, Peja (Kosovo),
2nd August 2010

I.6 Assessment activities

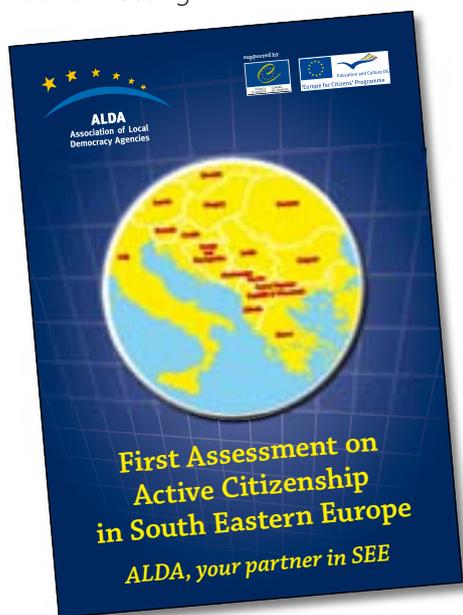
Assessment of the impact of the “Europe for Citizens” Programme in Croatia, FYROM and Albania

Members and partners from Croatia, F.Y.R.O.M. and Albania, together with EU states involved, participated in the publication of an Assessment on “Europe for Citizens” programme in South Eastern Europe. This evaluation contributed to the dissemination of the analysis of the impact that the programme had in the “new” programme countries.

Assessment of the Local Democracy Agencies (evaluation)

The assessment is a report in 2010 for the strategy paper 2020, following a tested and structured approach (pilot Montenegro, 2005) approved in 2006 by the Governing Board. The evaluation of the LDAs is planned for 2011.

A general assessment took place in Vicenza during the LDAs’ meeting.



Youth project in the frame of Europe for Citizens programme

I.7 Training for Staff and the Local Democracy Agencies

Training for the Staff of the Association of the Local Democracy Agencies

Each year training activities are organised for the staff of the Association of Local Democracy. These activities focus on networking in the enlarged Europe, project drafting and development and on assessing the impact of active citizenship initiatives at the local level.

The staff meetings are a great chance for the staff to be trained. The staff meetings have been organized throughout the whole year, the first one took place on the 8th of January, the second on the 3-5th February and the third on the 22nd of April in Vicenza, during which the new software File Maker was presented to the staff. The fourth staff meeting took place in Brussels on 28-29th of July 2010.

Another opportunity for training activities is the participation of the staff at seminars and conferences. During the whole year ALDA staff took part in several conferences and seminars as:

- the conference on regionalism in Novi Sad on the 25th of February;
- the Anna Lindh Forum 2010 (March 4-7th) that aimed at giving new momentum to the cooperation among civil society organizations committed to intercultural dialogue in the Union for the Mediterranean region and to enrich the activities of the forty-three National Networks of the Anna Lindh Foundation;
- the seminar (GECT) in Hungary on the 7th of May;
- the participation at the Sustainable tourism day and the European Foundation week on the 2nd of June in Paris.

Training for the delegates and the staff of the Local Democracy Agencies

ALDA provides to the delegates the main clues concerning the following topics: LDA management, partnership and networking, media and communication, active citizenship... To achieve these goals the Association uses two tools and they are: specialized seminars and open space debates, both aiming at enabling the delegates to create/manage their own agenda of working sessions.

These activities tend to raise-up the profile of the organization and to strengthen cooperation and relations within the network. They allow delegates to discuss issues/topics which are the most relevant for them through an "Open Space" method and this favours the exchange of ideas, practices, experiences among delegates in order also to produce final papers including "recommendations" for delegates and the LDAs.

The training activities offer also the chance to update the "guidelines" (a Decalogue) for delegates and LDAs and provide the delegates with some relevant technique.

The Governing Board of ALDA was active to support the LDAs network.

M. Vinther participated in a meeting at the Council of Europe in Belgrade on the 25th of February 2011. Consequently Mrs. Valmorbida participated in a conference on regionalism and decentralisation in Novi Sad, in preparation of the opening of the programme Europe for Citizens in Serbia.

I.8 Media and Communication Strategy

During this year ALDA worked with several different communication tools as the audiovisuals testimonies that were uploaded on the new and more interactive ALDA website and disseminated through the partners' network.

In order to improve citizens' understanding of the EU and its functioning, as a follow up of

the European Parliament programme and awareness campaign, a survey was published. ALDA is always inclined to improve communication and lines of debate between EU's institutions and citizens and to be the intermediary and present at restraint meetings the needs, expectations and resources of different communities. ALDA aims also at developing digital and not only means of disseminating information to a wider public making the "Europe for Citizens" Programme and EU's institutions reachable.

ALDA published numbers or articles and a whole press clipping and video promotion is available now. It works with the Agency Testa&Rizzo Associati from Italy.

In order to enhance its image in the institutional environments of Europe, ALDA has decided to be present with an advertising page on the special issue, Guide to Europe, of the European Parliament Magazine, which was widely distributed at the end of 2010, for local governments actors in Brussels.

The special edition is a guide that has a long stay on the tables of the addressees, and was distributed not only to the MEP, also to all Commissioners, officers of Parliament and Commission.

The Guide was also published on line.

As a follow up of the Conference in Albania on decentralization with UCLG a report was published. Beside the Day of Europe and the Anniversary of the Schumann Declaration, LDAs organised and took part

THE PARLIAMENT
POLITICS, POLICY AND PEOPLE

Dear MEP,
while you are working every day to build a sustainable, fair and successful Europe in the Parliament, we are working alongside you in the field and in the different corners and cities of the European Union and its neighbouring countries. We work with Citizens, Regions, their Associations and civil society to ensure European values also in countries affected by recent wars or looking to establish their democracy.

The Association of Local Democracy Agencies has more than 160 members in Europe, devoted to local good governance and citizens' participation.

WE BELIEVE THAT:

- More Europe and Less Conflict with Sustainable and Equal Wealth is not a slogan but our mission and a reality
- Dialogue between citizens and local authorities represents the response to the future of democracy
- Decentralisation of powers is a way towards wealth and sustainable development
- The EU must be an instrument for peace, stability and growth
- Participatory democracy gives better solutions to the needs of the community

WE WORK VIA:

- Projects
- Local Democracy Agencies (LDAs) actors of Decentralised Cooperation
- Networking
- Analysis
- Lobbying

AREAS OF ACTION

- Europe 27
- South Eastern Europe
- MED area

For further inspiration, visit
www.alda-europe.eu

Headquarters:
Strasbourg c/o Council of Europe

Offices:
Brussels, Vicenza, Subotica, Skopje
12 LDAs in Balkans and Caucasus

phone: +33 (0) 290 21 45 93
e-mail: alda@alda-europe.eu

ALDA
Association of Local
Democracy Agencies

Advertising page on the European Parliament Magazine

at other events like: the “Neighbours’ day” in Mostar on the 25th of May, during the same day it was scheduled also a meeting with the Mayor.

During 2010 ALDA coordinated the activities of its 11 LDAs especially as far as the celebration of the Day of Europe is concerned and also the celebration of the 60th anniversary of Schumann Declaration. Together with the LDAs, the Association offered informative sessions on the programme Europe for Citizens and the setting-up of citizens group at the local level. These themes aimed particularly at developing new and innovative initiatives in the field of active citizenship, strengthening their capacities and their skills establishing at the same time relevant and significant partnership and cooperation with civil society and local authorities at the local and regional level.

ALDA endeavoured to create also a regional network in the Caucasus preparing the basis for opening two Local Democracy Agencies in Armenia and Azerbaijan.

As a follow up of the Conference in Albania on decentralization with UCLG a report was published. Beside the Day of Europe and the Anniversary of the Schumann Declaration, LDAs organised and took part at other events like: the “Neighbours’ day” in Mostar on the 25th of May, during the same day it was scheduled also a meeting with the Mayor.

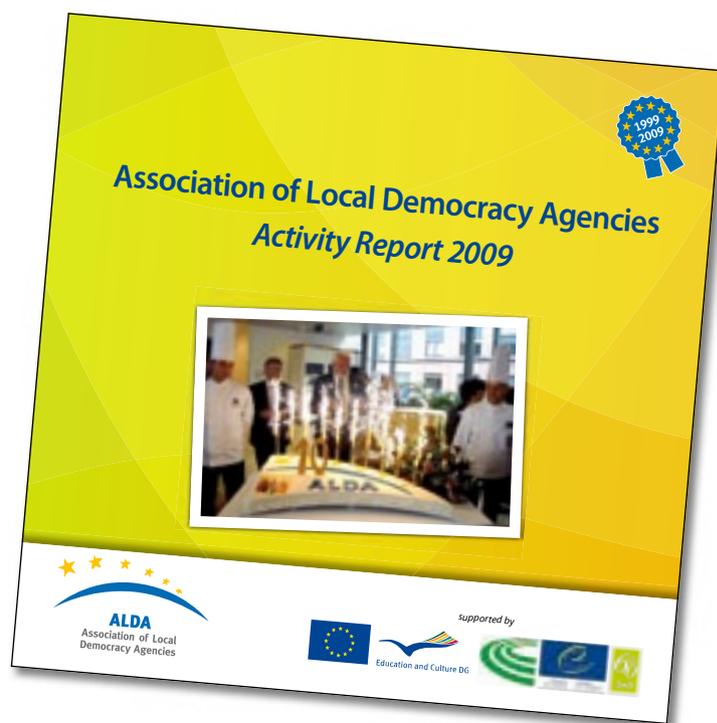
Contacts with journalists throughout Europe

To further expand and update its database of journalists through Europe ALDA maintained dynamic relations with them to guarantee a regular media coverage of all its events, especially during the study visits implemented in partnership with AED and USAID, when the publicity plan and the media coverage became fundamental.

Contacts were established with the Council of Europe journalists during the plenary of the Congress in Strasbourg.

Publications

ALDA Activity Report 2009 was published right before the General Assembly held in Skopje in May and it is a complete book with photos, which provides the details of each activity that Association carried on in 2009. In 2010 an assessment report was published on the “Europe for Citizens” programme in South Eastern Europe and it has been disseminated.



A methodological handbook comprising the conceptualization of ALDA methodologies in the field of Active Citizenship is reported in 2011.

6 newsletters have been published throughout the whole year and sent to ALDA’s network and members.

ALDA with its publications aims at capitalizing its experiences, especially on youth and active citizenship issues

and endeavour to disseminate new knowledge and promotion of new capacities on the addressed topics together with the promotion and the dissemination of ALDA's activities and results.

A publication on the Active Citizenship programme (Europe for Citizens) in South Eastern Europe was produced in February 2010.

A report on Decentralisation in South Eastern Europe and Caucasus is now published, following a cooperation between ALDA and the UCLG and the Diputació of Barcelona, meeting in November 2009 in Shkodra (Albania).

A stand at the European Parliament was held on the 21st of January 2010, promoting the work on Active Citizenship of ALDA. Contacts with journalists were established.

A page on Active Citizenship and promotion of our work was published on the

European Parliament Review at the end of 2010.

The report on the Working Groups will soon be published.

Audiovisual projects (new ALDA videos)

New ALDA videos were issued focusing on active citizenship (related to its general experience but also to specific projects developed with Europe for Citizens programme). This work aimed at disseminate ALDA's activities and to encourage digital means in co-operation projects.

ALDA plans to use these videos instruments to encourage wide participation at this programme, its calls and to inform specific actors.

A video-movie on the Microcredit project was issued.

Re-launch of ALDA website

In 2010 ALDA re-launched its website, a new and more interactive tool for external communication and announcements, a platform for informing partners and members but also the wide public of events and new projects opportunities.

This more interactive website was designed in order to provide its technical support online and improve the follow up of events, as well as to provide materials and information in real time and to create a restricted area for its members.

This new tool will increase the visibility of the Association and its activities.

It offers new "services" as the online system of following up town-twinning trainings.

Now ALDA's contents are present on-line also on Facebook and Youtube.



The homepage of the re-launched website of ALDA www.alda-europe.eu

I.9 ALDA's Projects

PROJECTS ON ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

I.9.1 All 4 EU

ALL.4.EU was a project consisting of the setting-up of citizens' panels (groups of ordinary citizens, not spontaneously involved in European issues) in six different countries in Europe: Bulgaria, Slovak Republic, Denmark, France, Malta and Italy. The employed methodology of the citizens' panels was characterized by an active interaction between all the actors involved (citizens, local authorities, EU Institutions, etc.), to encourage and facilitate interaction and participation. This specific methodology's main goal was the opportunity to people to be involved and play an active role in the construction of Europe and to contribute to bridge the gap between citizens and the European Union.

During 2010, the financial and final reports of the project were elaborated and published.



Interactive citizens' panel activity with young people

1.9.2 MoDE - Mobility for Democracy in Europe

In partnership with 7 NGOs from 6 countries (France, Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Italy and Greece) ALDA started in 2010 a new project named MoDE: Mobility for democracy in Europe-Volunteers for Democracy.

The project fostered citizens' participation and interaction between citizens' and NGOs through debates on how to improve EU's policies and civic participation, with a focus on volunteering. Thus, it raised awareness on the common values of democracy, citizenship and participation and contributed to the development of a sense of European identity. As 2 partners are from candidate countries, the project also helped to develop a sense of European identity in the wider Europe. MoDE especially targeted professionals from CSOs and volunteers of all ages (young and senior citizens).

The project consisted of two pillars of activities: supporting transnational mobility between NGOs and supporting volunteering exchanges. After a launching event with discussions on the role of volunteering and CSOs for democracy in Europe today, the partners met in pairs in transnational mentoring sessions to exchange about their



MoDE Launching Conference, Strasbourg,
30th April 2010

organisation's working methodology. These sessions also included meetings with other local CSOs. An even more intensive methodological exchange was made possible through transnational mobility exchanges lasting two weeks, during which volunteers visited partner organisations, assisted them in their work and got to know another working method well. Each partner organised a workshop on volunteering in order to promote the concept of international volunteering and the funding possibilities that exist for volunteers wishing to go abroad. Online mentoring sessions allowed for a good preparation of the volunteers and a further promotion of voluntarism.

Following activities were implemented in the framework of the project: First Steering Committee Meeting (Strasbourg, 30th April 2010), Mobility Support Meeting/Launching Conference (Strasbourg, 30th April 2010) Seven transnational mentoring sessions, including meetings with local NGOs (Strasbourg, France, June 22nd/23rd 2010; Piraeus, Greece, 16th/17th June 2010; Kastoria, Greece, 4th/7th October 2010; Bari, Italy, 22nd/23rd July 2010; Sisak, Croatia, 21st/24th October 2010; Plovdiv, Bulgaria, 11th/12th February 2011; Gjirokaster, Albania, 2nd/4th January 2011).

Two-week mobility exchanges for staff of NGOs (Brussels, Belgium, 18/10 to 29/10; Athens, Greece 15/11 to 25/10; Kastoria, Greece 05/10 to 18/10; Sisak, Croatia 22/11-04/12; Plovdiv, Bulgaria 15/11to 26/11; plus two exchanges in 2011); Local Workshops on volunteering themes (November 24th, Strasbourg, France; November 22nd, Athens, Greece; November 4th, Plovdiv, Bulgaria; September 18th, Lecce, Italy, plus support activities; December 1st, Kastoria, Greece; plus two workshops in 2011).



I.9.3 CITIES – Creativity and Innovation in Town-Twinning Initiatives in Europe and South-eastern Europe

The programme labelled CITIES (Creativity and Innovation in Town-twinning initiatives in the EU and South East Europe) involves several ALDA members: Albanian Association of Municipalities, Regional Association Central Stara Planina, Union of Black Sea Local authorities, Association of local authorities in Lithuania, ECOVAST Macedonia, International Co-operation Agency of the Association of Netherlands, Municipalities, the Union of Cities of Slovakia.

The project aimed at promoting innovation and creativity in the framework of town twinning as a way to revitalize and develop town-twinning relationships. Another aim of the project is to endeavour to develop new skills among those responsible for town-twinning activities at local level and to promote exchanges of good practises, while giving citizens the opportunity to participate and interact. In addition the project was designed to enhance tolerance and

mutual understanding between European citizens and encourages networking.

CITIES foresaw seven national workshops: Shkodra, Permet, Sarandra and Kamza (Albania), Gabrovo, Varna (Bulgaria), Vilnius (Lithuania), Bitola (Macedonia), Bratislava (Slovakia) and an international workshop in Dordrecht (the Netherlands).



CITIES Final Conference, Dordrecht (The Netherlands), 13th January 2011

The organisation and the launching event took place in Shkodra in March 2010, followed by the setting up and the organization of the programme aimed at promoting the concept of town-twinning while starting, revitalizing or developing town-twinning relationships.

On the 24th of March 2010, a first meeting was organised to mark the beginning of the project and it was held in Shkodra, Albania, with the support of the LDA of Albania.

It gathered some local representatives and a majority of teachers, lecturers and students from the University of Shkodra. Key speakers were professors from the University of Salento, Italy, partners of LDA Albania.

The project led to interesting and fruitful results issued from the joint reflection made by Local Authorities and Civil Society Organisations (CSO) involved during all the phases of the project. Detailed results can be found in the publication of the project, which is downloadable on ALDA's website.

The final steering committee meeting and the final conference of the project took place in January 2011 in Dordrecht (the Netherlands).

1.9.4 e-panels – Fostering citizens' participation and volunteering in a wider Europe

The project was designed to bridge the gap between citizens and the European Union in an innovative way, bringing the EU closer to the citizens is one of the biggest challenge the EU is facing today.

The project aimed at:

- consolidating the methodology of “citizens’ panels”, adding a new dimension, i.e. the e-dimension, in line with the European Year of Creativity and Innovation 2009;
- widening the number of participants in panels involved through the use of ICT and online forum;
- generating discussion on a specific theme, i.e. citizen participation in Europe and what role volunteering can play in this regards;
- including candidates countries (and potential one) in this process, in order to foster citizen participation about EU issues in the wider Europe, developing thus an inclusive mechanism.

The project consisted in the creation of “e-panels” (online forums) uniting citizens from different ages, nationalities and backgrounds.



Throughout the project, various local, transnational and international and online activities were organized by ALDA and the partners. At the beginning of 2010, the setting up and the organization of the programme started and the launching event was held



e-panels Final Conference, Zagreb (Croatia), 3rd November 2010

in Skopje on the 3rd of March. At this occasion, the agreements were signed with the partners and a further meeting in Brussels on the 12th-15th of April was scheduled.

During the year the implementation of the project proceeded with international meetings and several local activities run by the partners (First steering committee in Skopje, 2nd March 2010, Launching conference in Skopje, 3rd and 4th March 2010, Training of citizens’ panels activators and preparation of a Kit for e-panels in Brussels, 13th to 15th April 2010, Promotion of local citizens’ panels around the day of Europe in the partners’ towns, Local online workshops, Final international conference and last steering committee - Zagreb, 4th November 2010).

The project also included a publication ‘*e-panels: fostering citizens’ participation and volunteering in a wider Europe*’, which presents the results of the discussions on the online forums.

Project partners: ALDA (lead partner), Maison de l’Europe de Caen (France), Fundacion Insula Barataria (Spain), Association for European Partnership (Bulgaria), Local Democracy Agency Osijek (Croatia), Local Democracy Agency Sisak (Croatia), Centre for Regional Policy Research and Cooperation ‘Studiorum’ (Romania), NGO Horizont (Albania).

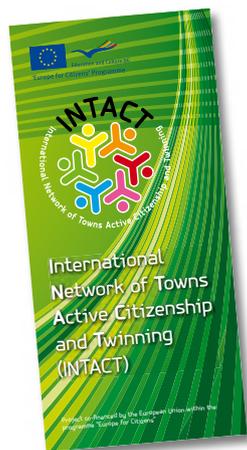
I.9.5 INTACT – International Network of Towns Active Citizenship and Town Twinning

The project's main goal is the creation of a Network of Towns that encourages town twinning as a tool for a long lasting cooperation, especially in the field of citizens' participation. It endeavours to create a wide-scale network to encourage the multiplication of cooperation agreements. Special attention is given to the EU integration process, focusing thus on eastern-western cooperation.

The objectives of this project are foster citizens' participation and interaction with local and EU institutions through debates improving citizens' involvement in public life and decision-making process at the local level through expression of local democracy. The project raises awareness on EU common values such as democracy and participation, promoting thus Active European citizenship and European identity. By gathering together EU and pre accession countries, INTACT promotes a shared identity in the wider Europe.

Following a partnership approach, the project tries to generate fluid and rich interactions.

A network is the best expression of the approach because it implies multiplying activities and a long lasting commitment.



The target groups are especially CSOs, local public officials and local authorities as well as ordinary citizens, young people and women.

A thematic networking was set up at the beginning of the project's implementation to programme the activities according to a budget revision. A first international meeting was held in Sisak on 7th-9th June, in-



INTACT study visit, Sisak (Croatia), 9th June 2010

cluding the first steering committee meeting and a study visit. The partners organised several local events in 2010; the project continues with a summer school for youth and a policy making meeting that will take place in July and October 2011 respectively.

1.9.6 E-FoR – Education for Remembrance

The project E-FoR (Education for Remembrance) aimed at creating a network of remembrance institutions and at developing new educational strategies for memorials. Partners involved were ALDA (Lead partner, France), Jasenovac Memorial Site (Croatia), LDA Sisak (Croatia), The Junction – Towards Healing and Understanding (UK), Mémorial (Cité de l’Histoire) Caen-Normandie (France), Institute for National History (Rep. of Macedonia) and the Municipality of Nardò (Italy).

Following activities were implemented during the project:

1. Partnership building meeting in Caen (20th February): this meeting gathered several project partners, who jointly defined elements of the working plan for the project.
2. Seminar in Jasenovac (February 22nd to 26th 2010): Representatives of partners and experts met and discussed new strategies for remembrance education, laying the basis for the later local events that would test the strategies.
3. Local activities: Local activities were implemented in Jasenovac and Sisak (HR; 22nd May 2010), Nardò and Brindisi (IT; 14th September 2010), Londonderry (UK; 17th September 2010) and Caen (FR; 21-23rd of October 2010) and tested the methodologies established in the initial seminar.
4. Final steering committee meeting (Caen, 23rd October 2010): The final steering committee meeting allowed for the preparation of the publication and closure of the local events and organisational issues.
5. Drafting the publication: The final publication of the project includes recommendations for teachers and other professionals of education on how to prepare and implement visits to a memorial, drawing upon the experience of the partners and the recommendations from the seminar and local events.

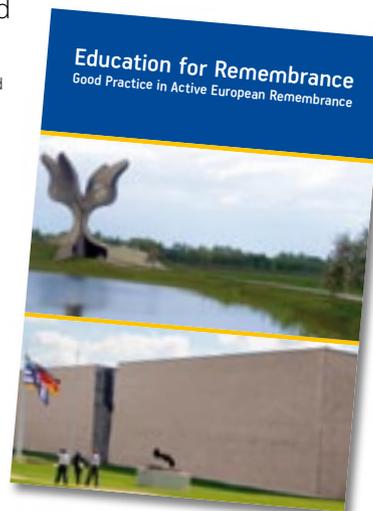


E-FoR, visit to Jasenovac Memorial Site (Croatia), December 2010

1.9.7 PEACE (follow-up of E-FoR) - Peace Education for Active Citizenship in Europe

PEACE is a common initiative of memorial sites, NGOs and of one local authorities’ association, coordinated by ALDA. Its overall goal is the creation of a network of structures working on Peace Education, Citizenship and Human rights in the intent to use 20th Century European History as a tool for Active Remembrance. These partners engage in peer-to-peer experience exchanges and reflections of how to improve teaching and work methodologies. The project foresees local events organized by all partners and an international conference (all of which are being held in 2011).

