

# Association of Local Democracy Agencies

## *Activity Report 2012*



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## President's Foreword



*Oriano Otočan, President of ALDA*

Welcome to ALDA's 2012 review of dreams, hopes and realities in today's Europe! I am glad to present our achievement in 2012 for the first time as elected President. Many challenges but also many opportunities laid ahead of us that 2012 year and I believe we made it through with success. The diversity of programmes, the intensity of events and activities and the profile of the persons that create ALDA everyday make me think that we are very lucky in these times of uncertainty for many organisations such as ours. But lucky because we work relentlessly on our luck, we grab opportunities, we invent new ways to tackle old problems and we force ourselves to go beyond our capacities. I knew the atmosphere in ALDA was intense, forward looking and innovative. I was far from the truth. ALDA has a

unique capacity to re-invent itself and still pursue the same goals it was created for some 12 years ago by our alma mater, the Council of Europe. For this, I would like to thank our donors, members and partners, for the trust and continuity they have shown in their support. I would also like to thank the staff for their fertile imagination and harder work in making this happen every day. Last but not least, I would like to thank the old and new colleagues in the Governing Board for entrusting me the duty to be their President and push ALDA forward. I will stand by our trust.

*Oriano Otočan,*

Director International Relations Region Istria,  
February 2013

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

## Director's Introduction

The European Union (EU) faces in these days urgent problems that need, if not immediate responses, at least fast strategies on the medium and long terms. We firmly believe in the European project for peace, democracy and sustainable and fair development. Now is time to put together the conditions to make it an even more tangible reality. Answers should be soon applied at the institutional level and in the field of economy and social matters: a more inclusive and fair society, equal opportunities and strategies for jobs, education and welfare, renewable energies and protection of environment. Those represent global challenges for us all Europeans in a globalised world.

In this context, ALDA and its members confirm that they have a role to play and that they represent an actor for change. More than ever, the presence and activity of our members, our projects and the Local Democracy Agencies are important. Our programmes bring concrete and efficient citizen participation at local level. They serve as an instrument to link citizens to decision makers and to bridge the gap of trust and confidence, and to provide opinions and expertise, where needed.

A particular effort will be paid in 2013 to be actively involved in the European Year of Citizen.. ALDA is among the organisations, which established the European Alliance Year of Citizenship, creating therefore a civil society partner to the European Commission. Thanks to this alliance, we expect to bring strong and innovative inputs to the EU by the end of the year



*Antonella Valmorbida, Director of ALDA*

in order to improve the connection between citizens and European policy and decision makers. ALDA, through its members and partners, has the great opportunity to be also actively involved in the Croatian and in Italian Alliances.

Our projects, implemented with hundreds of partners, will use our methodology and approach consisting in cooperation between local authority and civil society to address the needs of citizens and governance. We developed therefore a very strong cooperation with the programme Europe for Citizens that today is also open for most of the Western Balkans, giving the opportunity to all the 11 Local Democracy Agencies in this region a new opportunity of joint activities.

Our members are our main focus especially in these turbulent times. We certainly follow and assist them with care and give full attention to their needs and expectations. Our activities and ideas are developed



jointly so that the overall organisation benefits from this cooperation.

The Local Democracy Agencies represent our greatest opportunity and unique feature in the Europe. They represent a practical exercise of mutli-stakholder approach to governance. They put in practice democracy and citizen participation everyday. We see their role in Western Balkans (as we celebrate this year the access of Croatia to the EU!) and in the South Caucasus. And in a near future, we think they can be a great opportunity in other areas of the European Neighbourhood, like the southbank of the Mediterranean Sea.

Last but not least, I am very motivated to start working with a new Governing Board (elected in June 2012). We will work to put in place opportunities to increasingly involve the members in our working groups and programmes. I also seize this opportunity to thank my team for its exceptional work and constant efforts to broaden our horizons!

*Antonella Valmorbida*, February 2013



# Chapter I - Our objective: act locally, think globally for good governance and participation

## 1. Our objectives in 2012

ALDA's mandate was confirmed in the Multiannual Strategic Views approved by the Governing Board in January 2013: **strengthening local governance and local democracy, cooperation between local authorities and civil society, citizens participation at the local level, foster European identity and citizenship.** All these are essential elements for addressing global challenges in Europe and its Neighbouring countries. In fact, answers to wider issues are often generated and managed at the local level, the one closer to citizens.

ALDA, whose members are local authorities and civil society groups, represents on its own an laboratory and a strong promoter of projects, pilot initiatives and support for practices of local good governance. **The multi-stakeholder** approach includes local and national authorities, civil society and citizens' representatives, within a wider European context. In the Neighbouring and Pre Accession countries, the principal instruments of ALDA are and will remain the **Local Democracy Agencies** (multilateral cooperation with local authorities and civil society group).

Our objectives towards 2020 are:

- to be an instrument for peace, good local governance and local democracy;
- to promote and support the cooperation between

local authorities and civil society as an instrument of stability, peace and democracy;

- to be an active instrument, which bases its actions on the European values of human rights, diversity and democracy;
- to act as catalyst of good will, ideas and visionary attitudes and actions to promote local governance and citizen participation, within the European project;
- to represent a strong voice and a political activist to promote the European project belonging to its citizens and being closer to them.

In 2012 and 2013, we will even further work in this direction, together and at **the service of our members.** To this respect, we'll target a wider coverage over all European Member States and in the Neighbouring countries, which could also include in a balanced way local authorities and civil society, respecting the principle of our Association. The **Local Democracy Agencies** will be also particularly supported and followed – with a strong presence in Western Balkans - and potentially enlarged to Eastern European and in the Mediterranean area (in particular Tunisia at first). Our strategic objective will also include a stronger link between the LDAs (and their partners) with the members and activities of ALDA. There is there a great potential of mutual benefit.

The **European Year of Citizen 2013**, focusing on the rights and duties of Citizens comes are the right time. ALDA is very much involved in all the activities of the Alliance for the EYAC 2013 at the European level and with the national alliances (<http://ey2013-alliance.eu>; <http://www.ey2013-italia.eu>) . The ambitious goal to reach is to bring inputs, strong and innovative ideas, by the end of the year so that to bridge the gap between European policies and institutions and the citizens.

## 2. *Our raison d'être,* the Local Democracy Agencies

The network of 13 Agencies, now project introduced by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities is covering countries in South Eastern Europe and in South Caucasus. They are supported by more than 100 partners (local authorities and civil society groups) in Europe. They give policy advice and financial support to fulfil the Agencies' mandate to accompany local democracy, civil society empowerment and participation in the decision making process at local level in the regions where they are based.

### The objectives of the LDAs are:

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

Most of ALDA's and the LDAs' work is based on a successful method of multilateral decentralised cooperation. This method involves a multi-stakeholder approach, which focuses on a partnership between local authorities and non-governmental organisations. The multilateral approach (composed of numbers of various partners for each LDA among which many of them from

the European Union) allows a better sustainability as well as a multicultural input to the initiatives.

The LDAs partnerships have been developed through two main lines of action: a) a territorial dimension involving multiple actors of the communities concerned in the geographic area where the LDAs are based b) a thematic dimension focused on a specific, commonly determined general purpose and annual action plans. It gives an interesting flexibility and an equal voice to all stakeholders, on a basis of a "one partner, one vote" system.

The cooperation between local and international partners, between local authorities and NGOs involved in the activities of designing projects and implementing activities with the LDA, is a learning process for everyone involved. Most of the decision making is consensus based and participatory.

For some cities and regions in Europe, co-operation through the LDAs has become the main characteristic of their international activity. They have been committed sometimes more than 10 years and their success has been recognised by both the international community and their citizens.

### Enlargement of the LDA network

In 2006 a LDA was opened in Georgia and in 2011 another LDA was opened in Armenia with the strong involvement and support of the French region Rhône Alpes and the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia. In 2012 specific steps to open an LDA in Ukraine were taken with the support of the Lower Silesia Region and we are working for an LDA in Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine in autumn 2013. Furthermore a process for LDA in Azerbaijan could continue in 2013 if adequate support is found. The plans for an LDA

in Moldova are currently under development and ALDA is investigating the possibilities to also expand the LDA network to the Mediterranean area, with Tunisia as a priority country.

### **IPA countries and the LDAs: a natural partnership**

In South Eastern Europe, our programme is present with 11 Agencies, since it started in 1993 as a creation by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe. Since Croatia will enter the European Union on 1st July 2013, we envisage consolidating the Croatian Agencies by giving them the role of resource centres in South East Europe, which will cooperate with ALDA for the development of our objectives in regards to the future enlargement of the European Union.

In the partner and potential partner countries from South Eastern Europe, most of the Agencies have become privileged stakeholders for European projects for the promotion of local good governance, decentralisation and civil society empowerment. In particular, the LDAs work on many cross-border countries (CBC) programmes, as well as on programmes within the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA).

For more information about activities by LDAs and the IPA programmes, please refer to chapter II.

### **3. Our network of local authorities and civil society organisations**

ALDA is one of the few examples of a mixed membership organisation at European level: for ALDA the partnership between local authorities and CSOs is an essential asset for achieving its objectives and for implementing its mission.

That is why ALDA members are both local authorities (LAs) and civil society organisations (CSOs) from all over the European Continent and the Mediterranean area. In particular, thanks to ALDA commitment in decentralised cooperation and in the implementation of several projects in the framework of European programmes, such as WTD and Europe for Citizens, ALDA demonstrates its strong intention of strengthening the cooperation and the synergies between local authorities and CSOs, in order to promote and improve best-practises, in the field of local governance and citizen's active participation.

Hence, the fair presence of Local Authorities and CSOs among ALDA members means the possibility of enhancing the cooperation and the exchange between institutional bodies and civil society,. ALDA, through its long experience and its mixed membership, encourages all form of cooperation and dialogue between Local Authorities and CSOs, both among its members and between its members and third parties.

## **4. Our statutory activities**

### **4.1. Our New Statute**

During the Extraordinary General Assembly in Udine, in June 2012, the plenary approved the proposed amendments to ALDA statute. The new Statute introduces important innovation to ALDA strategy and to ALDA methodology, especially towards new scenarios.

In particular, through the amendments to article 3, ALDA introduces the possibility to open new LDAs, there where it is useful and feasible. This changing reflects ALDA intention to reinforce its presence and to be engaged in other new areas, in the matter in question in Eastern-Partnership Countries and in Maghreb area.

Secondly, the amendments to article 4 establish the intention of ALDA to pursue its goals, in cooperation with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe and with the European Union Institutions, with no relations of dependence with private or public for-profit bodies. It implies stricter financial rules, which will contribute to reinforce ALDA transparency and this new methodology will be employed especially in developing countries.

#### 4.2. Our new Governing Board

During the last Extraordinary General Assembly in Udine, in June 2012, the Plenary elected the new ALDA Governing Board, which will have a mandate for four years until 2016. On that occasion ALDA members voted also the new Bureau of the Association.

Here you can find the new elected members of Board and their respective charge:

**Mr. Oriano Otočan**, ALDA President -Bureau member, Istria Region (HR), Director of Department in charge of international cooperation and European integration

**Mrs. Imislawa Gorska**, Vice President - Bureau member, International School of Bydgoszcz, (PL), Principal

**Mr. Alessandro Perelli**, Vice President - Bureau member, Friuli Venezia Giulia Region (IT), European integration, international relations and financial management Service

**Mr. Roger Lawrence**, Treasurer of ALDA - Bureau member, Wolverhampton City Council (UK), Councillor

**Mrs. Paula Rauzan**, Secretary - Bureau member, Delegate of the local Democracy Agency of Sisak, (HR)

**Mr. Per Vinther**, (DK), former President, Individual member

**Mrs. Annie Anne**, Lower Normandy Region, (F) Vice-President, International relations

**Mr. Mircea Cosma**, Prahova County (RO), President

**Mr. Lucio Gregoretti**, City of Monfalcone (I), Head of the International relations Service

**Mr. Dobrica Milovanovic**, City of Kragujevac (SRB), Deputy Mayor

**Mr. Ruggiero Mennea**, Apulia Region, (I), Councillor

**Mr. Valery Deschamps**, Association "Maison de l'Europe – Caen Basse Normandie", Caen (F), President

In 2012 **Dzenana Dedic** was the Chair of the LDA Delegates' Advisory Committee, LDA Mostar (BiH)



*ALDA new Governing Board*

### 4.3. The 2012 General Assembly

The 2012 General Assembly and International conference “Strengthening the role of citizens and local governance in the neighbouring Countries: lessons learned and opportunities from East to South”.



*ALDA General Assembly 2012, with Mr. Renzo Tondo, President Region Friuli Venezia Giulia*

The General Assembly took place in Udine (Italy) on the 7th and 8th of June 2012 and it was linked to an international conference open also to new potential members of the Association, which focused on the issue of “Strengthening the role of citizens and local governance in the neighbouring Countries: lessons learned and opportunities from East to South”.

In the afternoon of the first day (7th June) took place an international conference on the issue “Strengthening the role of citizens and local governance in the neighbouring Countries: lessons learned and opportunities from East to South”.

During the conference, promoted by ALDA and the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia, starting from a position pa-

per drafted by ALDA, the discussion focused on the role of European Authorities and NGOs on promoting the participation of Civil Society on local governance.

For many years, European institutions, local authorities and civil society have been active supporting democracy and good governance in Eastern Europe and in Western Balkans. The European Union decided a further enlargement towards South Eastern Europe and developed new forms of cooperation with Eastern partners. How this experience could be of benefit of southern countries, which are living a new and difficult spring? How to do it and bring an added value? Is it appropriate to do it? Which methodology to adopt in this case? These questions and many more have been discussed during the conference splitted in two panels focusing on the “opportunities for consolidating the European Policy and Action in Neighbouring Countries” and “Networks of Civil Society active for Local Governance. Lesson learned and ideas for the near future”. ALDA members had the chance to debate and listen to relevant panellist from Eastern Europe and Mediterranean countries.



*ALDA General Assembly 2012, 150 participants*



## 4.4 Our new Working Groups

ALDA Governing Board's members have decided to start five Working Groups, aiming to involve ALDA's members more directly into its activities. The Working Groups ensure members' direct and active participation in ALDA, strengthening its activities. All ALDA members will join one or more Working Groups. The five Working groups that have been established are:

1. Balkans: Chaired by Region Lower-Normandy (FR);
2. Euro-Mediterranean Area: Chaired by Region Apulia (IT) and Region Friuli Venezia-Giulia (IT);
3. Citizen participation: Chaired by Maison de l'Europe (FR);
4. LDAs: Chaired by LDA Sisak (HR);
5. Eastern Partnership: Chaired by International School of Bydgoszcz (PL) and Monfalcone Municipality (IT).



*ALDA, LDAs Team and new Governing Board*

## 4.5. Country meetings

Country meetings took part in several countries in Europe. In particular, they took part in October and November 2012 in Italy for the preparation of the European Year of Citizens in Europe and in France, linked to event of WTD in December 2012.

Connected to the events and activities of ALDA, country meeting with the local partners of ALDA took place in Denmark (during the Danish Presidency). Activities and country meetings took place in all the countries of the Balkans in coordination with the LDAs as well as in Southern Caucassus.

The country meetings give the possibilities to members of ALDA to know each other better and to identify possible common activities.

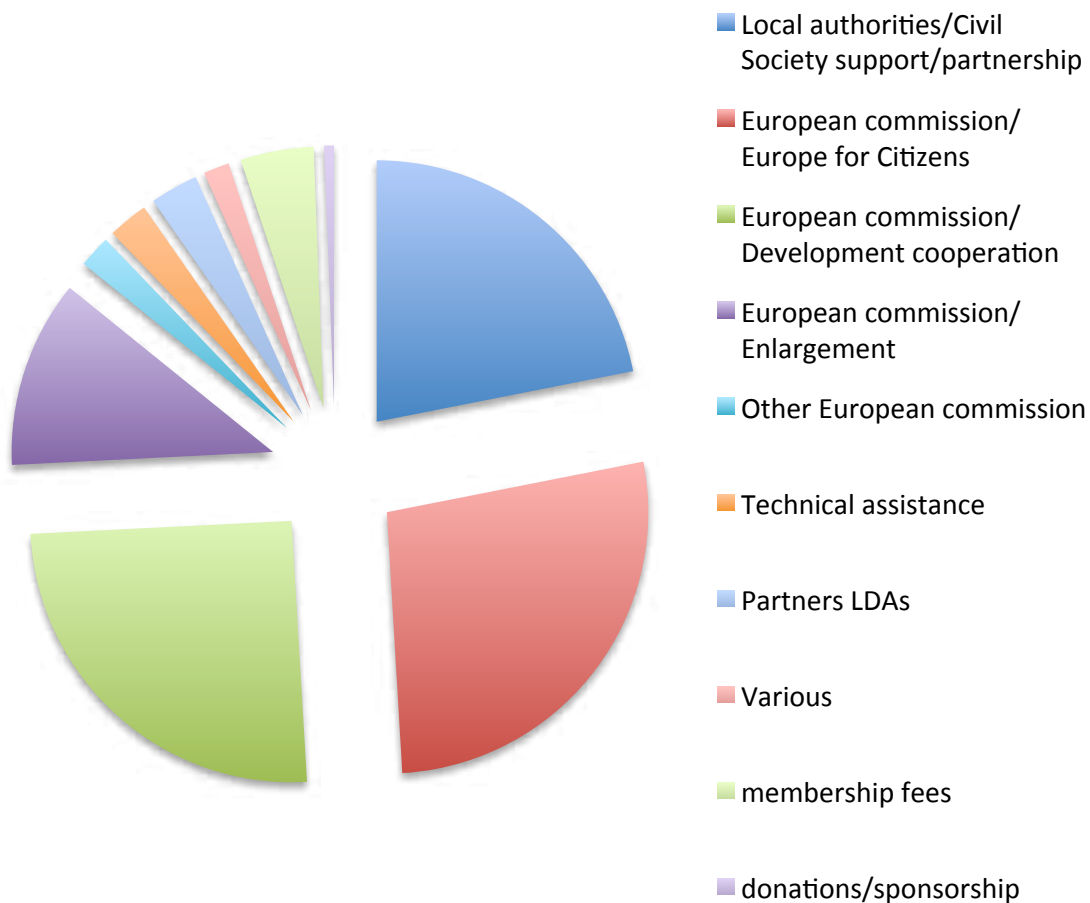


*ALDA General Assembly 2012, the Chair of the GA, Mrs. Chrissa Geraga, city of Patras (GR)*

#### 4.6. Budget and supports in 2012

**The budget for 2012 was 2.349.879 Euro, which represents an increase of activity since 2011**

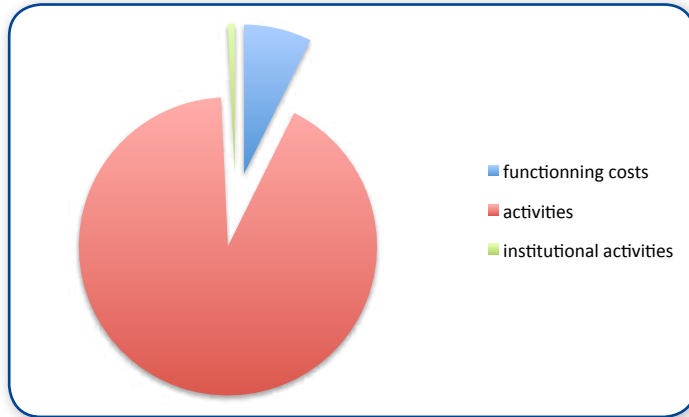
Here is below expressed the composition of the contributions to ALDA.





## Subdivision of the costs

1. Functioning costs rate : 7,33 %
2. Activities : 91,93 %
3. Institutional activities : 0,73



## 5. ALDA, an international stakeholder

### 5.1. ALDA and the Eastern Partnership

ALDA is active with all six Eastern Partnership countries. In 2006 the first LDA in the Eastern Partnership area opened in Georgia. In 2011 ALDA opened a LDA in Armenia. Currently there are specific plans to open LDAs in Azerbaijan and Ukraine. The LDA in Ukraine is scheduled to open in the autumn of 2013 and the LDA in Azerbaijan could during in 2013 if adequate support is found. The plans for an LDA in Moldova are currently under development. In addition to the LDA activities, ALDA has also had projects on citizen participation and cooperation with Local Authorities in Belarus since 2006, these projects have mainly been sup-

ported by the European Union's Non State Actors and Local Authorities in Development programme.

During the period since 2006 European cooperation with the Eastern Partnership area has intensified notably. Most significantly was EU's decision to launch the Eastern Partnership in 2009. This came as a reaction to a growing interest in the region and concern of the possible impact the region could have on EU's security and stability, as the 2008 conflict in Georgia demonstrated. Under the neighbourhood policy and the Eastern Partnership, EU expressed its wish to deepen its relationship with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine and participate in the promotion of internal reforms based on democratic principles and good governance.

