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Partners

City of Osijek (Croatia), City of Lausanne (Switzerland), Causes Communes Vaud Leman (Switzerland), Utrecht Platform (Netherlands), Centre for Peace Non-violence and Human Rights (Osijek, Croatia)

ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED IN 2003

a **Transborder Co-operation in the Euroregion “Danube-Drava-Sava”** (supported by Swiss Development Agency, Finland, Lichtenstein and Canton Basel)

For the third time since the establishment of the Euroregion “Danube-Drava-Sava”, the LDA Osijek focused on motivating, informing and educating various interest groups about euroregional issues. This year ten different topics, round tables, seminars and excursions were organised and more than 250 participants attended them!

Countries that took part in the programme:

- Hungary;
- Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- Serbia and Montenegro;
- Croatia.

The main objective of this project was:

- To build up a structure of links and connections between regions, institutions, and governmental and non-governmental organizations over the national borders;
- Re-establish old relationships in this regions and build new relations and values;
- To widen the range and the scope of the cooperation in the following fields:
 - European integrations
 - small communities and cities
 - schools and universities

- political parties
- NGOs of different profiles
- national minorities
- media

- To enliven real connections and understand better our neighbours and their culture and life conditions through two excursions organised to:
 - Pecs (Hungary)
 - Tuzla (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Activities implemented:

- 6 round tables
- 2 seminars
- 2 excursions
- Video evening
- Evaluation
- Newsletter

General outcome:

This project clearly achieved its purpose and met its objectives. Through the implementation of its numerous activities, through contacts, education and exchange of information and experience a solid basis of individuals and institutions has been created to participate in but also give significant contribution to the development of the Euroregion “Danube-Drava-Sava”. Intensification of relations and strengthening of cultural, educational and other relations in the regions as well as the increase of civil initiatives are desired side effects of this programme.



*Transborder Co-operation
in Euroregion
Danube-Drava-Sava
SEMINAR:
“Presentation of CARDS,
INTERREG
and the Project Cyclus”
Osijek, 2nd June 2003*

b Local Government Management, training (supported by Local Government Initiative- Budapest)

The main objective of the training:

- Building of local capacities for meeting the challenges and tasks of modern democratic society;
- To provide local elected officials and councilors with new knowledge and skills in order to improve their manager role.

Target group:

- Councilors of Osje ko-Baranjska County;
- Councilors of cities and Municipalities (Osijek, Đakovo, Beliše);
- Councilors of town districts (Osijek Jug II, Osijek Novi Grad).

Activities implemented:

- Adaptation into Croatian of the manuals of UN Habitat, “Local Government Management”;
- Four-day training.

Topics covered

- Evolving roles and responsibilities of the local government manager;
- Manager and organization culture;
- Manager as visionary strategist;
- Manager as organisation change agent.



*Local government management training
Osijek, 19th-22nd March 2003*

C Strengthening partnership and co-operation (supported by Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe)

The main objectives:

- Strengthening of co-operation and relations with the LDA Osijek partners through creation of mid-term plan of activities;
- To mark the 10th anniversary of the LDA Osijek’ work;
- To gather all relevant (local and international) partners at one place;
- To identify general needs assessment;
- To discuss specific projects interesting and needed for the region;
- To clarify meaning of partnership and partner’s role.

Topics covered:

- Introduction of LDA Osijek partners;
- Presentation of LDA’s work in past 10 years;
- Presentation of on-going activities and projects;
- Presentation of a publication marking 10th anniversary of LDA Osijek;
- Objectives for the future work;
- Partners’ role;
- Bilateral contacts.

Outcome of the partners meeting:

- Expressed determination and good will in strengthening of partnerships;
- Further work on widening and developing of the partnership network;
- Developing and maintaining of synergies between participants within the LDA Osijek partnership network;
- Concrete involvement of the LDA Osijek and its partners in mutual de-mining project;
- A document Mid-term plan of activities of the Local Democracy Agency Osijek which incorporates main guidelines presented and ideas discussed during the meeting.



*Meeting of the LDA Osijek' partners
Osijek, 24th October, 2003*

d Protection of public interest on the local level

Public lectures and round table discussions- (co-operation with Centre for Peace, Non-violence and Human Rights from Osijek, Association of citizens for transition “Albert E”, “Proni” Centre for social education and Croatian Helsinki Committee).

Raising the issue of public interest in Croatian society, especially in Osje ko-baranjska county is the reaction on non-tolerance, speech of hatred and media manipulation.

By pointing out public interest and creating of space for free circulation of public opinion focused on topics and not on interested parties this project aimed at defining public interest in concrete situations in our County.

The main objective:

To build culture of participation, dialogue and responsibility for positive changes in a society.

Target group:

- All citizens;
- Journalists.

Topics covered:

Free zone Osijek and public interest;
Media freedom and media manipulation;
Strategic development of the County;
Education and public interest;
Facing the past and public interest.

e Danube: Europe is meeting

Voyage along the Danube, from Vienna to Belgrade with series of seminars (co-operation with Observatory on the Balkans and SEE One-World from Italy)

The main goal of this voyage was:

To initiate public discussion on integration of South Eastern Europe in European Union.

Activities implemented during the ship's stay in Vukovar:

- Organisation and implementation of a seminar in Vukovar, Croatia, called “Media: social facilitator in communicating EU integration process?” ;
- A concert in the town of Vukovar.

Main conclusion of the seminar:

Starting from what happened in the recent past, everybody agreed that the right to freedom of expression and the media's power in building social reality have an essential role in the actual process of democratisation and integration of SEE into the EU. One of the general conclusions of the seminar was that communication and information level is one of the main challenges of European identity building.



Voyage along the Danube during From Vienna to Belgrade for Europe beyond borders 12th-21st September 2003