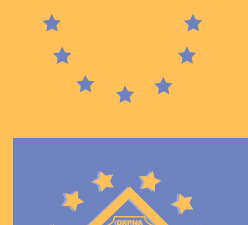
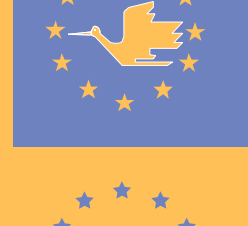
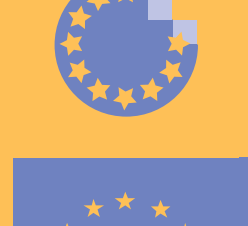
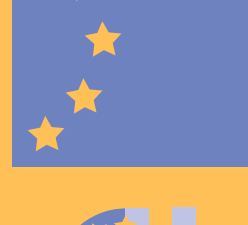


ACTIVITIES 2002

Association of the Local Democracy Agencies



The challenge of the European integration process

I am pleased to present this new version of the brochure, which summarizes clearly and briefly the work in 2002 of the Local Democracy Agencies and their Association that I have the responsibility to chair.

This following presentation can help:

To know better the LDAs in with their concrete activities on the field, the role of the Association and also the Congress of the Local and Regional Authorities of Europe, which is the first promoter of the initiative To think of the situation in South Eastern Europe after the end of the conflict which affected the whole area for a decade.

To understand, on one hand, the relations existing nowadays between civil society and institutions in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) - the countries where the LDAs are working. On the other hand, the reunification process of Europe with the Council of Europe and the European Union. Those two organisations have, in this process, complementary roles.

The Local Democracy Agencies are working at the cross road of two processes of integration. The first one which regards the horizontal level of the region, which is the focus of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe. The second one, which could be defined vertically, is towards Europe and its political unification. It was said that the Balkans are not in Europe. Certainly, Europe is in the Balkans. This can be understood by the constant attention of the Congress of the Local and Regional Authorities for the democratic process in the area and for the European Union with the Stabilisation and Association Agreements and with the new established CARDS (Community Assistance for Reconciliation, Development and Stabilisation) programme.

The main input in the area of South Eastern for a more active co-operation - also at the regional level - is given by their interest and wish to be integrated into the European Union. This process is complex long and not easy. It will imply deep changes at the social and economic level. It would also be a different approach to the institutions which could still based in many cases on ethno-political bases.

The challenge of the LDAs is to bring a contribution, maybe limited but real, to this evolution for the interested countries and, in the long run, to base their actions on local institutions and civil society.

The dimension and the results of this contribution could be understood in this presentation and in the commitment of 10 LDAs (with another on in January 2003). This is also the result of the constant support of public and private institutions - first of all the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities -. It is also due to the creative input of its Director, Mrs. Antonella Valmorbida. To all of them, a sincere and big thank you.

There is a risk, which must be absolutely avoided. The European Institutions, in particular the European Union, do not understand on time and with enough coherence, the weight of their decision regarding the integration process and the effects that the expression of their priorities can have for those who are excluded from the list, as most of South Eastern Europe is. It is of fundamental importance to understand and support the crucial moment for those countries issued of a long conflict for heading to the stability and the development.

In their activities, the LDA will work constantly to avoid such a risk.

Gianfranco Martini
President ALDA

A network of Agencies to reinforce efforts to promote local and regional democracy in south-east Europe

Since its inauguration in 1999 under the auspices of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe, the Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA) has been efficiently co-ordinating the expansion of the network of Local Democracy Agencies. For instance, it has opened two new LDAs in 2001/2002 in Serbia and Montenegro, and it is now working to set up an 11th agency in Gjilane, Kosovo. The Congress took part in the exploratory mission in July 2002, and is fully supporting the opening of the Kosovo LDA in January 2003, which will provide an extremely useful facility for consolidating local and regional democracy in Kosovo.

The LDA Association has worked particularly effectively to establish new partnerships, notably with European local and regional authorities and non-governmental organisations. In 2002 the Association's work has also benefited from increasing support across Europe, with the backing of the Congress. Ireland, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Finland and the Canton of Basle have all made voluntary contributions in order to reinforce inter-Agency cohesion by funding regional programmes. The ALDA is hoping shortly to set its links with the European Commission on a more formal footing.

The LDA Association has established reinforced co-operation with the Stability Pact for South-East Europe and Working Table I, whose Istanbul Final Declaration prioritised local democracy and transfrontier co-operation, stressing that "Local Democracy Agencies (LDAs) established by the Council of Europe have shown considerable results during the past years in working with local governments and with civil society. LDAs can build upon a wide network of international and local partners and should receive further support".