ALDA is an active part of supporting this policy, not only through the bilateral work ALDA engages in with LDAs and projects in the Eastern Partnership countries, but also through ALDA's participation in the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum and the Conference of the Regional and Local Authorities for the Eastern Partnership (CORLEAP). ALDA coordinates the Subgroup on Local Government and Public Administration Reform of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum. In 2012 the Subgroup developed a policy paper on Fiscal Decentralisation in Eastern Partnership countries and CORLEAP agreed to make this topic one of its priorities for 2013. In the spring 2013 CORLEAP and the Subgroup on Local Government and Public Administration Reform will organise a joint conference on Fiscal Decentralisation to discuss this topic and give input to the Heads of State summit for Eastern Partnership that will be held in Vilnius in November 2013.

For more information about ALDA's activities and projects in the Eastern Partnership area please see section II chapter 2.3

## 5.2. ALDA in the Mediterranean area

ALDA started three years ago to work in the south bank of the Mediterranean with a project on the topic of migration within the EU-UNDP Joint Migration and Development Initiative (JMDI) ([www.migration4development.org](http://www.migration4development.org)). 2012 saw the end of the JMDI's first phase. We were then requested to give an evaluation of the overall process and to give feedback on expectations for the next programming period. We expect that UNDP gives a special focus on local authorities, their resources and their development in the Mediterranean. ALDA will stand ready to activate its usual instruments and tailor them to the needs of the Mediterranean countries. Referring to its 12-year experience in the Balkans and the South Caucasus, ALDA developed a specific methodology called Active Citizenship Modules that engages local authorities and civil society and which aims at assessing and addressing problem solving together. The methodology of citizen panels is also a collaborative method of work that enables dialogue between authorities and citizens. There are two main differences with the previous method. This methodology specifically targets ordinary citizens that are not usually involved in consultation processes at local level and find here the possibility to voice their concern about a specific issue. The second is the presence of activators, who act as resource persons and multipliers in their communities, and who can motivate the participants to actively take part in the panel discussions.

In accordance with ALDA's Mediterranean strategy, we focused our attention to Tunisia and especially one organisation, Lam Echaml, which we identified as a potential partner for some of our initiatives. Lam Echaml is a platform of sixty associations of civil society and many individual citizens working together to create tomorrow's modern and democratic Tunisian Republic. After the fall of the Ben Ali regime, many associations, initiatives and groups emerged,

each providing building blocks for the future Tunisia. However civil society seemed to suffer from its dispersion and its breakdown. This is why Lam Echaml (which means "Bringing Together Diverse Trends") called for uniting all democratic and progressive initiatives which include republican and basic democratic values. Lam Echaml aspires to affirm their commitment to a constant upholding of its principles, as a minimum platform of cooperation:

1. The republican regime and its values of secularism.
2. Respect for individual and public freedoms.
3. Full equality between women and men.
4. The separation between religion and state, an essential guarantee for a democratic society respecting the right to differ and freedom of conscience.
5. The attachment to the culture and civilization of our country.

In December 2011 a project called Citizens' Workshop for Drafting the Tunisian Constitution - Ateliers d'écriture Citoyenne de la Constitution » (ATECC), was initiated by Lam Echaml. The project aims at mobilizing the public and associations to investigate and propose a citizen drafting of the Constitution and involve civil society members through the network Lam Echaml to the elaboration of the new Constitution. The ATECC project puts into practice participative democracy in Tunisia as they offer to organizations, associations and citizens the opportunity to make largely known their ideas, reflexions and requests about the future Tunisian Constitution.

We invited Moncef Ben Slimane, President of the Lam Echaml network of civil society organisations, to the Udine General Assembly. Lam Echaml invited a delegation headed by Oriano Otocan to Jendouba in December 2012 at one of Lam Echaml's workshops (ATECC) on writing the new Tunisian Constitution. The main topic of the event was the local good governance and decentralisation in Tunisia

in comparison to the existing European practice. Oriano Otocan spoke about the Croatian experience in decentralisation and regionalisation, Alessandro Perelli described the French, Italian and German systems, Biljana Zasova described the Macedonian decentralized system after 15 years of independence from former Yugoslavia and Aleksandra Jerkov spoke about the Serbian Constitutional system and the way Serbia's Constitution was developed and voted.

### 5.3. ALDA in South-East Europe

Despite its involvement in other neighbourhood regions, ALDA's work in South-East Europe and in the Western Balkans in particular, remains of particular importance. Firstly, the countries concerned have all established a clear path to European integration and have committed to reforms in that perspective. Despite the length of some national processes and sometimes mixed messages from the EU, their citizens are still overwhelmingly pro-European. Secondly, the EU countries (especially where one can find ALDA members) have an increasing interest in enabling these countries' accession to the EU and consider that cooperation at any levels is the key word for success. The result of that kind of cooperation is Croatia's accession on 1st July 2013, after years of high-level negotiations and many reforms. The fact that ALDA members elected a Croatian President in June 2012 is a good indicator of the desire to continue to bridge relations among EU and non-EU but European countries. Lastly, the new status of resource centres for the Croatian LDAs is an achievement and an excellent opportunity to pass the knowledge and experience in peace-building, good governance and development at local level to other countries and regions in Europe. Having this general objective in mind, ALDA continued to work with specific programmes of decentralised cooperation and other programmes.

A relevant decentralised cooperation programme coordinated by ALDA is **the Lower Normandy-Macedonia**

**programme.** This programme exists thanks to the relentless and continuous efforts by the Lower-Normandy regional council to maintain and develop further links with the Ministry of Local Self-Government of the Republic of Macedonia, with the support by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In support to this programme, but also to develop other projects in Macedonia, ALDA opened a branch on 14th February 2012 in Skopje.

During the General Assembly that took place in June 2012, a new governing board of ALDA was elected among which Ms Annie Anne, Vice-President in charge of international relations from the Lower Normandy Region.

The cooperation was also reinforced on institutional level through greater implication of the Macedonian Ministry of Local Self-Government and through the signature of a renewed Cooperation Agreement, which continued the successful cooperation in the next three years. The Cooperation Agreement was signed by the Vice-President of the Lower Normandy Region, Corinne Feret, and the Macedonian Minister of Local Self-Government, Nevzat Bejta, on 4th July 2012 in Skopje in the presence of the French Ambassador Jean-Claude Schlumberger.



*TETOVO seminar on tourism 10-11/05/2012*

## 5.4. ALDA in world-wide networks

### Cooperation with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and Council of Europe



The cooperation with the Congress is an institutional

activity of ALDA since the President of the Congress sits also in our Governing Board and Bureau. We have involved the Congress in many activities, in particular with those regarding the development of the LDA in Armenia. Several meetings took place in order to harmonize the approach and initiatives in the different countries where the LDAs are based. The Congress representatives participated regularly in our meetings. ALDA and the LDAs contributed also different initiatives promoted by the Congress and gave its feedback in the case of the Monitoring mission as for Local Democracy Agency in Azerbaijan. ALDA took part with a stand in the spring and autumn Plenary session of the Congress.

ALDA and the LDAs contributed to the European Local Democracy Week, with several initiatives, in October 2012. Active participation in the World Forum for Democracy on 5-11th October 2012 in Strasbourg, in particular in a programme organised by the Region Alsace in Regional Development.

### Conference of the International Non-Governmental Organisations and promotion of the Code of Good Practices on Civil Participation in the Decision-Making Process

ALDA is a member of the Conference of the INGOs of the Council of Europe and actively involved in the pro-



CONFERENCE OF INGOs  
OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

CONFERENCE DES OING DU  
COUNSEIL DE L'EUROPE

motion of the Code of Good Practices on Civil Participation. Antonella Valmorbida took part in the expert's committee meetings set by the Conference of INGOs and promoted the knowledge and dissemination of the Code and its use in various projects and initiatives.

### Committee of the Regions

EUROPEAN UNION



### Committee of the Regions

The partnership with the Committee of the Regions has been strengthened in 2012 both in project and institutional terms. Today ALDA is listed among the Association of Local and regional Authorities included in the structural dialogue of the CoR and we were engaged in numbers of consultations and dialogues on several relevant actions for us. We actively participated in the European Forum of Cities in Copenhagen, March 2012 with a stand presenting the good practices the city of Reggio Emilia. We were actively engaged in a study and workshop for the development for a European Charter on Multi-level Governance. And we took part in the Civex commissions and Open Days 2012.

A particular good cooperation has been established in the context of the Civil Society Forum for Eastern Partnership and the work of the Subgroup on Local Government and Public Administration reform (see further).

## Civil Society Forum for Eastern Partnership



EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

Civil Society Forum

ALDA is member of the Civil Society Forum

for Eastern Partnership and leader of the Subgroup on Local Government and Public Administration Reform of the WG 1. M, Sondergaard participated in the CSF EaP in Stockholm in November 2012.

The animation of the sub group included a joint initiative on Fiscal Decentralisation in the EaP and the dissemination of an assessment on the issue. In December 2012, an hearing on Azerbaijan case was presented at the CoR.

## European Economic and Social Committee



ALDA took part in different initiatives for the launch of the European Citizens Initiative.

It was actively involved in different hearing on Civil Society and preparation of the **European Year of Active Citizens**. Antonella Valmorbidia was the expert for a report on the **Role of Civil Society in the MED area**. In December, we participated in the Civil Society meeting in Zagreb for Western Balkans.

## Launch of the Alliance of the European Year of Citizens



European Year of Citizens 2013 Alliance

ALDA was closely following and promoting all the preparatory actions and documents for the EYAC Alliance at the EU, Italian and Croatian level, since October 2012.

## Structured dialogue for the programme Europe for Citizens

We had the chance to participate to all the Structural Dialogue of the programme Europe for Citizens and we took part in the coordination programme of the implementing organisations of the programme Remembrance.

## European Movement International (EMI)



**European Movement  
Mouvement Européen**

ALDA is member of the European Movement International and involved in the

committee for Eastern Partnership and Enlargement and political one. In 2012, numbers of activities have been taken place in order to promote a better knowledge of the European matters in particular in promoting the mechanisms of citizen participation at the European level identified in the Art 11 of the Lisbon Treaty. A particular work with the Italian Section of EMI, CIME, has been done to prepare the European Year of Citizens and the upcoming Alliance for the EYAC 2013.

<http://ey2013-alliance.eu> - <http://www.ey2013-italia.eu>

## European Federalist Movement



MOVIMENTO FEDERALISTA EUROPEO

Joint activities, in particular with the office of Vicenza, which shares the same office, were implemented, as well as dissemination and information on the different processes for further and deeper European Integration. We had a joint initiative for young people participating in a training seminar in Neumarkt (Austria), July 2013 and in Ventotene (September).



## Concord

**CONCORD** CONCORD is the European NGO confederation for Relief and Development. Its 27 national associations, 18 international networks and 2 associate members represent 1,800 NGOs which are supported by millions of citizens across Europe. CONCORD envisages a world where a prosperous Europe enjoys an open relationship with the global community, sharing wealth and expertise to ensure that all the earth's citizens live a life of dignity and enjoy full rights to development.

ALDA has been an associate member of CONCORD since 2011. ALDA participated in the Structured Dialogue Task Force and in the Working Group on Enlargement, Pre-Accession and Neighbourhood (EPAN). Through CONCORD, ALDA is informed about and influencing EU development policies and programmes. Since 2012, Alfonso Aliberti, ALDA Programme Manager, has been a member of the steering group of the EPAN working group. This ensures a strong synergy between ALDA and CONCORD's work in the EPAN area, especially in the framework of the Working Together for Development programme.

## Cooperation with CIVICUS – the World Alliance for Citizen Participation



In 2012, the Director of ALDA, Antonella Valmorbida, was appointed Board Member of the World Alliance for citizens' participation, CIVICUS ([www.civicus.org](http://www.civicus.org)). She participated in the World Assembly in Montréal in September 2012, to-

gether with the President of ALDA, Oriano Otocan.

The role of ALDA in Civicus is to bring the added value of civil society working with local authorities to promote better citizens' involvement at the local level. Being CIVICUS a worldwide alliance, ALDA represents also a European partner in contact with the European Commission.



*Mr Otočan, Mrs Valmorbida, David Bonbright, Katsuji Imata, CIVICUS World Assembly in Montreal, September 2012*

## UNDP – Art Gold



We implemented common initiative on the field of decentralised cooperation and shared initiatives on the issue of cooperation between local authorities and civil society. They participated in General Assembly of ALDA.

ALDA join an initiative in New York in July 2012, at the UN Forum for Cooperation. *Empowered lives. Resilient nations.*

## Anna Lindh Foundation and its French network



Since 2009, ALDA is member of the French network of Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF), which is the French branch of the largest Network of civil society organisations involved in the promotion of intercultural dialogue across Europe and the Mediterranean and established in 43 countries of the Union for the Mediterranean. The French branch gathers more than 400 organizations active in the MED area and is a pool of potential partners for ALDA. ALDA is involved in many activities of the network, such as meetings, networking activities and development of project co-financed by the Foundation. In particular, ALDA was represented in the General Assembly and Members' meetings of the French branch held in Marseille and Paris in 2012. Furthermore, ALDA has been granted with two projects supported by the Foundation: one entitled "Programme des Jeunes Citoyens Engagés" aiming at promoting active citizenship and the entrepreneurial spirit among young people and the other consisting in a Citizens Exchange between ALDA and the organization Lam Echaml from Tunisia, which will start in 2013.

## Chapter II- Our activities: build partnerships for good governance and participation

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

- by coordinating and supporting the 13 Local Democracy Agencies in their programmes and activities,
- by conducting its own projects in the field of good governance and citizen participation at local level or
- by giving assistance to other local stakeholders' initiatives by providing expertise gained through ALDA's knowledge and experience in the regions where ALDA and the Local Democracy Agencies work.



LDA ALBANIA, Tirana October 2012

### 1. LDA's programme and activities

## LDA Albania

### Delegate

**Francesco Fiera**, until 30th June 2012

**Lila Pirani**, from 1st July 2012



### Established in 2010

**Partners:** *Municipality of Brindisi (Italy) - Lead partner; Apulia Region Bari (Italy); Association of Albanian Municipalities (Albania); Bashkia Shkodra (Albania); Municipality of Yverdon-les-Bains (Switzerland); I.P.R.E.S. Pugliese Institute of Social and Economic Research (Italy)*

### Main priorities

- Strengthening cross-border and regional cooperation
- Supporting capacity building for local authorities and NGOs.
- Supporting youth or women empowerment to micro-credits.
- Promotion of intercultural dialogue and understanding in multi-ethnic local communities.
- Confidence building between different ethnic groups on the local and regional level.
- Supporting European Union integration.



## I. High Level Conference: The Role of Decentralisation on the Consolidation of Democracy in Albania and the European Integration

**LEAD PARTNERS:** *Albanian Government / Council of Europe; Office in Tirana*

**OTHER PARTNERS:** *LDA Albania, Congress of local and regional authorities of the Council of Europe; Albanian Ministry of Interior; UNDP/ Art Gold*

**TIMING:** *30th -31st October 2012*

### PURPOSE

To jointly work on promotion of good local governance in Albania, in the framework of the Albanian Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers. It brought together representatives of the Albanian Government, members of Parliament, EU speakers and representatives of local and regional authorities in Albania and Europe, civil society, business community as well as academics and donors. The Conference had different thematic sessions: Consolidation of the Regionalisation process; Promotion of human rights at local level and raising awareness among local and regional authorities; Overpassing obstacles in cross-border cooperation; Strengthening citizen participation and good governance at local level. LDA Albania's delegate took part in a panel on Local and Regional Development.

## II. Sustainable urban mobility plan (SUMP)

**LEAD PARTNER:** *Shkoder Municipality*

**OTHER PARTNERS:** *Bar Municipality, Montenegro; LDA Albania; Institute of Transport, Governmental Body, Albania; Mobiel 21 vzw, NGO from Belgium; Expeditio, NGO from Montenegro.*

**DONOR:** *IPA Adriatic Cross-border Cooperation AI-MNE 2007-2013, 3rd Call for Ordinary Project proposals*

**TIMING:** *24 months (started in 2012)*

### PURPOSE

Shkodra and Bar engage in sustainable urban mobility planning (SUMP) to preserve and to promote a clean, active and energy efficient travel life style (walking, cycling and public transport), reduce in town air pollution, improve road safety between the two towns.

### ACTIVITIES

- Build a plan in an interactive cycle;
- Develop standard databases and planning tools for urban mobility planning;
- Preservation, respectively promotion of the cycling life style;
- Parking management program and a demo paid parking, first time in the history of the cities;
- European Mobility week and awareness raising for the sustainable urban travel lifestyle;
- Project management.

## SUCCESS STORIES

With its 29% cycling share and gender equity in cycle use, Shkodra is the unique cycling city in Southeast and Central Europe and the equal to some famous and attractive cycling cities in Western Europe, but due to growing pressure from car traffic and parked cars, the position of pedestrians and cyclists is fragile. By committing to this project, Shkodra and Bar engaged proactively in seeking ways for alternative mobility. Therefore the project will create a reference base in Albania and Montenegro for the new EU wide promoted SUMP approach. The final beneficiaries of the project will be all citizens, all age and gender, visitors and tourist.

### III. Coop Tour

**LEAD PARTNER:** *Shkoder Municipality*

**OTHER PARTNERS:** *LDA Albania; Municipality of Ulqinj, Public Body, Montenegro; Teuleda, NGO, Albania; Focus Europe, NGO, Italy*

**DONOR:** *IPA Adriatic Cross-border Cooperation AI-MNE 2007-2013, 3rd Call for Ordinary Project proposals*

**TIMING:** *24 months (started in 2012)*

## PURPOSE

To foster sustainable economic, social and cultural development of the border area between Albania and Montenegro through the valorisation of the cultural, one gastronomic and natural heritage of the area and the promotion of sustainable forms of cultural, rural and oeno-gastronomic tourism.

## ACTIVITIES

Organisation of three cultural festivals respectively focused on photography, painting and audiovisuals, handicraft and wine and food. These initiatives include:

- Public conferences on specific issues related to the event's theme;
- Contests among artists, artisans and cooks from the cities, involved in photography, short-movies, painting, food and wine, handicraft;
- Exhibition and fairs also include all artistic and handicraft works produced for the contests. Works produced in Montenegro will be shown in Albania and vice versa, in order to enhance cross-border cooperation and cultural dialogue;
- Concerts and artistic performances from local artists and musicians.

## SUCCESS STORIES

Each event foresees wide participation and involvement of relevant economic stakeholders from the territory of every project partner, in order to foster, valorise and disseminate the cultural, wine and food and economic heritage and products of all involved territories. Training courses and networking activities were organised during the preparation for the festivals. In 2013, networking activities will be realised in the form of round tables and workshops in which local tourism stakeholders will discuss on ways for cooperation and will elaborate integrated tourism offers. Finally, alongside the itinerant exhibition promotional material (publications, catalogues, pictures, videos, guides) will be widely disseminated.

# LDA Mostar (Bosnia Herzegovina)

## Delegate

*Dženana Dedić*



**Established in 2004**

### **PARTNERS:**

*Apulia Region, Italy (Lead Partner)*

*City of Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina (Host city)*

*City of Monfalcone, Italy*

*Province of Brindisi, Italy*

*NGO IPSIA, Italy;*

*City of Kragujevac, Serbia*

*Municipality of Vejle, Denmark*

## Main priorities

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

## I. Monitoring of local services on local level

**LEAD PARTNER:** *Local Democracy Agency Mostar*

**DONOR:** *Open Society Fund Bosnia and Herzegovina*

**TIMING:** *December 2011 – November 2012*

## PURPOSE

Improvement of responsibility and efficiency of local authorities in BiH in providing public services and meeting citizen needs through a more active role of civil society. More specifically, it aimed

- to increase accountability of local authorities for provision of services on local level;
- to increase citizen participation in decision making processes related to provision of local services;
- to create conditions for continuous monitoring of the level of satisfaction of citizens with the services provided.



*LDA MOSTAR, IPA BiH, Bihac radne grupe*

## SUCCESS STORY

By implementing the project, LDA Mostar involved citizens in the evaluation of public services, establishing a dialogue between citizens and local authorities, and creating new relation at local level.

LDA Mostar is also partner in the project Civil society for Partnership and Dialogue where ALDA is leader.

## ACTIVITIES

This objective has been realised in the units of local self-government by application of the PULS methodology with activities of continuous assessment and improvement of public services.

- In January – February 2012: preparatory meetings and signing of agreements with the representatives of Mostar, Konjic and Jablanica;
- On 27th -29th March, LDA Mostar organised a training course for surveyors;
- On 2nd -20th April, LDA Mostar organised three field surveys in Jablanica, Konjic and Mostar;
- The results of the survey were presented on September 2012, during three public tribunes, taking place in each municipality, participating to the survey.

# LDA Prijedor (Bosnia Herzegovina)

## Delegate

*Dragan Dosen*

### Established in 2000



**PARTNERS:** *Association Project Prijedor, Italy  
(Lead partner)  
Municipality of Prijedor, Bosnia and Herzegovina (Host city)*

*ALDA Office in Vincenza, Italy*

*Association Tavolo Trentino per Kraljevo, Serbia*

*Association Tavolo Trentino per Kosovo, Kosovo*

## Main priorities

- Support citizen participation.
- Support the democratic process at local level.
- Foster the social network between citizens, organisations and local institutions.
- Support social inclusion and local economic development.
- Contribute to work on memory at local and regional level.