In 2010, the first project event took place in Caen (21-25th of October 2010): First Steering Committee Meeting. Partners discussed the form of the local activities of the project and decided on a subject for the final conference.



1.9.8 Module active citizenship

Active citizenship... à la carte!

It consists of a “menu” of services that the Association of Local Democracy Agencies provides to its 170 members in the field of Active Citizenship and Citizens’ Participation. During the past 2 years, ALDA implemented a module on Active Citizenship in countries such as Spain, Italy, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Albania, France, FYROM, Azerbaijan, Denmark etc..

In 2010, the follow-up activities comprised evaluation modules including questionnaires and improving methodology meetings in order to better adapt the module to local needs and specificities based on Consultancy.

The follow-up aimed at consulting the citizens on how the module should be reshape and including their ideas in order to make them more active in the Module structure.

This action was realised in order to improve the Module and adapt it to the region or area of implementation re-directing it also following the European priority themes and raising awareness of the Europe for Citizen Programme. This helped ALDA to re-define a coordination strategy for future trainings.

A specific activity was held in Tirana in July 2010, with the support of the other LDAs in the Balkans and the partners of the LDA Albania.

ALDA disseminated and was one of the first partners of the European Week of Local Democracy of the Council of Europe. Our members participated in the programme. We followed the programmes and the steering committees of the programme, with the Council of Europe.

A specific training was organised in Vibo Valentia, Italy, on the 12th of March 2010.

Specific trainings were organised in Belluno (IT), Valda-

gno (IT), Campobasso (IT) and Nantes (FR) during the year.

In order to promote active citizenship and local good governance, ALDA joined the network of Ter_Res focusing on territorial and responsible development. www.territoires-responsables.org. ALDA participated in the elaboration of documents and focused on active citizenship.

The LDAs took part in the European Economic and Social Committee in June 2010, in Brussels, and brought the experience on active citizenship in South Eastern Europe.

A specific training was organised for CIDEF – a member of ALDA – in Paris on the 13th of April.

A three month course on Active European Citizenship was organised for the city of Thiene (IT) for politicians and civil servants in 2010.

A specific training and dissemination course was organised for the members of Veneto Region on the 23rd of March 2010.

A specific training and active citizenship was organised in Patras on the 18th of February (with the support of the member of ALDA, Patras), to disseminate the programme Europe for Citizens. A follow up event was organised on the 23rd of November 2010.



A Specific training was organised in Caen, on active citizenship and local economic development, on the 3rd and 4th of May 2010, and followed by other steps in May and June.

An activity of dissemination and training took place in Auvergne on the 21st of June and in Dijon on the 29th of June, with French Partners.

The Eastern partnership dimension and the active citizenship and civil society was addressed, with the support of ALDA and University of Padua, on the 26th and 27th of April 2010, at the University of Padua.

ALDA took part in the dissemination and training programme held in Palermo (Italy) on the 14th and 15th of May 2010, to promote active citizenship and the MED and a local good governance approach in the whole area.

A specific programme of training and awareness of civil society and local governments has been developed in Sicily in April/June 2011.

A specific training on Active Citizenship and dissemination on the Europe for Citizens programme was organised on the 7th and 8th of July 2010 in Newport (UK), member of



Newport-Kutaisi meeting, 7th July 2010

ALDA and partner of the LDA Georgia.

A training session was held at the IUAV University of Venice on the 24th of November (Venice University Programme)

A specific training was organised in Reggio Emilia on civic engagement on the 15th of December and 21st of December 2010.

A specific training was organised in Reggio Emilia on civic engagement in Monfalcone (IT) on the 17th of December 2010.

A Specific training took place in Udine on the 17th of December 2010.

Creation of outsourcing European Offices (through trainings, meetings, technical support)

ALDA proposed to its partners the creation of 5 European offices to be managed autonomously, in order to enhance the attention to topics related to European citizenship through trainings, meetings and technical support. The Association of Local Democracy Agencies encouraged its partner interested in having a contact point in their cities in order to receive trainings and support in applying to EfC or similar programmes, especially for those related to Active Citizenship.

This proposal aimed at persuading the partners to participate in EfC programmes calls and activities as applicant, moreover to receive assistance in capacity building activities in order to develop internal communication tools (offices) as spaces of common expression of interest and internal dissemination (inside the network) of best practices. The implementation of this project started in the mid of March 2010.

A programme was launched in Brindisi (Italy) to support a Europe for Citizens points and support for local governments and citizens.

With its own resources, ALDA organised a training course on Active Citizenship in Turkey in January 2010, in preparation of the possible opening of Europe for Citizens. A lobbying action has taken place in 2010 and 2011 with the Union of Municipalities of Marmara to lobby the government in this direction.

A specific training was organised by ALDA, in February 2010, in Serbia (with its own resources) to promote active citizenship and the opening of the programme in Serbia.

A specific training was organised in Zagreb on the 29th and 30th of June 2010, in cooperation with Croatian partners and focusing on Active Citizenship as Stability Instrument in the region.

A specific training activity took place in Sisak, Croatia, for the Croatian partners on the 7th and 9th of June 2010.

With its own resources, ALDA organised in Mostar, with the LDA, the International Neighbours day, on the 25th of May 2010.

Encouraging the reshaping of the European political system: discussions on the Lisbon Treaty (working groups and workshops)

At the beginning of April the ALDA staff began to organise debates on the European Lisbon Treaty in cooperation with 3 partners.

In order to raise awareness among the wide public and local authorities about the relations between old, new and future members of the EU, to improve European well-being, reshape the political level and to influence the political level on citizens' lives and national politics, ALDA met the organization of the "Festival della cittadinanza" in January and on the 7th of May the Association of Local Democracy Agency participated in it in Padua, with a contribution which focused also on promoting the Lisbon Treaty and the European Initiative programme.



INTACT project, study visit, Sisak (Croatia), 9th June 2010

The participation at the active citizenship festival launched the Lisbon Treaty action to understand its effects on citizen participation.

ALDA's contribution to this event aimed at having the opportunity to share an unbiased platform debate promoting the mutual exchange of experience among the participants as well as an in-depth understanding of the abovementioned topics, highlighting the challenges of the Lisbon Treaty in the context of the economic crisis.

Among further actions, an event in Reggio Emilia (19th of April) to debate with the municipality and civil society about the support of IT in the future Active Citizenship and participation of citizens.

Volunteers for Democracy Platform

In order to get ready for 2011, the appointed European Year of Volunteering, ALDA started at the end of 2009/beginning of 2010 to take part in the preparation of activities such as the Alliance for the Year of Volunteering event in Brussels in December 2009.



MoDE project, an Italian volunteer in Bulgaria, 17th Novembre 2010

In 2010, ALDA became Sending and Co-ordinating structure at European level for the next 3 years for the EVS (European Voluntary Service) programme.

ALDA will use this accreditation in order to create a dynamic platform of volunteers together with its European and Balkan partners that already received the accreditation as Sending and Hosting structures.

ALDA promotes constantly the importance of volunteering as an instrument for learning democracy, a sort of immigration as an innovative way of intercultural dialogue and brain circulation.

The challenges of building a European identity are forecast through NGOs and transnational mentoring in order to stimulate also a participative democracy's influence on European well-being.

With the activities in this field, the Association of Local Democracy Agencies seeks to encourage the flow of capacities and knowledge at European level. It promotes volunteering and staff exchanges at European level and especially in the pre-accession countries developing its network of Agencies in South Eastern Europe and Caucasus.

Intercultural dialogue: structural and methodological aspects (working groups)

In 2010 ALDA staff carried out the follow up of the intercultural dialogue working groups and Creativity and Innovation Years; this programme aimed at understanding how to draw lessons and share the results of the European Years as well as at develop civic participation perspectives, established by the EACEA, taking into account its experience. The purpose of the working groups was to promote the cultural diversity and tolerance, the definition and development of a well-structured and innovative methodology promoting intercultural dialogue and volunteering activities. ALDA promoted this involving its network in reflection activities to improve working methods and get in touch with local needs of the population.

ALDA participated with a staff member in the initiative of the programme Intercultural cities of the Council of Europe. We participated, together with the city of Subotica, in the different European Events.

People to People Actions (Intercultural Youth Summer Camp, Academy of intercultural governance, Joint thematic conference, Intercultural exchange BE-ME perspective)

Regional Partnerships for Intercultural Exchange was a two-year project, designed to involve local authorities and civil society organisations to supporting good local intercultural governance through more effective participation of civil society and minority communities. It aimed also at strengthening networking among local NGOs involved in minority rights protection and at fostering exchange of good local practice in managing multiethnic local communities in the region. Finally the activities intended to promote innovative local practices in support to intercultural dialogue and tolerance. The project activities involved a series

of promotion activities, thematic round tables and study visits and residential seminars. Furthermore, a film documentary on ethnic minorities in the partner towns is produced during the project, which will serve for the dissemination of the project and follow-up activities.

The Municipality of Subotica was lead partner of this project, which further involved ALDA, Light House Media Centre (Wolverhampton, UK), LDA Osijek (Croatia), LDA Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina), LDA Subotica (Serbia).

ALDA was involved in the implementation of following activities in 2010: Creation and circulation of newsletters; launch of the call for papers; first steering committee meeting (Osijek, 8th April), further activities in Serbia and drafting of the intermediary report.

Training Course on European Projecting for Thiene Municipality (IT)

ALDA, in its capacity of training provider, has developed and managed a training course on project development for the Municipality of Thiene (Italy).

The course of 20 hours, developed from September to mid-December, aimed at providing a basic knowledge of European Union programs for civil and public servants of Thiene Municipality, working in various sectors of the municipal administration, thus mixing different skills and competences acting at a local level.

The course employed a various set of methodologies: frontal lectures, to provide theoretical knowledge on EU Planning; workshops and working group, to develop practical skills making participants experience a real project planning.

Most of the lessons were hold by Marco Boaria, Resource and Development Unit Coordinator of ALDA, while the others involved different speakers and experts on the topics tackled. Antonella Valmorbida, ALDA Director, focused on managing a European project and Barbara Elia, ALDA Financial Officer, covered the financial and contractual aspects.

A representative of the Municipality of Monfalcone was also involved as expert to introduce the main features of a local institution's European Office, proving the strong willing of Thiene to learn and collaborate with other Municipalities having more experience in the field of European Office management.

LDAs' open days: 2nd year (workshops, visits, exhibitions, events)

Following the success of the previous year, the LDAs' Open days were organised on the 8th and 9th of May, the Day of Europe. This event highlighted also the 60th Anniversary of the Schuman Declaration. During these days, the LDAs opened their doors in order to promote especially 2 themes: Active Citizenship and Citizens' participation in the enlargement process, and Cooperation and Networking: exchange of best of practices in community development, in particular from the civic participation perspective.

photo by Goran Cvijanov



LDAs' open days - 2nd year - were organised on 8th-9th May, the Day of Europe

In particular the events realized were workshops, visits, exhibitions, etc., to promote the knowledge of the mission, the objectives and the values of the Agencies promoting at the same time their work in different fields.

The Day of Europe was an excellent occasion to make Europe visible in pre-accession countries/ possible candidate countries in order to contribute to the development of an European identity and enhance debates on the topic "Local Democracy Agencies: your partner for active citizenship and community development".

Call for partners for implementation of ALDA projects on dissemination and awareness of the Lisbon Treaty and citizens' rights and duties

This call for partners aimed at developing innovative actions promoting the "initiative power of citizens" as stated in the Lisbon Treaty in their local communities, thus deepening the comprehension of citizens' involvement at all decision levels.

Projects were implemented by following members:

- **Balkan Assist Association (Bulgaria).** In order to inform local stakeholders about the European Citizens' Initiative, a meeting of social actors potentially involved in citizen initiatives was organised in October, uniting 30 participants. They drafted recommendations that were then passed on to Bulgarian MEPs in an activity with 30 participants. The parliamentarians were asked to submit the recommendations to their colleagues at other political levels. In the last phase of the project, an information campaign disseminated the results of the project through provided the information gathered via brochures, articles, press releases, internet publications etc.
- **National Forum API (Bulgaria).** The purpose of the project was to conduct information campaign between NGOs working in the civil sector, local authorities and



LDAs' open days - 2nd year, Subotica (Serbia)
9th May 2010

photo by Goran Cvijanov

young people on the new right and the development of an internet-based platform for collaboration and future initiatives. Activities implemented included a survey among NGOs to gather information, as well as two informational events, including a workshop on the topic: "Using the new right of the European Citizens' Initiative" were realized. In the framework of the project a plan for joint initiatives and actions was established and adopted. The project involved a total of 20 stakeholders plus citizens participating in the web platform.

- **University of Padua (Italy).** The faculty of Political Sciences promoted the European Citizens' Initiative to the target groups of students, young researchers, civil society organisations and local authorities. In a one-day course, the participants concentrated on the state-of-the-art of the Lisbon Treaty and discussed strategies for the implementation of the Lisbon Strategy.
- **Municipality of Brindisi (Italy).** A one-day workshop was organised for representatives of civil society organisations that concentrated on the topic of the Lisbon Treaty, and specifically the ECI. Brindisi produced a website on the subject as well as a booklet.

Projects aiming at supporting the implementation of the Code of Good Practices for Civil Participation in the Decision Making Process of the Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe

The purpose of this Call for Proposals was to support the promotion of new and innovative projects aiming at supporting the implementation of the Code at the local level. The pilot projects were to strengthen knowledge and skills of local authorities and civil society organizations in the field of active citizenship, notably through making known and applying the Code. They included a training component, a participation process and were citizenship exercises.

Following members implemented pilot projects:

- **Association for LDA Zavidovići (Italy).** The Association implemented a project consisting of a training course destined at local administrators and other local stakeholders, familiarising them with the Code (4 sessions). Other actions included research on the situation in Brescia and the training of a social mediator to facilitate civil involvement. A public meeting made the Code known to regular citizens.
- **Balkan Assist Association (Bulgaria).** Their project aimed at creating awareness among local decision makers that public participation can be a benefit, and give them ideas about how to introduce it. This aim was pursued through the adaptation of the Code to the Bulgarian situation, the dissemination of this adapted version of the Code among Bulgarian decision makers in two two-day trainings (total: 40 participants; venues: Parvomat 7th/8th December, and Beklemeto, 26th/27th November). In the final phase of the project, local authorities and NGOs were assisted in the implementation of the Code.
- **National Forum API (Bulgaria).** This association, based in Plovdiv, tackled the political and social participation of women, still lying below that of men in Bulgaria. In two trainings (Plovdiv and Karnobat; 40 participants in total) participants presented their approaches and concerns



Council of Europe, plenary meeting of INGOs, Strasbourg (France)

© Council of Europe

and elaborated common strategies; the workshops allowed for an assessment of the status quo in girls' promotion. Recommendations to the municipalities were drafted. Through the creation of an interactive internet forum and the creation of an informal network of mentors for girls and young women in Bulgaria, the results of the workshops were disseminated and made sustainable.

- **Municipality of Reggio Emilia (Italy).** The Municipality implemented the recommendations of the Code at the occasion of the restructuring of a local park. Citizens were involved in several public meetings on the issue. A poll was organised on the ideas collected during this first phase of the project, which were published on a website created to this aim. Thus, the park was restructured according to the wishes of the population.
- **Local Democracy Agency Albania.** The Agency, based in Shkodra, organised a local workshop on the Code (18 participants), destined at local stakeholders from municipalities and NGOs. It also published a booklet on the Code, which it disseminated among its network. A larger public was reached in a conference on civil participation at local level (50 participants).

Projects on powers and responsibilities in the field of migration policy at the local level

Projects implemented in the framework of this call aimed at supporting the promotion of “powers and responsibilities” in the field of migration policy at the local level through innovative actions, which would substitute the ancient approach based on “rights and duties”. Thus, they contributed to the integration of immigrants in the local hosting communities. All projects accepted included a training component and strengthened knowledge and skills of local authorities and civil society organizations in the field of active citizenship.

Following members implemented a pilot project in this field:

- **Euromed Institute (Italy).** This pilot project consisted of five elements: Awareness Initiatives, i.e. a cycle of public meetings directed to citizens, with moments of discussions on issues as comparison and acceptance (November 18th, Monfalcone; December 15th, Gorizia; December 1st, Trieste); an Awareness campaign about

immigrants’ integration for youth and developed at the school institute “Randaccio”, together with meeting with teachers; a Meeting with the Chairman of the Board of the Municipality of Monfalcone regarding the possibility of participations of immigrants within the next elections of Municipality through councils of immigrants; a Statistical research of conditions of refugees in the Province of Gorizia and in Friuli-Venezia Giulia and Dissemination of information materials.

- **Local Democracy Agency Albania.** The project aimed at raising local knowledge and awareness about processes associated to migratory flows. In a five-day training program, representatives of local NGOs active in the field of migration were familiarised with good practices on migrant integration. Furthermore, the project included two information meetings and workshops for the exchange of good practices of migration processes and a visit (workshops on local best practice) to local government officials, local NGOs, the CSO’s in Shkodra. Total number of participants involved: 50.
- **Association for the LDA Zavidovići (Italy).** The project aimed at spreading knowledge about migration and migration policies, provided a description of migration issues in Brescia and surroundings and launched a new “alphabet of citizenship”. The project consisted of 2 meetings with local administrators (50 participants), Meetings with social workers in each partner municipality (10 participants), and Public meetings in the ten partner municipalities of the association (around Brescia; 300 participants in total).



photo by Goran Cviijanov

Day of Europe, Subotica (Serbia) 9th May 2010

Making the Europe Day

ALDA supported special event on the 9th of May for the members (see in the different activity reports of the present document).

I.9.9 SALTO Training

Cooperation with SALTO EUROMED

Long Term Training Course

Democracy and its links with participatory issues represent a sensitive and ever-changing concept. In this long term training course – aiming at providing an unbiased platform for reflecting, exchanging and acting in this field from the specific angle of youth – ALDA is cooperating with the 3 regional SALTO resource centres (SALTO EuroMed, SALTO South East Europe and SALTO Eastern Europe and Caucasus) and SALTO Participation Resource Centre with the support of the French National Agency, providing its deep knowledge on the topic and its expertise on in-formal training methodologies for youth.

Presentation of the activity

This training course is a long term training course project oriented based on 3 steps that will offer all participants learning by doing training.

- 1st step: Training course – Merville-Franceville (France), 5th to 12th October 2010
- 2nd step: Coaching Phase, run from the end of the training course until the evaluation in 2011
- 3rd step: Evaluation – Poland, October 2011

Aim and objectives

The aim of this long term training course is two-fold: on one hand, it aims at promoting reflection, debate, exchange and action on democracy and participation issues and, on the other hand, it seeks to support the development of qualitative youth cooperation and networking on the specific issues addressed.

The training course wishes to present an innovative perspective of democracy in the European Neighbouring Policy Initiative (ENPI) area, starting from participants' experiences, offering them tools and coaching during the whole process of the project, from its development to the evaluation.

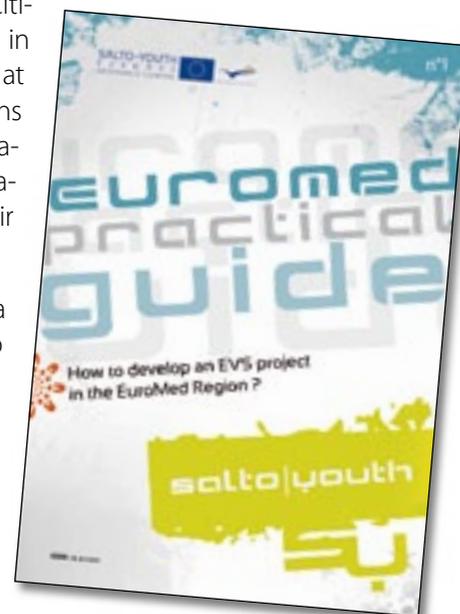
Target group

The course is for youth workers and youth leaders (from Programme Countries, SEE and EECA countries).

Implementation

Several independent trainings plus the ones provided in the framework of specific projects on topics related to Active Citizenship and citizens' participation were organized throughout the whole year and involved Local Authorities, NGOs and ALDA's network. These trainings direct ALDA's activities following European thematic, they reshape a co-ordination strategy for future trainings and raise awareness of the Europe for Citizens' Programme, in addition they aim at empowering citizens with European values and raising awareness about their duties and rights.

ALDA issued a call for partners to support the promotion of Pilot Training on Active European Citizenship for Local Authorities and Civil Society in Europe.



This proposal does not represent a “classic” training course, but it is characterized as an action that is participation process and a “citizenship exercise” at the same time.

It is a training action, insofar it combines different training approaches, including both direct and distance learning methods, employing traditional lectures, workshops, discussions, case-studies, etc. The “traditional” training is completed with other activities that allow developing analyses and pilot actions in the local community (the trainings include project works which ensure the testing of the knowledge acquired in the specific community where each training takes place).

It is a participation “process”, insofar the proposal last one year, encompassing different stages, and involves the most relevant local actors appointed to the development of active citizenship and to the promotion of citizens’ participation at the local level. The training is divided into three different modules, based on a participative methodology, followed by a follow-up stage which aims at developing dialogue, Partnership and cooperation among different organizations in order to improve the governance at the local level.

It is a “citizenship exercise”, insofar the process includes a common work among participants, based on case-studies and real hypotheses, in order to identify new and innovative solutions and practices to promote citizens participation in the local decision making processes (namely “transforming” the exercise in a shared real practice).

The scope of the trainings to be developed by Partners is to strengthen knowledge and skills of local authorities and civil society organizations that are interested in the topic of active citizenship and in the European citizenship in particular. Nowadays, local authorities and civil society play a key role both at the European and at the local level: it is therefore necessary and crucial to get ready for this challenge in order to be better equipped as local actors in the development of active citizenship.

The training action also aims at building new relationships and developing synergies in order to activate new participation and citizenship processes at the local level.

The development of the training module on active European Citizenship was developed by ALDA in different local communities in Europe.

These trainings are stated as examples; several others took place during the year.

On the 2nd of February, a programme on Civil Society was organized during a meeting in Vicenza and on the 16th of February a workshop school for civil society was implemented in Tirana (Albania), on this occasion the day after, on the 17th of February, Franco Menga, was appointed as new delegate for LDA Albania. A final report on the Civil Society programme was published.

Training of local authorities and study visits were held with Slovenia and CNVOS together with a Convention and there were planned exchanges. The group took part in a meeting in Vicenza and Padua on the 13th and 14th of April.



The European flag

1.9.10 Activities in Brindisi

At the beginning of April 2010, a module was successfully launched in Brindisi with a 5 months period activity. The city of Brindisi has engaged, with the assistance of ALDA, all the heads of the municipalities and a large audience of civil society to be engaged in active citizenship and citizens' participation.

The activity engaged hundreds of participants and was one of the most interesting initiative of ALDA in terms of



Active citizenship and citizens' participation, Brindisi (Italy), November 2010

active citizenship and engagement of local authorities and civil society.

The objective of this project, based on the necessity to build a social and political community identity with a full contribution by citizens and to promote their involvement starting from the local level, was to create training opportunities and related participation processes.