The ALDA has been co-operating for several years now on a wide range of Council of Europe projects, eg the Programme of Confidence-Building Measures and the "Culture and conflict prevention project" developed by the Council of Europe's Directorate General of Culture. The Group of Elected Representatives of South-East Europe and the Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALA) set up by the Congress have also forged links with the LDA Association and are drawing on this regional network to increase the impact of their activities. This has created a strong impetus, enabling local elected representatives and members of voluntary and associations to define common objectives.

The results of the activities implemented by the Association should definitely be given a higher public profile, and the Association ought to use all its available information facilities to this end. This newsletter and the Association's website could be used to make the field activities even more visible and thus broaden the range of possibilities for back-up and support from the communities directly affected by this project.

The Council of Europe has also indicated that it would like to intensify its co-operation with the LDA Association and involve all its sectors of activity in order to take advantage of the expertise developed by the LDAs over the last 10 years. In June 2002 the President, Mr Martini, and Mr Walter Schwimmer, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, signed a joint working agreement. The Bureau of the Congress has also stressed the importance of the commitment of local and regional authorities to this process, and has awarded ten European towns and regions the Intermunicipal and Interregional Partnership Diploma for 2003¹.

Although the LDA programme has already achieved great things, there are still many outstanding needs in central and eastern Europe. No doubt the LDA Association, as it approaches its 10th anniversary, will begin discussing the new horizons to be explored over the next few years.

Rinaldo Locatelli

Chief Executive of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

The mandate

The network of the Local Democracy Agencies is dedicated to:

- promote practical initiatives to consolidate democracy at local level;
- foster institution building at local level through exchange of know-how and training of local elected representatives and administrators;
- develop a Europe-wide network of citizens committed to respect for human and minority rights;
- foster the development of a civil society in which all sections of the community participate;
- promote intercultural dialogue;
- promote the respect of human rights.



Signature of the Convention between the President of the ALDA, Mr. Gianfranco Martini and Mr. Walter Schwimmer, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, June 2002, Plenary Session of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

Local Democracy Agencies (LDAs) and the Association of LDAs are instruments at the disposal of local and regional authorities that contribute, as effectively as possible, to the local development in South and Eastern Europe.

THE ASSOCIATION OF LDAs

The Association was set up in December 1999 at the initiative of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe and the LDA partners

It is composed of representatives from all participants in LDA networks: the Council of Europe, the CLRAE, partner towns and regions, LDA host towns, LDA Delegates, partner NGOs and, generally speaking, all individuals and institutions interested or involved in LDA projects.

- It co-ordinates the overall LDA activities;
- It contributes to the fundraising and the development of common projects;
- It provides LDAs and Delegates with technical and administrative support;
- It can receive voluntary contributions, from national, local and regional authorities, foundations and other bodies for the purpose of developing general or specific LDA projects;
- It acts as the LDAs' representative in dealing with institutions and sponsors and is responsible for the proper use of funds under its management.

Activities 2002

The Association of the Local Democracy Agencies co-ordinates the work of the Local Democracy Agencies and promotes their work, the partnership and the support to the whole programme.

- Coordination, networking, promotion, daily support for the LDAs;
- Information centre and publications for the LDAs;
- Training for the Delegates: evaluation system, December the 10th in Strasbourg;
- Training for the Delegates;

With the Special Co-ordinator of the Stability Pact, Mr. Erhard BUSEK, Novi Sad (Serbia, FRY), April 2002.



*Meeting with
Mr. Erhard BUSEK,
Novi Sad,*

April 2002

Training of trainers, Local Government Management, Verteneglio, October 2002, translation of the manuals UN Habitat "Local Government Management" into Serbian and adaptation into Bosnian, Macedonian, Croatian.



*Training of trainers
Verteneglio*

Training for evaluation instruments, Strasbourg, December the 10 th.

● Institutional meetings:

Bureau: June (Strasbourg), October (Bellinzona)

Governing Board: February (Trento-Italy), July (Kartidsa, Greece)

General Assembly (Strasbourg, 11th of December 2002)



*Governing board
Kartidsa*

- Summer School of the Association “Democratisation process in South Eastern Europe” Ohrid, Macedonia, July 2002



Summer School of the ALDA,

Ohrid - July 2002



Working session at the Summer School

- Steering committees for the on-going programmes;
- Activities for opening a LDA in Gjilane (Kosovo);



Opening of the headquarter of the Association of Municipalities of Kosovo.