*LDA PRIJEDOR Youth fair 2012*

### The Association Project Prijedor includes partnerships with:

*Italian Municipalities of Aldeno, Baselga di Pinè, Borgo Valsugana, Caderzone, Caldonazzo, Cavalese, Grumes, Lavis, Levico, Massimeno, Pergine Valsugana, Pinzolo, Predazzo, Ronzo Chienis, Spiazzo, Tassullo, Trento and Varena  
District of Valle dell'Adige, Italy  
District of Alta Valsugana, Italy  
Cooperative of Social promotion L'Ancora, Italy  
Association Trentino in the World, Italy  
Association The Mosaic, Italy  
Association The Joy, Italy  
Association CISV, Italy  
Association Yugo 94, Italy*

## I. Memories, dialogues and conflict elaborations area

**LEAD PARTNERS:** *Trentino con i Balcani Trento and LDA Prijedor, LDA Central and Southern Serbia- Kraljevo office, LDA Kosovo*

**OTHER PARTNERS:** *Youth organisations from Prijedor, Prijedor Municipality, Fondazione Museo Storico del Trentino; Forum Trentino forper la Pace e i Diritti Umani; Osservatorio Balcani e Caucaso; Università di Bologna – Centri interdipartimentali TraMe e CUBE; ARCI Cooperazione e Sviluppo, Dokukino – Belgrade*

**DONOR:** *Autonomous Province of Trento, Italy*

**TIMING:** 2012

### PURPOSE

To improve relations and coexistence among the communities from Prijedor, Kraljevo and Peja/Pec, within a regional perspective through a shared reflection on the past, present and future of the local context and the entire regional area. More specifically, it aims:

- To broaden the base of active participants in activities of encounter, dialogue and planning on memories of the past in the three territories, enlarging the group of people already trained;
- to expand activities in other communities and on other sensitive themes;
- to raise awareness and sensitivity on the issue of different memories and processing of the conflict;
- to raise knowledge and interest in iconic figures of dialogue and coexistence;
- to strengthen existing partnerships with respect

to the implementation of the activities in question at the local and regional levels and between the Balkans and Trentino;

- to create new partnerships with respect to the implementation of the activities at local and regional levels between the Balkans and Trentino;
- to sustain the project by starting a regular platform of dialogue among the three territories.

### ACTIVITIES

- Personal histories, documentary and exhibition on Bekim Fehmiu, resulting from projects, developed by the working group in Tivat during summer 2010, through the collaboration of youth and adults from the three territories;
- Implementation of four meetings with professors, writers, journalists and publicists, coming from the territory of former Yugoslavia, who have had an active role in reconciliation.

## II. International youth fair 2012

**LEAD PARTNER:** *Associazione Trentino con i Balcani (Italy)*

**OTHER PARTNERS:** *LDA Prijedor, Arcelor Mittal Prijedor, Municipality Prijedor, Agency for Economic development of municipality Prijedor PREDA, Youth center "KVART" and youth organization "Stop drugs" Prijedor.*

**DONOR:** *Associazione Trentino con i Balcani (Italy), Arcelor Mittal Foundation, Municipality Prijedor and youth organization "Stop drugs" Prijedor.*

**TIMING:** August 2012

## PURPOSE

To promote youth activism through the networking of youth organisations in South-Eastern Europe and the EU together with local and national / state institutions, through joint projects, financed by international funds, and to create a network of youth organisations in the region.

## ACTIVITIES

- Stands with 15 youth NGOs, where they presented their promotional material, including mission, values and implemented activities;
- Sport competitions, such as table football, table tennis, running with balloons, and passing the torch;
- Round table, focusing on Youth Entrepreneurship, with the presence of a representative of the Agency for economic development of municipality Prijedor PREDA;
- Live Music Concert.

## SUCCESS STORIES

New partners for the LDA - Municipality Prijedor and youth organization "Stop drugs" Prijedor.

## III. Social integration area in the territory of Prijedor

**LEAD PARTNER:** *Association Project Prijedor, Trento, Italy*

**OTHER PARTNERS:** *Bosnia Herzegovina: the retirement home of Prijedor, the Social Services Centre in Prijedor; Club of the Elders of Ljubija, Association of mentally disable people from Prijedor*

**DONOR:** *Municipality of Trento, Autonomous Province of Trento, the Association Progetto Prijedor and other towns of Trento and private donors*

**TIMING:** *1st February 2012- 1st March 2013*

## PURPOSE

To improve the socio-economic conditions of the most marginalized categories of people in the territory of Prijedor to enhance quality of life of elderly people, living in the municipality of Prijedor, and to decrease their isolation and poverty, increasing their social inclusion.

## ACTIVITIES

- Socio-economic integration of marginal groups, enhancing the services already implemented in the past and promoting new ones;
- To promote social integration services, giving skills to disabled;
- To support the Association for Disabled People in Prijedor, in some activities of the centre;
- To contribute to the organization of entertainment and some manual activities and capacity building for users of the center, as a process of occupational therapy;



- To collect material for the centre, using disused public furniture from Trentino;
- To give assistance and care to elderly people, through LDA's coordination of social workers;
- To raise awareness and disseminate information about disability, through the organisation of the Disability Day.

### SUCCESS STORIES

- A large proportion of older people using their free time doing crafts, gymnastics and participated actively in the improvement of their lives;
- Insured humanitarian packages and hot meals for at least 35 elderly members of the day care centre Ljubija and Prijedor;
- Provided home care for 10 elderly members of the day care centre Ljubija.
- Older people receiving centres Ljubija and Prijedor are better informed on the preservation of their health.
- The local community is more aware about the problems of the elderly and disable people
- Disabled people more integrated in society.

## IV. Youth area

**LEAD PARTNERS:** *Association Trentino con i Balcani, Associazione Progetto Prijedor from Trento and LDA of Prijedor*

**OTHER PARTNERS:** *Youth organisations from Prijedor, Youth organisations from Trento*

**DONOR:** *Autonomous Province of Trento, Italy*

**TIMING:** 2012

### PURPOSE

To strengthen and increase youth participation and broaden the cultural life in the various territories through the network of community.

### ACTIVITIES

- Participation of young people from Prijedor to youth film festival in Trento, on May 2012;
- Participation of five young people from Prijedor in summer trekking, with donkeys in Trento, on July 2012;
- Summer camp in Prijedor, realised from 6th to 12th August in collaboration with youth organisation CISV, from Trento for 30 young people from Prijedor and Trento;
- All year: Exchanges between high schools from Prijedor and Trento (school of electrical engineering, agricultural and building school);
- All year: Exchanges of youth organisations, from Prijedor and Trento.

### SUCCESS STORIES

We have registered an increased motivation of youth organisations in networking with other youth associations and a more active involvement of young people in their youth organisations.



# LDA Zavidovići (Bosnia Herzegovina)

**Delegate**  
*Sladjan Ilic*



**Established in 1997**

**PARTNERS:** Association for Local Democracy Embassy in Zavidovici, Italy (Lead partner): Association

of Local Authorities of Brescia, Italy Local Authority of Alba

Municipality of Zavidovici, Bosnia and Herzegovina (Host city)

Local Authority of Roncadelle

Union of Sport for All, Italy

Trade Union SPI-CGIL, Italy

Inter-University Consortium, Italy

NGO Liberacion carpenedolo, Italy

Local Coordination for Peace of Cremona, Italy

Arch New Organization, Italy

NGO CGIL, Italy

NGO SPI-CGIL, Italy

UISP, Italy

Friends of Emmaus, Italy

Municipality of Torre de Picenardi, Italy

Association Strani Vari, Italy

Association Donne – Donne in nero Progetto, Italy



LDA ZAVIDOVIĆI, activities with schools

## Main priorities

- strengthen its activities in the key sectors Youth policies, Social Welfare and Sustainable Economic Development.
- Increase the network of local actors involved, promoting their role, animating and supporting them through LDA's Italian partners and network.
- Enlarge the relationship with local and international NGOs, Bosnian institutions and foreign authorities.
- Support local NGOs active in the social and education field.

## I. Development of local economies in the Zenica-Doboj Conton

**LEAD PARTNER:** LDA Zavidovići Municipality

**OTHER PARTNERS:** Association Buona Terra, University of Padova, Cinsa – Italian Universities Consortium on Environmental Sciences, CRPV of Cesena, Local Associations of farmers from Zavidovici and Zepce

**DONOR:** Lombardia Region, CGIL of Crema, Municipality of Roncadelle, Province of Cremona

**TIMING:** 2010-2012

### PURPOSES

To foster local economic development, agricultural and hand-crafted production. Besides, project works on developing a strong local food culture through educational programs, networking opportunities and increased availability of locally grown food.

### ACTIVITIES

- Definition of the farming plans for each farmer;
- Production of small plants;
- Seeding of the first new varieties and distribution among the selected farmers in the experimental areas;
- Supporting of the farmers through consultancy and financial contribution;
- Setting up of the selling point;
- Evaluation and follow up;
- Scholarships for two students from agriculture Faculty in Sarajevo.

## SUCCESS STORIES

The first goal has been achieved through demonstrating diversification of agricultural products in the selected areas of each involved farm. In 2012 LDA Zavidovici succeeded:

- to diversify products and increase the household incomes of the 25 targeted farmer families through training, consultancy and technical support in the cultivation and processing and with the creation of a market linkages with buyers;
- to create opportunities to grow and sell locally.

## II. Development of competitive production model for sustainable agriculture

**LEAD PARTNER:** Zavidovići Municipality

**OTHER PARTNERS:** LDA Zavidovići

**DONOR:** MFA Italy – SeeNet II, Regione Piemonte

**TIMING:** 2010-2012

### PURPOSES

To contribute to reduce poverty and improve socio-economic situation in the territory of Zavidovići Municipality, in general. It is designed to increase income in rural households which basic activity is agriculture.

### ACTIVITIES

- Development of more efficient and competitive production models;
- Better quality of products;

- Diversification of agricultural production (different kinds of vegetables);
- Education of farmers in order to improve their skills;
- Provide some equipment and means for better production (green houses, cultivators).

### III. Project "CREMONA INCONTRA ZAVIDOVIĆI"

**LEAD PARTNER:** LDA Zavidovići

**OTHER PARTNERS:** ARCI Cremona, CGIL Cremona, CGIL Crema, UISP Cremona, Municipality of Zavidovići

**DONOR:** *Coordinamento Provinciale degli Enti Locali per la Pace e Cooperazione Internazionale*

**TIMING:** 2012

#### PURPOSES

To expand cooperation and solidarity between Zavidovići and Cremona.

#### ACTIVITIES

A delegation from the Province of Cremona represented by its Municipalities for Peace Network and civil society organisations from Cremona.

On the occasion friendship and solidarity vows have been reiterated between the two territories with the confirmation of current activities and planning of future actions in the social field.

Within this project in 2012 a micro action of improving infrastructure in the Local Community Kovači took place.

### IV. Town-twinning between Roncadelle and Zavidovići Municipalities

**LEAD PARTNERS:** LDA Zavidovići

**OTHER PARTNERS:** *Municipality of Zavidovići*

**DONOR:** *Municipality of Roncadelle*

**TIMING:** 2012

#### PURPOSES

- Promote a culture of peace within their respective communities as a instrument for continuation and expansion of freedom, democracy, justice, equality and welfare;
- Favour international cooperation as a means to support the development of regions in difficulty and therefore build solidarity between peoples;
- Increase ties and cooperation between the two communities on cultural, social, recreational and sports field, with the involvement of schools, associations and volunteer groups;
- Promote visits and cultural exchanges and enable mutual acquaintance;
- Promote the development of economic and commercial exchanges;
- Support the European integration process.

#### ACTIVITIES

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

## V. A safe place for victims of domestic violence: Accompaniment to autonomy and Development of Local Resources

**LEAD PARTNER:** LDA Zavidovići

**OTHER PARTNERS:** Ser.T. Asl CN 2 – Alba Bra, Social Welfare Center of Alba Langhe Roero, University of South - East Piedmont – Department of Social Research, Association Mai piu sole, Municipality of Zavidovici, Ass. "Sigurno mjesto", several primary and high schools, Association "Žena-Ženi", Kindergarten Zavidovici.

**DONOR:** Region Piemonte, Municipality of Alba

**TIMING:** 2012

### PURPOSE

To develop initiatives to support victims of domestic violence and against the culture of violence, through supporting a local network active for over three and a half years and their newly established association "Sigurno Mjesto" ("A safe place"), born from the projects supported by the Piedmont Region. More specifically, it aims:

- to implement measures to prevent domestic violence and raise awareness about gender relations among young people;
- to provide services to accompany victims of violence;
- to develop initiatives to support the economic independence of victims of violence;
- to strengthen and develop the local network against domestic violence and the Association "Sigurno Mjesto".

### SUCCESS STORY

We can notice constant and successful efforts to work in the field of prevention of domestic violence and raising awareness on gender issues in cooperation with LDA Partners from Alba (Italy).

## VI. STRANI-VARI 2012 – summer activities for children

**LEAD PARTNER:** LDA Zavidovići

**OTHER PARTNER:** Association Ceker Zavidovići

**DONOR:** Consulta per la pace – Brescia, Fondazione della Comunità Bresciana

**TIMING:** 2012

### PURPOSES

To train Italian and Bosnian young people on educative issues.

### ACTIVITIES

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 increasing number of children, new animators and new villages have been involved.

### SUCCESS STORIES

Common work and cooperation of Italian and Bosnian volunteers; Transfer of knowledge and skills between Italian and Bosnian partners.

## VII. Educational services for children and young people in rural areas

**LEAD PARTNER:** LDA Zavidovići

**OTHER PARTNERS:** Municipality of Zavidovici, Association "CeKER" - Zavidovići, Association "Strani Vari" - Alba, "Il Ciabotto" - Alba

**DONOR:** Municipality of Alba, Association "Strani Vari"

**TIMING:** 2012 (Since 2003)

### PURPOSES

To promote the Ludobus service of animation for children and teenagers that offers cultural and educational activities and opportunities to meet and be involved. Ludobus involves children, adolescents, adults and older people promoting their participation while respecting each others' dignity and differences.

### ACTIVITIES

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. 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 2012 LDA Zavidovici has been present in all rural schools in territory of Zavidovici. There has been involved 20 young animators and participated over 1.000 children.

## SUCCESS STORIES

We managed to approach distant and therefore less integrated rural areas in Zavidovici Municipality.

## VIII. Exchange between kindergartens teachers in Alba and Zavidovici

**LEAD PARTNER:** LDA Zavidovići

**OTHER PARTNERS:** Kindergarten of Zavidovici, Municipality of Zavidovici, three primary schools in Alba

**DONOR:** Municipality of Alba

**TIMING:** 2012

### PURPOSES

To transfer knowledge in educational methodologies from teachers in Alba to those in Zavidovici. More specifically, it aimed to develop a methodology for transmission of contents from teacher to child, to draw cognitive maps and to work on organization plan with logical connections.

### ACTIVITIES

A study visit from Alba teachers to Zavidovici during which the teachers from Zavidovici and Alba developed a common educational action plan. They have once again compared the methodology, corrected the results and designed a follow up for next period during the visit by Zavidovici teachers to Italy.

## SUCCESS STORIES

Great success was achieved through transfer of new work methodology and experience from Italian to Bosnian kindergarten.

## IX. European Voluntary Service “HAND BY HAND WITH EUROPE”

**LEAD PARTNER:** *Turkish National Youth Agency*

**OTHER PARTNERS:** *LDA Zavidovici*

**DONOR:** *European Union, Europe for Citizens*

**TIMING:** *2012*

### PURPOSES

To develop solidarity, mutual understanding and tolerance among young people from different backgrounds, thus contributing to reinforcing social cohesion and promoting young people's active citizenship.

### ACTIVITIES

LDA Zavidovici has various activities dedicated to children and young people of Zavidovici municipality in particular ones living in rural area, in which the volunteers took part. Upon arrival volunteers spent two weeks on discovering environment and activities in the host organization, with possibility to spend some time within LDA Zavidovici structure discovering its work and meeting its partners, volunteers and users. More detailed plan of activity was made together with volunteer in order to respect his ideas and creativity.

### SUCCESS STORIES

By participating in voluntary activities, young volunteers developed new skills and, therefore, improved their personal, educational and professional development. Volunteers also benefit from learning throughout the activities and agree on their expected learning outcomes, processes and methods in advance. Their learning experience is formally recognised through a Youthpass. LDA Zavidovici is the only organisation in Zavidovici Municipality accredited as a sending, hosting and coordinating organisation in the EVS system.

## X. The 15th Edition of Vivacitta

**LEAD PARTNER:** *LDA Zavidovići*

**OTHER PARTNERS:** *UISP Brescia, UISP Cremona, Municipality of Zavidovici, Association of Zavidovici sport teachers, Association of Athletics "Krivaja", Basketball Club "Krivaja", Female Volleyball Club from Zavidovici, high schools from Brescia and Cremona*

**DONOR:** *UISP Brescia and Cremona*

**TIMING:** *2012*

### PURPOSES

To promote peace, solidarity and friendship through an international race held in many countries around the world.

### ACTIVITIES

In April 2012 there was the 15th edition of the "Vivicittà" race, international competition for solidarity and peace, with the participation of students from the high schools of Brescia, Cremona and Zavidovici. A side, several sport events (volleyball, basket and football matches) took place. More then 500 persons attended these events.

### SUCCESS STORIES

Big public event that promotes common values such as peace, solidarity and friendship that puts together Italian and Bosnian community.

# LDA Osijek (Croatia)

## Delegate

*Miljenko Turniski*



**Established in 1993**

**PARTNERS:** *City of Lausanne, Switzerland (Lead partner)*

*City of Osijek, Croatia (Host city)*

*Regional Development Agency of Slavonia, Croatia*

*Erdut Municipality, Croatia*

*Entrepreneurial and Development Centre of Erdut Municipality, Croatia*

*Local Tourist Association Frentana, Italy*

*Municipality Montenero Di Bisaccia, Italy*

*Association Donne – Donne in nero Progetto, Italy*

## Main priorities

- Promotion of active citizenship and citizen participation
- Contribution to the local economic development
- Promotion of sustainable development and sustainable tourism
- Fostering of multiculturalism
- Fostering tolerance and dialogue
- Fostering cross-boarder cooperation with aims to social inclusion, social cohesion and building European identity

## I. Place for Me

**LEAD PARTNER:** *Youth Association Breza*

**OTHER PARTNERS:** *Volunteer Centre Osijek*

**DONOR:** *European Commission, IPA for Civil Society Capacity Building for Delivering of Innovative Social Services in the Areas of Special State Concern*

**TIMING:** *May 2012 – January 2014*

## PURPOSES

To strengthen capacities of civil society in the areas of special state concern for delivery of innovative social services and implementation of Croatian strategy of prevention.

## ACTIVITIES

- Creative workshops for children and youth.
- Workshops and counseling for parents.
- Training on innovative social services for local stakeholders.
- Resourceful web site.
- Community manifestations.

## SUCCESS STORIES

Children from rural areas of special state concern actively participated in the international traditional open space manifestation "Land without Borders" held in August 2012 in Osijek.



## II. Support for networking and twinning at European level – SNET.EU

**LEAD PARTNERS:** Croatia: Local Democracy Agency in Osijek, Serbia: Local Democracy Agency Subotica

**OTHER PARTNERS:** Croatian Institute for Local Self-Government, Evangelic Theological Seminary, Association of Local Democracy Agencies, Open University of Subotica

**DONOR:** European Commission, IPA CBC Croatia - Serbia

**TIMING:** September 2012 – March 2014

### PURPOSES

- To build capacities of local institutions and local authorities for understanding regional EU policy and European integration process;
- to promote town twinning as a tool for development of European active citizenship;
- to contribute to twin town/municipality partner search for LA from Croatia and Serbia at European level;
- to contribute to networking and cooperation between LA from Croatia and Serbia.

### ACTIVITIES

- Capacity building activities (3 conferences, 1 training, 2 seminars).
- Resource centres' activities (promotional workshops on twinning, partner search, consultations).
- Thematic networking activities (12 local thematic events in municipalities and cities in border regions of Croatia and Serbia).

### SUCCESS STORIES

Opening conferences and the Training on Town Twinning gathered 12 municipalities and towns from Croatia and Serbia interested to develop mutual cooperation and projects in the future.



*LDA OSIJEK, activities with schools*

### III. Local Cooperation and Intercultural Training

**LEAD PARTNERS:** *France: Peuple et Culture; Germany: Interkulturelles Netzwerk*

**OTHER PARTNERS:** *Croatia: Local Democracy Agency Osijek; Serbia: Volonterski centar Vojvodine*

**DONOR:** *French – German Youth Office*

**TIMING:** *March 2011 – June 2012*

#### PURPOSES

- To support and develop informal network of youth workers from involved countries, which serves as intercultural exchange platform between Germany, France, Croatia and Serbia;
- To train at least 20 participants to design, prepare and implement youth exchange projects;
- To support intercultural dialogue among youth from four countries;
- To support regional cooperation.