A practical course of lessons, evidence, research and target groups was therefore aimed to turn into collective actions of processing, dialogue and co-operation, in other words into an actual practice of active citizenship.

The project opened the City Hall to citizens in a new dimension founded on a continuous dialogue meant to give the Municipality the chance to know the citizens' opinions and needs punctually and, at the same time, to give citizens deep knowledge of how a local authority works, the rights and the opportunity it grants.

The course was divided into three different modules, based on a participatory methodology-active, followed by an equally important phase of follow-up that aimed to develop dialogue, cooperation and action among different actors in order to improve the governance at the local level.

The training was a "practice" of active citizenship, because the participants worked together on real case studies and hypotheses, to find innovative answers, solutions and practices to promote citizens' participation and involvement in the local decision-making processes, strengthening the knowledge and skills of local authorities and civil society organizations interested in the topic of active citizenship.

The project "Active Citizens" was addressed to managers and employees of the Municipality of Brindisi, and representatives of civil society.

1.9.11 Project with Slovenia and CNVOS

Recession as a development opportunity for NGOs in the Alpe Adria countries?

Project partners:

CNVOS, Slovenia

GONG, Croatia

European House, Hungary

ALDE, Italy

The World of NGOs, Austria

In the framework of the project in cooperation with CNVOS promoting long-term cooperation with NGOs in countries of ALPE ADRIA with the purpose of identifying and promoting new development opportunities for NGOs in times of economic and financial crisis ALDA welcomed a study visit of 8 Slovenian NGO representatives to the ALDA office in Vicenza with the intent of getting familiarized with the Italian model of social economy.

On 13th and 14th of May participants to the study visit had the opportunity to met representatives from two of the biggest and most efficient associations in the province of Vicenza. In the second part of the study visit the group met at Chamber of Commerce in Padua representatives from the Observatory on the Third Sector, Cooperatives and Foundations that gave them an overview on the complex legislative frame regulating the so called Third Sector in Italy.

In conclusion participants visit a local umbrella of associations working on different issues representing an example of best practice in the province.

ALDA contributed to the development of a comparative analysis on anti crisis actions carried out by government associated with non-governmental organizations through dissemination and analysis of a survey on the effects of the economic crisis on the NGO sectors in Italy.



Development opportunities in the Alpe Adria countries

This analysis has been a contribution to the final study elaborated by CNVOS at the basis of the recommendations to governments and non-governmental organizations on how to overcome problems and realize their development opportunities.

1.9.12 International Conference on how local authorities and Civil Society fight against global crisis, Skopje, May 2010

On the day of the General Assembly, in the afternoon of the 28th of May and in the morning of the 29th, an international conference on “How Civil Society and local governments are fighting the Global Crisis. A joint active citizenship: a launch pad for a new future?” took place for ALDA members and a wider audience hosted by the Municipality of Skopje. Stakeholders from all over Europe participated under the auspices of the Europe for Citizens Programme of the European Union and 150 key representatives attended. Global crisis affected especially NGOs as well as the local authorities in the EU and the pre-accession countries. The conference addressed problems and solutions identified by the local actors to fight against the difficulties of these last years at the social and political level.

In particular ALDA members focused on how bridging the gap between EU and citizens being most of them actively involved in promoting active citizenship around Europe and SEE.

ALDA network highlights the following recommendations:

- **EU financial regulation**

Financial crisis involved public and private sectors so that strict financial rules in the EU are required to return at the original spirit of Euro taking care to do not kill the economic initiatives. European Union and pre-adhesion countries have to reflect about a common policy and economic attitude to develop in future.

- **Efficiency and effectiveness of public service**

Global crisis is affecting local governments and central government is reducing public spending cutting transfers. There's been a decline of real economic activity, leading to lower local government revenues from shared

taxes and own sources and on the other hand unemployment rises, increasing the pressure on local governments to provide social services and various forms of relief. Efficiency and Effectiveness of public service needs to be increased, to keep same level of services to face this difficult situation. *“Do more and better with less”.*

- **Leading role of local and regional authorities to find a way out of the crisis**

Following the Utrecht Declaration by Congress of Local and Regional Authorities ALDA agrees that response to the crisis must be based on greater local autonomy and delegation of resource management through decentralization; recognition of local authorities as fully-fledged partners of national governments, and the revision of government financing to allow for greater investment at local level; coordinated national/local approach to improve targeting of social benefits and avoid a social crisis; innovative action by local authorities themselves, involving local populations, civil society and inter-municipal co-operation; and measures to control debt and lending. Policy makers need to be more conscious of problems for civil society and local authorities has to



International Conference in Skopje (Macedonia), 28th-29th May 2010

support it. In fact the economic crisis has consequences and effects on the civil society sector as:

- Withdrawal of the State;
- Decreased external funds and speeding up of the withdrawal of private foundations;
- Increased demand for EC funding and programmes;
- Increased demand, but less available local resources;
- Increased demand for services;
- The crisis hit the civil society sector least (if compared to the State and private sector), since it is still no depending on them financially.

• **Inclusive social dialogue**

Inclusive social dialogue is the only way to manage the situation encouraging the active citizenship to assess the needs of civil society. It's evident that a weak social dialogue has a bad impact on vulnerable part of society, marginalizing minorities. To avoid this European society should act at:

- local level: reinforcing organisations and activities for integration, and strengthening the dialogue between local authorities, citizens and minorities;
- national level: providing equal rights and respect of different cultures through regulation and anti-discrimination measures;

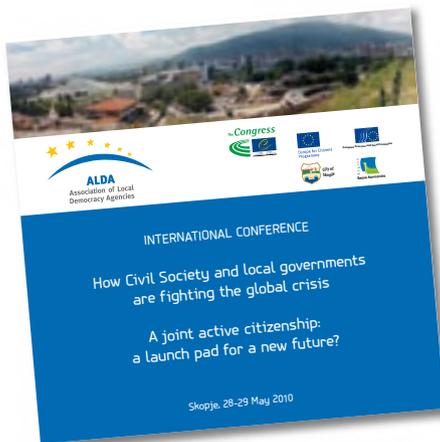
- European level: the European Commission showed a certain interest for the question, purposing 200 billions of euro in the frame of a plan of re-establi-

shment to reflate economy, but there has not been the reaction of minorities, who should understand their responsibility.

• **Health of the NGOs sector**

More attention is needed to the effects of financial crisis on NGOs sector. The main question is the effect of decreasing of financial support to NGOs and consequently the problem of their autonomy. The interventions on management which could be apply for global health of NGOs are:

- Sensitization of personal, partners and governing board about the effects of crisis and the principal objective of the organization.
- Organization of a joint action of international NGOs to prevent the reduction of development aid.
- Review of forecasting revenue and proportions to coincide with the achievement of results.
- Conclusion of accords between councils and personal about clear criteria and measures to manage the reserves, the free funds and investment decisions.
- Evaluation of the management team situation.
- CSOs continue to face criticisms or attacks by the government, and in most cases there exists inadequate legislation regarding CSOs and NGOs. In more authoritarian states, CSOs continue to be afforded little tolerance, and in other cases, they are viewed as promoting "foreign" values, alien to local traditions and culture.



PROJECTS IN SOUTHERN CAUCASUS

I.9.13 PBA Georgia

Partnership Building Activity “EVS - The Way To European Understanding” Kutaisi, Georgia

The Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA) and the Local Democracy Agency (LDA) Georgia implemented on September 2010 a Partnership Building Activity (PBA) entitled “EVS - The Way To European Understanding” and funded by EC within the framework of the “Youth in Action” programme.

About 35 young participants representing 15 different NGOs from Europe and Caucasus participated in the event.

The project mostly focused on EECA countries, aiming thus at raising awareness on Europe’s programmes and values in the East Europe and Caucasus Countries through:

- sharing experiences between European and EECA countries’ structures
- activating young people movement
- fostering youth exchanges and involving them in the decision making process at the European level.

Moreover, the project created synergies among the participant structures and their networks, encouraging the establishment of effective and fruitful partnerships based on shared ideas and common goals. The Partnership Building Activity helped participants to establish long lasting and sustainable relationship.



**EVS Activity in Kutaisi (Georgia), within the
“Youth in Action” programme, September 2010**

1.9.14 Process of opening an LDA in Armenia and Azerbaijan

In order to create a network in the Caucasus ALDA is working to open two new structures in the region: an LDA in Armenia and an LDA in Azerbaijan. According to its experience with its 12 Agencies, ALDA aims at providing capacity building for civil society organizations and local authorities and it aims also at promoting and strengthening their cooperation with the civil society.

In 2009 ALDA paved the way to open an LDA in Azerbaijan, which can be an excellent instrument to promote human rights, local development and local democracy in the country. A planning for the setting up started followed by an intermediary report and the establishment of several contacts for the future as on 25th of February a NSA campaign Kutaisi/Azerbaijan took place as well as started relations with Norway as possible partner for the future LDA. During the same period ALDA established contacts for the Congress and Azeri Delegations.

Since 2009, the Association of Local Democracy Agencies has been in the process of establishing new Local De-

mocracy Agencies in Armenia and Azerbaijan. In Armenia the opening is conducted in close cooperation with the union of Communities in Armenia.

ALDA also actively participates in the decentralized France-Armenia cooperation and is a member of the working group on Mutualisation and European Perspectives. In May 2010 ALDA carried out the promotion for the LDA Armenia in Grenoble (France) and between the 16th and the 19th of June it conducted a facts finding mission to Yerevan to meet with international organizations and Armenian Municipalities and civil society organisations to identify possible partners and perspectives for opening an LDA in Armenia, followed by a call for partners.

Between the 4th and the 10th of July ALDA organised a visit of High Officials and MPs from Armenia to the National Assembly of Paris. The event was fully organised by ALDA and it had the objective to give to the participants, six high officials and MPs of the Armenian Parliament, a full insight and understanding of the political systems in France, completed also by European perspective thanks to the visit at the Maison the Jean Monnet. This study visit fitted ALDA strategy to get more involved in governance issues in Armenia. For ALDA, the project was also an opportunity to cooperate with AED and with USAID, which is one of the key stakeholders in the region of Southern Caucasus in terms of support to local governance.

ALDA was selected as the main stakeholder in terms of governance and quality organization that could organize such a tour.

A report has been published.

The successful cooperation with AED and USAID led ALDA to be selected for the organisation of a second study visit to Riga for a NGOs' Armenian delegation between the 7th-14th of August, in partnership with several of ALDA's partners in Latvia.



Delegation from Armenia visit the National Assembly of Paris, 7th July 2010

I.9.15 Kutaisi/Monfalcone

Platform for the development cooperation with Georgia

From April 2010, the Municipality of Monfalcone, in partnership with ALDA, implemented a programme of co-operation and development called "Georgia Platform", supported by the Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region. The project provided training, technical assistance and activation of a service center to promote the employment of the most vulnerable people from the Caucasian population.

The Municipality of Monfalcone, together with partners, proposed an intervention in Imereti Region, to implement local development projects in terms of socio-educational support with the assistance of the LDA Georgia and the Municipality of Kutaisi. The project aims to support the revitalization and economic development of the Imereti Region, through trainings of youth, the growth of clusters of enterprises and contacts with business partners in Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region.

In the first phase of project implementation, SWOT analyses of SMEs and local business sectors in Imereti Region were developed. In the second step, the project provided mainly trainings. According to research results, business education

program for project beneficiaries were developed. 25 trainings were organized in Imereti Region municipalities and about 300 participants attended the event. Training modules mainly includes information about business start up, business planning and management. The third phase will be the establishment of an economic promotion centre to support SMEs and artisanship, and the creation of a database of entrepreneurs' proposals, which will be used during the business relationship with Italian business sectors representatives.

The Municipality of Monfalcone hosted a Georgian delegation that has been engaged in a series of meetings with local institutions and economic traders, in a workshop on cooperation perspectives and in a visit to Informest, a public company dealing in promoting economic development and internationalization processes, to explore the potentiality for exchange with the Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region.

This activity fitted with one of the main aim of the project to promote awareness of the situation in Georgia in order to develop partnership networks and new economic initiatives.

I.9.16 Kutaisi/Vicenza

The aim of this project was to support the over 500 new internally displaced persons (IDP) living in Kutaisi (Georgia) and their integration into local society, increasing their capacity. To this aim, the community of IDP was mobilized and education on IDP rights and advocacy provided. Three community-based organisations were established. This project lasted from September 2009 to January 2010 was funded by the Italian Region of Veneto, coordinated by the Municipality of Vicenza and implemented by ALDA and the LDA Georgia.

In 2010, the project was closed with a final report.



Partner meeting in Monfalcone (Italy),
November 2010

1.9.17 Kutaisi Process and Cooperation with the Congress

Working on the progress of local democracy in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia

Kutaisi conference

November 30th – December 1st, 2010

On November 30th – December 1st, 2010 ALDA together with LDA Georgia and the Congress organised a conference on the progress of local democracy in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

The conference was a follow up to Resolution 272 (2008) adopted by the Congress at its 15th plenary session, *'Support to Local and regional democracy in the South Caucasus'* and to the conference organised by the Congress and ALDA in Kutaisi in October 2009.

The conference focused on the experience of the Local Democracy Agency in Georgia and provided an exchange of experience with the Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South East Europe (NALAS).

The conference gathered participants from Associations, municipal organisations and NGOs in South Caucasus as well as representatives of the Congress, ALDA and European municipalities and Associations. The participants discussed their common objectives in the South Caucasus, to strengthen local and regional democracy and to support the work of Local Democracy Agency Georgia in Kutaisi.

The participants at the conference also adopted a resolution that confirmed their commitment to development of local democracy and citizen participation in South Caucasus.

As a follow up to the conference three workshops on local self-government and citizen participation will be organised in the three South Caucasus countries.

The workshops in Georgia and Armenia took place in spring 2011 and the final workshop will take place in Armenia in July 2011.



Conference on local democracy in South Caucasus, Kutaisi (Georgia), 1st December 2010

PROJECTS IN MEDITERRANEAN AREA

I.9.18 Capitalize Migrants Capacities

EC-UN Joint Migration and Development Initiative-JMDI

In this project, ALDA united partners from Northern and Southern Mediterranean countries with the aims of strengthening the dialogue between migrant associations and local authorities in Algeria on issues related to migration and their role in fully capitalize on migrant capacities; developing strategies to channel the capacities of prospective migrants and returnees; facilitating the professional reintegration of returnees and prospective migrants; encouraging highly skilled Algerian emigrants in France and Italy to contribute to the socio-economic development of Algeria.

These objectives were tackled by following activities implemented in 2010:

- a seminar on the potential of Algerian immigrants in Europe (Lecce, Italy, June 22nd);
- a series of trainings for prospective migrants in the Algerian towns of Batna, Oran and Kouba, July 6th-9th;



Trainings for prospective migrants, Algeria, July 2010

- an international conference on “From brain drain to brain gain: the role of civil society organizations and Local Authorities” and strategic meeting (Palermo, October 28th/29th).

The final steering committee of the project was postponed to 2011 due to the political situation in Algeria.

Project partners: ALDA (lead partner), Algerian Forum for citizenship and modernity, Algeri, Algeria (F.A.C.M.), Municipality of Lecce, Italy, Sicily Region, Italy.

I.9.19 Aix-en-Provence/Morocco

A pilot project

In 2009, ALDA started a pilot project in Morocco. Its aim was to develop a citizenship scheme in the town of Oujda and a traffic plan for Aix-en-Provence (France). A contest at the end of the project will define who will implement the negotiation plan.

ALDA's role consisted in defining a negotiation plan and in training the negotiators. Dialogue and negotiation with citizens are part of a national strategy in Morocco, launched by the king.

The results may have consequences for all larger towns and cities in Morocco. ALDA's input consisted in the long experience of the association in this field as well as in best practices collected among its members and partners.

Activities in the framework of this project included the drafting the training programme for Oujda, the establishing of contacts for the activities with the municipality and NGOs, the training on 12-14th of April in Oujda and the preparation for the training in 12/13/14th of May.

Furthermore, ALDA sent two staff delegates to a further training on September 27th to 29th and drafted the final report of this project.

1.9.20 Conference “From Mixed to Shared: The Haifa Alternative”, Israel

On 22nd-24th June 2010 ALDA organized in partnership with Shatil-The New Israel Fund Initiative for Social Change, the Centre for Urban and Regional Studies at the Technion of Haifa, a conference in Haifa (Israel) titled “From Mixed to Shared: The Haifa Alternative”. This international Conference represented an unbiased platform for discussing challenges and successful models related to the construction of ‘Shared Cities’ in areas where historical, ethnical, political and religious divisions seem to endanger the peaceful and mutually respectful coexistence of people.

Considering its role in this field, ALDA granted to the conference an international dimension, contributing to broaden the debate on the addressed topics at the European level and granting an added value to the event in terms of possibilities for exchange, networking and cooperation.

ALDA supported the conference through the involvement of international key-note speakers as the Mayor of Mostar, they all shared their utmost expertise and experien-

ce in this field, and the launch of an international call for participants from the ALDA broad members’ network.



Conference “From Mixed to Shared: The Haifa Alternative”, Haifa (Israel), June 2010

PROJECTS ON DECENTRALISED COOPERATION

1.9.21 France/Balkans

Multilateral cooperation programme between local and regional authorities in France and the Balkans

This project unites numerous local authorities from France and Balkan countries who together strive towards following aims: Creation of a network of French municipalities cooperating with Balkan countries and organising joint actions to exchange good practices and experiences concerning the development of good governance at local level. More specifically, the project aims at reinforcing and stabilising the democratic process in the Balkans; reinforcing the opening of French LAs to a neighbouring region; supporting the integration process of Balkan countries into the European Union.

After an initial project establishing the network of French LAs in 2009 and 2010, the project was renewed and extended to a duration of three years (2010-2013), open to other local authorities. Activities foreseen in the implementation of this ambitious project include several international conferences and numerous workshops and seminars in France and the Western Balkans on topics such as local economic development and sustainable tourism, capacity building for institutions, media and new information technologies.

Following activities took part in the framework of the project in 2010 (starting year of the project):

- a coordination meeting in Paris (12th January) preparing the actions of the year;
- a conference at the Committee of the Regions (Brussels, 28th January);
- drafting of the final report of the first

part of the project and of the publication;

- official launch of the programme on September 21st in Paris;
- several coordination meetings (June and September 2010).

The main part of the programme activities will take part from 2011 on.

Partners of the project: Région Auvergne, the Municipalities of Saint-Denis, Nevers, Saint Ouens, Epinal and Dijon, Conseil général du Territoire de Belfort, Région Basse Normandie, CRET Hautes Alpes, SICALA Haute-Loire, CRET Hautes Alpes, SICALA Haute-Loire, Pays Vichy Auvergne (all France); the Municipalities of Tuzla (BiH), Sremska Mitrovica (Serbia), Rousse (Bulgaria), Novi Beograd (Serbia), Bitola, Tetovo and Skopje (Macedonia), Berat/ Lezha (Albania), Prizren (Kosovo), Lyaskovets (Bulgaria), Cluj (Romania), and the Region of Central Bosnia as well as the Republic of Macedonia.



1.9.22 Lower Normandy/Macedonia

The project of multilateral decentralised cooperation between the French region of Basse-Normandie and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, coordinated by ALDA, started in 2006. It is an innovative cooperation of a region with a state. Having local governance in the centre of the project, the institutional partners are the Regional Council of Lower Normandy and the Macedonian Ministry for Local Self-Government. Formally conceived as a three-year project (2007-2010), this cooperation continues in the following three years (2011-2013). The French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs and the Region Lower Normandy support this programme financially.

The cooperation programme aims at encouraging active citizenship in both territories involved, at supporting the accession of Macedonia to the EU and strengthen local good governance in all areas of cooperation, namely:

- Digital technologies and media;
- Youth, education, local and European citizenship;
- Inventory of cultural heritage;

- local and regional cultural policies;
- Cultural heritage and sustainable tourism;
- agriculture development.

In 2010, the programme for the second three-year period was drafted by ALDA staff. Furthermore, following programme activities took place:

- Meetings and contacts with civil society groups and authorities to accompany the drafting and implementation of the programme, the Intermediary steering committee (Caen 3rd-4th of May 2010);
- Support missions of ALDA staff to Macedonia (June and November) and Lower Normandy;
- Steering Committee Meeting (Caen, 16th-17th September 2010).

An intermediary report was drafted in June 2010.



Macedonia natural and cultural heritage,
24th November 2010

OTHERS

I.9.23 Relaunching activities for LDA Kosovo

In order to relaunch the local based Agency in Kosovo in 2010, ALDA organised thematic partners' meetings, focus groups on future projects, international conferences and media events.

The main goal was to re-open the LDA Kosovo in a new location with new staff members. On this path ALDA supported training and capacity building activities for LDA Kosovo staff as well as for civil society organizations and local authorities, promoting also the cooperation between them. ALDA endeavour to favour the exchange among stakeholders of the economic sector supporting the process of decentralization and to promote the re-launching through local and European mass-media.

The challenge to re-open a new LDA in Kosovo involved the accurate analysis of the past agency administration and a close involvement of partners from the beginning. The 2010 started with a meeting in Pristina on the 10th-11th of February, which led to the draft programme for the follow up.

In February ALDA staff carried on the preparation of the meeting of the 21st of April in Trento with the partners, although it was not implemented because of flights disruption. The next planning meeting took place on the 28th of May and a follow up with a report and the preparation for the opening in August continued and finally, these accurate efforts led to the Opening of a new LDA in Kosovo on the 2nd of August 2010.

I.9.24 CARDS Subotica Civil Society Empowerment

Regional Partnerships for Intercultural Exchange was a two-year project, designed to involve local authorities and civil society organisations to support good local intercultural governance through more effective participation of civil society and minority communities. It aimed also at strengthening networking among local NGOs involved in minority rights protection and at fostering exchange of good local practice in managing multiethnic local communities.

Finally the activities intended to promote innovative local practices in support to intercultural dialogue and tolerance. Projects includes:

- capacity building component, School of local democracy comprising a series of two training seminars, one regional conference, study visits and round tables held in Subotica (Serbia), Osijek (Croatia) and Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina), gathering some 350 participants;
- promotion and visibility actions component (project publication, website www.regionalicc.net, electronic newsletters, three city intercultural guides, collection of written contributions, "Essays on intercultural governance at local level";
- intercultural exchange component and BE-ME perspective. Furthermore, a film documentary on ethnic mino-



School of local democracy, Osijek (Croatia),
November 2010

rities in the partner towns was produced during the project, which will serve for the dissemination of the project and follow-up activities.

The Municipality of Subotica was lead partner of this project, which further involved ALDA, Light House Media Centre (Wolverhampton, UK), LDA Osijek (Croatia), LDA Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina), LDA Subotica (Serbia).

Project activities implemented have gathered a wide range of participants representing diverse sections of local multicultural communities from the Western Balkan countries and EU member states, while the involvement of local governments, civil society organizations, national minority groups, youth and volunteer organizations is among the main results of entire action and will serve for further regional networking and follow-up activities.

Capacity building for local governments and civil society, the school for local democracy, training seminars for youth groups, making the documentary films: The tale of three cities, awareness raising and publishing activities are some of the main components of the action. Intercultural dialogue and understanding, respect for ethnic and cultural diversity, intercultural governance and participation at local

level are the main values promoted. The collection of written contributions was presented at the final conference in Mostar held in April 2011.