*Mr. Y. Milon (CPLRE),
Mr. Lutfi Harizi,
Chairman of the Association.*

- Website for the ALDA (www.ldaaonline.org);
- Contact with partners of the Ldas and members of the ALDA;
- Permanent contact with the Council of Europe and the organs of the Stability Pact for South and Eastern Europe;
- Establishment of a Scientific Committee of the ALDA;

- Mr. Francesco JORI, journalist of Il Gazzettino (Venice, Italy), francesco.jori@gazzettino.it
- Mr. Aldo BONOMI, Director Institute AASTER (Milano, Italy), bonomi@aaster.it
- Mrs. Nina LUZZATO GARDNER, Strategy International (Rome, Italy), ninalgardn@aol.com
- Dr. Milhailo BURIC, Philosophical Faculty, University of Montenegro, mihailo44@yahoo.com
- Dr. Djordjije BLAZIC, Expert on local government reform, Montenegro Government, djokob@cg.yu
- Professor Mihaly SZECSEI, Faculty of Economics in Subotica, office@vmsz.org.yu

- Support and information for the LDAs' Delegates;
- Accounting and report for funds;
- Evaluation of the results of the LDAs' programmes sponsored by the ALDA;
- Fundraising.

● Management of programmes implemented by the Agencies:

Thanks to the support of the Council of Europe, the Association of Local Democracy Agencies received the confirmation of the sponsorship for different programmes, most of them in the framework of the actions implemented under the umbrella of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe.

Switzerland, through the Agency for Development, contribute of with 100.000 EURO for the implementation of the programme “**Ethnic relations and transborder co-operation**”.

The title of the different programmes included are:

- Ohrid (Macedonia): Promoting civil society and transborder co-operation;
- Tuzla (BiH): Strengthening of the coordination capacities between the Associations of Municipalities in the two Entities of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Brcko District;
- Osijek (Croatia): Transborder cooperation in the Euroregion Danube Drava Sava;
- Sisak (Croatia): Integration of women in the Croatian society through the establishment of a centre for support and aggregation;
- Subotica (Yougoslavia - Serbia): Training seminar for young political leaders;
- Zavidovici (BiH): Environment, health, development;
- Prijedor (BiH): Stage of journalism for a free independent and multiethnic information and school for peace;
- Verteneglio (Croatia): Actors of tomorrow’s Europe.

The co-ordination of the Association is assured by a communication through newsletter, steering committees, support of the whole structure to the implementation of the programme, website.

This programme received also the support of **Lichtenstein** (25.000 EURO) and **Finland** (20.000) EURO. **Canton of Basel Stadt** for 35.000 EURO.

The second country, which has confirmed its contribution is **Ireland**. Irish Aid contributed substantially to the establishment of the Local Democracy Agency for Montenegro as well as the LDA for Central and Southern Serbia. This year, a very important confirmation arrived for supporting for a three years periode those Agencies and giving the means for the establishment of the LDA in Kosovo, Gjilane (due to be opened within January 2003).

The contribuion of Ireland is supporting in 2002 the

- LDA for Central and Southern Serbia with 93.489 EURO for activities for transborder co-operation, youth, strengthening local development, capacity building for local authorities and civil society groups;
- LDA for Montenegro with 77.089 EURO for activities for transborder co-operation, youth, strengthening local development, capacity building for local authorities and civil society groups;
- Future LDA for Kosovo with 49.956 EURO for youth activities, local authorities and the setting up of the Agency.

Local Government and Public Reform Initiative - Budapest is also confirming the commitment with the Association of the LDAs through

- The funding of the manuals of UN Habitat “Local Government Management” translated into Serbian and adapted into Croatian, Bosnian and Macedonian (9200 USD);
- The funding of a programme of TOT (for the LDAs) and the training for local authorities for all the LDAs (76.000 USD);

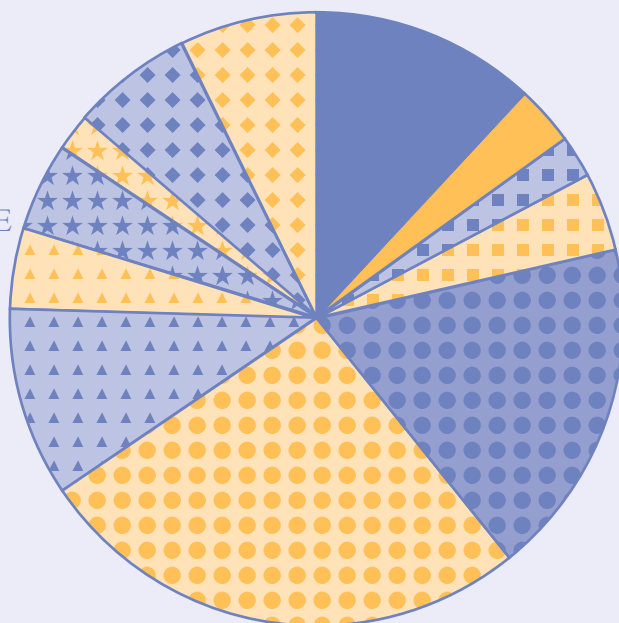
The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities (Council of Europe) is contributing to the whole programme with 138.000 EURO. It supports to a large extent to the structure of the Association of the LDAs.