#### ACTIVITIES

- Training for youth leaders of intercultural youth exchanges, Sete, France, 21st – 28th January 2012
- Preparations for the third training to take place in Osijek and in Novi Sad in June 2012
- Training for youth leaders of intercultural youth exchanges, Osijek and Novi Sad, 2nd – 10th June 2012.

### IV. War Crimes and Trials - Judicial, Political and Societal Implications of War Crime Trials in Europe

**LEAD PARTNER:** *LDA Osijek*

**OTHER PARTNERS:** *Youth Initiative for Human Rights Serbia, Belgrade, DRJSCS, Limoges, France, Max-Mannheimer-Studienzentrum Dachau, Germany*

**DONOR:** *French – German Youth Office*

**TIMING:** *2012 - 2014*

#### PURPOSES

To discover, analyse and discuss the role of War Crime Trials (WCT) and their judicial, political and societal implications in the 20th century, especially regarding Croatia, Serbia, France and Germany.

#### ACTIVITIES

- Preparation meeting in Dachau
- Preparations for the first seminar
- First seminar in Dachau and Dan Haag, 26th June – 4th July 2012
- Preparations for the second seminar to be held in Osijek and Belgrade in 2013.

## SUCCESS STORIES

Fostered dialogue between young people from France, Germany, Serbia and Croatia on difficult issues related to war crimes in 20th century in Europe. Participants addressed some of the key questions such as:

- What kind of legal and political evolutions can be seen in the field of WCT after the Second World War and the break-up-wars in Yugoslavia?
- What has been / is the political and social impact of WCT, how do our societies react to these trials?
- What is the role of WCT in dealing-with-the-past-processes?
- Are WCT elements of reconciliation or of division in our societies?

## V. Participation

**LEAD PARTNER:** *Local Democracy Agency Subotica*

**OTHER PARTNERS:** *Local Democracy Agency in Osijek, organizations from Estonia, Turkey, Moldova, Montenegro, France, Sweden, Slovenia and Macedonia*

**DONOR:** *European Commission, Youth in Action Programme*

**TIMING:** *January - May 2012*

## PURPOSES

- To train youth leaders to prepare, run and evaluate the learning process within non formal education in their youth work.
- To develop understanding of non – formal learning and education and its importance in the personal and professional development of young people with fewer opportunities.

- To create a Resource pack with several useful, creative and innovative methods of non formal education on active participation, peer education, personal development and involvement of young people with fewer opportunities which can support the work of youth workers with young people with fewer opportunities.

## ACTIVITIES

- Information and selection of Croatian participants.
- Preparatory activities with participants from Croatia
- Preparation of logistic and travel arrangements for Croatian group.
- Training in Subotica, Serbia (3rd-10th March 2012)
- Dissemination of the Resource pack.

## SUCCESS STORIES

Young people from Osijek-Baranja region acquired and improved their knowledge and understanding of non formal education and its importance in youth work especially when dealing with young people with fewer opportunities.

## VI. Le Jardins des Rencontres

**LEAD PARTNER:** *CYME association, Saint-Rémy de Provence, France*

**OTHER PARTNERS:** *organisations from Romania, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Hungary and Turkey*

**DONOR:** *European Commission, Youth in Action Programme, Action 1.1. Youth exchange*

**TIMING:** *January – December 2012*

### PURPOSES

To contribute to intercultural learning of participants by using arts and architecture as an intercultural tools, around a common space: a garden in Saint Remy de Provence.

### ACTIVITIES

- Information and selection of participants from Croatia
- Preparatory meetings with youth from Croatia
- Preparation of logistic and travel arrangements for Croatian group
- Youth exchange in Saint Remy de Provence, France, 6th-21th August 2012
- Evaluation of the youth exchange.

### SUCCESS STORIES

Young participants from Osijek- Baranja County acquired and improved their intercultural and foreign language competences (English and French) as well as social and artistic competences and talent.

## VII. Volunteers – EU promoters

**LEAD PARTNER:** *Local Democracy Agency*

**OTHER PARTNERS:** *Volunteer centre Osijek, Press Centre for Environment*

**DONOR:** *City of Osijek, Croatia*

**TIMING:** *January – December 2012*

### PURPOSES

To inform potential volunteers in local community about European Union and its programmes for youth and volunteering.

### ACTIVITIES

- Selection of participants;
- Interactive lectures: Basics of EU and EU and Environment;
- Workshop on legal framework for volunteering;
- Workshop on peer to peer tutoring;
- Marking of the Day of Europe – dissemination of material on EU opportunities;
- Marking of the Day of Europe – workshops at primary schools;
- Peer to peer pilot workshops on EU programmes for youth;
- Closing event and evaluation.

### SUCCESS STORIES

Young participants, potential LDA Osijek volunteers, trained on volunteering and EU programmes, which offer opportunities for non-formal education and volunteering of young people.

## VIII. Ready, Steady...Volunteering!

**LEAD PARTNER:** *taly: STUDIO PROGETTO Società Cooperativa Sociale.*

**OTHER PARTNERS:** *Local Democracy Agency*

**DONOR:** *European Commission, Youth in Action Programme, EVS, Measure 2*

**TIMING:** *September 2012 – June 2013*

### PURPOSES

To develop solidarity, mutual understanding and tolerance among young people, thus contributing to reinforcing social cohesion in the European Union and to promoting young people's active citizenship; To provide a young Croatian volunteer, Ms. Mirna Mađerić with the unique chance to express her personal commitment through unpaid and full-time voluntary activities in Italy within the service „No problem“ addressing people with disability and which is run by the hosting organisation Studio Progetto.

### ACTIVITIES

- Pre-departure training with a volunteers;
- Preparation of Activity Agreement in cooperation with the hosting organisation and the volunteer;
- Preparation and providing of the volunteer with visa and insurance;
- Communication with hosting organisation and volunteer related to different aspects of preparations for European voluntary service.

### SUCCESS STORIES

We established communication and cooperation with the Italian hosting organisation.

## IX. Y-Mocracy – Democracy for Youth

**LEAD PARTNER:** *Italy: STUDIO PROGETTO Società Cooperativa Sociale,*

**OTHER PARTNERS:** *Local Democracy Agency, City of Osijek – Youth Council of the City of Osijek, Valdagno Municipality, Vicenza Province*

**DONOR:** *European Commission, Youth in Action Programme, Measure 1.3.*

**TIMING:** *October 2nd 2012 - June 30th 2013*

### PURPOSES

- To find and explain the problems related to the democratic participation of young people;
- To clarify what are the existing processes to take part to the public life of a city, a region or a Country;
- To stimulate young people to become actors of democracy and active participants to the democratic process.

### ACTIVITIES

- Preparatory phase and establishing of communication channels between partners
- Needs assessment and exchange of ideas related to preparation of a seminar
- Agreement on dates of the seminar to be held in 2013 .

# LDA Sisak (Croatia)

## Delegate

*Paula Rauzan*



**Established in 1996**

### **PARTNERS:** ALDA (Lead partner)

*Municipality of Sisak, Croatia (Host city)*

*Municipality of Hrvatska Kostajnica, Croatia*

*Municipality of Petrinja, Croatia*

*Municipality of Kutina, Croatia*

*Municipality of Dvor, Croatia*

*NGO "Going to Europe", Modena, Italy*

*International School for Peace Studies,  
Northern Ireland*

## Main priorities

- Fostering voluntarism and active citizenship
- Contribution to the local economic development
- Fostering local democracy and twinning
- Raising awareness about Human Rights and gender issues.

## I. Volunteering for Cross-border Local Community Development

**LEAD PARTNER:** LDA Sisak for Croatia and Youth Communication Centre Banja Luka for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

**OTHER PARTNERS:** Croatia – Association Iks (Petrinja), Disabled persons' Association OSI (Kutina); BIH – Association Women from Una (Bihać) and Association BiosPlus (Derventa).

**DONORS:** European Union, IPA CBC Croatia-Bosnia and Herzegovina 2007-2013 and Office for Civil Society Organisations of Republic of Croatia Government.

**TIMING:** February 2011- February 2013

## PURPOSE

- creation of innovative community-based services in border area;
- establishment of cross-border networking between local authorities, civil society and social partners;
- enhancing of the quality of life and social cohesion in border area by formed cross-border voluntary network in six towns.

## ACTIVITIES

- The establishment of five voluntary services - three in Croatia (Sisak, Kutina and Petrinja) and two in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Bihać and Derventa);
- The drafting of six local voluntary policies in towns included in the project;
- Two voluntary work camps are organised, one in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Banja Luka), and one in Croatia (Sisak), gathering 60 volunteers discussing

relevant cross-border social issues and initiate change oriented activities. The work camp in Banja Luka was held in Children home while the work camp in Sisak was held in Old People's Home providing, among others, intergenerational networking and support.

## II. Cross-border Volunteers' Networking for Local Development

**LEAD PARTNER:** LDA Sisak for Croatia and Youth Communication Centre Banja Luka for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

**OTHER PARTNERS:** Croatia – Local Action Group (Ozalj), Sunflower-Centre for community development (Vrginmost); BIH – Association Most (Gradiška) and Centre for children, youth and family (Laktaši).

**ASSOCIATES:** European Union, IPA CBC Croatia-Bosnia and Herzegovina 2007-2013.

**DONORS:** European Union, IPA CBC Croatia-Bosnia and Herzegovina 2007-2013.

**TIMING:** December 2012- December 2013

### PURPOSE

The project is designed to help to improve accessibility of community-based services in border area through establishment of four voluntary services: two in Croatia (Ozalj and Vrginmost) and two in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Gradiška and Laktaši).

### ACTIVITIES

- In order to establish a more effective connections in the border area, the project envisages the establishment of cross-border civil society organisation network composed of 9 organisations dealing with active citizenship, having local voluntary services incorporated in their programs;
- Two cross-border voluntary camps will be organised, one in Bosnia and Herzegovina, one in Croatia that will gather 60 volunteers to discuss actual social issues in bordering towns and initiate actions for change.



LDA SISAK voluntary work camp in Sisak volunteers and citizens having a coffee



### III. Think Green Every Day!

**LEAD PARTNER:** LDA Sisak

**DONORS:** Sisak-Moslavina County, Administrative department for environmental and nature protection

**TIMING:** January – December 2012

#### PURPOSE

- Informing, educating and awareness rising of Sisak-Moslavina County citizens on importance of environmental protection;
- Specific objective is involvement of elementary school pupils in environment protection education and to contribute to citizens' awareness rising.

#### ACTIVITIES

- Elementary schools pupils in art lessons created a new information-education material for wider implementation. They produced bookmarks and ecological containing information of important dates for environmental protection;
- LDA Sisak organised an exhibition of all ecological projects funded by the County to present the project results. The exhibition showed pupils' drawings submitted to the project' competition for best ecological drawings and 11 best of them received prizes;
- During the celebration of Planet Earth Day workshop, citizens had the opportunity to learn to make interesting and useful toys and souvenirs of recycled materials and be motivated to try to make ones themselves.

### SUCCESS STORIES

New informational and educational materials for ecological education developed, raised awareness on nature protection among elementary school pupils and their parents.

### IV. For Community without Domestic Violence

**LEAD PARTNER:** LDA Sisak

**DONOR:** LDA Sisak resources

**TIMING:** January – December 2012

#### PURPOSE

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

#### ACTIVITIES

- Hot line for victims of domestic violence and Virtual self help group;
- Supervisions for the hot line volunteers;
- Public awareness campaign on domestic violence issues.

#### SUCCESS STORIES

The hotline proved to be a frank success. It resulted in improved services for domestic violence victims and with bigger sensitivity of the wider community on domestic violence issues.

## V. Smile for Smile

**LEAD PARTNER:** LDA Sisak

**DONOR:** LDA's own resources

**TIMING:** January – December 2012

### PURPOSE

Promote non-discrimination, tolerance and breaking down the prejudices with clown therapy in order to help people living in disadvantage physical and mental surrounding; Promoting voluntarism and creative usage of free time.

### ACTIVITIES

Public manifestation for celebration of Planet Earth Day, Family Day was a great success.

## VI. Creative Youth Laboratory

**LEAD PARTNER:** LDA Sisak

**OTHER PARTNERS:** Volunteer's Centre Skopje (Macedonia) and Amigos da Terra Galicia-Xuventude (Spain)

**DONORS:** European Commission, Youth in Action Programme

**TIMING:** February 2012- August 2013

### PURPOSE

To raise the awareness about voluntarism and to promote cultural diversity and European citizenship in the town of Sisak and its surroundings.

### ACTIVITIES

The project is hosting two volunteers, one from Macedonia and one from Spain, for 12 months, between April 2012 and May 2013, who:

- Are doing their European Voluntary Service in LDA Sisak host town, Sisak. The volunteers are working with young people from Sisak on daily basis and sharing cultures, experience and knowledge using non-formal and informal educational methodology;
- Are providing free-of charge Spanish language course and organising leisure time activities for beneficiaries of Old People's Home in Sisak;
- Are actively involved in the work of Volunteer Centre Sisak, operating within LDA Sisak.

During the project volunteers are involved in several activities such as:

- Local volunteering initiatives;
- Youth information point;
- European integration;
- Other activities and office tasks;
- Autonomous activities developed with LDA Sisak support.

### SUCCESS STORIES

The project developed activities for permanent informing and promoting on international and local opportunities for volunteering, increased number of young people in Sisak speaking Spanish language, developed good cooperation with Old People's Home in Sisak.

## VII. Active citizens combating youth unemployment-JOBNET

**LEAD PARTNER:** *Carpathian Foundation Hungary*

**OTHER PARTNERS:** *LDA Sisak (Croatia), Carpathian Foundation Slovakia, Kompetenzagentur im Haus der offenen Tür (Germany), Agency for Migration and Adaptation AMIGA o.s. (Czech Republic), Valmeira Region Community Foundation (Latvia)*

**DONORS:** *European Union, Europe for Citizens Programme*

**TIMING:** *October 2012- February 2014*

### PURPOSE

Highlighting and promoting innovative bottom-up solutions Europe-wide aimed at combating youth unemployment. The main objective of the project is to build a trans-frontier network of civil society organisations (CSOs) to identify, share, discuss and encourage initiatives successfully tackling youth unemployment in different European countries which can be deployed in other EU states as well. The project intends to involve unemployed youth as active citizens following the principle: "Nothing about us, without us".

### ACTIVITIES

- The trans-frontier network of wide stakeholders explores the background of the problem by conducting a comparative international audiovisual research in the respective countries;
- At an international conference participants exchange information, knowledge on successfully applied practises handling youth unemployment, e.g. entrepreneurship, skill development, internships, guidance & mentoring, combating early school-leaving, youth banks and youth involvement, empowerment techniques.
- A commonly formulated recommendation will be sent to decision/policy makers of the respective countries and EU besides wide range dissemination to the public and actors affected by, interested in the increasing tendency of youth joblessness.
- Six CSOs from Germany, Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, Croatia and Latvia closely cooperate with each other and all key actors to raise public awareness on importance of active citizenship, citizens', CSOs' initiatives tackling youth unemployment;

# LDA Verteneglio /Brtonigla (Croatia)

## Delegate

*Umberto Ademollo*



**Established in 1996**

**PARTNERS:** Municipality of Bellinzona, Switzerland (Lead partner)

*Municipality of Verteneglio/Brtonigla (Host city)*

*Istria Region, Croatia*

*Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region, Italy*

*Province of Florence, Italy*

*Municipality of Portogruaro, Italy*

*Municipality of Ravenna, Italy*

*Municipality of Greve in Chianti, Italy*

*Municipality of Russi, Italy*

*Municipality of Duino-Aurisina, Italy*

*Province of Florence, Italy*

*Association "Marevivo", Italy*

*Association Circle of Culture Istria, Italy*

*Association Causes Communes Switzerland*

## Main priorities

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

## I. Adria III – Reinforcement and development of the cooperation with the East Adriatic Countries.

**LEAD PARTNER:** INFORMEST, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Italy

**OTHER PARTNERS:** Local Democracy Agency, Verteneglio/Brtonigla, Croatia; Direkcija Za Razvoj Malih i Srednjih Preduzecca (NASME), Podgorica, Montenegro; Associazione Paraplegici Speranza e Amore "Shoqata e paraplegjikeve shprese dhe dashuri", Tirana, Albania; UNIONCAMERE FVG – Unione delle Camere di Commercio dei Friuli Venezia Giulia, Trieste, Italy; HATTIVA - S.c.s. Onlus, Udine, Italy; Associazione Parco della Concordia, Muggia (Trieste), Italy; Regione Istriana - Istarska Zupanija, Pazin, Croatia.

**DONOR:** Regione Autonoma Friuli Venezia Giulia, Italy

**TIMING:** January-December 2012 (prolonged for 6 more months until 30 August 2013)

## PURPOSES

1. Protection of the nature and biodiversity in the Region of Friuli Venezia-Giulia and Istria, in accordance with the established criteria from International Convention in Rio De Janeiro in 1992;

2. Support the economic cooperation between Friuli Venezia-Giulia and Montenegro;

3. Social aspects: introduction of the diverse measures on the labour market – exchange of the best practices in Albania.

## ACTIVITIES

- Protection of the Biodiversity in Friuli Venezia Giulia and Istria : Preservation and development activities of the honeybees “pannonica-mediterranea”;
- Seminars in the elementary schools of Istria and Trieste, in order to show the importance of the nutrition and properties of honey and his derivatives. The process of getting the honey;
- Seminars and conferences with the Istrian apiarist associations led by Italian experts and researchers;
- Researches on the various honeybees families; presentations of the first results (because the research process is not over) and creating a network with the apiarist associations.

## SUCCESS STORIES

- Even stronger collaboration with schools awareness on the use of honey in an eco-sustainable perspective;
- The children now understand better the nutritional values of the honey;
- Thanks to the project activities, several collaboration between the apiarists of Istria, FVG region and Slovenia had been established;
- The scientific research on the preservation and development of the honeybee ecotype “pannonica-mediterranea”, the autochthon Istrian honeybee

ecotype, has given the first results and other research are still going on;

- There is a strong will among the partners to continue with this and similar projects, with the hope to develop new projects in the next years.

## II. “B.R.I.D.G.E. for Youth Futures - Building Resources In Democracy and Global Environment for Youth Futures”

**LEAD PARTNER:** *Local Democracy Agency Brtonigla/Verteneglio*

**OTHER PARTNERS:** *Volunteers Centre Skopje(Macedonia); National Centre for Youth information and International Youth Mobility(Bulgaria); Bureau information Jeunesse (France); Asociaciòn para la Integraciòn y Progreso de las Culturas. Pandora (Spain).*

**DONORS:** *Youth in Action Programme*

**TIMING:** *January 2012 -January 2013*

## PURPOSES

- Support the region’s sustainable/rural growth;
- Support rural tourism;
- Develop active youth building and participation in policy making issues in the Istria region;
- Develop an idea of multiculturality;
- Help active citizenship among young Istrian people.

## ACTIVITIES

- Collaborate with local institutions (Italian Community, Tourist office, Municipality and nursery “Cali-

mero”, High Schools in the region of Istria – Buje, Umag, Pula, Cittanova, local NGO’s);

- Creation of a bimestrial “Youth Magazine” addressed to all the young people interested in intercultural topic related to mobility, media, communications, Youth information Youth in Action projects, youth policy and projects in general;
- Creation of the design (visual part) of the Youth magazine;
- Organize language and communication lessons for children and local people interested in improving their writing/oral skills;
- Collaborate with the elementary school of Buje for helping pupils with disability.

## SUCSESSES STORIES

- We succeeded in expanding our network of partners and have realized many activities and events, mainly in collaboration with the high schools and local institutions in Buje, Umag, Cittanova, Pula and Trieste(Italy), that resulted in a good media coverage;
- Strengthening the collaboration with local media, both Italian and Croatian;
- We provided access of our volunteers to some of the international projects in which our agency participated (“Together we Grow”) and throughout the implementation of the second part of the project we received proposals for future collaboration with some of the others partners from Slovenia and Italy;
- The newsletter, made by the volunteers had been appreciated by our partners.

The dissemination of the project activities, at local and regional level, led to a better understanding of the action, of the importance of volunteering (especially for youngsters) and the consistence of the volunteer’s work in and for the local community.

## III. Get Involved in Local Democracy - GILD

**LEAD PARTNER:** *(specify if it was the LDA or another local partner): Local Democracy Agency Brtonigla/ Verteneglio*

**OTHER PARTNERS:** *Volunteers Centre Skopje(Macedonia); National Centre for Youth information and International Youth Mobility(Bulgaria); Bureau information Jeunesse (France); Asociaciòn para la Integraciòn y Progreso de las C*

**DONORS:** *Youth in Action Programme*

**TIMING:** *14 months (2011-2012)*

## PURPOSES

- To increase the level of understanding of nature, role and functions of the European Union;
- Advantages and challenges of becoming European citizens;
- Develop active youth building and participation in policy making issues in the Istria region;
- To enrich knowledge of the local population about the diversity of European cultures, languages and traditions (develop the concept of multiculturality);
- Help active citizenship among youngsters in Istria region.