ALDA was involved in the implementation of following activities in 2010: Creation and circulation of newsletters; launch of the call for papers; first steering committee meeting (Osijek, 8th April), further activities in Serbia and drafting of the intermediary report.

1.9.25 ReACT Civil Society Development in Belarus

The overall objective of this action was to strengthen the role of Non State Actors and Local authorities in the field of poverty reduction in the context of sustainable development and the Millennium Development Goals. Noting the difficult situation civil society is facing within the present governmental ruling, and powerlessness of local authorities, it is important to support and provide capacity building to the local civil society in Belarus.

Partners involved alongside ALDA were the Municipality of Monfalcone (Italy), NGO Lev Sapieha Foundation (Belarus), NGO Belarusian Society of Consumers Protection (BOZP, Belarus) and NGO Belarusian Organisation for Working Women (BOZTH, Belarus).

In the framework of the project, following activities were implemented in 2010:

- Re-granting scheme: financing of 11 civic initiatives in Belarus (November 2009 to May 2010). The re-granting scheme was launched in Kiev on 7th November 2009 and financed 11 civic initiatives, which were implemented over a period of seven months and finalized on 30th May 2010. All these civic initiatives were successfully implemented.
- Meeting for 2nd instalments of re-granting scheme in Kiev on 6th March 2010 with 15 participants for one day



ReACT Closing Conference, Minsk (Belarus),
19th June 2010

(handing over of the funds in cash due to problems with bank transfers to CSOs in Belarus).

- Second Training: *“Local Communities in Belarus: from History till the Modern Times and Prospects of Development”*. Conference in Minsk with 29 participants for one day on 22nd May 2010. The training treated subjects such as the tradition of active citizenship in Belarus and Western European countries as well as strategies to involve citizens on local level.
- Closing conference: *“Best practices of civil initiatives in Belarus in order to promote an inclusive and empowered society”*. Conference in Minsk with 40 participants for one day on 19th June 2010: The closing conference gathered representatives from local authorities, Belarusian NGOs, universities, experts and representatives from international organisations.

The projects from the re-granting scheme were presented, as was the legal framework for NGOs in Belarus. An example of cooperation between Belarus and Latvia was described. Finally, the ways and directions civil initiatives should take in the future were discussed. In August 2010, the final publication of the project, containing the results of the project and the re-granting scheme, was printed in 100 copies and distributed among the partners and their networks.

Supporting meetings were held in Padua and Monfalcone on April 26th and 27th, as well as in Minsk (May 22nd).

1.9.26 Youth Empowerment in Kosovo

This project, started in 2008, aimed at empowering young people living in Kosovo in order to foster their capacities to play the role of active citizens in their local community. The project specifically targeted youth workers, training them in project development and partnership building on local and international level. In 2010, the final report of this project was finalised.

1.9.27 Lille: technical assistance for Interreg IV C

ALDA assisted the Municipality of Lille technically for Interreg IV C, helping the municipality's employees to draft application documents and assisting them in partnership building. Thus, a partnership building meeting was organised with the Municipality of Reggio Emilia on April 19th, 2010.

An intermediary report of the progress was drafted, and proposals for the follow-up of the project made.

1.9.28 Youth-the right direction Southern Caucasus and Balkans

This project lasted from 2006 to 30th November 2009. It aimed at enhancing the promotion and visibility of the Youth programme in South Eastern Europe (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia) and Caucasus (Georgia).

Through cooperation between the partners, training and information, the project allowed young people to acquire knowledge, skills and competencies, focusing on training of multipliers and on the development of networks and partnerships. Furthermore, seminars were organised and info-points set up. A group of youth ambassadors was trained and organised peer-to-peer trainings.

The project also included job shadowing activities, trainings on the European Voluntary Service, and itinerant youth fair and the setting up of 4 different networks of stakeholders working in the field of youth in South Eastern Europe and Georgia.

Although all activities were concluded in 2009, the reporting and follow-up of the project were done in 2010.

1.9.29 Reconciling for the future: stability instrument for Western Balkans

This one year regional co-operation programme, organised with the support of the European Commission – Instrument for Stability, was designed as a series of three country-based thematic panels held in NIS, Serbia (December 2009), in Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina (March 2010) and in Osijek (April 2010).

The final conference was held in Zagreb at the end of June 2010. The set of project activities including the regional conference gathered more than 200 participants - NGO representatives, experts, local self-governments, political analysts, members of national minorities from the three countries included to address some of the key challenges of the post-conflict reconciliation in view of the EU integration process of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia.

During the entire action, a wide range cross-border and regional co-operation initiatives were supported, involving both NGO-s and their networks and local self-governments.

During the country-based panels, a number renowned experts presented the different aspects of reconciliation

and some of the key challenges for both civil society and public authorities in the region. Key note presentations during the panels in Nis, Mostar, Osijek and the final conference in Zagreb included also: Mr. Bruno Vekaric, Deputy Prosecutor, War crime Prosecutor's office, Belgrade, Zivorad Kovacevic, President of the European Movement in Serbia, Aleksandar Popov, Director of Centre of regionalism, Novi Sad, Vehid Sehic, Citizens' Forum Tuzla, Bosko Kovacevic, University of Singidunum, Subotica, Jovan Komsic, University of Novi Sad, Serbia, Slavo Kukic, University of Mostar, Refik Hodzic, the Hague Tribunal office in BiH.

As stated by numerous participants, the recent past seems to pose a major impediment on the way to reconciliation and EU integration perspective of the countries and the good will declarations of the high ranking officials are the necessary frame for the picture that needs to be contextualised by practical measures, initiatives and co-operation programmes both at institutional level and at the level of civic initiatives.

The number and scope of stakeholders in this process should be widened. Therefore, more efforts are needed to support mechanisms of dialogue (trialogue) in which active participation of NGO-s and local communities will be of key importance in overcoming a relatively slow progress in effective demonstration of the existing political will.

Improved interethnic dialogue, democracy and human rights respect are more than necessary prerequisite for establishing a framework for intrinsic reconciliation and confidence building with particular focus on the principles of rule of law and democratic governance. This message was among the key points incorporated in the Conclusions adopted at the Regional Conference in Zagreb, held in June 2010.



A Conference of the project "Reconciling for the future"

I.9.30 Cooperation with School of Political Studies – Council of Europe

School of Local Democracy in the Western Balkans, Council of Europe leading, ALDA partner

On 1st October 2009, the School of local democracy in the Western Balkans, which gathers the Schools of Political Studies from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia and Macedonia was established to accompany the dual processes of consolidating democratic reforms and European integration in the region.

The main topics focus on local governance concepts: strengthening the local economic development, relations between citizens and local self government, citizen participation, electoral systems, the role of regional and local authorities in citizens' daily lives, transfrontier co-operation, contribution of local authorities to the European integration process.

The objectives are to increase capacity and transparency at the local level, to improve relations between local government and citizens, to reinforce confidence and tolerance and to establish a young leaders' network at the regional level in order to facilitate co-operation conducive to resolving concrete problems they encounter in the field.

In addition, this programme intends to contribute towards reconciliation and intercultural dialogue between all communities in the Balkans, by supporting local initiatives based on the fundamental values of the Council of Europe.

The seminars are mainly led by national experts from countries in the region which, except Albania, share a common past in the former Yugoslavia and thus perceive with a very similar awareness the different issues to be discussed.

The Schools of Political Studies, ALDA and the LDAs present in all Western Balkan countries jointly implement this programme. ALDA co-operates with the Schools to identify

participants and to define programme activities. The former Mayor of the municipality of Sarajevo Centre and the



School of Political Studies of the Council of Europe, Strasbourg (France)

© Council of Europe

first Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Council of Europe, Mr Igor Gaon, is the main Co-ordinator of this programme.

The following activities are included in the 2010-2011 programme:

- Challenges of Local Democracy in the Western Balkans, February 2011, Becici, Montenegro
- Local Government and Leadership, April 2011, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I.9.31 Seenet II

From 2009 till 2013, ALDA is a strategic partner of the Seenet programme on the topic of governance and participatory democracy. In particular, the program aims at fostering dialogue among states, institutions and local communities in South East Europe for the effective development of the territories involved in the Programme and in a long-term partnership at regional level and with the Italian system of decentralized cooperation. Within the new partnership, actors in the network will be asked to try on the evolution of administrative decentralization to support local development, offering concrete opportunities to work on specific areas of intervention in line with European standards.

ALDA is involved in the first part of the horizontal actions (institutional building to increase the use of EU funds).

In 2010, following activities were implemented with the participation of ALDA: five preparation meetings for the future development of the project (April 6th, 7th, 20th and 30th; July 14th); Drafting of proposals.



Microcredit Steering Committee Meeting,
Tirana (Albania), July 2010

I.9.32 Microcredit

The Microcredit scheme for the Western Balkans is implemented by ALDA in cooperation with the Local democracy Agencies in Subotica and Central and Southern Serbia, Sisak, Osijek and Verteneglio/Brtonigla (Croatia), Mostar, Zavidovići and Prijedor (Bosnia and Herzegovina).

It aims at introducing an integrated approach to microcredit with the goal of promotion of start-up businesses, job-creation and the promotion of local economic development; a further objective is the promotion of a long-lasting and sustainable local economic development in South East Europe, fostered by start-up entrepreneurs. Public-private partnerships are to be promoted, and citizens assisted in drafting sustainable business plans.

Following activities took place in the framework of this project in 2010:

- a fact-finding mission to Serbia on March 10th and 11th;
- a meeting in Tirana to sign the agreement for further the extension of the project to Albania;
- Meetings between ALDA and Intesa San Paolo (Belgrade, 25th February);
- Steering Committee Meeting (Tirana, 15-16th July);
- meetings with funders.

Albania

II.1 LDA Albania



Delegate: Franco Menga (until January 2011), Francesco Fiera interim delegate appointed by ALDA

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Partners: Italy: Municipality of Brindisi (lead partner), Apulia Region, IPRES Apulia, Formez Institute; Albania: Municipality of Fierze, Association of Albanian Municipalities, Municipality of Shkodra; Switzerland: Municipality of Yverdon les Bains; France: Municipality of Fraize.

After three years from its opening, the LDA Albania has become a well established actor that contribute to the democratic process of Albania keeping local authorities and civil society organizations working together for local development, community empowerment and European integration. Despite the internal problem the Agency faced during the first years of activities, it is now well recognized as a local actor capable of promoting active citizenship and local governance. Moreover, its international dimension, through its European partnership and the wide ALDA's network, is giving to the area of the Municipality of Shkodra and to the whole country the European dimension that usually is missed among the local authorities and civil society organizations in Albania.

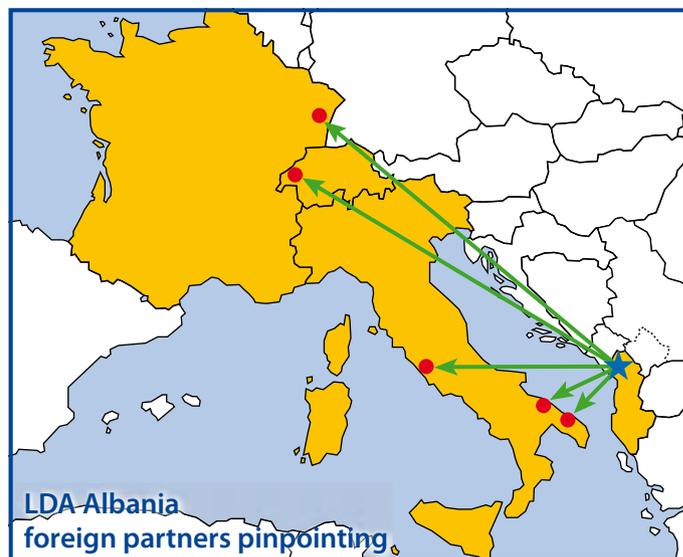
Nowadays, the LDA Albania is working in close cooperation with different local and international stakeholders to support and reinforce the process of decentralization, provide capacity building and strengthen cooperation for civil society organizations and local authorities, favour the exchange among stakeholders of the economic sector, act as a youth empowerment activator, promote European active citizenship.

The **general objectives** of the Agency are:

- capacity building and training programmes for local civil society and local self-government;
- cross-border and regional co-operation programmers;
- trainings for economic empowerment of marginalized groups;
- promoting increased citizen participation at local level;
- local economic development;
- publishing activities;
- professional training in general;
- professional training on European integration;
- master in collaboration with university (local and foreign).

The **specific objectives** of the LDA Albania for 2010 were:

- promotion of initiatives for strengthening local democracy;
- promoting EU integration and values at local level:
 - support and development of civil society;
 - participation of all community elements in decision-making process on the local level
 - capacity building for local self government bodies
 - promotion of intercultural dialogue and understand-



- ding in multiethnic local communities
- promotion of human rights and peace education
- confidence building between different ethnic groups on the local and regional level
- promotion of development initiatives relying on local resource
- promote European Integration
- local administration capacity development
- local economic development
- youth participation

The LDA Albania is involved in several projects implemented by ALDA, in particular within the programme of Europe for Citizens, continuing its initial mandate of contributing at the process of EU accession of the country. During the last year, the Agency was also very active in the field of Youth, implementing a transnational project aimed at fostering the international cooperation and mobilization in the field of Youth. Furthermore, on the occasion of the European Year of Volunteering, the LDA Albania promoted the “culture” of volunteering at the local level, making a step forward in promoting a culture of peace and solidarity.

Through the strong support of its lead partner, the LDA Albania has built strong relation with the Municipality of Brindisi, and with Apulia Region in general. This allowed the natu-

ral continuation of the strong historical cooperation between the two regions on the different shores of the Adriatic sea.

The current projects the LDA Albania is carrying out range from trans-border co-operation seminars, capacity building for local authorities and NGOs, youth or women empowerment to micro-credits and trainings in general and on European integration.

Here it follows the list of projects and activities implemented by the LDA Kosovo in 2010:

- CITIES project, Shkodra, 23-24th March;
- Microcredit scheme in South East Europe, Tirana, July;
- pilot projects powers and responsibilities on migration policy at local level, Shkodra, September/October;
- the code of good practices for civil participation in the decision making process, Shkodra, September/October;
- Microcredit scheme for Albania, Training course (ongoing);
- research and Action Plan for start-up activities, Shkoder Region, September/December;
- Professional Training Course of Expert in EU Programmes (activities carried out – May/October);
- Building Europe through Youth Empowerment and Partnership (BE.YEP) - Action 3 - Youth in the world 3.1 - Cooperation with Neighbouring Partner Countries, ongoing



Floods in Albania (Shkodra, December 2010). ALDA makes a plea for solidarity

Bosnia and Herzegovina

II.2 LDA Mostar



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Partners: Bosnia and Herzegovina: City of Mostar (host city); Denmark: Municipality of Vejle; Italy: Apulia Region (lead partner), City of Monfalcone, Province of Brindisi, NGO IPSIA; Serbia: City of Kragujevac.

Also in 2010, the LDA had a chance to work together with local, regional and European partners and to be active in the field of citizens participation and civil society involvement in the public life, ensuring an active cooperation and exchange between the Bosnian and other European communities. The last year were marked by many important achievements: building bridges between Mostar and the European Communities the LDA cooperates with, establishing and improving many professional and personal relationships at the local and international level to ensure the sustainable development and empowerment of citizens. The successful work of the LDA was proved also in 2010 by one major fact: the voice of Mostar's citizens.

Activities implemented in 2010

Project "Councillor-Citizen"

Donors: Apulia Region (Italy) and Open Society Fund (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Duration: December 2009-December 2010

One of the most important projects that entirely fulfils the mission and the vision of LDA Mostar is the Project

"Councillor-Citizen" implemented within "Resource Centre for Democratisation (RCD) Mostar" of LDA Mostar, whose importance and significance were recognised by its donors, while the City of Mostar indicated its importance and exigency by providing the organisation with the necessary support for undisturbed implementation of project activities and achievement of the planned Project objectives.



Objective

Direct inclusion of citizens into the decision making process, which is an indispensable foundation for the development and stability of the local community.

Specific objectives:

- to increase the citizen participation by using the bottom up methodology/approach in the decision making process;
- to improve communication between the citizens and the Mostar City Council by increasing transparency, responsibility and councillor-citizen interaction;
- to strengthen the capacity of citizens in advocating their interests and rights;
- to strengthen the capacity of local officials – councillors in the Mostar City Council.

Short description of the Project

The RCD Project “Councillor-Citizen” is based on activities of improving communication of the Mostar City Council, as a legislative authority, with the citizens and private sector, which should be actively included into the decision making process on the local level.

In order to improve and make the work of Mostar City Council more transparent, but primarily enable the citizens of Mostar to actively participate in the development of the local community and improvement of their living environment, in accordance with the Law on Local Self-governance, LDA Mostar, together with the Mostar City Council, will initiate a series of actions in order to accomplish the set objective.

Activities realised in 2010:

- Informative meeting – Training for councillors of the City Council on implementation of the programme planned by this Project;
- research-sensitivity of authorities to identify and meet



Per Vinther, the President of ALDA, at European Neighbours' Day 2010 in Mostar (BiH)

the real citizen needs;

- organisation of 7 public tribunals for 7 City Areas, giving the opportunity to councillors to present the work of the City council to the citizens and opportunity to citizens to express their opinion and share the problems of their local areas that they are facing on daily bases;
- Centre for free legal counselling, over 300 cases were the subject of legal aid;
- promotional campaign – which follows all the mentioned activities and is implemented in co-operation with local Radio and TV stations.

Regional partnership for inter-cultural cities

Donor: European Commission-Directorate for Enlargement

Project lead partner: Subotica City Assembly (Serbia)

Project partner: Local Democracy Agencies Subotica (Serbia), Osijek (Croatia) and Mostar (BiH), “Light House” Wolverhampton (UK)

Project duration: May 2009-May 2011

Short description of Project

Regional partnership for inter-cultural cities is one of eight international co-operation projects, approved within the "People 2 People" Programme of the European Commission General Directorate for Enlargement, as per the following Call "Support to the civil society dialogue – 'People 2 People' - activities: consolidation of partnerships amongst civil society organisations and authorities, aiming to strengthen the rights of minorities in the region" funded within the CARDS Regional Action Programme 2006 (EuropeAid/126361/C/ACT/Multi).

Activities realised in 2010:

- February – Call for written features published with the aim to collect materials for publication which will be published within the Project;
- 8th April, Osijek – second Project Steering Board;
- 7th-10th October, Mostar – filming of a documentary film; team of cameramen of the "Light-House" Wolverhampton from Great Britain visited Mostar and, in accordance with programme planned in advance, conducted a series of interviews and recordings with the aim to collect audio and video materials for the "Mostar Inter-cultural City" documentary film;
- September-December – preparation of a brochure. In co-operation with the local cultural institutions and NGOs, materials collected for development of a brochure on cultural events in the City of Mostar, which will be published within the Project;
- 22nd-26th November, Osijek – regional Youth Camp "School of local democracy";
- 1st-2nd December, Osijek – Study visit and Roundtable "With Co-operation of Cities to Europe";
- 3rd December, Osijek – third Project Steering Board;
- Website of the Project is regularly updated with new information www.regionlicc.net.

Reconciliation for the Future – European Perspective for the Western Balkans

Donor: European Commission Programme entitled Instrument for Stability – Crisis Preparedness component

Project lead partner: Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA)

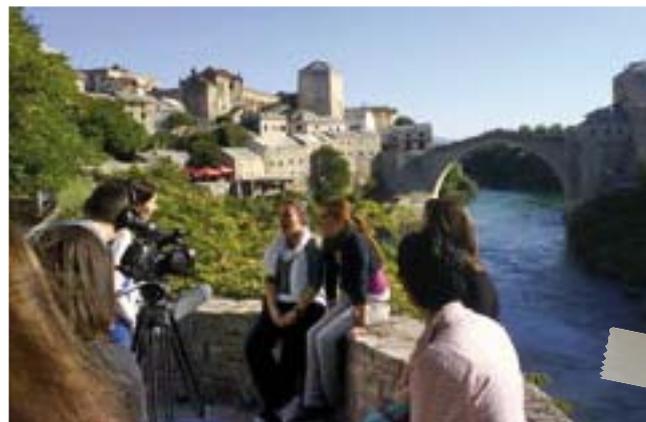
Project partners: LDA Niš and Centre for Regionalism Novi Sad (Serbia), LDA Osijek (Croatia), Centre for Peace, Non-violence and Human Rights, Osijek (Croatia) and LDA Mostar (BiH)

Project duration: September 2009-September 2010

Short description of the Project:

"Reconciliation for the Future – European Perspective for the Western Balkans" is a Project that addresses issues of reconciliation in the region as one of the preconditions of further process of European integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Croatia.

General objective of the Project is the contribution to perceiving key aspects of regional dialogue on reconciliation of political, social and economic challenges in realisation of cross-border and regional co-operation of compe-



Training for young video-journalists, the bridge of Mostar (BiH) in background

tent institutions with the aim of reconciliation on one side and their improved co-ordination on the other side.

The Project is realised through a series of three roundtables and one regional conference with the aim to gather representatives of state authorities, civil society, experts and media for the purpose of improvement of dialogue on reconciliation on the regional level as one of the key preconditions for the future of the European integration process.

Activities realised in 2010

- 26th March 2010, Mostar (BiH) - second Roundtable
- 8th April 2010, Osijek (Croatia) - third Roundtable;
- 29th June 2010, Zagreb (Croatia) - final Project conference, covering two large panel topics.

Each Roundtable and final conference covered two large Panels chaired by prominent keynote speakers from Croatia, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, representatives of authorities, international institutions, experts, researchers, analysts, representatives of non-governmental organisations, local self-government, civil society, economy, academic institutions, agencies for regional development and

co-operation, politics and media. At the end of the Project, as a result of all realised activities, recommendations were given to representatives of governments and civil society organisations of the region.

MO.START-V / Mostar: Strategies and Activities for Realisation of Training in Video-journalism

Donor: Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region in accordance with the Regional Law 19/2000, on regional and local levels for promotion of activities of co-operation and international partnership

Project managed by: Province of Gorizia

Project partners: Kallipolis – non-profit organisation for sustainable urban development - Trieste, Luchetta Ota D'Angelo Hrovatin Onlus Foundation - Trieste, Local Democracy Agency Mostar, LINK Mostar

Duration: August 2009-March 2011

Short description of the Project

General objective of the Project is to improve economic development of Mostar through increasing employment opportunities for young people.

Aside from the general Project objective, one of the specific objectives is the promotion of dialogue between different cultures and inclusion of citizens into creation of possible future scenarios of development of the City of Mostar. Currently, citizens of Mostar as one of the Central European cities, have a small or insignificant role in the decision making process and in the process of participation of the city planning, and this is especially true of young people.

Activities

- professional training in independent video-journalism;
- documentary film production – topic urban space in the city of Mostar;
- Participatory Workshop planning;



Mo.StarT-V, a project of training in video-journalism

- professional course in starting a business;
- initiation of the Centre for independent video-production;
- Final conference and presentation of a documentary film, hosted by LDA Mostar;
- Final conference and presentation of a documentary film in the Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region.

European Neighbours' Day

Organiser: LDA Mostar

Partners: City of Mostar, Mostar City Council, ALDA

European Neighbours' Day is a holiday of local solidarity and promotion of European values, which gathers more and more participants around the continent every year. This year as well, on 25th May, in co-operation with the Mostar City Council and City Administration, LDA Mostar organised the celebration of the "European Neighbours' Day" on two city locations. With the appropriate cultural-musical programme, refreshments and delicacies kindly donated by local producers and merchants, and attendance of distinguished guests, the Neighbours' Day passed in a pleasant event.