The project of the LDAs supported by the Congress are:

- LDA Central and Southern Serbia: Strengthening the new established Euroregion Nis-Skopje-Sofia, Institution Building for cross-border cooperation in the fields of Education, Youth and Culture
- LDA Subotica (Serbia): New concept of local governance in Serbia: problems and perspective;
- LDA Ohrid (Macedonia): Local government competencies and citizens’ participation in the decision-making process;
- LDA Zavidovici (BiH): Educating to a pluralistic citizenship: training of teachers in the Zavidovici area;
- LDA Tuzla (BiH): Assesment of the local government in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- LDA Verteneglio/Brtonigla (Croatia): The Good Self government;
- LDA Sisak (Croatia): To act locally;
- LDA Prijedor (BiH): The School for Peace in Prijedor;
- LDA Osijek (Croatia): School of civil society.

Rerources of the ALDA 2002

- 1 Swiss Agency for Development
- 2 Lichtenstein
- 3 Finland
- 4 Canton Basel Stadt
- 5 Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and COE
- 6 Ireland
- 7 Local Government Initiative - Budapest
- 8 Annual fees
- 9 Partners in kind
- 10 Summer school
- 11 Partners for their LDAs
- 12 COE in kind



Total Budget 2002 = 781.485 EURO

Network and partnership

THE NETWORK OF LDAs IN FIGURES:

- 10 Agencies (+ 1 in 2003)
- 4 countries in South-Eastern Europe
- Partners of LDAs
 - 90 towns and regions from European States
 - 60 NGOs
- 10 years at work in the Balkans
- 60 members of the Association (towns, regions and NGOs from European States)



Partner authorities of the agencies

One of the partners is designated the “**project leader**” and takes particular responsibility for managing the network, co-ordinating projects, raising funds and overseeing the administration and financing of the project.

A host city will be the Agency headquarter which constitute the base for the activities. The main target groups are citizens, NGOs, elected representatives, local government officers and civil servants.

An Agency is based on an agreement setting out the practical contribution of partners (cities, regions and non governmental organizations)

These partners provide technical and financial support and expertise for projects run by the LDA.

Partner municipalities, regions and non-governmental organisations

Through the network thus established, the partner authorities have the opportunity to participate, as their resources and expertise permit, in a convincing and effective policy of external relations. Their involvement reflects a commitment by residents of the partner authorities. Depending on the needs expressed by the host authority, local and regional authorities and NGOs may take part in an LDA’s programme of activities in a variety of ways:

- by funding specific projects (in the field of education, health, media, environment, youth or microeconomic projects, for example);
- by sending elected representatives or experts to lead seminars;
- by hosting study visits in partner towns, regions or associations;
- by establishing links between representatives from the socio-economic or voluntary sectors and key players in the host authority

Subscription Request to the Association of Local Democracy Agencies

the town the Region the NGO Mister or Mrs

Name _____

Contact person: _____

Address: _____

Postal _____ Code _____

Town _____

Country _____

Tel + _____

Fax + _____

E-mail address: _____

interested in becoming a member of the Association of the LDAs and will pay his/her contribution to the appropriate Association of the LDAs' bank account, and according to the criteria below:

Bank details of the Association of Local Democracy Agencies		Number of inhabitants	Total of Contribution (Euros)
Bank:	Société Générale / Sogenal	1 - 10.000	250
Address:	Council of Europe	10.000 - 50.000	500
Bank code:	3003	50.000 - 200.000	1.000
Agency code:	02363	200.000 - 1.000.000	2.000
Individual number:	00050012853	1 million plus	4.000
RIB:	77	Non-governmental organisations	250
		Actual persons	50

Thank you for your support and for your interest in the Programme of Local Democracy Agencies!

Form to be returned to
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 C/o Council of Europe, Office B532, F – 67075 Strasbourg



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