## ACTIVITIES

- Organising conferences and presentations in order to explain the importance of being a volunteer and help the ones who wants to start a voluntary service, at European or local level;
- Collaborate with local institutions (Italian Community, Tourist office, Municipality and nursery "Calimero", High Schools in the region of Istria – Buje, Umag, Pula, Cittanova, local NGO's; Italian elementary school in Buie)
- Creation of a calendar which will highlight the important European dates and festivities and the Youth in Action deadlines;
- Organize language and communication lessons for children and local people interested in improving their writing/oral skills;
- Collaborate with the elementary school of Buie for helping pupils with disability;
- Cooperation with youth;
- Focusing on rural development and ecology.



*Ida Verteneglio Adria3*

## SUCCESS STORIES

- Very good collaboration with local institutions (like schools, kindergarten, open university, municipality of Buje and Novigrad, tourist office in Verteneglio);
- The conferences organised to promote the voluntary service, have already had a positive impact on young people;
- We provided access of our volunteers to some of the international projects in which our agency is and/or will be involved;
- The calendar with important European dates, made by the volunteers, is very well received by our partners.



# LDA Georgia

## Delegate

*Ioseb Khakhaleishvili*



**Established in 2006**

**PARTNERS:** *City of Strasbourg, France (Lead partner)*

*City of Kutaisi, Georgia (Host city)*

*City of Nantes, France*

*City of Tbilisi, Georgia*

*National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia*

**NALAG**

*Kutaisi Branch of Georgian Young Lawyers' Association*

*Partners-Georgia*

*Municipality of Monfalcone, Italy*

*Newport Kutaisi Association, United Kingdom*

## Main priorities

- Supporting capacity building of local self-government and civil society organizations
- Promoting active citizenship and integration of Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) in local society
- Supporting local economic development
- Promoting Youth in Action programme through EVS and youth exchanges

## I. Community Development and Environmental Protection

**LEAD PARTNER:** *LDA Georgia*

**OTHER PARTNER:** *6 municipalities of Imereti Region*

**DONOR:** *U.S. Embassy in Georgia*

**TIMING:** *September 2011 - June 2012*

## PURPOSES

- To promote of environmental protection in Imereti Region through organizing civic education campaigns and community-based projects;
- To increase the level of knowledge and skills of population on how to protect environment and make villages more environment friendly and attractive for tourists;
- Theoretical information and practical skills on modern ways of production of bio products in order to enhance the productivity of agro businesses and have a positive financial impact on their business.

## ACTIVITIES

- Collection information in 6 pilot villages;
- Trainings for administrators in 6 target municipalities and 89 villages about environmental issues;
- Organizing compost pits in pilot villages;
- School lessons on environment protection in pilot village schools;
- Establishing of action groups in pilot villages;
- Events aiming at cleaning territories from harmful plants;
- Actions in pilot villages to clean up rivers and springs.

## SUCCESS STORIES

The project had a positive impact on farmers' awareness on environment and on modern technologies in agriculture. The farmers have gained experience and skills regarding different environmental and agricultural issues, they learned to act as a team for solving common problems and for organizing cleaning actions in villages. Farmers were also trained on their constitutional right to live in clean environment and learned about bio products. By implementing this project LDA increased geographical coverage of its activities and established linkages with the local governments of the Imereti Region Municipalities.

## II. Georgia Good Governance – G3

**LEAD PARTNER:** *National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia*

**OTHER PARTNER:** *Kutaisi local authority*

**DONOR:** *USAID*

**TIMING:** *August 2012 - November 2012*

## PURPOSES

To address governance at the local and central levels: to increase civil society participation, increase citizen awareness of local government issues, improve service delivery, and improve the functions of local government councils and executive bodies.

## ACTIVITIES

The Main task for LDA Georgia was to create a Social-Economic Development Plan 2013-2017 and City Passport

for the City of Kutaisi in cooperation with the Kutaisi local authority and civil society sector. This consisted of:

- Data collection and SWOT analysis on different aspects of the social-economic development of the City;
- Organise public hearings and discussions regarding documents ;
- Prepare and submit final docs to the local authority for approving Social-Economic Development Plan 2013-2017 and City Passport for the City of Kutaisi.

## SUCCESS STORIES

The importance of the action was that such kind of document was developed first time for the city. Having this plan will increase the capacity of the city in the development of future activities and as well will show to the potential investors and donors readiness of the city for the future development. This document is a part of the Kutaisi Strategic Development Plan, which will be developed as a final document under the Georgia Good Governance programme.



LDA GEORGIA

# LDA Kosovo

## Delegate

*Elbert Krasniqi*



**Established in 2011**

**PARTNERS:** *Association Tavolo Trentino con il Kosovo, Italy (Lead partner)*  
*Municipality of Peja/Pec, Kosovo (Host city)*  
*Amici dei bambini, Italy and Kosovo*  
*RTM Region Third World, Italy and Kosovo*  
*Only Equal Rights Association S.U.D, Italy*  
*ALFA Formation, France,*  
*Municipality of Yalova, Turkey*  
*Association of Municipalities of Kosovo AKM*

## Main priorities

- Promotion of the Local Democracy Agency of Kosovo
- Promotion of the local democracy and European integration
- Promotion of culture, youth and equal opportunities
- Promotion of dialogue among communities
- Promotion of local economic development
- Support logistics for the LDA's partners

## I . Richness lost in silence, Photo and Video Exhibition on Bekim Fehmiu

**LEAD PARTNER:** *Associazione Trentino con i Balcani, Local Democracy Agency of Kosovo*

**OTHER PARTNERS:** *Ministry of Culture Youth and Sports, Municipality of Peja/Pec, Kino ABC Pristine, DokuFest Prizren.*

**DONORS:** *Autonomy Province of Trento, Associazione Trentino con i Balcani*

**TIMING:** *January- December 2012*

## PURPOSES

- to foster opportunities of meeting and constructive dialogue, improving relationships and coexistence among communities through a shared reflection on past, present and future in a perspective of conflict elaboration and transformation;
- to improve relations and coexistence among the communities within a regional perspective through a shared reflection on the past, using the Culture as a tool on building bridges between communities in local and regional perspective.

## ACTIVITIES

- Discussion Tribunes in Peja/Pec January 2012. with different panelist from Kosovo, Serbia, Montenegro and Bosnia Herzegovina, persons from different cultural and journalistic background talking about the personality of Bekim Fehmiu and the importance of his personality to build relation between different communities in the Balkan;
- Photo and Video Exhibition on Peja/Pec January 2012, and implementation of several activities that promote joint cultural heritage of different territories on Balkans;
- Photo and Video Exhibition in Pristina June 2012, visited by more than 1000 visitors
- Photo and Video Exhibition in Prizren July 2012: in cooperation with the Film Festival DokuFest during the edition 2012 has been inaugurated the exhibition in the home town of Bekim Fehmiu.

## SUCCESS STORIES

The project of the Memory Dialogue and Conflict Elaboration Area has been a successful project thanks to the interest of the participants involved directly in the organization phase and in the presentation of photo exhibitions. It was especially an important project for LDA Kosovo as it was one of the first project in which LDA Kosovo has been an important actor. This project was supporting LDA Kosovo in identifying new partners and an excellent opportunity to be presented in Kosovo as a new LDA. The interest of media in the project was very high and this was used opportunity by LDA to present the aims, partners and field of work of LDA Kosovo.

## II. EU integration and Youth

**LEAD PARTNER:** *Local Democracy Agency of Kosovo*

**OTHER PARTNERS:** *Municipality of Peja/Pec, Associazione Trentino con i Balcani, Youth Center Peja, Youth Council of Peja.*

**DONORS:** *Associazione Trentino con i Balcani, Municipality of Peja/Pec, Directorate of Eu integration of Municipality of Peja/Pec*

**TIMING:** *May-June 2012*

## PURPOSES

To raise awareness of Local Authorities and Civil Society Organisations in the importance to cooperation for youth empowerment in project related to European Integration.

## ACTIVITIES

- Public debate with the topic "European Integration and Youth": the panel of different representatives of LA and CSO-s has preset the project which has in the agenda promoting of EU values, empowerment of Youth and building of public youth policies;
- Training with youth Organizations and youth leaders: in the Youth Center of Peja/Pec has been organized a Training with youth organization and youth leaders.

### III. Fostering parental responsibility in preventing school dropouts"

**LEAD PARTNER:** OSCE RO Peja/Pec, Local Democracy Agency Kosovo

**OTHER PARTNERS:** Municipality of Peja/Pec, Associazione Trentino con i Balcani

**DONOR:** OSCE Ro Peja/Pec

**TIMING:** September 2012- April 2013

#### PURPOSES

The project aims to tackle the school dropout issue especially affecting the Kosovo Roma, Kosovo Ashkali and Kosovo Egyptian communities residing in the Pejë/Peć neighborhood of 7Shtatori/7Septembar. The project objective plans to contribute to reducing school dropouts by fostering parental engagement in preventing Kosovo Roma, Kosovo Ashkali and Kosovo Egyptian students from leaving school.

#### ACTIVITIES

- Round Table on school dropout and parental engagement, focusing on the following topics:
- Analysis of the main reason for dropping out from school;
- The role of parents in preventing school dropouts;
- Local government engagement in supporting vulnerable families to guarantee right to education for their children
- Donation of school items: to the School "Xhemajl Kada", whose director has then select 50 beneficiaries of the most vulnerable families in the neighborhood of 7Shtatori/7Septembar.

- Workshop for drafting municipal action plan on school dropout, in order to write a draft, that will be in full compliance with the Strategy for the Integration of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities (2009-2015), the Strategy and National Action Plan on Children's Rights (2009-2013), the Strategy for Reintegration of Repatriated Persons and the Kosovo Education Strategic Plan (2011-2016).

#### SUCCESS STORIES

The important part of the project was mobilisation of all actors on the phenomena of school dropout, this is not anymore a hidden phenomena but open is talked about it and the interest of all representatives of NGOs of Peja/Pec is high in making pressure to the Directorate of Education to face more with this phenomena and through the last phases of the project there is a big hope that will be produced a good and practice Action Plane to deal with the phenomena of school dropout in Municipality of Peja/Pec.



LDA KOSOVO Exhibition in Peja

# LDA Armenia

## Delegate

*David Sarkis Dolmadjian*

## LDA ARMENIA



Established in 2011

**PARTNERS:** *Region Rhône Alpes, France (lead partner)*

*City of Gyumri, Armenia (Host city)*

*Union of Municipalities of Armenia*

*Association Shirak Gyumri, Armenia*

*Association Journalist Club Asparez of Gyumri, Armenia*

*Friuli Venezia Giulia Region, Italy*

*ICHD - International Center for Human Development, Armenia*

*Urban Foundation for Sustainable Development, Armenia*

## Main priorities

- Supporting the capacity building of local authorities and civil society in citizens' participation;
- Supporting the practises of citizens' participation in promoting sustainable tourism;
- Strengthening and developing regional cooperation and training activities for local staff.

## II. Agreement of Cooperation between LDA Armenia and the French Embassy in Armenia

**LEAD PARTNER:** *LDA Armenia*

**OTHER PARTNER:** *French Embassy in Armenia*

**TIMING:** *2012-2013*

## PURPOSES

Launch a cooperation between the LDA and the Embassy, on the field of urban and cultural development of Gyumri City.

## ACTIVITIES

- Conference "The role of culture in urban development" organised by LDA Armenia on 15th December 2012, in Gyumri;
- Negotiations and discussions on 8th of January, 2013, in order to sign the agreement of cooperation between LDA Armenia and French Embassy in Armenia. So, LDA Armenia became an operator in the cooperation program with Marseille.

## **SUCCESS STORIES**

Within the cooperation programme with Marseille, David Dolmadjian and Lusine Aleksandryan met the executive director of Gyumri Economic Development Foundation Gurgen Paronyan, to discuss the possible ways of future collaboration with France, in order to implement exchange projects among the young Armenian and French specialists. The meetings will go on with other representatives of developing technologies institutions in Gyumri to become more aware of the current projects and investments in such sphere as engineering, mechanics and construction, communication for giving a start to the exchange program.



# LDA Montenegro

## Delegate

*Kerim Medjedovic*



**Established in 2001**

**PARTNERS:** *Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region, Italy  
(Lead partner)*

*Municipality of Niksic, Montenegro (Host city)*

*Municipality of Kotor, Montenegro*

*Municipality of Rozaje, Montenegro*

*Union of Municipalities of Montenegro*

*Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Montenegro*

*Association Betton-Montenegro, France*

*City of Neuchatel, Switzerland*

## Main priorities

- Supporting local administration capacity development
- Strengthening Human Rights and peace building
- Fostering youth participation
- Contributing to local economical development
- Supporting the European Union integration.

## I. SEE forum on climate change adaptation

**LEAD PARTNER:** *Montenegro Red Cross*

**OTHER PARTNERS:** *NGO Green Home, MEDCEM, REC, NGO Cazas, NGO Juventas, DOO Telenor, Crnogorski Telekom AD, Elektroprivreda Crne Gore AD, Univerzitet Mediteran, NGO Ozon, Univerzitet Donja Gorica*

**DONOR:** *EU (Reference EuropeAid/129637/C/ACT/Multi) and Austrian Red Cross*

**TIMING:** *March 2011- December 2012*

## PURPOSES

To create and support the network "Climate response" to deal with the adaptation to climate changes in Montenegro.

## ACTIVITIES

- Climate response network establishment;
- Advocating the need for the climate change adaptation;
- Climate change and need for adaptations awareness raising;
- Coordination and cooperation of civil society organizations and relevant governmental institutions;

- Regional Climate vulnerability Assessment;
- EU acquis training;
- Exchanges Workshops within the Region.

## II. Typical Products and Traditional Arts Valorisation In FVG and Montenegro

**LEAD PARTNER:** *Confcooperative FVG*

**OTHER PARTNERS:** *Italian Community in Montenegro, Municipality of Gorizia - Italy, Municipality of Kotor – Montenegro, IRECOOP FVG*

**DONOR:** *Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia (L.R. 19/2000)*

**TIMING:** *October 2011- August 2012*

### PURPOSES

To provide support to women employment; to contribute to the development of authentic tourist products and to the revival of traditional art of Venetian lace in Boka Kotorska region.

### ACTIVITIES

- NVO for the “Lace from Dobrota” promotion and marketing establishment – “Bajun”;
- Exhibition of the lace work on the occasion of ALDA General Assembly in Udine;
- Specific training for different types of lace;
- Branding and trade mark registration;
- Marketing of the brand “Dobrotska cipka”.

### SUCCESS STORIES

Fifteen unemployed women from Kotor with previous skills in traditional arts, passed specific trainings for Idrijska, Venetian and Dobrotska lace creation. They established an association with the aim of promotion and popularisation of the Dobrotska “cipka” brand, with the aim to grow to an business organisation and open jobs. This is the first time in a long period that Montenegro can offer new specific product based on the old tradition that has almost vanished, the tradition that unites Montenegro with Venice and Europe, which has a deep significance in the on-going EU admission ambitions in Montenegro.



**LDA MONTENEGRO**

*Climate Response Sutomore conference, July 2012*

### III. Mountain Areas: Carnia FVG and Rozaje Montenegro. Values and cooperation

**LEAD PARTNER:** *Cramars Cooperative - Tolmezzo*

**OTHER PARTNERS:** *Forestry Institute Montenegro, Municipality of Rozaje, Euroleader, Carniawellcome*

**DONOR:** *Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia (L.R. 19/2000)*

**DONOR:** *Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia (L.R. 19/2000)*

**TIMING:** *June 2011- June 2012*

#### PURPOSES

To valorise local resources for local sustainable development; to integrate the business systems in the mountain areas of Carnia and Rozaje.

#### ACTIVITIES

- Sustainable Forest Management introduction in Montenegro;
- Contribution to the legislation and capacity development for forest certification;
- Trainings for forestry technicians and institutions representatives on PEFC certification;
- Know-how transfer to business companies in Rozaje;
- Exchanges in the field of: forest fruit products, wood procession industry, agriculture, tourism and European standards achievement.

#### SUCCESS STORIES

Montenegrin officials from the Ministry for agriculture, forestry and fishing expressed interest in adopting the elements of sustainable forest management, forest certification and economical cooperation between two territories. In fact first cooperation contracts are signed between Italian and Montenegrin (Rozaje) businessman in the forest fruit production and sale.

### IV. Municipal Governance and Roma Inclusion in Europe – Lessons from the Field

**LEAD PARTNER:** *Open Society Foundations*

**OTHER PARTNER:** *CEDEM Montenegro, NGO "ART"*

**DONOR:** *Making the Most of EU Funds for Roma (MtM)*

**TIMING:** *May 2012- November 2012*

#### PURPOSES

To create a platform for local authorities to exchange, learn, and support each other in their efforts towards Roma inclusion creation

#### ACTIVITIES

- Case Studies Compilation – 7 Montenegrin municipalities best practices identification
- The first Mayors Making the Most of EU Funds for Roma Inclusion (MERI) conference
- Awards for best mayors - municipalities

#### SUCCESS STORIES

The promotion of minority inclusion and the social inclusion of the most marginal social groups.

# LDA

## Central and Southern Serbia (LDA CSS)

### Delegate

*Sasa Marinkov*



**Established in 2001**

**PARTNERS:** *City of Aarhus, Denmark (Lead partner)*

*City of Nis (Host City)*

*Tavolo Trentino Balcani, Italy*

*City of Kragujevac, Serbia*

*City of Kraljevo, Serbia*

*Association for LDA Zavidovici, Italy*

*City of Saltdal, Norway*

### Main priorities

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

### I. Initiative For Monitoring Social Policy

**LEAD PARTNER:** *Civic Initiatives, Belgrade*

**OTHER PARTNERS:** *Association for Development of Children and Youth - OPEN CLUB, Nis*

**DONOR:** *Royal Norwegian Embassy in Belgrade*

**TIMING:** *October 2012 – January 2013*

### PURPOSES

The project aims to strengthen the capacities of civil society organizations and develop a sustainable mechanism for monitoring the implementation of social policy in Serbia, with a focus on the needs and rights of seven vulnerable groups: children, youth, women, elderly, people with disabilities, migrants and Roma.

### ACTIVITIES

As a local partner organization, LDA Niš, after participating in the training for research teams, conducted field research on the foster care service, and cross-sector services for children in Nis. Results of the research have been presented to the public on a local and national level.

### SUCCESS STORIES

LDACSS has established cooperation with Coalition of Civil Society Focal Points (KOCD) and was a part of a nation wide project.

## II. Promotion Of The European Charter For Equality Of Women And Men At The Local Level

**LEAD PARTNER:** Association Fenomena, Kraljevo

**OTHER PARTNERS:** LDA Mostar, BH; Anima, Kotor, Montenegro; Kvinna til Kvinna, Sweden

**DONOR:** European Commission under the IPA Civil Society Facility: Partnership Actions-Empowerment of Women

**TIMING:** January – December 2012

### PURPOSES

To contribute to the development of policies, measures and budgeting to improve gender equality in Serbia, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

### ACTIVITIES

Two international conferences, signing of the European Charter for equality in participating cities and municipalities participating, forming of local working groups and development and adoption of local action plans to implement the Charter.

### SUCCESS STORIES

LDACSS reaffirmed itself as a reliable partner to local municipalities in the process of EU integrations and developing relevant local documents.

## III. Our Tomorrow

**LEAD PARTNER:** Association Fenomena, Kraljevo

**OTHER PARTNERS:** Educational Centre Krusevac, BalkanIdea, Novi Sad, Republic Directorate for Execution of Sanctions and Correctional institution from Krusevac

**DONOR:** Office for Human and Minority Rights of the Republic of Serbia

**TIMING:** November 2012

### PURPOSES

Project aimed to *Belgrade Centre for Human Rights* f problems faced by youth from the correctional institutions in Serbia when planning their future.

### ACTIVITIES

Activities included a series of workshops with mixed participants from the correctional institutions and regular schools and a call for most creative ways of transferring to the general public a message about the future of youth and everything concerning them in Serbia.

### SUCCESS STORIES

This was a first time collaboration with Belgrade Centre for Human Rights , a renowned Serbian NGO and it gave another opportunity to LDACSS to be part of a nationwide project.

## IV. Welcome to Nis

**LEAD PARTNER:** LDACSS

**OTHER PARTNERS:** Youth Office of Municipality Medijana; Touristic Organization of Nis

**DONOR:** Serbian Ministry of Youth and Sport

**TIMING:** November 2012 – April 2013

### PURPOSES

This project initiates the process of concrete institutional support to young people in their active involvement in the life of the local community through the practice of voluntary work.

### ACTIVITIES

Process of selection and training of the first group of Nis Greeters and establishing sustainable local voluntary service that will work on promotion of the local community, its culture and mentality, thus bringing it closer to the visitors of Nis.