"European Federation of Local Solidarity" (E.F.L.S.), based in Paris, co-ordinates the ceremonies of marking the "European Neighbours' Day" in 32 countries, over 1200 cities, and with more than 10 million participants (www.european-neighbours-day.com).

The City of Mostar, upon LDA Mostar initiative, became a member of the E.F.L.S. network in 2009, as the first BiH city, while LDA Mostar joined that network in 2010.

EVS – European Volunteering Service

"Youth-the Right Direction" Projects for promotion of the "Youth in Action" Programme.



Young volunteers for the European Neighbours' Day in Mostar (BiH), 25th May 2010

European Volunteering Service, known as EVS, is a part of the European Commission Programme for youth entitled "Youth in Action".

LDA Mostar joined the EVS Programme and has been accredited as an organisation for sending, accommodation and co-ordination of volunteers since April 2009.

Activities realised in 2010

- March-May: LDA Mostar dedicated itself to the promotion of the European Volunteering Services through meetings and Radio shows focused on the "Youth in Action" Programme, and especially on EVS. LDA Mostar creates partnership contacts with organisations from the domain of culture and organisations and institutions which care for children and youth with special needs with the aim to promote EVS and possibility of arrival of European volunteers to, within the EVS Programme, voluntarily work in these organisations;
- June: LDA Mostar officially requested new accreditation from SALTO SEE in order to include the above-mentioned organisations into its EVS offer. A SALTO SEE employee in charge of accreditations visited LDA Mostar;

- August: Despite SALTO SEE' praises for the new EVS Project, the new accreditation was not adopted out of administrative reasons; namely, European Commission requires one accreditation for each organisation, which would be included into our new Project. LDA Mostar decided to dedicate itself to the activities of sending native volunteers to European countries until the end of the year;
- October: Two volunteers from Mostar, through LDA Mostar, departed to Italy and Germany respectively, to volunteer for one year;
- November: LDA Mostar Youth Officer, accompanied by two young volunteers, participated in realisation of a project activity of the "Youth in Action" Programme entitled "Let's EVS now", implemented by LDA Subotica in partnership with LDA Mostar and another few youth partner organisations from the region (Monte Negro, Macedonia, Serbia and BiH) and Europe (Finland, France, Norway, Hungary).

• Fundraising

Local Democracy Agency (LDA) Mostar finances its activities and projects with the assistance of various funds and donors. The majority of financial means, which is utilised for the implementation of activities, is fundraised through the Agency's own efforts.

In 2010, just like in the past few years, LDA Mostar invested a lot of time and resources into fundraising by writing its own projects, developing new ideas and activities, all that in accordance with the needs of the local community and citizens, and partly through the participation in projects as a partner.

Also, LDA Mostar is partly funded through the partners' membership, which is paid on annual basis. Considering that the role of a partner in the process of development and strengthening of not only the Agency but also the local community is very important, LDA Mostar invests great efforts to retain the existing partners, and win over the new ones, and all that by implementing projects that have a significant influence on both local and international level.

Trainings delivered by LDA Mostar

- Training "Development of a project idea – learning by doing" - Within the Project "Addressing Social Exclusion of Mine Affected Population in BiH: Development and Mine Action", implemented by Handicap International for South East Europe. Training delivered to the representatives of local authorities and NGOs of Municipalities Berkovici and Stolac.
- Training "Preparation of a project proposal" delivered to the members of Association "Volunteers in the City of Mostar".
- A number of internal trainings organised by LDA Mostar – IPA Funds and preparation of project proposals.



Training of the project "Addressing Social Exclusion of Mine Affected Population in BiH"

II.3 LDA Prijedor



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Partners: Bosnia and Herzegovina: Municipality of Prijedor; Italy: Association Program Prijedor - lead partner (City Trento, Association of Municipalities Alta Valsugana C4, Association of Municipalities Valle dell'Adige, Municipalities Aldeno, Baselga di Pinè, Borgo Valsugana, Caderzone, Caldonazzo, Cavalese, Grumes, Lavis, Levico, Massimeno, Pergine, Pinzolo, Predazzo, Ronzo Chienis, Spiazso Rendena, Tassello and Varena, Association L'Anкора, Cultural Association Mosaico-Trento, Association Trentinjana in the world, Cultural Association Alegri - Trento, Association CISV Trento, Association Yugo 94 - Trento), Union of pensioners Spi-Cgil Friuli-Venezia Giulia; Spain: Diputació de Córdoba.

The year 2010 was a very successful one for the LDA Prijedor. The Agency implemented several projects, as partner in ALDA's project or as lead applicant. It continued its original mission promoting support to the participation of citizens, organizations, institutions and social networks to the democratic process of the local community. Moreover, it continued in supporting social inclusion and local economic development.

Projects implemented in 2010

Microcredit Project

"Microcredit scheme for start-up activities for young entrepreneurs in SEE" supported by Banca Intesa Sanpaolo and Development Bank of CoE started in 2007. 2009 brought some changes in the draft Micro Credit Scheme in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In that and previous period we negotiated for all the aspects and conditions of the product with Banca Intesa Sanpaolo Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the goal for defining and signing the agreement between LDAs and the Bank.

We managed to finish the credit conditions of the Agree-



ement which was signed between the LDAs in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Banca Intesa in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In the month of October 2009 the Bank has finally published material, but only the brochures. The brochures have been distributed to the Local Democracy Agencies, a total of 75 pieces for each LDAs. In that moment LDA Prijedor started with the media promotion of the project in the territory of the Municipality of Prijedor.

Unfortunately the conditions that the Bank offered were not popular and not even one credit was taken. We tried on BiH level, together with other BiH LDAs and ALDA to negotiate with the Bank for better and more citizens' oriented conditions but it was without success. In the end this project was closed in June 2010. Officials in ALDA are giving their effort for continuation of this project in more acceptable form for the citizens, but for now there is no official confirmation for it.

Marking the Day of Europe

With the project called "Marking the Day of Europe" ALDA was co-financing the Project of Youth Fair 2010. The goal was promotion of the EU Program for Bosnia and Herzegovina called Youth in Action – European Voluntary Ser-



Youth Fair 2010, Prijedor (Bosnia and Herzegovina), 25th May 2010

vice (EVS) and youth activism and voluntarism, what was the part of the Youth Fair 2010 within the round table presentations and discussions. This project raised the awareness at young people about the possibility to go, for several months, to volunteer in some youth NGO, and learn a lot about other realities, culture, tradition, other language, but also this way of non-formal learning gives them a chance to improve their professional skills working in NGO sector. This project gave to young people new knowledge and ideas for their activism in their own community as well.

Fair of youth NGOs of Prijedor 2010 (SONVO)

LDA Prijedor with the support of the Municipality of Prijedor and the representatives of local Youth and Non-governmental organizations conducted series of activities toward the implementation of the project "NGO Fair". The main goal of the project was: Collaboration and networking of local youth organizations, aiming to materialize the youth NGO fair in one of the town's squares. Co-financing for this project was from Prijedor Municipality, ALDA and OSCE.

Based on the main goal, the project itself had few side aims, which are as follows:

1. creating a network of YNGOs, as a foundation to further cooperation and projects activities;
2. presentation of YNGOs and their activities to the citizens of Prijedor, local government and other YNGOs;
3. informing youth about methods and goals of YNGOs;
4. informing youth about volunteering opportunities and the significance of such practice on local and personal level.

The implementation of the project started with the series of meeting held in the office of LDA with presence of the representatives of YNGOs currently active in Prijedor region. During the course of those meetings participants were introduced to the goal, aims and tasks that needed to be done in pursue of a successful implementation of the project.

The fair itself took place on May 25th, starting from 11:00AM. Every YNGO that took part in the project had a fair-like stand for its materials, creation of which was funded by the project budget. Apart from the stand, every organization had an open space for its creative activity, with several of topics. At noon the Vice Mayor of Prijedor Municipality made an official opening of the Youth Fair 2010.

The other component of the project was the series of the presentations and discussions lead by few experts on topics and moderated by representatives of LDA Prijedor. Topics of those activities were volunteering practice, legal framework of volunteering and youth activism in BiH, youth strategy and policy of both Republic of Srpska and BiH, youth policy of Municipality of Prijedor and EU Youth in Action program with specific issue of European Voluntary Service.

The goals are achieved in different levels. The most important goal achieved was recognition, by the local government and public institutions and organizations, of the youth sector as an important and useful part of society, part of society that contributes to the development of local community and life in it. One more fact is that the promotion of the work of youth NGOs was successful, because many of organizations reached new members and activists after the fair, new ideas and projects, new collaborations and joint actions and initiatives.

The list of participating organizations: STOP Drogi, OC Ljubija, OC Hambarine, UUU Manifest, OK Babići, OC Donja Puharska, OC Dom mladosti Gornja Dragotinja, Omladinska organizacija Čisto srce, Mladi Crvenog krsta Prijedor, UG Sanus, UG Ekus, Omladinski volonterski centar DON, Udruženje pronalazača Prijedor, Savjet učenika Medicinske srednje škole, Savez studenata Rudarskog fakulteta Prijedor, Omladinski centar za kreativnost i inicijativu (Novi Grad), Drustvo Izvidjaca Prijedor, Omladinska organizacija Feniks (Kostajnica), NVO Mladi aktivisti (Knezevo), Odred izvidjaca Dr Mladen Stojanovic, NVO Novi put (Bihac).



Partners meeting, Trento (Italy), 14th October 2010

Partners meeting 2010

Every year ALDA is supporting financially the meetings of LDAs with their lead partners in EU countries. For 2010 ALDA covered meetings we had in Trento in October 2010, in which LDA staff met staff of Associazione Progetto Prijedor from Trento, and then staff of Tavolo Trentino per il Kosovo, Tavolo Trentino per il Kraljevo and Comitato Balkani.

These meetings resulted with the agreement of networked activities among all these associations and joint guidelines for the project activities of 2011.

Delegates' meeting 2010

In November 2010 we met in Vicenza the Delegates and representatives of all LDAs and Director and staff of ALDA for an evaluation of our activities.

These meetings gave us the knowledge of the position and situation in which all LDAs are, considering their achievements, plans and problems. These meetings opened some issues and gave some answers on how to make our work better in individual and joint work.

II.4 LDA Zavidovići



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Partners: Association “Local Democracy Agency in Zavidovići” (lead partner), composed by the Association of Local Authorities of Brescia, Municipality of Alba; Municipality of Zavidovići, Municipality of Roncadelle, Staff service Mu&Ap, Uisp of Brescia, Spi- Cgil of Brescia, Cinsa (University Consortium), Association Liberacion from Carpenedolo (Brescia), CeTamb (Documentation and Research Centre on Environmental Issues, University of Brescia), Association TrEatro, ARCi Nuova Associazione of Cremona, CGIL of Cremona, SPI-CGIL of Cremona, Oglio Sud Park, UISP of Cremo-



na, Association Amici di Emmaus, Municipality of Torre de Picenardi, Association Donne in nero, Association Strani Vari.

Strategic goals of the LDA for 2010:

- to strengthen its activities in three identified key sectors: youth policies, social welfare and sustainable economic development;
- to increase in each sector the net of the local actors involved, promote their role, animate and support them through LDA’s Italian partners and the LDAs network;
- to enlarge the relationship with other local and international NGOs, Bosnian institutions and foreign authorities;
- to support local NGOs, active in the social and educative field in becoming more sustainable and proactive;
- to strengthen LDA presence in the rural areas.

LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Development of local economies in the Zenica-Doboj Canton

Donors: Lombardia Region, CGIL of Crema, Municipality of Roncadelle, Province of Cremona

Partners: Association Buona Terra, University of Padua, Cinsa-Italian Universities Consortium on Environmental Sciences, CRPV of Cesena, Local Associations of farmers from Zavidovići and Zepce

Project aims to foster local economic development, supporting agricultural and hand-crafted production.

The first goal has been achieved through demonstrating diversification of agricultural products in the selected areas of each involved farm. In 2010 LDA Zavidovići succeeded:

- to diversify products and increase the household incomes of the 20 targeted farmer families through training, consultancy and technical support in the cultivation and processing, with the creation of a market linkages with buyers;
- to create opportunities to grow and sell locally.



Support to agricultural and hand-crafted production, Zenica-Doboj Canton (BiH)

Besides, project works on developing a strong local food culture through educational programs, networking opportunities and increased availability of locally grown food.

In a long term project will contribute to building the capacity of rural areas in skills and approaches that can help to link their productions to market, generate more income and foster employment in the farming sector.

In a long term project will contribute to building the capacity of rural areas in skills and approaches that can help to link their productions to market, generate more income and foster employment in the farming and handicraft sector.

Activities implemented in 2010:

- definition of the farming plans for each farmer (January and February);
- production of small plants (March);
- seeding of the first new varieties and distribution among the selected farmers in the experimental areas (April);
- supporting of the farmers through consultancy and financial contribution (all over the year);
- setting up of the selling point (June-October)
- evaluation and follow up (October and November).

DECENTRALIZED COOPERATION

Pilot farms network in Central Bosnia

Donor: Region Auvergne (France)

Partner: Association of Farmers of Travnik

Farmer's network is a way of providing educational and informational activities to a network of farmers as well as facilitating farmer to farmer exchange of knowledge and experiences related to agricultural practices. In the first year of implementation the project brought French specialist advisers and consultants to deal with the subjects that are important to farmers and to help them to improve their knowledge and skills. Besides that, technical assistance has been provided to farmers and a collection of information about farm management practises has been done in order to support French consultancy.

The project started in the middle of 2009 and the main objectives are:

- to recognize rural values and boost family agriculture;
- to achieve food self-sufficiency by modernisation of family farms;
- to develop an attractive agriculture for young farmers;
- to develop good farming practices in the field of sustainable development.

In 2010 LDA Zavidovići hosted French student who realized analysis of agricultural situation in Zavidovići area and perspectives of development for farmers included in the project.

Town-twinning between Roncadelle and Zavidovići municipalities

Donor: Municipality of Roncadelle

Partner: Municipality of Zavidovići

In the framework of the town-twinning between Roncadelle and Zavidovići Municipalities several sport exchanges (volleyball and basketball tournament) and institutional visits have been organized all over the year.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Enlargement of the separate waste collection system in the urban area of Zavidovići

Financed by: Piemonte Region and Municipality of Alba

Partners: Municipality of Alba and Zavidovići, ERICA Alba, JKP "Radnik" Zavidovići, Cetamb Brescia

The project has objective to increase cooperation between Italian and Bosnian subjects in the field of waste management.

The project aims at raising the public awareness on such topic inside public and private actors, promoting the exchange of best practices between the Municipality of Alba and of Zavidovići, developing level of competences of administrators and technicians from Zavidovići Municipality and testing a pilot separate collection of garbage involving the public utility, some local enterprises and the Roma community. Besides that, the project has planned a wide educational program in the schools and a informative campaign.

Activities implemented in 2010:

- supporting activities for the plan implementation (consultancy provided by Italian partners, promotional campaign, equipment);
- launching a pilot project for recycling;
- implementation of a simple ecological area for the separation of recyclable materials;
- implementation of training courses for members of the Roma community;
- monitoring activities (interviews, visit on the spot, data collecting and analysis);
- evaluation and follow up for expanding the collecting area;
- study visit in Italy.



Exchange of best practices in separate waste collection system, Zavidovici (BiH)

SOCIAL WELFARE

Safe place - support program to the victims of domestic violence

Donors: Piemonte Region, Municipality of Alba

Partners: University of South-East Piedmont – Department of Social Research, ASLCN2 – Center against drug and alcohol abusers, Social Welfare Center of Alba Langhe Roero, Municipality of Zavidovići, Social Welfare Centre of Zavidovići, several primary and high schools, Association "Ceker".

The projects aim at testing a new methodological approach within the social field, the networking and the community care approach, facing the increasing problem of the domestic violence. In specific, the project would like to sensitize the public opinion on domestic violence problem and on community responsibility in helping the victims, to provide them aid and bring them towards autonomy. Through the project, started in 2007, a trained net of 10 actors from public institutions and civil society has been established, 800 hundred people have been made aware of the problem, several meetings with women and students have been organized in town and in rural area, victims have been directly supported.

Analysis of the social needs in Zavidovići, with special care to the rural area

Donor: Province of Cremona

Partner: Municipality of Zavidovići

The project has been thought as significant way that enables first of all the Province of Cremona and its net of Municipalities for Peace, as well as Municipality of Zavidovići and LDA in their decision making process within decentralized cooperation and planning of future actions in social field.

During 2010, in the frame of the project there has been realised micro action in a local community - Reconstruction of Kovaci's local community premises.

YOUTH POLICIES AND EDUCATIVE ACTIVITIES

Youth exchange: "Say No"

Financed by: EC (Youth in Action Programme)

Partners: Cooperativa O.R.So - Torino/Alba, Centar lokalne demokratije - Niš, Vilnius SOS children village - Vilnius

The youth exchange "Say No" has been realized in Zavidovići (Bosnia and Herzegovina) from 6th-14th March

2010. It has lasted 7 days and involved 23 young persons and 7 group leaders from 4 countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Italy and Lithuania.

The theme we dealt has been the bad influence that affects life of young people today. Working on this theme there was elaborated also the intercultural dialogue, the health and active citizenship.

The objective was to open respectful, deep and tolerant dialogue, initiating discussion among different young groups on risky behaviors in different countries.

Strani-vari 2010 – Summer activities for children

Donors: Municipality of Alba, ARCI of Cremona, Association "Strani Vari"

Partners: Municipality of Zavidovići, Association "CeKER" - Zavidovići, Association "Strani Vari" – Alba and "Il Ciabotto" - Alba, Baccano Balcanico - Firenze

The project started in 2003 and its goal is the organisation of summer activities for children, involving Italian and Bosnian young people and training them on educative issues.

The main results achieved in 2008 and kept in 2009 was that, after several years of activities mostly led by the Italian group, the Bosnian animators have been successfully in charge for the organisation and implementation of the activities in the two urban schools. The Italians carried out the ones planned in the rural areas. Besides that a increasing number of children, animators and villages have been involved.

Ludobus in rural areas

Financed by: Consulta per la pace - Brescia

Partner: Association Ceker Zavidovići

Lda Zavidovići in cooperation with local youth association "Ceker" has carried out project for animation of children in rural areas involving four distant rural areas of the municipality.



Support program to the victims of domestic violence, Zavidovici (BiH)

The Ludobus is a service of animation for children that offers cultural and educational activities to them and the opportunities to meet and be involved to young volunteers.

Ludobus involves children, adolescents, adults and older people promoting their participation while respecting the dignity and differences of each.

The Ludobus provides games and toys, offers recreational, leisure, cultural, sporting, laboratory and theatrical entertainment shows, music and circus in the squares, in parks, schools, in streets and green areas of cities and villages.

In 2010 LDA Zavidovići has been present in the local communities of Gostovići, Vožuća, Kovači, Hajderovići. There has been involved 20 young animators and participated over 1.000 children.

Exchange between kindergartens in Alba and Zavidovići

Donor: Piemonte Region, Municipality of Alba

Partners: Kindergarten of Zavidovići, Municipality of Zavidovići, three primary schools in Alba, Association "Ceke"

Thanks to the cooperation with the primary schools of



The Ludobus, service of animation for children in rural areas, Zavidovici (BiH)

Alba, the teachers of the kindergarten of Zavidovići have developed a common action plan to be realized both in Zavidovići and Alba. The work focused on transition to Zavidovići an educational approach used by the teachers in Alba based on transmission of contents from teacher to child through collection knowledge of children, developing of cognitive maps and work on plan organization with logical connection through a variety of approaches.

The actors involved have compared the methodology and the results achieved during the trip to Italy and designed a follow up for 2011.

Play in Street Festival 3rd edition

Donor: Association "Il Ciabotto" Alba (Italy)

Partners: Ass. "Strani Vari" Alba, "Ceke" Zavidovići

The first week of August Zavidovići has hosted the "Play in street festival" third edition, one week of street and theatre performances in town and in the local communities, carried out by the cultural association "Il Ciabotto" from Alba in cooperation with the association "Strani Vari" and the group of young animators from "Ceke".

The 13th Edition of Vivicità

Donor: UISP Brescia and Cremona

Partners: Municipality of Zavidovići, Association of Zavidovići sport teachers, Association of Athletics "Krivaja", Basketball Club "Krivaja", Female Volleyball Club from Zavidovići, high schools from Brescia and Cremona

In April there was the 13th edition of the foot run "Vivicità", international competition for peace, with the participation of students from the high schools of Brescia, Cremona and Zavidovići. A side, several sport events (volleyball, basket and football matches) took place. More than 500 persons attended at these events.

Croatia

II.5 LDA Osijek



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Partners: Croatia: City of Osijek (host city), Regional Development Agency of Slavonia and Baranja, Agency for Development of Osijek-Baranja County, Erdut Municipality; Italy: Association Pro Loco Frentana, Municipality of Montenero di Bisaccia; Switzerland: City of Lausanne (lead partner)

The Local Democracy Agency Osijek implemented different activities, both with the support of ALDA and with its own resources. Even in 2010 the priorities of the LDA Osijek remained the promotion of the importance of active citizenship and citizens' participation in life of their community, the contribution to local economic development and promotion of the principles of sustainable development and sustainable tourism, foster multiculturalism, tolerance, dialogue and cross border cooperation with the aim to improve social inclusion, social cohesion and build European identity

During 2010 LDA in Osijek participated as an implementing partner in the following ALDA's projects:

- Micro credit Scheme in South Eastern Europe;
- Reconciling for the Future – European Perspective for the Western Balkans;
- Regional Partnerships for Intercultural Exchange;
- E-Panels - Fostering of Participation and Volunteering in Wider Europe.

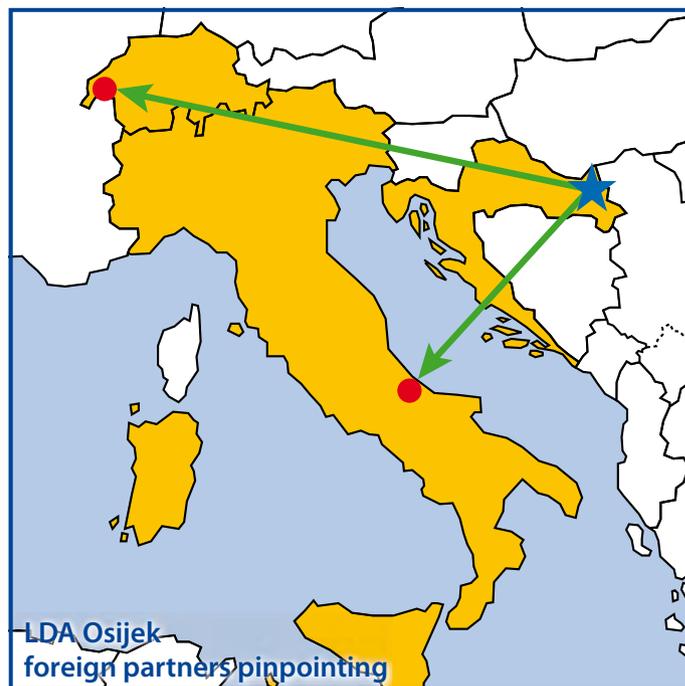
However, it follows in more details the projects fundraised and implemented by LDA in Osijek directly.