### SUCCESS STORIES

With this project LDACSS has established the first Greeter service in this region of Serbia. Furthermore, Nis Greeters have joined the Global Network of Greeters.

## V. Step By Step Dialogue

**LEAD PARTNER:** Casa Eslava, Barcelona, Spain

**OTHER PARTNER:** LDA CSS

**DONOR:** EC/YIA/ Action 2 – European Voluntary Service

**TIMING:** March – November 2012

### PURPOSES

This EVS project deals with the European cultural identity and an analysis of dialogue of religions and its influence on creation of European cultural identity.

### ACTIVITIES

A series of workshops, debates and public events organized by a volunteer from Nis took place during this 9 months EVS project.

### SUCCESS STORIES

LDACSS has established a cooperation with a new partner from Spain which resulted in developing several more EVS projects.

## VI. Citizenship +

**LEAD PARTNER:** *Associação Mais Cidadania, Lisbon, Portugal*

**OTHER PARTNER:** *LDA CSS*

**DONOR:** *EC/YIA/ Action 2 – European Voluntary Service*

**TIMING:** *July 2012 – August 2013*

### PURPOSES

To contribute in building a common identity for Europeans through the exchange and work of volunteers in Nis and Lisbon.

### ACTIVITIES

LDA acted both as sending and hosting organisation. Activities included four short term and two long term EVS projects taking place in Nis and Lisbon.

### SUCCESS STORIES

This project strengthened further cooperation of LDACSS with partner organization from Portugal and put into practice the international network "Citizenship +" established in 2011.

## VII. Breaking down the walls of prejudice

**LEAD PARTNER:** *CRIJ Limousin, Limoges, France*

**OTHER PARTNER:** *LDA CSS*

**DONOR:** *EC/YIA/ Action 2 – European Voluntary Service*

**TIMING:** *September 2012 – May 2013*

### PURPOSE

Project aims at raising awareness of youth in Nis about the topics related to conflict prevention, tolerance and basic human rights issues.

### ACTIVITIES

Activities included designing and implementing educational programme consisted of series of courses, seminars, trainings and/or workshops.

### SUCCESS STORIES

This EVS project supported the functioning of LDA's youth programme making it further visible in the local community.



## VIII. Promote Volunteerism for All

**LEAD PARTNER:** *Truc sphérique, Zilina, Slovakia*

**OTHER PARTNER:** *LDA CSS*

**DONOR:** *EC/YIA/ Action 2 – European Voluntary Service*

**TIMING:** *October 2012 – June 2013*

### PURPOSES

To promote the value of volunteerism for the development of local community and motivating of youth in Nis to get involved in the local voluntary activities.

### ACTIVITIES

Designing and implementing educational programme consisted of series of courses, seminars, trainings and/or workshops and several voluntary activities.

### SUCCESS STORIES

This EVS project supported the functioning of LDA's youth programme making it further visible in the local community.

## IX. Education and Integration in Mantova

**LEAD PARTNER:** *Alce Nero Società Cooperativa Sociale Onlus, Mantova, Italia*

**OTHER PARTNER:** *LDA CSS*

**DONOR:** *EC/YIA/ Action 2 – European Voluntary Service*

**TIMING:** *May – November 2012*

### PURPOSES

The project aimed at promoting social integration and active participation of people with disabilities in the life of local community.

### ACTIVITIES

The volunteer supported daily services for the people with disabilities in the hosting organization.

### SUCCESS STORIES

This project gave opportunity for a personal growth to a volunteer and strengthened cooperation between partner organizations.

## X. BIThe part of BIT

**LEAD PARTNER:** *Mladinski Center BIT, Crnomelj, Slovenia*

**OTHER PARTNER:** *LDA CSS*

**DONOR:** *EC/YIA/ Action 2 – European Voluntary Service*

**TIMING:** *June – December 2012*

### PURPOSES

To provide intercultural experience for young people in a non-formal context.

### ACTIVITIES

Our volunteers supported everyday activities in the local youth centre.

### SUCCESS STORIES

This project further strengthened already several years long cooperation of our two organizations.

## XI. Day of Europe, European Movie Festival

**LEAD PARTNER:** *Media Reform Center Nis*

**OTHER PARTNER:** *French Institute Nis and Nis Cultural Center, LDA CSS*

**DONOR:** *This was a voluntary activity for LDACSS*

**TIMING:** *8th till 11th of May 2012*

### PURPOSES

To take part in a Festival aimed at strengthening common European identity with the general public in Nis.

### ACTIVITIES

Nine EU member states presented its culture to the public of Nis thru film. The festival lasted four days with a grand opening in the presence of the Ambassador of Denmark in Serbia.

### SUCCESS STORIES

LDACSS further established itself as one of relevant promoters of EU values.

## XII. Antifascist Action

**LEAD PARTNER:** *Antifascist Collective*

**OTHER PARTNERS:** *LDA CSS; Centre for Development of Civil Resources (CRCR / AKC), the Human Rights Committee Niš, Yurom Center, Women's Space, Center for Girls; United for intercultural action - European network against nationalism, racism, fascism and in support of migrants and refugees*

**DONOR:** *This was a voluntary activity for LDACSS*

**TIMING:** *9th till 11th November 2012*

### PURPOSES

To raise awareness on the problem of fascism today among the Nis citizens.

### ACTIVITIES

A series of events have been organised on the occasion of the International day against fascism and antisemitism: Round table „Discrimination in Serbia“, distribution of promotional material on the streets of Nis; movie screening „The Wrong Word - Compensation for Roma and Sinti in Germany“ followed by a discussion; public classroom “Fascism and historical revisionism in Serbia; workshop in high school “The culture of remembrance: antifascism and its values”.

### SUCCESS STORIES

This was the opportunity to strengthen and make more visible the work of Antifascist Collective, where LDACSS is one of the founding organisations.

## XIII. Projects of Tavolo con Balcani in Kraljevo: Youth Programme

**LEAD PARTNER:** *Association Tavolo con Balcani, Italy*

**OTHER PARTNERS:** *LDA CSS, Positive youth, Culture center Ribnica, Museum of Kraljevo, Culture center evergreen*

**DONOR:** *Autonomous Province of Trento*

**TIMING:** *January – December 2012*

### PURPOSES

To strengthen active citizenship and youth participation in Kraljevo (Prijedor, Peja/Pec) and Trento within a context of multiculturalism and pluralism.

### ACTIVITIES

Youth programme of Tavolo con Balcani in 2012 consisted of a series of cultural events for youth: Promotion of the book “The Story of My Life”; Days of Japan culture: “The Other Side of Japan”; Open stand “How the Rock’n’Roll” penetrated the iron curtain”; Concert “If the Kids are United”; Music festival “KulturBunt Fest”; Sticker Art Show; Promotion of comic book editor “Veseli Cetvrtak”; Street Art Fest; Love Music – Hate Fascism; Fantasy Role Play; Fukushima nuclear disaster: what we don’t know?; Metal Massacre; Koncert (Efa Supertramp) and Sticker Art exhibition; Documentary movie: Way of life; Post-apocalypse now; Blues / Primitive R’n’R Punk Attack.

#### **XIV. Projects of Tavolo con Balcani in Kraljevo: Support for persons with mental disabilities**

**LEAD PARTNER:** *Association Tavolo con Balcani, Italy*

**OTHER PARTNER:** *Society for mentally disable persons, Kraljevo*

**DONOR:** *Autonomous Province of Trento*

**TIMING:** *January – December 2012*

#### **PURPOSES**

To strengthen the socio-economic wellness of the disable people and their families of the territory of Kraljevo and contribute to the improvement of the social services delivery to the most vulnerable people working on the networking skills of the CSO's of third sector.

#### **ACTIVITIES**

Activities were organised into several components: Workshops and Working therapy for persons with mental disabilities; Protected apartment programme; Voluntary program "Friend to friend"; Sensibilization: organizing exhibition, going on TV, community meetings etc; Networking: participation in the network of similar organization in Serbia and in Italy.

#### **XV. Projects of Tavolo con Balcani in Kraljevo: Charter about gender equality in local life**

**LEAD PARTNER:** *Association Tavolo con Balcani, Italy*

**OTHER PARTNERS:** *LDA CSS, Association Fenomena, Kraljevo*

**DONOR:** *Autonomous Province of Trento*

**TIMING:** *January – December 2012*

#### **PURPOSES**

To contribute to development of the local gender sensitive policies, measures and budgeting in order to improve the socio-economical situation of women in Kraljevo.

#### **ACTIVITIES**

Promotion of Charter about gender equality in local life (series of public events, charter adopted, action plan developed).

## XVI. Projects of Tavolo con Balcani in Kraljevo: Memories

**LEAD PARTNER:** *Association Tavolo con Balcani, Italy*

**OTHER PARTNERS:** *LDA CSS, Positive youth, Museum of Kraljevo*

**DONOR:** *Autonomous Province of Trento*

**TIMING:** *January – December 2012*

### PURPOSES

To contribute to building a culture of peace in the Balkans and Italy hence improving relations and coexistence between communities in both regional and local perspective starting from a shared reflection on the past, present and future.

### ACTIVITIES

Organising exhibition of Bekim Fehmiu in Pec, Prizren, Sarjevo, Prijedor, Belgrade, Kraljevo and Trento; Producing movie "Private histories" and promotion in Pec, Prijedor, Trento and Kraljevo. Categorization of interviews related to topic migration on Balkan.

## XVII. Projects of Tavolo con Balcani in Kraljevo: Adoto Un Nona Della Sumadija

**LEAD PARTNER:** *Association Tavolo con Balcani, Italy*

**OTHER PARTNER:** *LDA CSS, Center for social welfare*

**DONOR:** *Autonomous Province of Trento*

**TIMING:** *January – December 2012*

### PURPOSES

Financial support to elderly and vulnerable persons in the City of Kraljevo.

### ACTIVITIES

Direct financial support to elderly from donors from Trento every third month.

## XVIII. Projects of Tavolo con Balcani in Kraljevo: SEENET 2

**LEAD PARTNER:** *Association Tavolo con Balcani, Italy*

**OTHER PARTNERS:** *LDA CSS, Sodalis, City of Kraljevo*

**DONORS:** *Autonomous Province of Trento, European Commission*

**TIMING:** *January – December 2012*

### PURPOSES

To support to development of tourism on the territory of the City of Kraljevo.

### ACTIVITIES

Rebuilding fortress Maglic and establishing of Eco-museum.

## XIX. Projects of Tavolo con Balcani in Kraljevo: Micro credits for agricultural development

**LEAD PARTNER:** *Association Tavolo con Balcani, Italy*

**OTHER PARTNER:** *DA CSS, Micro Development Fund*

**DONORS:** *Autonomous Province of Trento*

**TIMING:** *January – December 2012*

### PURPOSES

To contribute to development of rural areas around the City of Kraljevo.

### ACTIVITIES

Managing micro credit line and distribution of micro credits.

### SUCCESS STORIES

Projects of Tavolo con balcani in Kraljevo during 2012. supported development of local partner NGOs, institutions and individuals.

A large number of youth benefited from a wide variety of programmes tailor made according to their needs. Association Fenomena continued to provide service of SOS line for victims of family violence and continued to campaign for shelter for victims of family violence. 20 elderly persons have been supported through the programmed Adoto Un Nona Della Sumadija. After decades of neglect and lack of investments historical monument

of great significance that is the Maglic Fortress has been put on the tourist map of Serbia. Around 100 micro credits were distributed in most undeveloped rural areas around Kraljevo.

Good cooperation between public institutions (schools, library etc.) and local CSO were established. All CSOs supported by Tavolo con Balcani took active participation and gave valuable contribution to different local, national and regional professional networks. All activities in 2012 attracted a large number of volunteers who gave their contribution to the success of all the aforementioned programmes. We consider all this as our success stories in 2012. Finally, we think that the fact that our work is well embedded in local community is of huge importance. This deep connection with territory we work on certainly amplified results achieved in 2012.



*LDA CSS, Citizenship + Open workshop in Nis*



## LDA Subotica (Serbia)

### Delegate

*Milan Bosnjak*



**Established in 1993**

**PARTNER:** Wolverhampton City Council, UK  
(Lead Partner)

### Main priorities

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

### I. Support for twinning at networking at European level SNET.EU

**LEAD PARTNER:** LDA Osijek

**OTHER PARTNERS:** LDA Subotica; ALDA; Open University Subotica; Evangelical Theological Faculty Osijek; Croatian Institute for Local Government HILS Osijek.

**DONORS:** European Union, IPA Cross-border Programme Croatia-Serbia

**TIMING:** September 2012 - March 2014

### PURPOSES

- To contribute to the building and the strengthening of the capacity of local governments in urban and rural border areas in Serbia and Croatia, for effective networking and cooperation in European projects, promotion of active citizenship, improving cooperation and exchange of experiences between local governments of Croatia and Serbia;
- Town-twinning and municipality-twinning, in order to find and to establish partnerships with municipalities and cities of the European Union.

### ACTIVITIES

- Educational seminars for local authorities and representatives civil society on European public policies and EU integration;
- Training programs for the development of joint EU projects;
- Establishment of Resource Centres for twinning and networking of local authorities in the Serbian and Croatian border region;

- Promotional workshops and exchange of good practice within Resource Centres;
- Joint thematic workshops (“coffee houses”) in cities and municipalities in border areas of Croatia and Serbia.

## SUCCESS STORIES

Establishing new contacts between local authorities in Croatia and Serbia, with the possibility of creating a joint project proposal in the framework of the Europe for Citizens Programme. Opening of Resource centres in Subotica and Osijek for networking and town twinning.



LDA SUBOTICA Day of Europe - EU Info Point

## II. Participati

**LEAD PARTNER:** LDA Subotica

**OTHER PARTNERS:** Croatia: LDA Osijek; Estonia: Continuous Action; Macedonia: Association Mana; Moldova: Millennium; Montenegro: Svetionik; Slovenia: Social welfare movement; Sweden: Competence for women safety; Turkey: BursArt.

**DONOR:** European Commission  
Croatia-Serbia

**TIMING:** December 2011 – May 2012

## PURPOSES

To raise understanding and knowledge on personal and professional development of young people with fewer opportunities through non-formal education within youth work. Through this training youth workers and youth leaders had the opportunity to learn about creative and innovative methods of non-formal education and their benefits.

## ACTIVITIES

- 6 training days in Subotica;
- 3 study visits of the group.

## SUCCESS STORIES

Established good relations with new potential partners for the cooperation on youth projects, youth exchanges and EVS.

### III. Day of Europe – EU Info Point

**LEAD PARTNER:** *LDA Subotica*

**OTHER PARTNERS:** *City of Subotica and other Local NGOs active in promotion of European values*

**DONORS:** *LDA Subotica, City of Subotica and Provincial Secretariat for Sport and Youth*

**TIMING:** *April-May 2012*

#### SUCCESS STORIES

Through this traditional event in which the main objective is sharing the knowledge about Europe and European values among the citizens, LDA Subotica, EU member states Embassies, local NGOs and the City administration had the opportunity to work together for a common goal and strengthen their relations. The Mayor of Subotica, Mr. Sasa Vucinic and the Croatian Consul Ms. Ljerka Alajbeg, who contributed in spreading the European spirit, opened the event.

#### PURPOSES

To increase awareness of youth and citizens about the possibilities and values which the EU provides, as well as the activities of local NGOs active in promotion of European values.

#### ACTIVITIES

- Celebration of the Day of Europe on the City's main square with promotional materials, games, quizzes about Europe and EU Member States;
- Round table about multiculturalism organised in cooperation with Open university Subotica.

## 2. ALDA's programmes

### 2.1. Participation and Citizenship Programme

This programme encompassed three sort of projects divided according to the donor's identity: the Europe for Citizen Programme, Life-Long Learning Programme and Youth in Action Programme.

#### Europe for Citizens Programme European Commission



Within this Programme, ALDA implemented several projects financed by the Europe for Citizens Programme of the European Commission. Those are STAND.UP that finished at the beginning of 2012, TIC TAC that had its final event in November 2012 and VIT that is still going on in 2013.



Final event of Stand.Up (Malta, 16-17 January 2012)

#### 2.1.1. STAND.UP - Strengthening Twinning Agreements and Networking for Development. United in Partnership



**LEAD PARTNER:** Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA)

**OTHER PARTNERS:** LDA Albania, Local Democracy Agency, - AL; NGO Horizont – AL; Balkan Assist - Association for citizen activity support – BG; NFAPI, National Forum API – BG; RAM, Regional Association of Municipalities “Central Stara Planina” – BG; UBBSLA, Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities – BG; LDA Osijek, Local Democracy Agency – HR; CIDEFE, Centre d’information, de documentation, d’études et de formation – FR; Comité de Jumelage de Démouville; MECBN, Maison de l’Europe de Caen Basse-Normandie – FR; ACRO, Active Creative And Reforming Organisation – GR; IPRES, Istituto Pugliese di Ricerche Sociali – IT; LALRG, Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments – LV; ZELS, Association of the units of local self-government – MK; LCA, Local Councils’ Association – MT; URCRP (ZGW RP), Union of Rural Communes of the Republic of Poland – PL; AMR, Romanian Municipalities Associations – RO

**TIMING:** 1st February 2011 – 31st January 2012

#### PURPOSES

STAND.UP aimed at strengthening CSO's involvement in the overall framework of EU twinning in order of crea-

ting a better organised cooperation system between LA & CSO and a more present Public-Private Partnership in the fight against economic and social crisis, in the promotion of mobility for democracy and the ownership of European identity. The focus area is Eastern Europe recognised as a weaker area in terms of citizens participation.

STAND.UP involved more than 500 persons directly and many others through the website and the partners' networks. Partnership includes NGOs and Associations of LA that are able of representing LA's interests and citizens needs.

The overall goal was to use networking agreements between LA as an inclusive agora in which citizens' voice is heard and as basis for creating a reactive partnership in front on economic difficulties and development goals.

Several recommendations were presented during the events and follow-up activities were proposed in the partners' areas of interest.

## ACTIVITIES

- International Workshop in Latvia on Fighting poverty and Promoting innovative Socio-economic activities involving a Private-Public Partnership with 39 international and 20 local participants.
- International Conference in Venice on Mobility and Volunteering in Town Twinning and how to create a human resources' exchange methodology for LA&CSO.
- Final International Conference in Malta on Social integration of vulnerable groups and Promoting Gender equality through a Good local governmental system.
- 17 Local preparatory meetings and events at which local stakeholders discussed the priorities in terms of citizen and civic participation.

Seen the nature of the project and the large partnership involved, some of the partners developed joint activities in the framework of the Europe for Citizens programme. With regard to the success of the project, UBBSLA, RAM and URCP decided to become members of ALDA and continuing cooperating with their own members to promote active citizenship and local democracy.

### 2.1.2. TIC TAC

- Training, Information, Cooperation
- Towards Active Citizenship



**LEAD PARTNER:** Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA)

**OTHER PARTNERS:** Local

Councils' association - LCA (Malta) [www.lca.org.mt](http://www.lca.org.mt); Local Democracy Agency Osijek – LDA Osijek (Croatia) [www.lda-osijek.hr](http://www.lda-osijek.hr); Centre d'information, de documentation, d'études et de formation – CIDEF (France); Istituto pugliese di ricerche sociali – IPRES (Italy) [www.ipres.it](http://www.ipres.it); Romanian Municipalities associations – RAM (Romania) [www.amr.ro](http://www.amr.ro); Albania Association of Municipalities – AAM (Albania) [www.aam-al.com](http://www.aam-al.com); The Union of Towns and Cities of Slovakia - UTCS (Slovakia) [www.unia-miest.sk/en/index.asp](http://www.unia-miest.sk/en/index.asp); Municipality of Vejle (Denmark) [www.vejle.dk](http://www.vejle.dk); Donegal County Council (Ireland) [www.donegalcoco.ie](http://www.donegalcoco.ie); Center for Institutional Development - CIRa (Macedonia) [www.cira.org.mk](http://www.cira.org.mk); Association for European Partnership – AEP (Bulgaria) [www.aep-bg.org/index.html](http://www.aep-bg.org/index.html); Leafair Community Association (Ireland) [www.leafaircommunityassociation.org](http://www.leafaircommunityassociation.org)

**ASSOCIATE PARTNERS:** NGO Horizont, Albania, <http://horizont-albania.weebly.com/>; National Forum API (Bulgaria) [www.apiplovdiv.tripod.com/index.html](http://www.apiplovdiv.tripod.com/index.html); Agora Central Europe, Research centre (Czech Republic) [www.agora-ce.cz](http://www.agora-ce.cz); Cooperation and Development (Albania) [www.crcd.org.al](http://www.crcd.org.al); Coalition of youth organizations SEGA (Macedonia) [www.sega.org.mk](http://www.sega.org.mk); Learning Cities Associazione di promozione sociale – APS (Italia) [www.learningcities.it](http://www.learningcities.it); Gouv2U (Belgium) [www.gov2u.org](http://www.gov2u.org); Associazione network per lo sviluppo locale - UNSICO (Italy) [www.unsico.it](http://www.unsico.it); World Wide – Associazione di promozione sociale (Italy) [www.worldwide-aps.eu](http://www.worldwide-aps.eu); Association of Rural Families and Women (Spain) [www.afammer.org](http://www.afammer.org)

**TIMING:** 6th January 2012 – 15th January 2013



TIC TAC Training session, Brussels, March 2012

exchange of good practices among partners and debating about the main challenges faced by local and European stakeholders in the field of democracy and citizen participation.