Storytelling that binds us

Supported by: EC – Youth in Action Programme

Partner: Cum Virtute Humanitatis, Pecs, Hungary

“Storytelling that binds us” is a title of a project and youth exchange which from 27th June to 5th July 2010 in Erdut gathered 16 young people from Croatia and Hungary. The applicant of this youth exchange project in the frame of EC Youth in Action programme was Local Democracy Agency and we prepared it and implemented it in cooperation with Hungarian foundation Cum Virtute Humanitatis (With the Power of Humanity) from Pecs as we already had established cooperation in the frame of our previous youth projects on active citizenship.



The whole project was designed with the aim to contribute to development of positive attitudes of young people from two European countries (Croatia and Hungary) about values of their common cultural heritage that binds them and in order to open good quality space for intercultural dialogue, communication and creation of young people.

As so it was... During 7 days of socializing and learning young participants explored and also presented folklore and cultural heritage of their communities discovering thus one totally new world of similarities and togetherness while enjoying in mutual replenishment.

The programme agenda covered many different aspects, from language animation and basic vocabulary of Croatian and English language, to story and legends telling, exploring of history and culture of the village of Erdut, drama exercises, energizers, visit to Osijek puppet theatre, visit to the house of a world famous scientist Milutin Milanković in Dalj, presentation of YiA programme, and so on. As art and culture present a thematic priority of this youth exchange it was exactly transformation of two selected legends into performances that occupied young people the most passionately.

The result was great indeed – local audience got a rare present – two unique open space performances prepared by the young participants themselves. The first one was about the legend of Erdut tower and it took place at the banks of the Danube river next to the Erdut tower remains, while the other one about the tricked devil and Harkany took place in an interesting Erdut garden of Blagojević family.

And so step by step this project met all our expectations – it contributed to mutual understanding of young people from two sides of the border, brought them new experience of solidarity, tolerance and togetherness, promoted rich cultural history that binds and in the same time it involved those who had not had a chance to participate in similar project before promoting youth mobility in the creative way.



International Conference “Water as Source of Life”, Osijek (Croatia), 26-27th May 2010

Water as Source of Life International Conference on Importance of Waste Water Management in the Process of Sustainable Development

Supported by: City of Lausanne, Switzerland

Partner: City of Lausanne, Switzerland

The City of Osijek and the City of Lausanne signed the Friendship and Cooperation Charter on 10th May 1997 and committed themselves on cooperation in different fields in the interest of their citizens. In line with that, in May 2010 Local Democracy Agency organized a Conference which became a platform for cooperation and exchange of experience in the field of sustainable development.

The aim of the Conference was to inform and educate local self-governments in Osijek-baranja and Vukovar-Serium County, local print and electronic media, educational and scientific institutions as well as private sector about the importance of waste waters management in the process of sustainable development and accession of Republic of Croatia to EU, as well as to present best practice of the city of Lausanne in this field.

Having in mind that the Republic of Croatia in February 2009 adopted the Strategy for Sustainable Development that document together with the Frame Water Directive, Directive on Drinking Water and Directive on Communal Waste Waters these documents were the basis of the Conference.

In the frame of the Conference there are 6 presentations within 2 thematic plenary sessions:

- Sustainable development in institutions
- Waste water management as a case study (best practice of the city of Osijek and Lausanne)

The conference hosted experts from Lausanne, Ms. Sancy, professor of European Environmental Law at the Universities of Nantes and Geneva, Mr. Perrin, president of the International Foundation for the World Environment (IFWE) and member of Parliament of the City of Lausanne as well as from Croatia – Mr. Krnjak, secretary of the Croatian Parliament' Department for Environmental Protection, Ms. Dikanovic Lucan, Head of Department for Water Protection in the Croatian Ministry of Regional Development, Forestry

and Water Management, and Ms. Cacic and Mr. Nemcanin from water supply company Vodovod-Osijek Ltd.

Since bodies of local and regional authorities implement majority of legislation of EU it they are therefore stakeholders of key importance for preparing of its country to join EU. In line with that important role of local actors in the accession process this Conference was an opportunity for local and regional capacity building.

Cross Regards: Cross Border Cooperation and Intercultural Competence

Supported by: French-German Office for Youth

Partners: Peuple et Culture, Paris, France and Jugendbildungszentrum Blossin, Berlin, Germany

This project involved young people from France, Germany and Croatia participating in 3 five days seminars taking place in Osijek/Vukovar, Strasbourg and Berlin.

It aimed to support the process of peace building and its sustainability in multiethnic societies through intercultural learning and experience.

It was supported by OFAJ/DFJW – the French German Youth Office. Implementing partners of this project were Union Peuple et Culture from Paris, France and Jugendbildungszentrum Blossin e.V. from Berlin, Germany.

It gave an opportunity to 18 young individuals to experience two other European countries, to learn about history of involved countries and in particular to learn about history of conflicts in three countries. It also made it possible for young participants to visit different institutions such as Croatian Parliament, Council of Europe and the Bundestag. As the seminars were designed to be also practical participants had a chance to develop their communication and orientation skills but above all to build up on their intercultural understanding and tolerance.



Day of Europe 2010, Osijek (Croatia)

Crossed History: Approach to European Memory

Supported by: French-German Office for Youth

Partners: International Guest Youth House. Dachau, Germany, Centre de la mémoire d'Oradour, Oradour-sur-Glane, France

How is history remembered in places such as Dachau in Germany, Oradur in France and Jasenovac in Croatia? And how in Vukovar and Osijek? In what way is it reflected in the collective memory of the nations? And what does this mean for Europe today?

Participants of this LDA Osijek' project which started in 2009 and continued in 2010 found out some of the answers to these questions. The project was implemented in cooperation with International Guest Youth House Dachau in Germany and Centre de la memoire d' Oradur-sur-Glane from France. All together 24 young people – mostly students and young professionals interested in history, politics and social affairs from Croatia, France and Germany participated in the project. After having spent together a week in Dachau in France during 2010 participants visited Oradour/Limoges in France and Osijek. During the last seminar in Osijek a visit to the concentration camp and memorial site Jasenovac was organized as well as visit to Vukovar.

Dealing with remembrance of difficult situations and places in history during Second World War and reflecting also about the Homeland war in Croatia this project gave its contribution to strengthening of tolerance and intercultural understanding of young people from three different states.

European Labyrinth 2010

Supported by: Slagalica Foundation, Osijek, Croatia

Thanks to support of Slagalica – local foundation LDA Osijek organized an open space manifestation on behalf of marking od the Day of Europe and European week in the city of Osijek and Osijek-Baranja County.

This manifestation aimed to foster European spirit and values in our town and was open for all local stakeholders interested. It was designed for children and young people but also for their parents and teachers and all citizens interested in finding more about Europe in an amusing and creative way. It was made successful thanks to highly motivated volunteers and representatives of creative local associations who contributed to the manifestation's programme.

Why be Active Citizen?

Supported by: City of Osijek

Project "Why be active citizen?" contributed to promotion of European concept of active citizenship and its importance for local community.

Main activities of this project were placed within the European Local Democracy Week and thus promoted this event for the second year in a raw al local level.

During the public lecture titled "Why be active citizen?" a broad overview of historic development of democracy in our society was given but situation in Croatia was also compared to democratic practices with longer traditions worldwide. The round table discussion which was also one of the project activities enabled exchange of opinions of how to foster active citizenship at local level and in that context projects aiming at informing and educating citizens about European institutions, frames, politics and practice aiming to close the gap between citizens and EU were stated as very much needed.

II.6 LDA Sisak



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Partners: Croatia: Towns of Sisak, Hrvatska Kostajnica, Petrinja, Kutina, Dvor; Italy: NGO "Going to Europe"; Northern Ireland: NGO "International School for Peace Studies"

During its last year of activities, the Local Democracy Agency Sisak was particularly focused on 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 wider community.

The main Agency's focuses were:

1. Local democracy
2. Culture and human rights
3. Local economic development
4. Education, networking and youth exchange
5. European integrations
6. Capacity building and training

Activities implemented in 2010 (fundraised by ALDA)

Microcredit Scheme in South Eastern Europe

Supported by: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway

Main objectives of the project:

- to promote a long-lasting and sustainable local economic development in South East Europe fostered by young entrepreneurs;
- to support the self employment in South Eastern Europe.

Main results:

- Presentation of the micro-credit line all over the Sisak-Moslavina County;
- Daily consultation for entrepreneurs;
- Regular contact with PBZ bank;
- Disbursed loans in amount of 270.000 €

INTACT: International Network of Towns, Active Citizenship and Twinning

Supported by: EU – Europe for Citizens Programme

Project purpose is creating and developing an Interregional Network whose overall objectives are: to exchange good practices, to promote innovation and know-how by multiplying relations between towns across Europe in the context of the Local Democracy Agencies' network. The project will strengthen the links between participating towns that are particularly involved in citizens' participation issue and the promotion of EU values in the process of EU integration.

Main results: implementation of the Study visit in Sisak gathering 20 partners from 7 countries particularly involved in citizens' participation issue and the promotion of EU values in the process of EU integration.

MO.D.E.: Mobility for Democracy in Europe

Supported by: EU – Europe for Citizens Programme

Project is designed to bridge the gap between European NGOs in terms of experience and resources and to reduce the European deficit in terms of mobility.

Main results: international conference on mobility, 7 trans-national exchange experience meetings, 7 mentoring sessions at local level, mobility exchanges of partners' volunteers, 7 workshops for volunteers fostering active citizenship and civic participation, mentoring sessions online for volunteers, creation of leaflets and brochures giving information about mobility programmes and the influence of participative democracy on the European well-being

The partnership, build with 7 partners from 6 countries (France, Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Italy and Greece) strengthen relations between European NGOs, helped break down barriers between people and groups, promoted the



INTACT project, study visit in Sisak (Croatia), June 2010

learning of other cultures but also supported the multiplication of NGOs and NGO networks.

E-FOR: Education for Remembrance

Supported by: EU – Europe for Citizens Programme

Project purpose: to gather practitioners in education and memorial sites conservation to produce a creative and innovative 'educational unit' for remembrance education, in the spirit and within the framework of the European Year for creativity and innovation 2009.

Main results: International training in Memorial site Jasenovac (Croatia) with experts in the field of education to develop an 'educational unit' on remembrance, Europe and active citizenship to develop working networks and elaborate new strategies for remembrance education in connection to the themes of active citizenship. Local events organised by partners according to the proposal developed during the meeting in Jasenovac. Production of educational booklet on remembrance and active European citizenship, and setting up of a website on the project experience.

E-panels: Fostering citizens' participation and volunteering in a wider Europe

Supported by: EU – Europe for Citizens Programme

Project purpose:

1. to encourage the participation of European citizens in the construction of Europe and in the debate about the further integration of Europe,
2. to enhance the relation between European citizens and EU institutions,
3. to promote a “two-way process” (information and feedback) between EU Institutions and citizens,
4. to encourage a bottom up approach to allow citizens to express their views,
5. to develop innovative methods to enhance participation.

Main results of activities implemented by 8 partners from 6 European countries: steering committee and launching conference, training of citizens' panels' activators/ partners, setting-up of the online platform for debates, celebration of Day of Europe: Information day on e-Panels, local online workshops, final international conference and last steering committee, final publication 'E-Panels: fostering citizen participation in the wider Europe'.

Activities implemented in 2010 (fundraised by LDA Sisak)

Enabling local democracy

Supported by: EU, EIDHR Program

Project purpose: to help build consensus, reconciliation and peace building in Petrinja, Glina and Dvor, by fostering active participation of women belonging to different ethnic groups.

Main project results: training of community women leaders, setting up and functioning of three multicultural wo-



Enabling local democracy, multicultural project in Banovina (Croatia)

men's action groups, certificated computers courses, English language courses, creative workshops, radiobroadcasts and other promotional activities aiming at awareness raising of targeted communities' citizens and big multicultural fair BANfest where for the first time economy and cultural heritage of Banovina area was presented. The project resulted in increased number of trained women acting as local community leaders, active work of three multicultural women's groups, awareness rising on cultural and ethnic diversity of targeted communities and development of good practice manual that can be easily used by all interested parties.

For a Community without Domestic Violence

Supported by: Town of Sisak

The project was implemented in the area of Sisak-Moslavina County in period of 12 months.

Overall objective of the project is to reduce domestic violence in Sisak-Moslavina County area, while specific aims of the project are:

1. Giving first aid and strengthening the victims of domestic violence;

2. Achieving more quality protection of domestic violence victims in and out of the institutions;
3. Sensitising the public on issues of domestic violence and society's responsibility in providing help for the victims.

The project 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.

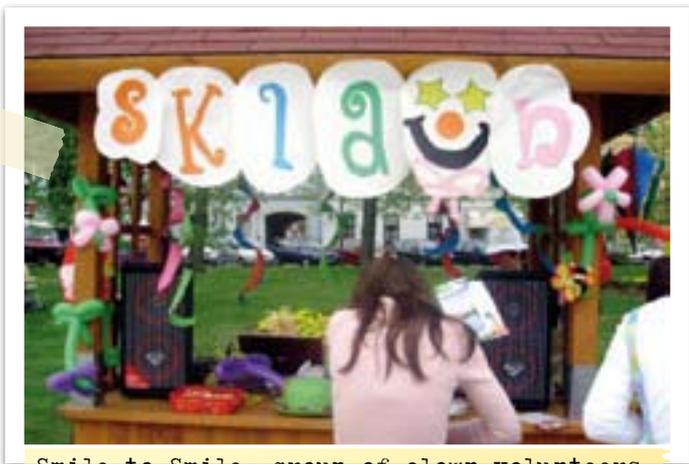
The project resulted with improved services for domestic violence victims and with bigger sensitivity of the wider community on domestic violence issues.

Smile to Smile

Supported by: Town of Sisak

Project purpose: is to promote non-discrimination, tolerance and breaking down the prejudices by developing volunteerism in local community throughout:

1. Conducting clown therapy in Sisak area in order to help people living in disadvantage physical and mental surrounding;



Smile to Smile, group of clown volunteers
"Sklaun", Sisak (Croatia), 24th April 2010

2. Promoting voluntarism and creative usage of free time.

Main results:

- 7 shows of clowns-volunteers in institutions, hospitals and social associations, public manifestation for celebration of Plane Earth Day, at Schools' Christmas fair and Flower festival in Sisak, and regular weekly meetings and rehearsals;
- over 450 citizens of Sisak and surrounding towns participated at the clowns' performances.

Giving citizens feel for Europe

Supported by: EU – Europe for Citizens Programme

Project purpose: to increase citizen's participation in the decision making processes, interact between citizens and elected representatives (local, national and European) and EU policies should be based on democracy.

These objectives should focus very specifically on the role of women in all processes.

Main results:

1. Launching public conference (Paris, France): "EU institutions: what role for citizens, women in particular?";
2. Women's rights in Europe: new democratic challenges! (Sisak, Croatia);
3. Seminar on the contribution of migrants to the European construction (Brussels, Belgium);
4. Day of Europe celebration: simultaneous actions in 4 European cities from 4 EU countries (Cyprus, France, Germany, Sweden). Each city will developed their own action (exhibition, forum, sport competition, show) based on specific issues (women's rights, peace, youth, etc.) with hundreds of citizens.

II.7 LDA Verteneglio/Brtonigla



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Partners: Croatia: Istria Region, Municipality of Verteneglio/Brtonigla; Italy: Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region, Province of Florence, Municipality of Portogruaro; Municipality of Ravenna; Municipality of Greve in Chianti, Municipality of Russi, Association "Marevivo", "Circolo di Cultura Istro-Veneta Istria"; Switzerland: Municipality of Bellinzona (lead partner), Association "Causes Communes Switzerland"

Strategic goals of the LDA:

- To implement multicultural initiatives to promote international cooperation;
- To foster human rights and minority rights with activities aimed at developing intercultural dialogue;
- To foster cooperation projects for building civil society with a special focus on youth and women;
- To build local capacities and inclusion of youth in ONG and local authorities decision process;
- To promote active European and democratic citizenship;
- To implement together with the Region Istria its activities on the whole Istrian territory and become a development instrument in the region;
- To foster rural tourism and sustainable development with respect to environment and local heritage.

Projects fundraised by ALDA

Microcredit

Supported by: Norwegian Government

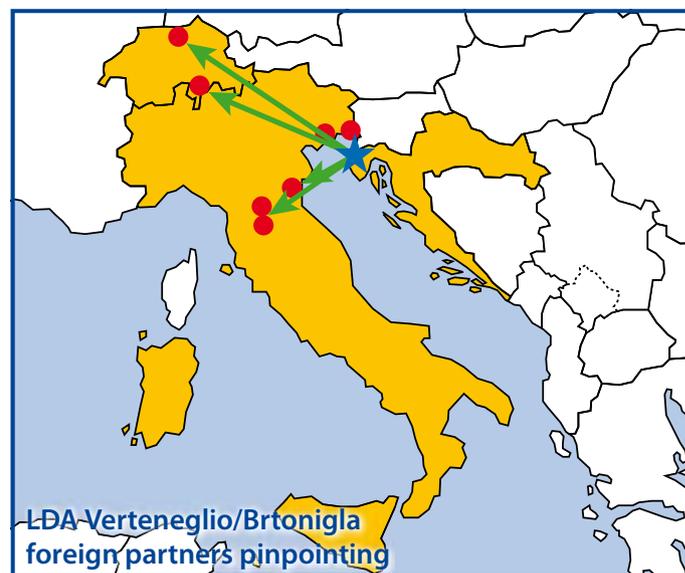
Efforts were continued to promote the project through 2010 with the result of new investment financed by the project in Region of Istria.

Partners Meeting of LDA Verteneglio/Brtonigla

In 2010 it was hosted by the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia in Prepotto (Trieste). Guests to the Meeting were the Mayor of Duino –Aurisina Mr.Ret, International Relation Officer of the City of Monfalcone Mr. Gregoretti and the President of Local Action Group (LAG) Carso Mr. Fabec. They were all introduced to LDA Verteneglio/Brtonigla-activities to see possibilities of common projects to be implemented.

Other activities fundraised by LDA Verteneglio-Brtonigla Regional Youth Association

LDA Verteneglio/Brtonigla has been cofounder of the



Youth Association of the Region of Istria together with other youth NGOs as to promote youth policies and youth role in decision making process. Seminars were held to Youth Councils of several towns in the Region of Istria.

Youth Exchange E.A.R.TH. (Exchanging Attitudes Rules and Thinkings)

The Youth Exchange E.A.R.TH. took place in June 2010 in Verteneglio/Brtonigla, Istria, in Croatia.

During 6 days it gathered together 18 young people coming from France and Croatia to allow them to discuss and confront on environment and sustainable development issues. It aimed at strengthening youth participation regarding environment whilst fostering mutual understanding, tolerance and solidarity between them by sharing their experiences on the situation they are facing in their home countries as “environmental citizens”, taking the fact they are young people coming from France, i.e. a EU country that has EU standards integrated in their environmental policy since a long ago, and Croatia i.e. a pre-adhesion country that is still integrating them in its policy.

In the exchange, through non formal learning methods, 16 participants and 2 group leaders improved their knowledge about their respective countries and cultures by learning about European tools for sustainable development. They also created a sculpture with locally collected waste to rise awareness on environmental issues among citizens of the hosting community thus fostering intercultural dialogue among themselves and between participants and the hosting local community.

A DVD with a short documentary on the youth exchange E.A.R.TH. was created to build opportunities for future partnerships and to enable multiplying effect of this exchange after the end of the project. The project was financed by the EU Youth in Action program.



Partner Meeting, Prepotto (Italy)

Project EU.N.V.I.R.O.N.M.EN.T.

Financed by: IPA INFO 2008 by Delegation of EU in the Republic of Croatia

The project had the following aims:

- to contribute to spread information about European environmental values and standards in high schools of Istria Region so to have informed citizens aware of the benefits of EU enlargement and supportive to Croatia entering the EU;
- to use interactive non formal learning tools which may grant a stronger impact and better results;
- to have a multiplying effect to involve as many young people as possible in order to create a better informed public;
- to increase networking among high schools through participative activities to enhance participation;
- to encourage a bottom up approach and produce suggestions for school managers, taking into consideration an overall lack of dialogue between citizens and institutions in general;
- to encourage the participation of young citizens in the construction of a new Europe.

The project had the following results:

1. Informed youngsters enrolled in Istrian high schools about EU benefits and commitments to enlargement: During the 4-day seminars sessions for “Eco-Angels” lessons were held on “Benefits on EU enlargement”, on “EU instruments for protection of environment, for food safety and consumer protection” for 30 students from high schools who became so called “Eco Angels”;
2. Improved access to information about all EU.V.I.R.O.N. M.EN.T. topics: During “Eco-Angels” Seminars materials, readings, links to useful websites, paper-bibliography and web-bibliography were given as useful tools;
3. Raised cross-sharing of best practices and enhancing youngsters to link among themselves in networks: Exchange of best practices among youth through interactive learning helped them to improve their capabilities;
4. Improved communication between society and institutions: Recommendation papers were addressed to school staff (Headmaster, teachers, operating and maintenance staff) as tools to improve capabilities such as negotiation, a win-win dialogue and tolerance;
5. Production of new materials and information tools : Material and informational tools were created with material and results from seminars and from lectures.

Celebration of EU Week in 2010

in 2010 LDA Verteneglio/Brtonigla held seminars to local high schools and performed many activities to celebrate the EU Week. Besides, it organized an international day on cooperation and project management issues that saw important speakers from EU countries.

Promotion of Istrian local producers during the European Fair “Regustibus” of Scandiano (Reggio Emilia, Italy)

In November 2010 during 2 days LDA presented Istrian products among 20 participants from EU and non-EU countries at the Fair in the open space called “Piazza Europa”.

Project “G.R.O.W.T.H.”

Financed by: EU – Youth in Action program

The project is about a Group EVS in Verteneglio in Istria in Croatia. Within this project French promoter Sending Organization (SO) Youth Information Center of Brest (BIJ) sent two Franch volunteers (Mallorie Yan and Pierre-Yves Mingant) and the German promoter SO “Ev. Schülerinnen- und Schülerarbeit in Westfalen” SO sent German volunteer (Rebecca Reissberg) to Croatia to Local Democracy Agency (LDA) in Verteneglio for a service lasting 11 months (6th September 2010 – 6th August 2011).

The service gave volunteers the possibility to have learning opportunities by taking part in the activities run by LDA. Their social integration was assured too by involving them in the life of local community (international evenings, outdoor activities with local youth, active participation to rural development) and they were encouraged to act as individuals sharing their experience with local population by holding meetings about their culture and their hobbies too.