## PURPOSES

The main objective of the project is to increase awareness about the European Union, the Europe for Citizens Programme and opportunities for increasing citizen participation at local and European level and to contribute to creating new partnerships and networks.

## ACTIVITIES

- An international training course held in Brussels on 29th-31st March 2012 focused on the Europe for Citizens programme;
- 11 Local Information Days disseminating the Europe for Citizens objectives locally;
- An international three-day Citizenship Fair organised in Malta from 29th to 31st October 2012 promoting

## SUCCESS STORIES

The final conference in Malta acknowledged that the EU is a laboratory of constant institutional change and that citizens have a part to play in that change. A special focus was put on the European Citizen Initiative as a new tool to foster active citizenship. In his address, Mr Gerald Häfner, Member of the Committee on Legal Affairs and of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs and Substitute of the Committee on Petitions of the European Parliament, proposed to have another Europe-wide convention on the future of the EU, which will work on a new consolidated Treaty and for a longer period than the first one.



### 2.1.3. VIT - Very Important Twinning, Volunteering in Town

**LEAD PARTNER:** Association of Local Democracy Agencies ALDA)

**OTHER PARTNERS:** Association Française du Conseil des Communes et Régions d'Europe (AFCCRE) (France) [www.afccre.org](http://www.afccre.org); Romanian Municipalities Association (Romania) [www.amr.ro](http://www.amr.ro); Municipality of Bydgoszcz (Poland) [www.bydgoszcz.eu](http://www.bydgoszcz.eu); Centre for Community Organizing (Bratislava, Slovakia) [www.cpkp.cz](http://www.cpkp.cz); Municipal Training Centre at Kaunas University of Technology (Lithuania) [www.savivalda.lt](http://www.savivalda.lt); Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments (Latvia) [www.lps.lv/LARLG](http://www.lps.lv/LARLG); Local Councils' Association (Malta) [www.lca.org.mt](http://www.lca.org.mt); Municipality of Veles (Republic of Macedonia) <http://www.veles.gov.mk>; Municipality of Vejle (Denmark) [www.vejle.dk](http://www.vejle.dk); Wolverhampton City Council (United Kingdom) [www.wolverhampton.gov.uk](http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk); Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities (Bulgaria) [www.ubbsla.org](http://www.ubbsla.org); Kendro Merimnas Oikoyenias kai Pediou (Athens, Greece) [www.kmop.gr](http://www.kmop.gr); Municipality of Novigrad (Croatia) [www.novigrad.hr](http://www.novigrad.hr); Albania Association of Municipalities (Albania) [www.aam-al.com](http://www.aam-al.com); RECREATURA arts&culture (Valencia, Spain) [www.recreatura.com](http://www.recreatura.com); Association for Developing Voluntary Work Novo Mesto (Slovenia) [www.drpdnm.si](http://www.drpdnm.si); Donegal County Council (Ireland) [www.donegalcoco.ie](http://www.donegalcoco.ie)

#### PURPOSES

The project aims at facilitating debate, action and reflexion between partners on how citizens may enhance governance in Europe and how town twinning can contribute to the dissemination of European Union values and the construction of a European identity. At the same time, the project wishes to revitalize existing town-twinning relations of the partner towns and initiate new twinning.

**ASSOCIATE PARTNERS:** Consortium for Development of Polesine (Italy) [www.consvipo.it](http://www.consvipo.it); Local Democracy Agency Shkodra (Albania); Municipality of Monfalcone (Italy) [www.comune.monfalcone.go.it](http://www.comune.monfalcone.go.it); Municipality of Brindisi (Italy) [www.comune.brindisi.it](http://www.comune.brindisi.it); Municipality of Reggio Emilia (Italy) [www.municipio.re.it](http://www.municipio.re.it); Province of Milano (Italy) [www.provincia.milano.it](http://www.provincia.milano.it); Associazione Solo Uguali Diritti (S.U.D.) (Italy); National Forum Alternatives, Practice, Initiatives (Plovdiv, Bulgaria) [www.apiplovdiv.tripod.com](http://www.apiplovdiv.tripod.com); Balkan Assist Association (Bulgaria) [www.balkanassist.bg](http://www.balkanassist.bg)

**TIMING:** 1st July 2011 – 30th June 2013

#### ACTIVITIES

- International conferences providing opportunities to exchange local experiences and develop networking and cooperation in the addressed fields.
  - 1) Bydgoszcz, Poland, 8th July 2011: Conference



“volunteering for democracy”, recommendations from civil society and local authorities.

2) Udine, Italy, 7-8th June 2012: two conferences: “Empowering Citizens and strengthening local governance in neighbouring countries: Lessons learned and opportunities from East to South” and “Active Ageing and Local Governance: How to involve elderly as active citizens in their local communities”

3) Pula, Udine, 17-19th April 2013.

- 18 Local workshops tackling the ways in which citizens may contribute to the enhancement of the governance of their communities by volunteering and support the revitalization of existing town-twinning relations of the towns involved or the start up of new twinning in Europe.



*Jornadas-Voluntariado-Recreatura-WEB-009 copy, Marco Boaria ALDA, Dorothe Fischer, Recreatura, Valencia*

## SUCCESS STORY

The international conference “Active Ageing and Local Governance: How to involve elderly as active citizens in their local communities” organised as part of the project VIT and of the European Year 2012 of Active Ageing was held in Udine on 8th June 2012. VIT partners, such as RECREATURA, the Municipality of Bydgoszcz, the Association of Albanian Municipalities, the Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments and the Association of Romanian Municipalities were particularly involved in the organisation of this conference and shared good practices developed within the project. Furthermore, the public had the chance to assist to a concert of a choir called “Coro Danito Dobrina”, nationally recognised since they sang for the Pope at the occasion of the birthday of Roma. They interpreted four songs and finished with the Anthem of Europe, the “Ode to Joy” based on the final movement of Beethoven’s 9th Symphony.

## 2.1.4. Life Long Learning Programme (GRUNDTVIG)



Education and Culture DG

### Lifelong Learning Programme

Network for Community Development with Marginalised Social Groups

**LEAD PARTNER:** *Hungarian Association of Community Development*

**OTHER PARTNERS:** *Association of Local Democracy Agencies - ALDA (France); Estratègies de Transformació Comunitària Sostenible ETCS (Spain); Scottish Community Development Centre (UK)*

**TIMING:** *1st August 2011 – 31st July 2013*

### PURPOSES

The project “Network for Community Development with Marginalised Social Groups”, part of the LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAMME - GRUNDTVIG – Learning Partnership, aims to facilitate the mutual learning of innovative tools of community development that tackle the problems of marginalized social groups in different regions of Europe. The main aim of the project will be sharing knowledge and experiences of the partner organisations gained from experimental, innovative, interdisciplinary community based methods effective in combating poverty that can be adopted in other



*Council of Europe, Strasbourg*

countries, in different local contexts.

The aim is to bring methodological innovation cutting across professional boundaries, combining elements of community development and social work, for introducing new approaches of development in seriously marginalized, deprived, often ghettoized localities. The goal of each partner is to facilitate progress that does not only bring anti-poverty measures but also support social integration of different excluded groups.

The present partnership brings together organisations that deal with similar social issues with different methodologies of community development. The cooperation can lead to long-term collaboration based on learning about the different national contexts, methodological approaches and adaptable, good practices. The mutual learning puts emphasis on gaining practical

insight of adaptable initiatives. The project will be based, in a large extent, on collecting valuable experiences by fieldwork, by visiting actual projects dealing with community development of marginalised groups. Experiences will also be shared in workshops with the participation of the partner organisation.

## ACTIVITIES

Workshop and learning exchange events with the European partner organisations at three different localities with different problems, showing alternative approaches of community building. Activities took place in Strasbourg (2011), Glasgow (2012), Barcelona (2012) and Budapest (2013). Implemented so far:

A workshop on citizen participation and community development, introducing participants to ALDA's networking methodology, to the concrete experience of the Municipality of Strasbourg, including a visit to the Council of Europe.

A workshop on poverty and exclusion in Scotland and the community development response, and how local stakeholders understand and practice assets approaches.

A workshop on innovative participatory democracy in Barcelona gave the possibility to the participants to experience new participatory mechanisms put in place by public authorities and private sector in the Catalonian capital.

## 2.1.4. Youth in Action



### 2.1.4.1. New Entrepreneurs Ways (NEW)

**LEAD PARTNER:** Municipality of Arzignano (Italy)

**OTHER PARTNERS:** Association of Local Democracy Agencies (France); NGO Horizont (Albania); Hodina H (Czech Republic); Patras Municipal Enterprise for Planning & Development – ADEP S.A. (Greece); Local Councils' Association (Malta); Studio Progetto (Italy)

**TIMING:** 1st March 2012 – 30th September 2013

## PURPOSES

This project aims at providing an unbiased platform for debate and exchange of experiences and/or best practices' on youth employment and young entrepreneurship by bringing together youth workers, youth leaders and young people. The theme of the proposal is new ways of thinking at entrepreneurship.

The project blend some common activities of Youth In Action Programme to create a route of awareness for young people and youth workers to bring them to compare their will, ideas and proposals on the topic.

The project will involve about 400 young people in the 6 countries and will allow them to become aware of the global situation of employment in Europe, stimulating them to imagine new styles and visions for youth entrepreneurship.



Activities of the project

## ACTIVITIES

The first step of the project consisted in a training seminar in Arzignano, Italy, from the 11th to 16th June 2012. This event allowed young people to debate and exchange among them and with expert trainers about entrepreneurship.

The second step of "New Entrepreneurs Ways" consists of six National Youth Initiatives (one for each partner country), that will make young people be directly and actively involved in activities managed by themselves for developing their initiatives, entrepreneurial spirit and creativity. This part of the project was held through 2012 and 2013.

The third phase of the project expected in 2013 will consist of a trans-national Youth Exchange in Pelhrimov, Czech Republic: through "discovery visits", workshops, debates and role playing activities it will provide the participants with a concrete experience about the situation of work, employment and entrepreneurship in Europe. At the end of the project, a publication will be produced to promote its tangible results and outcomes.

At the end of the project a publication will be produced to promote the tangible results and outcomes of the project: it will be disseminated and granted visibility among all the stakeholders active in the field of youth in the partners' territories.

## SUCCESS STORY

The training seminar, organized by Cooperativa Studio Progetto with ALDA trainers involved participants in debating about entrepreneurship and youth employment with a creative and international approach. The active collaboration of the local economic fabric al-

lowed the development of good training activities and exercises. One of them that needs a highlight was the round table "NEW entrepreneurship today: utopia or reality?", held during the seminar, in which various local entrepreneurs and experts on local start-up companies presented their experiences in entrepreneurship. Andrew Arduini from Editrice Millennium, Alessandro Fracasso from Italian Power Company, Filippo Storti from Manostorti, Patrizia Bernardini from Centro di Produttività Veneto, Massimo Avantaggiato from UNISCO and professor Roberto Ricciuti from the University of Verona. Debated with the participants about the meaning of being an entrepreneur today and the role of politics in supporting new entrepreneurship.



*Project new entrepreneurs ways*

## 2.1.4.2. Youth wear Green - YwG

**LEAD PARTNER:** ALDA - Association of Local Democracy Agencies

**OTHER PARTNERS:** Newtowncunningham Community Development Initiative (Ireland); Local Democracy Agency Sisak (Croatia); ALFA Vernon (France); Associazione Trentino con il Kosovo (Italy/Kosovo); Local Democracy Agency Subotica (Serbia); Associazione S.U.D – Solo Uguali Diritti (Italy); Organizata Rinore Hareja Vushtrri (Kosovo); Association of Kosovo Municipalities (Kosovo); Reggio Terzo Mondo – RTM (Italy/Kosovo); Local Democracy Agency Georgia (Georgia)

**TIMING:** 2nd December 2011 – 29th April 2012

### PURPOSES

The project YwG is a multilateral Youth Exchange project, bringing together young people from France, Italy, Ireland, Georgia, Croatia, Serbia and Kosovo, and aiming at promoting active citizenship and volunteering at the local and European level, mainly on environmental issues. This project is placed in the framework of the European Year of Volunteering as well as the global environmental challenges of today's world and in particular Europe's 2020 strategy. The European Year of Volunteering is especially emphasized as a way to make a difference and contribute to the development of societies in all respects. The specific objective of this project is to raise young people's awareness regarding environmental issues. But it aims at going further: through different kind of activities, mainly focused

on environmental issues, this project aims at increasing young people's civic consciousness and commitment to protect the environment and further contribute to the development of their societies, being active shapers of the future of their own communities and of Europe.

### ACTIVITIES

The whole implementation of the project will help young people to develop skills and competencies that they will be able to use in the long run in order to participate actively in the public life at the local and European level. The venue of this youth exchange is the municipality of Peja/Pec, Kosovo. The main activity will last 10 days (including 2 travel days) and will involve 41 people including the group leaders. Role plays, intercultural activities, working groups and excursions in the nature (open-air activities), which will permit the active involvement of the participants, are foreseen during this exchange. Its methodology is non-formal education which has the advantage of being voluntary and counts on the intrinsic motivation of its participants. In addition, through non-formal education the participants acquire life-long learning habits, which motivate them to become citizens and to promote democratic values and principles in their communities.





## **SUCCESS STORY**

More than 30 young people coming from four European countries celebrated the “Earth Day” in Peja/Pec (Kosovo) with a Flash Mob in the main square of the Peja/Pec. Participants prepared leaflets with slogans concerning environment protection, alternative waste bins made from recycled materials and put in place a public Flash Mob. All participants wore green t-shirts and distributed the leaflets with environmental protection slogans to local citizens.



## 2.2. Balkans Programme

The Balkans Programme concentrates on two types of specific methodologies. On one hand, it encompasses decentralised cooperation programmes (France-Balkans, Lower-Normandy-Macedonia), and on the other programmes implemented within the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance of the European Union.

### 2.2.1. Decentralised Cooperation in the Balkans

#### 2.2.1.1. Multilateral Decentralised Cooperation Programme France-Balkans for good governance in South-East Europe



*Sur Les Pas d'Albert Londres*



*Steering Committee, Brussels*

#### **LEAD PARTNER:** Pays Vichy-Auvergne

*The France-Balkans network is numbers around 20 members from France, Albania, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania and Serbia. Its members are local and regional authorities, associations of local authorities and NGOs active in the Balkans or coming from the above mentioned countries. The network is supported by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs both financially and politically. Its particularity is that it evolved from a multilateral decentralised cooperation programme created by French local authorities, which have bilateral co-operations in the Balkans, into a network representing LAs and NGOs interested in topical and practical subjects such as sustainable tourism, youth policies at local level, media and new technologies, local governance and active citizenship. ALDA is a member and a coordinator of activities since the beginnings.*

**OTHER PARTNERS:** *Association of Local Democracy Agencies; The Regional Council of Lower-Normandie in bilateral cooperation with the Republic of Macedonia; The Intermunicipal Syndicate for the Development of the Loire and its Tributaries (SICALA Haute-Loire) in bilateral cooperation with Lezhë and Berat (Albania), and Lyaskovets (Bulgaria); The General Council of Territory of Belfort in bilateral cooperation with the city of Novi Beograd (Serbia); The city of Nevers in bilateral cooperation with the city of Sremska Mitrovica (Serbia); The city of Dijon in bilateral cooperation with the city of Skopje (Republic of Macedonia); The city of Epinal in bilateral cooperation with Bitola (Republic of Macedonia); The training center of the Hautes-Alpes Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CRET Hautes-Alpes) in bilateral cooperation with Prizren (Kosovo) and Tetovo (Macedonia); The Pays Vichy-Auvergne in bilateral cooperation with Cluj/Napoca (Romania); The municipality of Saint-Ouen in bilateral cooperation with the municipality of Roussé (Bulgaria); the Local democracy agencies from Subotica (Serbia), Osjek (Croatia), Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Niksic (Montenegro), Shkodra (Albania) and the ALDA office in Skopje (Macedonia); The Metamorphosis Foundation and the International Institute for Peace and Human Rights of Caen*

**DONOR:** *French Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

**TIMING:** *2010 - 2013*

## PURPOSES

The project aims at promoting the development of good governance at regional and local levels and improving capacities of local authorities in order to allow them to do their tasks in the best way possible and to

provide good services to their citizens. This project proposes to achieve this objective by improving the mutual knowledge about activities and actors, by creating a network of French actors involved in the Balkan countries in order to work on a common plan which would open the programme to other partners in Europe.

## ACTIVITIES

1. Seminar Tourism and outdoor activities, Tetovo, 10th and 11th May 2012

The seminar aimed to highlight the numerous strengths of the Balkan countries to become a well-known tourist destination, in terms of outdoor activities, gathering around the table the various links in the chain of development with the purpose to bring to everyone the information needed to identify its role. Moreover, this event in Tetovo permitted to exchange on concrete actions in the Balkans for improving the tourism situation for international and Balkan travelers through long discussion among participants.

2. The itinerary tour "On Albert Londres' footsteps"

A tour in the Balkans, which involved thirty young journalists, bloggers and photographers from France, Romania, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Macedonia. While traveling in different Balkan towns (from Osijek to Niš, via Tuzla, Sarajevo, Mostar, Nikšič, Shkodra and Skopje) from 8th to 24th August, they have produced film documentary,, interviews and photos. The young journalists have followed the steps of the famous French reporter Albert Londres (1884-1932), who travelled extensively through the Balkans in 19th century. The project aimed to put these young journalists in contact with local communities and the civil society in territories that have known in their modern history painful and



*Tour in the Balkans*

bloody interethnic conflicts, and are now energetically building their integration to the European Union. Back in their home countries, participants will act as “ambassadors” and transfer their newly acquired experience to fellow students and citizens at the local level. Ultimately, the project also aimed to help these young journalists jumpstart their careers through internships in partner media organisations.

### 3. Privacy and freedom of expression conference

An international conference on 21th - 22th, 2012 was organized by the Metamorphosis Foundation and the International Institute for Peace and Human Rights from Caen and held in City Hall in Skopje. The conference was attended by experts from several countries holding presentations from various aspects of these topics. Main conference sessions spanned issues such as the legal frameworks on privacy in several countries from the EU and the Balkans, and there was a discussion on children’s privacy on the internet, privacy in the business sector and in the media. As for the freedom of

expression, the topics were covered include: censorship in the media, hate speech, the role of the state, as well as the role of social media as a free territory.

## SUCCESS STORY

A success story within this programme in 2012 is the touring seminar for 20 French and Balkan young journalists amateurs in six Balkan countries (Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania and Macedonia) in August 2012. The main objective of this activity was to travel on the steps of famous early 20th century French journalist Albert Londres, who investigated about the political and social situation of Balkan countries. Today, the French reward for best investigative journalism bares his name. The youngsters had the task to film, write, record interviews, articles and short films or any kind of material about their experience in the places they were located. They were accompanied by a team of 6 experts/trainers and facilitators and were welcomed in the Local Democracy Agencies in Subotica, Osijek, Mostar, Niksic, Shkodra and the Skopje office where they were welcomed by LDAs and ALDA staff. They also visited Tuzla, Sarajevo and Srebrenica. We should pay a particular tribute to the local staff, who relentlessly worked to organise relevant visits, encounters and interviews with interesting people on topics such as freedom of expression and media, war and post-war societies, intercultural and interethnic relations, women, minorities’ and LGBT rights and many others. A film has been developed and will be shown at the European Assises for decentralised cooperation in Brussels on 9 April 2013. For more information about this event please visit <http://www.sur-les-pas-d-albert-londres.fr/>

### 2.2.1.2. Decentralised Cooperation Programme between the French region Lower Normandy and the Republic of Macedonia



**LEAD PARTNER:** *Regional Council of Lower Normandy, France*

**OTHER PARTNERS:** *LDA CSS; Centre for Development of Civil Resources (CRCR / AKC), the Human Rights Committee Niš, Yurom Center, Women's Space, Center for Girls; United for intercultural action - European network against nationalism, racism, fascism and in support of migrants and refugees*

**DONORS:** *Lower Normandy Region and the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

**TIMING:** *2007 – 2013*

#### PURPOSES

The main priority of the Decentralised Cooperation between the French region Lower Normandy and the Republic of Macedonia is to contribute to the strengthening of the institutional capacity at local and regional level.

The local government is facing a numerous issues:



*Activities in Macedonia*

managing staff, lack of funding, partnership building, citizen participation, use of new technologies. The project supports the decentralisation process and encourages citizen participation at local level so as to reinforce the local governance sustainability.