International Day of Peace, Verteneglio-Brtonigla (Croatia), 21st September 2010

Georgia

II.8 LDA Georgia



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Partners: France: City of Strasbourg (lead partner), City of Nantes; Georgia: City of Kutaisi (host city), City of Tbilisi, The National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia, Kutaisi - Newport International Association, Kutaisi Branch of Georgian Young Lawyers' Association, Partners-Georgia; Italy: Municipality of Monfalcone; UK: Newport City Council, Newport-Kutaisi Association

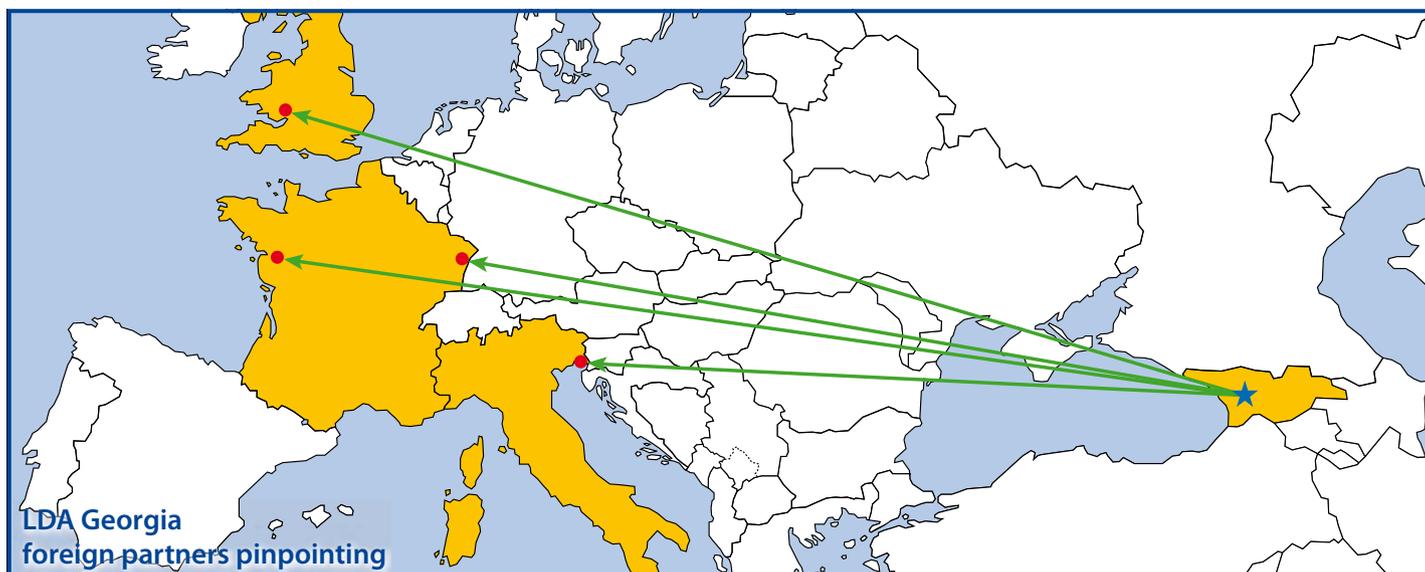
Activities implemented in 2010

Youth in Action – Partnership Building Activity “EVS: the way to European Understanding”

Partnership Building Activity on the EVS was implemented in Kutaisi on 24-30th September 2010. LDA Georgia with ALDA support organized this event, which hosted 30 participants from 8 countries. The aim of the project was to raise up understanding of the European Voluntary Service cooperation and to strengthen cooperation of the youth of Partner Countries in the frames of their involvement in the EVS programmes. This was third international event in Kutaisi organized by LDA under Youth in Action Programme, which is funded by EC.

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe - “Support to Local and regional democracy in the South Caucasus”

The Conference of Local Authorities Associations of the South Caucasus held in Kutaisi, Georgia on November 30th –





Conference of Local Authorities Associations of the South Caucasus, Kutaisi (Georgia)

1st December 2010 was initiated by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe and the Association of Local Democracy Agencies in order to address their common objectives in the South Caucasus, to strengthen local and regional democracy and to support the work of the Kutaisi Local Democracy Agency. This action is also a direct follow-up to Resolution 272 (2008) adopted by the Congress on 'Local consequences in the conflict zone in the South Caucasus: support from European local and regional authorities'. The conference follows the conference held in Kutaisi October 2009.

“Platform for the development cooperation with Georgia”, led by the Municipality of Monfalcone

Important project, which supports entrepreneurship development in Kutaisi was initiated by Municipality of Monfalcone, in partnership with ALDA and LDA Georgia. Project is funded by Region Friuli-Venezia Giulia (Italy). The project aims to support the revitalization and economic development of the Imereti Region, through trainings of youth the growth of clusters of enterprises and contacts with business partners in region Friuli-Venezia Giulia, accompanied

by an approach of democratic participation. In first phase of project implementation, SWOT analyses of SMEs and local business sectors in Imereti Region were developed.

From August 5th to September 30th, in 12 Municipalities of Imereti region, 25 training - seminars were conducted, which was attended by 284 participants. Economic animation center for supporting local SMEs was also established and co-operation between FVG and Imereti Regions was initiated.

LDA Georgia Annual Partners Meeting

LDA Georgia partners meeting was organized on 11th November 2010 in Monfalcone (Italy). Main activity of the event was election of new lead partner. City of Strasbourg was appointed as a new lead partner of the LDA Georgia.

At the meeting were present representatives from the municipalities of Monfalcone and Kutaisi as well as the Association of Municipalities of Georgia, the Young Lawyers Association of Kutaisi and the Association Partners Georgia. The former leader, the city of Newport in the UK, could not attend, but remain partner of the Agency.

The commitment of the City of Strasbourg is present in the LDA since 2007 and it went growing during these years. A particular impulse in this direction is given by Mrs. Nawel Rafik-Elmrini, Deputy Mayor of Strasbourg, in charge of the International Relations and very supportive for this leadership.

“Integration and Promotion of Quality Life of IDPs in Kutaisi”, funded by Region Veneto.

Project was coordinated by the Municipality of Vicenza and implemented by ALDA and LDA Georgia. The goal of the project was to support the 512 “new” IDPs living in Kutaisi and their integration into local society and increase their capacity.

At the end of the project we:

- established and registered 3 Community Based Organization (CBO) for IDPs;
- CBO offices were equipped with office equipment, furniture and internet connection;
- each CBO received 100 euro on their bank account for operational expenses;
- in all 3 IDP centers an informational and educational campaign on human/IDP rights will be organized and advocacy provided.

JMDI - “Georgian Diaspora for Developments in Kutaisi”, led by Georgian Foundation/Georgian Diaspora in Netherlands

The main aim of project is to support and strengthen SMEs in Kutaisi with the support of Georgian Diaspora. Under this project:

- SWOT analyses of Kutaisi labor market was conducted;
- About 2000 people attended training courses for SME's



International conference in Kutaisi (Georgia), 30th November–1st December 2010

managers and employees on business planning and management;

- Business Help-Desk was established;
- Business fair and conference was organized in Kutaisi.

City of Strasbourg - “HURRY UP! Human Rights Revisited by Youth in Europe!”

On November 4th, 2010 we celebrated the 60th anniversary of the signature of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR). Therefore, the City of Strasbourg, which hosts the European Court of Human Rights, decided to strengthen its commitment to human rights' promotion in Europe, and this in partnership with the European and international institutions present in Strasbourg.

The project «HURRY UP! Human Rights Revisited by Youth in Europe!» gathered partners from 7 EU countries (France, Germany, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, Poland, Latvia) and from Georgia. It mainly aims at creating, for the 60th anniversary of the European Convention on Human Rights and in partnership with the European Court for Human Rights, a network of youth ambassadors for human rights and democracy in Europe.

Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs - “Inclusive local government – how local authorities create inclusive public policy towards marginalized groups”, led by City of Bydgoszcz (Poland)

The main objective of the project was to provide assistance to representatives of Terjola local government in Georgia in creating new programmes and strategies to prevent unemployment and facilitate social integration, involvement on the part of non-governmental organisations and cooperation with minorities. As part of the project, the

local government in Bydgoszcz shared its experience from the 20 years of political transformation.

During project implementation following activities were organized:

- training session for Terjola Municipality representatives in the city of Bydgoszcz along with study visits to respective organizations and institutions working with marginalized groups;
- Polish-Georgian round table on prospect initiatives dedicated to inclusive public policy on local level;
- publication and dissemination campaign on results of the training along with good practices from local government in Bydgoszcz within the Georgian local governments undertaken by the ALDA office with co-operation of LDA Georgia.



Hurry Up!, project on human rights gathered partners from 7 European countries

Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs - "The cooperation of local NGOs, in building a sustainable platform for cooperation in meeting the needs of citizens", led by Poznań City Hall

The project was a continuation and concretization of the project previous project with the city of Kutaisi, called "Effective local administration". The main activity of the project focuses on the fact that 6 people were invited from Georgia to complete professional experience in Poznan.

4 people from the City Hall of Kutaisi, which after the end of the placement will create a special cell dedicated to creating projects and their management and cooperation with NGOs. In addition, two people from the Local Democracy Agency, the Georgian NGO in Kutaisi also were invited for the internship. After the end of the placement will be support for City Hall of Kutaisi between local government in Kutaisi and NGOs.

Kosovo

II.9 LDA Kosovo, in progress

The LDA Kosovo is based on an international partnership composed by 3 local authorities and 5 NGOs coming from 4 different European countries:

Local Authorities:

- Municipality of Peja/Pec (Kosovo)
- Municipality of Yalova (Turkey)
- Association of Municipalities of Kosovo – AMK (Kosovo)

NGOs:

- Tavolo Trentino con il Kosovo/Province of Trento (Kosovo and Italy)
- Reggio Terzo Mondo (Kosovo and Italy)
- AIBI, amici dei bambini (Kosovo and Italy)
- Alfa Formation (France)
- Associazione S.U.D. (Italy)

The 2010 was a crucial year for the Local Democracy Agency Kosovo. Indeed, different actions aimed at stabilising the Agency were carried out by ALDA in cooperation with the LDA's partners. Moreover, in August 2010 was signed the preliminary agreement that inaugurated the Agency.

The importance of the opening of the LDA Kosovo had several meanings for ALDA and for the Kosova local communities. To a large extent they include potentially volatile outbursts of inter-ethnic conflicts, harsh social implications of economic devastation and overall pauperisation, absence of any substantial measures aimed to building social cohesion at local level and at empowering the role of youth in the country.

A key contribution for the opening process of the LDA Kosovo was given, during 2009, by the Council of Europe (DGAP), through the funding of project "Youth Empowerment in Kosovo", and, during 2010, by the Swiss Cooperation office-Kosovo through the funding of the project "Local Democracy Agency Kosovo: New Challenges and Perspectives".

In the year 2010, different activities were implemented



by ALDA to further consolidate the LDA Kosovo and its partnership. In February 2010, a partner meeting was held in Pristina and in Peja/Pec to share among the partners the expectations of the forthcoming LDA and to present in details the LDA project to the Mayor of Peja/Pec, Mr. Ali Berisha. During the meeting, the partners of the LDA committed to finalize the opening of the LDA by the end of the year.

On the occasion of the General Assembly of ALDA, in May 2010, a new partner meeting was organized among the partners of the LDA. The meeting was held in Skopje and the partners agreed on the Memorandum of Understanding to be signed in August to officialise the Agency. The meeting focused mainly on the discussion of the main priorities and field of work of the LDA Kosovo.

On the 2nd of August 2010 the Local Democracy Agency Kosovo – based in Peja/Pec – was inaugurated on the occasion of the signature of the Preliminary Partner Agreement by its partners. Despite the official inauguration of the Agency, the LDA Kosovo is not still operational since is lacking resources for its functioning. ALDA was very committed on this in 2010, and is continuing in fundraising for the LDA Kosovo even in 2011. ALDA is currently looking for new Local Authorities that are interested in joining the LDA Kosovo partnership.

The signature of the agreement was the result of the long process of re-launch of the LDA Kosovo that has been carrying out since November 2008. During this process, ALDA, with the active support of its partners, was able to set up a quite large and committed partnership for the LDA Kosovo. The partnership of the LDA is composed by both European Local Authorities and European NGOs. The city of Peja/Pec was selected as host city of the LDA after several study visits in different Kosova cities. A key contribution to the selection of Peja/Pec was given by its administrators that demonstrated a real interest in the main areas of intervention of the LDA and the availability to support the acti-



Signature partners agreement LDA Kosovo, Peja (Kosovo), 2nd August 2010

vely the functioning of the LDA.

The opening of the LDA Kosovo represented a further step in that direction, and the newly established Agency is wishing to carry out a coherent set of activities contributing at the local development, at the peaceful coexistence of the local population belonging to different ethnic background and at the empowerment of young generations. To conclude, the LDA Kosovo aims at acting as an effective tool for local democracy building at the disposal both of the international community and the local stakeholders.

Montenegro

II.10 LDA Montenegro



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The Local Democracy Agency of Montenegro works on the development of democratic processes and socio-economic development of Southeast Europe in co-operation with partners, cities, regions and other organizations through decentralized co-operation and partnership. Respect for human rights and development of democracy on the local level are one of the main priorities of the Agencies.

For 2010 the main objectives of the LDA were:

- promotion of initiatives for strengthening local democracy;
- support and development of civil society with participation of all community elements in decision-making process on the local level;
- capacity building for local self-government bodies;
- promotion of intercultural dialogue, human rights and education for peace;
- confidence building between different ethnic groups on the local and regional level;
- promotion of development initiatives relying on local resource;

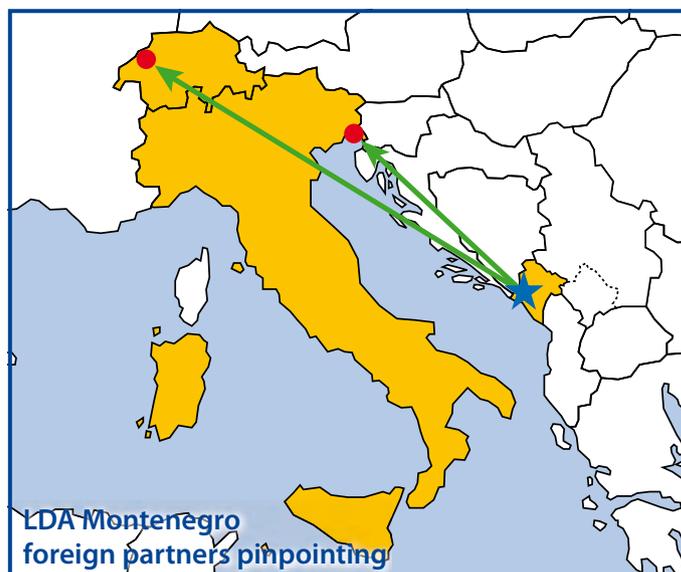
- Local Administration Capacity Development;
- Human Rights and Peace Building;
- Youth Participation;
- Local Economic Development;
- European integration.

Activities implemented in 2010

The Green Agenda – Milieu Kontakt International, The Netherlands

The local plan for sustainable development “Green Agenda” was handed to municipal officials and local self-government representatives in Nikšić.

The document is the product of the three year project which aimed to begin dealing with local problems of environmental protection and sustainable development – through development of models for the cooperation and networks among local actors.





Youth Exchange: from Balkans to European Union, Kosovo, summer 2010

It is the legal obligation for Montenegrin municipalities to develop such a plan, and Nikšić had one (LEAP) that is expiring in near future. Therefore LDA, together with Netherlands partners and using new methodology that represents Agenda 21 adaptation, developed this document involving a broad number of institutions and individual. Similar actions were conducted in 18 communities of Western Balkans.

“Youth Exchange: From Balkans to European Union” – Youth in Action, in partnership with Norfolk Youth Council, Kosovo and Estonia

Young from UK, Estonia, Kosovo and Montenegro, 15 plus two leaders from each country, will get together in Kosovo in summer 2011. The aim of the exchange is to learn about different cultures, about the situation in Kosovo after the happenings in nineties, about European Union and the perspectives of the region regarding EU integrations. And to make new friend and have a good time together.

In May 2010, representatives of partner organizations gathered in Orahovac in Kosovo to define the organizational details.

“Development of the Operational Relations between SME-s in wood processing sector” - Friuli-Venezia Giulia and Rozaje-Montenegro”

A decade lasting cooperation between Friuli Venezia Giulia and Montenegro took a turn towards economic cooperation. This is the second project dealing with wood sector that shows great potentials for exchanges between two regions.

Within the project, many activities and contacts were created. One of occasions for SMEs and development agencies from two sides to meet was the Study Visit to Italy organized for Montenegrin delegation in September 2010. It took place in Carnia – northern mountainous part of FVG with geographical and other similarities to Rozeje area in Montenegro. These similarities offered a number of possibilities for cooperation to take advantage from, especially in sectors of wood processing, agriculture and tourism.

The Cooperation Agreement was signed down by two sides afterwards in Montenegro, during the return visit and the new cooperation project was designed and will be implemented together in 2011.

LDA Montenegro Annual Partners Meeting – with support of ALDA, European Union and Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region

Eleventh Partners’ meeting was organized in December 2010 in Udine.

Besides usual reporting an planning points in agenda, this meeting was different by the fact that several Italian entities – institutions, NGOs, associations etc. participated and presented, together with the delegate, plans and projects for the future.

Currents problems were discussed and good perspec-

tives for future were underpinned. The newly appointed director for foreign affairs, Mr Augusto Viola, and ALDA director, Mrs Antonella Valmorbida were present, among other participants and they gave reassurance for the future.

Montenegrin delegation travelled to Udine and back in very bad weather conditions by van, which contributed to the strengthening of relations among partners.

“Maricoltura: scientific and economic cooperation between Friuli-Venezia Giulia and Montenegro in sea products cultivation”

Cooperation between Montenegro and Friuli Venezia Giulia develops in different directions. Kotor, being one of LDA partner cities and having history as a distinctive part of Venetian Republic throughout centuries, is the target for many activities in recent years. In this project, FVG supported the Institute for Marine Biology in Kotor to establish the scientific presumptions for oysters cultivation in Boka Kotorska.

This is one in the row of many joint activities in the field of sea products cultivation and economic development, and many more are in the way in other fields, such as cultural cooperation and exchange. Italian Community in Montenegro and LDA are giving support to these initiatives.

“PROmotion of the COOPERative enterprises in the Balkan Europe for economic and social cohesion – PRO-COOP”

PROCOOP is finalized on the conference organized in Udine in December. A project implemented by Interland, Legacoop, Confcooperative, Union of Bulgarian, Montenegrin and Croatian Cooperatives, LDA Montenegro, Ministry for Agriculture of Montenegro and other partners was closed after three year of successes, learning together and many perspectives for the future. In Montenegro we made legisla-



LDA Montenegro Partners Meeting, Udine (Italy) December 2010

tion analysis, partners' identification, organized many meetings, and found an prosperous Roma women cooperative with which Italian cooperatives established cooperation.

The PROCOOP final conference was a place to present achievements, but also to lay down directions for future cooperation. LDA delegate suggested some possibilities for new ideas and projects construction. The cooperative idea is not strange to Montenegro and presents a development potential, especially in the light of economic crises.

Serbia

II.11 LDACSS for Central and Southern Serbia



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A. Projects implemented in 2010 supported by ALDA

Microcredit scheme

Microcredit scheme for start-up activities for young entrepreneurs in South East Europe, supported by Norwegian Government, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Council of Europe Bank and Intesa SanPaolo

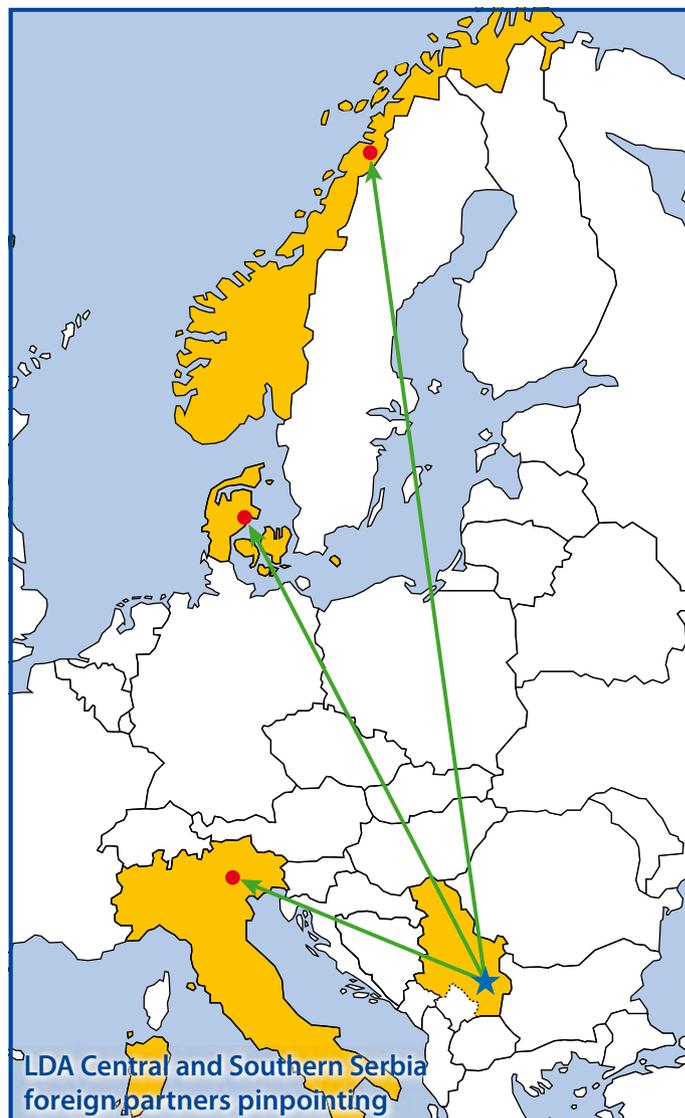
The year 2010 was the final year of this multi annual project. Our main activities were focused on the bridging activities: further negotiations with local, national and international stakeholders and defining of potential follow up projects.

Reconciliation for the future – European perspectives for Western Balkans,

Supported by European Commission

The main aim of this project was to contribute to the

analysis of key aspects of regional dialogue on reconciliation as well as key political, social and economic challenges in achieving cross-border and regional cooperation in the processes of reconciliation between the competent institutions and their improved coordination with other parties.





European puzzle at the Day of Europe, Niš (Serbia), 9th May 2010

Marking the Day of Europe

On the 9th of May our young activists organized a birthday celebration for Europe. Celebration took place in the park of the old fortress of Niš, favorite relaxing spot of the citizens of Niš. Most of the activities organized for this occasion were aimed at the youngest citizens of Niš, to celebrate the birthday of Europe while increasing children's knowledge about Europe at the same time.

In specially decorated area and with a birthday cake, youngsters had opportunity to participate in composing a Europe, made as a puzzle, where each piece presented one European country.

B. LDA fundraised projects

NGO Economy and Management

Supported by: Slovak Aid, through the cooperation program "Beograd-Bratislava Fund"

Partners: Centrum vzdelávania neziskových organizácií - CVNO, Banjska Bistrica, Slovakia, the Faculty of Economy "Matej Bel" in Banjska Bistrica and the Faculty of Economy in Niš.

Economy & Management of NGO is a project funded by SLOVAKIAD which deals in rising the capacities of NGO to deal with their own management and financial resources. Perhaps the biggest gain in the whole process is the fact that the on-line course will be prepared which will serve as a module for possible future accredited masters course on one of the universities in Serbia. If that happens it will be the first time to involve NGO in formal process of education in Serbia. The whole process is a transfer of knowledge from Economic faculty of the University of Matej Bel from Banska Bystrica, Slovakia. The process also involves cooperation of Economic faculty in Niš and Matej Bel, as well as mobility of students where 5 students will visit Slovakia during the project implementation period.

Institutional support of the City of Suresnes to the City of Kragujevac in defining city social policies

Supported by: French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the City of Suresnes, the City of Kragujevac

Partners: Cities of Suresnes and Kragujevac

Through workshops with experts and a study visit, managed by LDA and realized during 2009/2010 the French City of Suresnes has successfully transferred to the representatives and experts of the City of Kragujevac a specific transversal methodology of coordination of stakeholders in the field of pre-school children protection. One of the goals reached in this project, getting a real picture of the population of pre-school children in the territory of the city in order to better envisage its needs.

Poverty Reduction: Civil Society and Responsible Government

Supported by: Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Institute for Sustainable Communities ISC

Partners: The Association for Protection and Promotion of Mental Health in Children and Youth Niš

On the territory of Serbia, the coalition of civil society organizations in cooperation with the Institute for sustainable communities and with the support of the Ministry of external affairs of the Kingdom of Norway has been realizing a three-year-long programme For less poverty: Civil society and responsible government. The coalition of seven organizations has been formed that have been recognized as relevant on the basis of their experience in working with one of the seven most sensitive groups, which were defined in the Strategy for less poverty (children, youth, the elderly, women, people with disabilities, Roma people, refugees).

Association for protection and promotion of mental health in children and youth from Niš has been chosen to act on behalf of children and has chosen LDA as a relevant partner from the city of Niš. During 2010, LDA representatives have been trained in budget monitoring and have completed the first round of the monitoring of the budget of the City of Niš.

Institutional support of the City of Aarhus for the City of Niš and LDA

Supported by: City of Aarhus

Partners: Cities of Aarhus and Niš

The Danish City of Aarhus has been actively involved both with the City of Niš and LDA for quite some time. During 2010 this cooperation has been raised to a higher level with the tripartite agreement on cooperation between these partners. Within that agreement the International Office of the City of Aarhus has been opened. This office, hosted by LDA, will employ young professionals that will be working closely with the Office for European Affairs and Office for Local Economic Development of the City of Niš and LDA in defining future joint projects. In 2010, a project of strengthening capacities of Business Innovation Centre in Kragujevac and Business Incubation Centre in Niš has been drafted and submitted for potential donations.



Institutional support by the City of Surenes (FR) on pre-school children protection

Human rights education for youth,

Supported by: Norwegian Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Partners Cities of Saltdal and Niš

The year 2010 marked the start of a joint project of LDA and our partner cities, Niš and Saltdal. The project foresees forming, training and cooperation of two groups of peer educators on the topic of human rights and their protection, one in Niš and one in Saltdal.

During 2010 two teams that will be managing the project locally have been formed, joint time frame and activity plan has been defined. Introductory meeting, organized by the Norwegian Ministry for Foreign affairs, took place in Belgrade, in September.

Little green people

Supported by: Municipality of Medijana, City of Niš

Partners: preschool institution of the City of Niš "Pcelica" and television NTV

Aim of this project was to complement the formal education of pre-school children with non-formal education on

the topic of ecology and environmental protection.

Six-months long activities consisted of series of educational workshops where kids could learn how to protect their planet through games, putting on plays, and interaction with our educators, students of biology and drama.

War and Propaganda: An approach to history in Europe

Supported by: OFAJ

Partners: Memorial centres Oradur-sur-Glane in France and Dachau in Germany

In cooperation with the organisation OFAJ from Germany and memorial centres Oradur-sur-Glane in France and Dachau in Germany, LDA started implementing three cycles of seminars "War and Propaganda: An Approach to History in Europe". One seminar took place in 2010, in Dachau, Germany and two more in 2011, in Oradour, France and Niš.

The main goal of the cycle of seminars is to question the relationship between propaganda, the Second World War conflict and the 90s conflict in the former Yugoslavia. Youth from Serbia, Germany and France will also be given a chance of intercultural learning as well as a possibility to investigate transnational historiography.

Relating the public

Supported by: European Commission through European Voluntary Service programme

The main goal of the project was to create conditions for active inclusion and participation of the young people in the process of development of the local community through the establishment of the functional presentation and informational system by using various activities.



"Youth: the Media-tor" with European Voluntary Service programme, Niš (Serbia)

The aim of the project was to raise intercultural awareness in both the beneficiaries of this project, host organization and wide public. This project also promoted the Youth in Action programme, Action 2 in particular and European Union in general.

Youth: the Media-tor

Supported by: European Commission through European Voluntary Service programme

The six months long project "Youth: the Media-tor" was focused on creating pathway for young people in Niš to obtain information. With this project we supported youth participation, both on local and international level, through mediating information on the rights of youth, possibilities for mobility, education etc, while applying peer to peer method.

This voluntary service also included creating and organizing information workshops, several local events for youth and training on human rights.

Project has been realised in partnership with NGO YMCA na Slovensku from Banska Bistrica, Slovakia.

Memories & Conflict elaboration

Supported by: Association Tavolo Trentino

Partners: Tavolo Trentino con Kraljevo and Progetto Prijedor

A documentary with interviews of around 100 people of all ages from the region (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Kosovo), cities of Niš, Kraljevo, Prijedor, Pec, Pristina, Gracanica and Gorazdevac. Focus was on their individual perspectives of major historic and politic events in the region during past two decades.

Eventually, the objectives targeted through this documentary is to promote conflict elaboration and transformation actions with the different communities facilitating a gradual movement of work from smaller groups to public and visible actions with the involvement of local institutions

Youth Cultural Club

Supported by: the City of Niš

Youth Cultural Club is a cultural program aimed at contributing to meeting the cultural needs of young people in Niš and motivating them to use their creative capacity. Club will draw attention to creative work of young unpublished writers while promoting cultural events the city of Niš has to offer in an innovative way. An open call for young writers has been launched. Authors were able to apply with their poetry, prose, essay and drama work.

Partner Meeting

On the 26th of May, the LDA hosted annual partner meeting. The round table brought together representatives of ALDA, Danish City of Aarhus, Cities of Kragujevac and Niš, Kragujevac and Niš business incubators and Kraljevo and Niš LDA teams. After presentations of results accomplished in the previous year and lots of lively discussion, participants agreed to cooperate on several ideas during 2011, and the realization of the project to strengthen business incubators in Niš and Kragujevac was set as the first goal.

Youth initiatives

As always LDA was glad to support young people and organize different events to promote their creativity and initiatives.

During 2010, we have supported a series of four collective exhibitions of the work of students of Art School from Niš, exhibition of hand-made jewelry made by six young women and a charity clothes exchange.

During the summer activities of LDA and our Youth Centre have been promoted in two international music festivals, Nisomnia and Nisville.

LDA and Alternative cultural centre Niš also organized the accompanying programme of the music festival omnia. Visitors could listen to various public discussions: "How has a law on prohibition of discrimination been put into action", "The reality of alternative music scene in Niš", "Youth mobility and Youth activism and voluntarism" – as well as ask questions to many experts. They could also pay a visit to promotional NGO fair and see what organisations in Niš are doing as well as enjoy a show of figurative theatre



Cultural initiatives in the Youth Center of Nis (Serbia)

II.12 LDA Subotica



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The main scope of LDA Subotica activities in 2010 are:

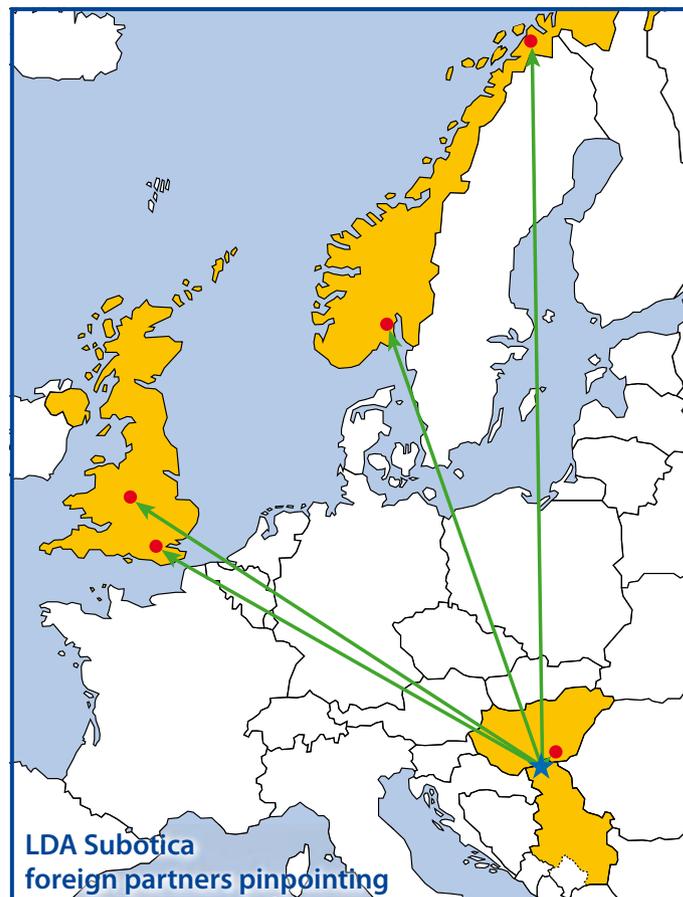
- building local capacities for EU integration;
- improving citizen participation in policy and decision making;
- promoting intercultural understanding and tolerance;
- fostering youth participation and promoting EU Youth in Action programme;
- enhancing local sustainable economic development.

In order to contribute as much as it is possible to achieving this goal, and in close co-operation with the partners and the Lead Partner, LDA Subotica programmes are dedicated to:

1. promotion of intercultural dialog;
2. local economic development;
3. public event celebration of the Day of Europe;
4. advocacy campaigns;
5. youth activities and volunteers exchanges.

Promotion of Intercultural dialogue

City of Subotica has been selected for the newly established network of the European Intercultural Cities (ICC) Joint programme of the Council of Europe and European Commission. The network of fourteen cities include also: Reggio Emilia, Lyon, Lublin Patras, Tilburg, Berlin-Neukeln, Oslo, Greenwich, who are involved in intensive exchange of good practice in areas of good local governance in multiethnic and multicultural communities. Components of the programme range from public discourse, preservation of cultural heritage, information, mediation and education.



The Joint programme started in 2008, and is designed as a permanent networking activity to promote good local governance and diversity management involving different local actors and partnerships with civil society organisations. In order to help promote awareness raising at local level, Local Democracy Agency (LDA) Subotica initiated different activities, including the training component for the journalists of local media.

Project: Regional partnerships for intercultural exchange

Lead beneficiary: City of Subotica, Serbia

Partner: Local Democracy Agency Subotica

Regional Partnership for Intercultural Exchange two-year regional co-operation project co-financed by the European Commission, DG Enlargement-Regional Programmes, within the CARDS Regional Action Programme 2006: Support to Civil Society Dialogue. People-to-People Actions: Consolidating Partnerships between Civil Society organizations and public authorities for raising minority rights in the region.

The overall objectives of the programme are to ensure the wide participation of public and private members of the civil society, to strengthen civil society organisations, i.e. to support civil society dialogue in the Western Balkans and enable civil society organisations to fulfill their role through joint actions in: contributing to a consolidated democracy in the region and participating in the decision making process; encouraging effective intercultural exchanges and ensuring the protection of the rights of persons belonging to a minority in the Western Balkans countries.

The specific objectives are to support partnerships between civil society organizations and build up network with a focus on those which are active in the promotion of the rights of minorities, as well as between these organizations and the public authorities.

The project proposals should fall within one or more of the following priorities: to help, develop and implement



LDA Subotica Partners Meeting, Szeged (Hungary), 18th December 2010

activities that ensure the participation and representation of ethnic minorities; to facilitate in country and regional co-operation and partnership between civil society organizations, and between civil society organizations and public authorities, ensuring continued interaction and mutual confidence, joint and coordinated activities; To raise awareness of civil servants about: the need of equal access and participation of minorities in the democratic process and effective implementation of relevant minority rights legislation and regulations; as well as the expertise gained and examples of best practices provided by civil society organizations; To create and strengthen regional networks, coalitions, advocacy action groups to maintain effective dialogue and interaction with local government, state institutions in areas of interest for ethnically diverse populations, enhancing a better understanding of the role played by civil society.

Local economic development

Area of local socio-economic development is recognized as crucial point for overall development of local communities and moreover, for achieving an enviable level of regional development, decentralization and sustainability of the region. Local Democracy Agency Subotica is active in area of local

socio-economic development. In its mission LDA Subotica defined support of local economic development, through capacity building of local institutions, cooperation and networking with relevant local actors or precisely, through support of development of small and medium enterprises and start-up businesses and support of employment.

In process of achieving greater level of socio-economic development, LDA Subotica is in constant search for solid and constructive projects which respond to local needs, projects which will enforce our capacities and strengthen local people to reach higher standards. Most important sector of this mission is employment and supporting employability of socially disadvantaged groups, such as: young, women, minorities etc.

In this context LDA Subotica cooperates with relevant institutions at the local level. Office for Local Economic Development of City of Subotica, Local Branch of National Employment Agency, Regional Centre for Small and Medium Business, Regional Chamber of Commerce, Business Incubator Subotica and others are our partners in this very important mission.

Our most important projects were “Microcredit scheme for Young entrepreneurs in SEE” and recently “Networking for local social entrepreneurship”.



The LDAs network working on Microcredit scheme for young entrepreneurs in SEE

Project: “Microcredit scheme for Young entrepreneurs in SEE” - first LED project of LDA Subotica

Lead partner: ALDA

Project partner: LDA Subotica

Project which forced LDA Subotica to engage in this area was “Microcredit scheme for Young entrepreneurs in SEE”. This project has been brought by ALDA Association, and had a general aim to introduce an integrated approach to microcrediting with a goal of promotion of start-up businesses, job-creation and promoting local economic development in the countries of South Eastern Europe.

General objective was promotion of sustainable local economic development in South East Europe fostered by young entrepreneurs with loan scheme which can contribute to the creation of new employment opportunities in these countries and help the overall economic and social recovery of the region.

Project was implemented in period from 2008 until 2010, starting with Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina as implementation countries.

Project “Microcredit scheme for young entrepreneurs in SEE” united several different actors. At general level there were two major partners: The Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA), supported by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Banka Intesa San Paolo, supported by the Council of Europe Development Bank, worked with local bank branches in the three countries to channel the project and provide the funding of each microcredit initiatives.

At local level there are local LDA network working on exact realization. There were seven Local Democracy Agencies included in this project: LDA Subotica and LDA CSS from Serbia; LDA Osijek, LDA Sisak and LDA Verteneglio from Croatia; LDA Mostar and LDA Zavidovici from Bosnia and Herzegovina. Developed ALDA network and LDAs located in direct proximity to the local markets proved as very important in operational work.

Conclusions of Working Group Serbia

Relationship with Local entities

Most important stakeholders:

- Local Governments and City Administrations;
- Republic Agency for Small and Medium Enterprises;
- Regional Chambers of Commerce;
- Local Business Incubators;
- Business Networks;
- Universities & other research institutions.

Strategy, Marketing and Communication

ATL - presentational web banners on most famous economic web sites, or on the internet pages which are visited by entrepreneurs, pages for employment. Advertising video for promotion of Microcredit

BTL - Most important tool for LDA's still are local presentations of Microfinance, leaflets made by the Bank, billboards.

Special action in Vojvodina - How to obtain better funding prices?

- cooperation with Vojvodina Guarantee Fund for women entrepreneurship;
- negotiations with local self-governments to subsidize interest rate.

Identification of Potential Customers

Define the start up clients as companies working for at least one year, or as option the ones which have submitted one final financial report and have close to one year of business experience.

Identify potential clients within local stakeholders and their affiliated clients:

- Example: start up clusters, incubator centers.

Focus on Credit and needs analyses, not so much on bu-

siness plan courses. Redefine the product without the need for the business plan up to three year period repayment, but with a short summary of investment. Keep the business plan for the investments of 4-5 years.

Focus the efforts to find solutions to involve agriculture as eligible applicants, but only the ones which are not legal bodies (agricultural farms registered as individual persons not in legal form).

Future business interesting for funding:

- small IT companies - small costs & high profit;
- accounting companies because of the perspective of bringing their clients to the bank.

Public event celebration of the Day of Europe

Since 2005, LDA Subotica is organizing the program of marking the Day of Europe, in cooperation with the local government through thematic conferences and EU information days. Every year during the first week in May open public events are organized in the main city square: exhibitions of EU posters, stalls in open air, promotional campaign involving young volunteers.



photo by Goran Cvijanov

Day of Europe, Subotica (Serbia), 7th May 2010

This year, the main activities took place on the 7th of May. The programme included stands, outdoor exhibition, promotional campaign in the main city square and the participation of youth and volunteers groups in six local communities in Vojvodina: Subotica, Kikinda, Kovacica, Apatin, Bac and Novi Becej.

Two thematic conferences were organized:

- *“EU works for regional and cross-border co-operation programmes in Subotica”*, in the City of Subotica with the key note speakers: Mr. Vincent Degert, Head of EU Delegation in Serbia, Mr. Srdjan Majstorovic, Deputy Director of EU integration office of the government of Serbia and Mr. Sasha Vucinic, Mayor of Subotica;
- *“Promoting EU values in local community - the role of NGOs”*: initiated by LDA Subotica, the conference held at the Open university Subotica, gathering local NGOs and their networking for EU project development.

Youth activities and volunteers exchanges Youth related projects - Youth in Action Programme

It is a programme set up by the European Union for young people. It contains several actions, among them there is the European Voluntary Service. EVS allows young people to volunteer abroad for up to 12 months.

How is LDA Subotica taking part in it?

LDA Subotica is an accredited organization for sending and hosting EVS volunteers since 2007. We hosted our first European volunteer in 2009, and for in period of 10 or 12 months we are hosting two or three volunteers at the same time. LDA Subotica gives the opportunity to EVS volunteers to work on various fields such as regional cooperation or youth related projects. It has also already sent 4 volunteers.

In the same time, LDA Subotica is organizing International trainings in order to strengthen the capacity of local organizations from different countries to use the Youth In Action programme. One of them, “Let’s EVS now”, was organized

between the 15th and the 22nd October 2010 and it gathered around 25 people coming from 8 countries including Serbia.

What is the EU Info Point?

Managed by LDA Subotica, EU Info Point is a place where everyone can get information about European Union, volunteering, youth mobility and related projects (seminars, trainings, activities and events).

As a joint work between EVS volunteers and local volunteers, LDA Subotica is also organizing workshops in EU Info Point and in high schools on topics such as democracy, volunteering, human rights.

What happens on 12 August?

LDA Subotica together with the Local Youth Office is organizing the celebration of the International Day of Youth. It aims at promoting youth creativity, youth NGO’s and informal groups. It also encourages young people to be more active into the society and to share their views on activism.

On 12th of August 2010, more than 350 young people and 10 NGOs gathered in Rajhl Ferenc Park attending various workshops such as on trash art, graffiti, dance or forum-theater. Exhibition stands were also given to NGOs to show their own material and leaflets.



“Let’s EVS now” training for EVS tutors and volunteers, Subotica, 15th-22nd October 2010

Membership Form

Name of the organization which asks to become member (or name of the person if it is an individual):

.....

Tick the cell which represent your organization

Municipality County Region NGO OTHER Mr. or Ms. (if individual member)

Contact person of the organization (name and surname):

.....

Address

Postal Code Town Country

Tel. Fax

E-mail

You can choose among 3 different options:

1. MEMBER OF ALDA

It gets for free all ALDA services destined to the members (for further information, see the enclosed document on Services to Members). It will pay the following contribution:

Number of inhabitants (Municipality*, County, Region)	10-10.000	10.000-50.000	50.000-200.000	200.000-1.000.000	>1.000.000
Contribution/year (Euros)	300	600	1.200	2.400	4.800
* For Municipality hosting an LDA half of the fees are requested					

NGO: 300 Euros - Individual: 60 Euros

2. MEMBER OF ALDA + PARTNER OF LDAs

It will be member of ALDA (see payment fees above) AND will also be really active and engaged on the field, by becoming partner of one or more LDAs (fees of LDAs identified by the LDAs).

3. FRIEND OF ALDA

It is an individual who wishes to support ALDA mission, by becoming part of an international network of people committed for active citizenship and human rights. The contribution per year is 60 Euros.

Bank details of the Association of Local Democracy Agencies:

Bank: Crédit Mutuel CCM Strasbourg Gutenberg - Address: 2, Rue des Hallebardes, 67000 Strasbourg – France

IBAN: FR76 1027 8010 8400 0201 7650 153 - BIC: CMCIFR2A

Form to be returned to: Secretariat of the Association of Local Democracy Agencies - c/o Council of Europe - F - 67075 Strasbourg
Tel. +33 3 90 21 45 93 - Fax +33 3 90 21 55 17 - E-mail antonella.valmorbida@aldaintranet.org

Thank you for your interest in the Programme of the Association of Local Democracy Agencies!

Membership Services

(included in the Membership fee)

Think tank, advisory and consulting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analysis, research and support on specialist topics (e.g. active citizenship, democracy and local governance, European integration, civil society, local economic development, etc.)
Relations with national, European and international Institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full secretariat service for specific meeting with international and European Authorities
Project proposal development and fund-raising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-house project development: needs assessment, feasibility studies and visits, partnership building, preparation of project proposal, fundraising and negotiation with donors, preparation of project documentation
Project management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In-house project management: action management, budget management, monitoring and control, reporting, evaluation Organization, management and facilitation of events, trainings, campaigns and activities at the local and European level Management of complex situations to be faced during the project implementation
Coordination of European/ International Units/ Offices of Local Authorities and Civil Society Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination of European and International Units/ Offices of Local Authorities and Civil Society Organizations: fundraising, partnership building, project drafting and project management, financial management and reporting, international relations and institutional contacts
Education and Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tailor-shaped trainings on various topics: EU affairs, fundraising, human rights, civil society and local governance issues, etc. Permanent training module on active citizenship issues Organization of international conferences, seminars and workshops Organization of study tours for local government and civil society representatives
Promotion, visibility and editing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of communication strategies, documents and information materials Development of ad-hoc publications on European topics
Information, facilities and support services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full secretariat service for meeting promoted in ALDA offices

Services on payment

(based on ad-hoc budgets)

Think tank, advisory and consulting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Briefings on EU Programmes, funds and procedures Right to participate in working groups on different topics (local government issues, active citizenship, human rights protection and awareness, empowerment of civil society, etc.) Right to have our "already issued" publications for free Access to EU experts, professional and support networks, and academic organizations Participation in international events (conferences, seminars, etc.) promoted by ALDA
Being part of a European network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support in the relation with EU, CoE, UN, their related Agencies and other public and private International institutions Support in the relation with National Governments in Italy and France and other countries Support in communication at the European level Organization of meetings with European Officials, MEPs and other relevant international and European Authorities Visibility through a European network Promotion of Members' activities, initiatives and events at the European level (mainly through the website and the newsletter) Free links of Members' website to ALDA website
Project proposal development and fund-raising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offer of periodical opportunities to be partner of European projects or to join consortia built to apply for European tenders in various fields Support of ALDA multilingual staff in the project proposal development phase Identification of international partners for specific areas and support to the partnership building process Support to the identification of potential donors
Project coordination and management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support of ALDA multilingual staff in the project management Support of ALDA in sorting out of complex situations you might face during your autonomous management of your projects
Information, facilities and support services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subscription in the mailing list (periodical newsletters and ALDAEU_info: upcoming events and information on european policies) ALDA publications, EU publications, information materials Access to the information points on EU and active citizenship (info-points based in Brussels and Vicenza) Access to ALDA intranet especially dedicated to members Free use of ALDA equipped offices and meeting rooms in Belgium (Brussels) and Italy (Vicenza), upon approval of the Council of Europe, possibility in Strasbourg

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