#### ACTIVITIES

The project aspires to bridge the gap between different stakeholders from the two territories on a variety of thematic and cross-thematic issues such as: New Technologies, Youth, Cultural Heritage, Agriculture, Tourism and Human Rights. The core objective of the programme is to implement activities by tandem organisations, under the auspices of the Regional Council of Lower Normandy and the Macedonian Ministry of Local Self-Governance.

The activities of this final year of cooperation face challenges such as the territorial approach and deve-



lopment which are also priorities for the next three years of cooperation. Throughout this year, stakeholders, policy makers and citizens worked on understanding the local and regional context.

Town twinning remains an important segment of the cooperation among the numerous activities undertaken as part of the project. The town twinning concept opens up possibilities for utilising new territorial potential for the development of the cities.

Despite the fact that the project is in the final year of implementation, it will continue for three more years (2013-2016) in order to enhance the local and regional development and to build strong friendships between the populations from the two territories. Currently, the Lower Normandy Region promotes the concept of territorial approach to local development as a basis for the launch of another three-year programme starting in 2013. This concept focuses on development issues, in terms of the economic, social and environmental point of view. It involves local stakeholders such as institutions, associations, business, universities and other local and national actors based on a given territory to identify priorities and important policies, which will contribute to the local and regional development of that territory.

## SUCCESS STORIES

The programme for decentralised cooperation between the Lower Normandy Region and the Republic of Macedonia progressively stretches out and reaches out to larger audience. The new communication tools introduced in the programme, such as the new logo, which is already widely recognisable, the internet site and the monthly newsletter, which generate the public's interest in the programme through innovative approach to information distribution, contribute to gre-

ater visibility and larger promotion of the project.

Another important aspect of the fruitful cooperation is the introduction of new partners and new components in the cooperation. The programme is refreshed with the new topic "Human rights" embodied by the International Institute for Human Rights and Peace from Caen, Lower Normandy and the involvement of the Mont-Saint-Michel and its bay in the cooperation as a partner for the two components: Cultural Policies and Tourism.

During the Steering Committee that took place in September 2012, a participatory approach to policy making was used as proposed by ALDA. The event was moderated by Marco Boaria, Resource and Development Unit Coordinator, and Biljana Zasova, Project Co-ordinator and Project manager, from ALDA.

As we look back over the past year, we can see that several events of magnitude, that drew a considerable public interest, were organised within this programme. One event of such importance was the International conference "Freedom and Privacy on the Internet", organised by the Metamorphosis Foundation and the Institute for Human Rights and Peace from Caen, two institutions that cooperate closely within the decentralised cooperation. The conference took place on 21st and 22nd May 2012 in Skopje, Macedonia. During the conference many experts and participants raised numerous issues such as: privacy on the Internet, freedom of speech, hate speech, media, internet censorship, private and professional life, the institutional framework and Internet privacy in EU and in the Balkans. A particular highlight should be given to the participation of many experts from other Balkan countries, enabled by the active involvement of the France-Balkans Network, which provide political and financial support to this event.

## 2.2.2. Capacity-building for civil society

ALDA continued its efforts in capacity-building for civil society in the Balkans with the implementation of an IPA and PRINCE-based programmes, which were imagined on one hand as a support to Local Democracy Agencies and their partners, but also as a possibility for them to jointly work in developing skills and applying to other IPA projects.

### 2.2.2.1. Civil society for Action in Dialogue and Partnerships (IPA 2009)



This two-year regional co-operation project implemented in Bosnia and Herzegovina was a part of a wider Programme: Support to issue-based NGO networks. Lead partner is the Association of Local Democracy Agencies, while the partners are its network members in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia – Local Democracy Agencies Mostar, Zavidovici, Osijek, Subotica as well as the Forum of Tuzla Citizens, Centre for Local Development Breza, DON Prijedor and Nove nade Bihac, local NGO-s contributing effectively to local democracy development and implementing municipal co-operation agreements.

During project implementation in the conference

thematic workshops, trainings, local campaigning for effective implementation of MoU in six municipalities gave an insight into the present challenges of implementing EU standards of democratic governance at local level, the role of local self-governments in EU integration process as well as an overview of local practice in implementing municipal co-operation agreements in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Issue based networking of CSO-s engaged in local democracy development, youth and women's empowerment and environment protection resulted in creation of the informal regional network promoting good governance and active citizenship in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Further to this, information campaigns were organized in support to better co-operation between local authorities and CSO-s, local CSO address books were printed and disseminated while the Handbook on best practices promoting cross-sectoral partnerships will be published and widely disseminated.



*Meeting programme IPA BiH*

### 2.2.2.2. Information and Communication Programme Bosnia and Herzegovina: The European and Our Affairs (IPA 2011)



*IPA 2011, Zavidovici*

The project was implemented in close collaboration with LDA Zavidovici and was intended to help provide clear and factual information on EU enlargement and pre-accession assistance to the citizens in local communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina – Zavidovici, Zepce, Zenica. The project activities were designed to support common understanding of reform process, but also help improve the visibility of specific pre-accession assistance. Further to this, through engaging diverse sections of local society, the action helped raise awareness of what the integration would really mean for BH, while the debates involving local stakeholders will make the prospect of enlargement more credible. Over the last year two training seminars were held for

local governments, business sector and CSO covering the topics related with partnership building for EU integration. One Training seminar for local media was organized on EU integration and how to tackle prejudices and help local journalists to act as myth busters. Youth for EU integration campaign was organized including the quiz for secondary school students, youth volunteers street campaign and the fair to mark the Day of Europe, while the visits of EU Ambassadors to Zavidovici and Zepce secondary schools, NGO and youth centres who made presentations/lectures about EU integration – history and future perspectives.

### 2.2.2.3. Civil Trust Building - Find your way through the Enlargement Labyrinth (PRINCE)



*PRINCE, steering committee*

ALDA was the partner in the project led by the European House, Hungary with the aim to help raise pu-



blic understanding at grass root level for the EU enlargement process, its current situation and challenges in our region, more specifically in the five EU MS: Hungary, Slovakia, Austria, Romania, Italy. The Local Democracy Agencies in Western Balkan countries were included in the project activities through: exchange of information on EU integration progress, internship programme for young people organised and hosted by EU partner organisations, design and production of promotion materials to be disseminated during the PRINCE tour and EU labyrinth organised in September in Budapest, Bratislava, Vienna, Graz and Udine. Communication tools produced included interactive website, social networks, questionnaire on EU integration, country profile info sheets for the citizens in local communities visited during the Labyrinth tour.

#### 2.2.2.4. THINK.EU Through Information and Knowledge towards EU



**LEAD APPLICANT:** *Foundation for Partnership and Civil Society Development*

**PARTNERS:** *Association of Local Democracy Agencies – ALDA/ALDA; Organisation for promotion of employment and professional improvement of Youth – ZUM*

#### PURPOSES

THINK.EU had as main objective to support Croatian accession to the EU with a strong, deep and sustained dialogue between civil society actors, youth and children and citizens in Istria broadening the knowledge and understanding of the EU and the process of European integration and rising the quality and impartiality of media coverage on issues related to EU membership. More specifically, this projects aims:

- 1) to widen the knowledge and information of the target groups about the EU and the understanding of EU integration process providing easily accessible and understandable information;
- 2) to adequately prepare Istrian public namely youngsters, civil society and ordinary citizens for the discussion about the EU membership and play an active role as future European citizens;



*THINK EU, visit in Vicenza*

3) to familiarise the target groups with available EU programmes and pre-accession funds.



*THINK EU, Informa Giovani, Vicenza*

## ACTIVITIES

- Workshop with high school students in Pula, Pazin, Buje to introduce the EU and its values in an interactive way, through quiz, simulations and more (13 February 2012).
- Workshop about EU funding programmes and on projects development and management. Target groups: NGOs, business community, public officials of region Istria. Location: Pula.
- Workshops on EU direct programmes, with specific focus on Europe for Citizens programme.
- Workshop on Project Cycle Management. Working groups and practical exercises to develop project proposals. Information sessions on lobbying and advocacy (7-11 May 2012, Pula, Croatia).
- Presentation of indirect programmes: structural funds. Cooperation with the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia, which sent some public officials to present an overview of the indirect funds and their dynamics at European, national and regional level (27-28 September 2012, Pula, Croatia).
- Participation on the Study visit organisation (22-24 October 2012, in Vicenza, Padua and Venice).

## SUCCESS STORY

The project had a great impact on the youngest participants in kindergartners, here is a testimony by one of the Croatian teachers "It (the project) was a trial version and we got so good results...we didn't know how much the kids already know and how much they are affected by their parents, medias and family members. They produced really impressive materials, games, etc...for better knowledge about other countries. In several cases, their ideas did not come for teachers, but from the kids themselves."



*THINK EU, activities in Istria*

## 2.2.3. Eastern Partnership Programme

ALDA is active with all six Eastern Partnership countries and have members in all six countries. In 2012 the main projects ALDA implemented took place in Belarus through the SPREAD: Sustainable Partnership for Reinforcement of Active Development and TANDEM: Cooperation for citizen participation and community development in Belarus projects. In addition to this ALDA also organised other activities related to the Eastern Partnership area, such as for instance the hearing on Local Democracy in Azerbaijan held at the Committee of the Regions and work to support the two LDAs in Armenia and Georgia and the opening of new LDAs in Ukraine and Azerbaijan. Below is more detailed information about the TANDEM and SPREAD projects.

### 2.2.3.1. TANDEM: Cooperation for citizen participation and community development in Belarus

ALDA has been active in Belarus since 2004 and has implemented several projects together with its main partner in Belarus the Lev Sapieha Foundation. The TANDEM project is a follow up to former projects (ACSOBE and REACT) which focused on the strengthening of civil society organisations and local community groups and their cooperation with local authorities. As citizen participation at the local level is still limited in Belarus, TANDEM main objectives were foreseen as undoubtedly significant, providing both technical and



*Activities in Belarus*

financial support.

As part of TANDEM, community groups participated in trainings and received information enabling them to be more active actors in the field of development. Also, each stakeholder better understood the benefits of cooperating with diverse actors.

Furthermore the project provided sub-grants to civic community initiatives. The grants have been awarded to community groups that proposed concrete activities to ensure sustainable development in cooperation with local authorities. As an illustration, several projects were implemented in Sporovo. A greenway named "Between the three lakes" was officially opened on 7 July 2012, where a bike ride was organized involving participants from Belarus, Poland and Russia as well as teachers and pupils from Zditovo School. In Smarhoń, the Belarusian Young Women Christian Association was supported in their aspiration to improve the quality of life and the

social inclusion of the cancer patients. A number of round-tables and trainings were organized, and steps towards the creation of a Help Unity based in Smarhón for cancer patients and their families were drawn.

Among these civic initiatives, two were partnership projects and involved cooperation with local authorities from Vilnius city (Lithuania) for “The Future is in your hands” project in Gomel and from Gulbene municipality (Latvia) for the project named “Arc: uniting people and cultures” in Golshany.

The TANDEM project has been supported by the European Union’s Non-State Actors and Local Authorities in Development Programme and is implemented from September 2011 to April 2013, by ALDA together with the Lev Sapieha Foundation and the contribution of the Belarusian Organization for Working Women.

### **2.2.3.2. SPREAD: Sustainable Partnership for Reinforcement of Active Development**



SPREAD is a complementary project to TANDEM (described above) and the TANDEM II project which will start in May 2013. Both projects aim at strengthening an inclusive and empowered society in Belarus by supporting the development of local communities and strengthening their cooperation with local authorities (LAs). The project is designed to add a stronger regional presence to TANDEM through the creation of citizen centres in three Belarusian regions (Vitebsk, Brest and Gomel). These centres are hosted by an NGO in each

region and intend to create a strong network on local development with information and training activities on capacity building for local authorities and civil society organisations.

The three regional citizen centres will create a strong network on local development with information and training activities for LAs and civil society organisations (CSOs). Throughout the project, international conferences will take place at the three centres to exchange best practice examples between the European partners and the Belarusian regions. Furthermore, a monitoring system on the implementation of laws concerning communication and cooperation between citizens and their representatives will be established and elements of support to small citizens’ initiatives focusing on how to generate constructive and result-oriented activities between citizens and local authorities will be provided.

The SPREAD project is supported by the European Union’s Non-State Actors and Local Authorities in Development programme and will be implemented from November 2012 to June 2014, by ALDA, the NGO Lev Sapieha Foundation, Monfalcone municipality in Italy and the Union of Municipalities of Marmara in Turkey.

Sporovo - TANDEM subgranted project in Sporovo - “A green route between the three lakes”.

TANDEM subgranted project in Smarhón - “Developing social services and psychological care for cancer patients”.



## 2.4. Mediterranean Programme

The Mediterranean Programme has been developing slowly but with certainty in 2012. We have had two projects in this area: ENSEMBLE that started in May 2012 and a project within the Anna Lindh call for projects in Morocco, where ALDA was partner.

### 2.4.1. ENSEMBLE - Strengthening the role of civil society in the promotion of human rights and democratic reforms Algerian Women : the engine of human rights improvement in Algeria



ALGERI

The lead partner is the Municipality of Montfalcone and the donor is the Region Friuli Venezia Giulia. Montfalcone initiated the idea and asked ALDA to develop it, to submit it to financing to the region and act as main

co-ordinator of activities, together with the local partners. The project runs from 1st May 2012 until 30th November 2013

The project aims to:

- strengthen the relations between civil society organizations for the establishment of a CSOs network promoting future initiatives and projects;
- improve the involvement of women in professional and business life;
- raise awareness about human rights in general and women's rights in particular;

In the planned activities there are a set of seminars and training courses aiming at the activation of Service and Vocational Center in Algeria, working specifically on women emancipation supporting their social and professional integration. Moreover the project sees the activation of a Media Center as a resource for ordinary citizens. Information campaigns on this issue are planned in 2013.

### 2.4.2. Programme for Young Involved Citizens (Programme des jeunes citoyens engagés) – Anna Lindh Foundation (Morocco)

**LEAD PARTNER:** *Association Agir Ensemble (Morocco)*

**OTHER PARTNERS:** *Association Of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA); Association For Social Initiatives Euro-gemslt (Lithuania); Association Les Militants Des Savoirs (France); Association Club Scientifique De La Faculté Des Sciences Médicales (Algeria); Actiondog CIC (UK); Association Cle Nord-Pas De Calais (France); Giovani Nel Mondo (Italy); Development No Borders (Egypt); AP21 – Agence De Promotion Et D'ingénierie Interculturelles (France); Association Des Jeunes Méditerranéens Pour Le Développement Au Rif (Morocco); Asociatia D.G.T (Romania); Oyouun Masr (Egypt); Traditions Et Guerison (France); ACI- Associação Centro Interculturacidade (Portugal);*

**TIMING:** *1st August 2012 - 1st June 2013*

#### PURPOSES

The youth Engaged citizens program is a pilot project which aims to promote active citizenship and the entrepreneurial spirit of youth and encourage their involvement in public life as active citizens. The project also wants to contribute to strengthen the dialogue and to create spaces for expression, exchanges and networking opportunities between young people from both sides of the Mediterranean.

#### ACTIVITIES

- Launching event: international conference on “Engaged citizenship and local governance”, 1-2 December

2012, Safi (Morocco). Its aim was to exchange ways and means of youth involvement in local governance and to share good practices from South and North of Mediterranean.

- Three videoconferences on “youth engaged and participatory democracy”, “Youth Civic engagement”, “Political Engagement of Young People and New Media”.
- Closing event: international conference, Spring 2013, Safi (Morocco).

#### SUCCESS STORY

The launching conference in April gathered around 60 young people, representatives of youth organisations and local authorities, researchers, experts coming from 14 Euro-Mediterranean countries. Eighteen months after the first events of the “Arab Spring”, this conference allowed an open space for discussions and exchange of good practices between people from different Arab countries and from both sides of the Mediterranean.



*Market, Safi, MAROCCO*

## 2.5. Cooperation Development Programme



Working Together for Development (WTD) - Non-state actors and local authorities in development – European Commission



WTD, Steering committee, Brussels

### PURPOSES

WTD - Working Together for Development is a multi-annual development project designed by the Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA) in cooperation with 21 international partners and associates

**LEAD PARTNER:** ALDA- Association of Local Democracy Agencies (FR)

**OTHER PARTNERS:** Regional Association of Municipalities “Central Stara Planina” – BG; Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities – BG; Civisme et Démocratie – FR; International Federation for Sustainable Development and Fight Against Poverty in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea area – IT; Associazione per la cooperazione transregionale, locale e europea – IT; Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments – LV; Association of Local Authorities in Lithuania – LT; Local Councils’ Association – MT; Central Eastern and European Citizens Network – SK; The Union of Towns and Cities of Slovakia – SK

### ASSOCIATES PARTNERS:

Albanian Association of Municipalities – AL; Communities Association of Armenia – AR; Croatian Institute for Local Government – HR; National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia – GE; Shatil – New Israel Fund – IL; Association of Kosovo Municipalities – KS; Association of the Units of Local Self-government of the Republic of Macedonia – MK; Balkan Civil Society Development Network – MK; The Citizens’ Pact for South Eastern Europe – SRB; Association of Local Government Managers – TR; Union of Municipalities of Marmara – TR

**TIMING:** 1st January 2012 – 30th June 2014

coming from 16 different countries of the enlarged Europe. The project lasts 30 months and involves both Associations of Local Authorities and NGO networks, and aims at improving their capacities to act as deve-





*WTD, International Workshop, Human Rights, Paris  
December 2012*

development agents in and outside Europe, in partnership with European and national institutions.

WTD is based on ALDA's long term vision of development and the method of multilateral decentralised cooperation. The project uses a multi-stakeholder approach and focuses on creating strong partnerships between Local Authorities and NGOs. Local Authorities and NGOs have extensive knowledge of their local communities, and their joint activities and cooperation play an important role in the field of development.

WTD aims at giving a real contribution to the empowerment of local stakeholders to act as development agents. All the activities in the project will address local actors that already play a role in local development or have the potential to play a role in local development. The project will target development NGOs and Local Authorities and will reach participants through the members and networks of the partners and associates in the project.

## ACTIVITIES

The present Action aims at giving a contribution to the empowerment of local stakeholders to act as development agents. The target groups are local actors, which play a role in local development or have the potential to do so. Moreover, all the activities involved National and European authorities that can take a part in the empowerment of those actors. The project targets development NGOs and Local Authorities and reaches a large number of participants through the members and networks of the partners and associates in the project.

In 2012, activities took place at international, national, regional and local levels (Launching Seminar in Brussels, on 27-28 March 2012; Training on "Understanding of opportunities for Decentralised Cooperation in Brussels, on 15-18 October 2012) in order to involve a maximum of actors and to allow synergies between development actors from different but complementary levels. The activities were promoted, organised and implemented jointly by all the project partners and associates.

International seminars and conferences were organised to share best practices on local development issues, such as human rights, multi-stakeholder approach to development issues, decentralised cooperation etc. Moreover, international and regional thematic workshops (Development cooperation – opportunities for Latvian self-governments" was held in Kekava municipality, Latvia on 11 September, 2012; "Decentralized cooperation: new challenge for LA and CSO to foster development", in Bulgaria on 30 November 2012; Thematic Workshop on "Human Rights and Intercultural Dialogue" was held on the 10th December in Paris) were orga-

nised to exchange experience and provide the participants with further expertise on these issues.



*WTD, European Development Days, Brussels  
October 2012*

## SUCCESS STORIES

With this project ALDA, together with the 21 partners and associates, launched in 2012 a new Alliance aimed at capitalising and improving the joint experience and methods of actions developed during the last two decades by LAs and CSOs in development cooperation.

A co-operation was established with the UNDP ART Initiative, which led to the development of a Memorandum of Understanding between ALDA and UNDP ART. ALDA and UNDP ART worked on the preparation of an associate event during the Assises for Decentralised Co-operation 2013 of the CoR.

Within the framework of the European Development Days 2012, ALDA, in cooperation with all the partners

and associates, organised the WTD creative laboratory in the form of a World Café session aiming at brainstorming and proposing recommendations that integrated the contributions of experts and practitioners on the advantages of creating synergies between LAs and CSOs in development cooperation.

WTD partners contributed to the EC Communication on Local Authorities in Development with an ad hoc Consultation event held in December 2012 in Paris in cooperation with PLATFORMA and the EC DG DEVCO.

The project WTD has been widely disseminated through the network of CONCORD (ALDA is member of CONCORD). In particular the project has been disseminated within the EPAN group of CONCORD, focused on the IPA region, the EaP area and the Southern Neighbourhood.



*WTD, Training of Trainers, Brussels, October 2012*

## 2.6. Technical assistance

ALDA is active in the field of technical assistance and provides to its members and partners training services, consultancy, project management support, fundraising services, etc. The action of ALDA as technical assistance provider is addressed to different kinds of stakeholders: local authorities, civil society organizations, private companies.

### **Convention with the Urban Centre of the Municipality of Thiene (Italy)**

ALDA has been cooperating with the Urban Centre of the Municipality of Thiene for the development and the management of training activities addressed both to local elected and public officials, to representatives of civil society organizations and to the general public. In particular, in 2012 a series of thematic workshops on Project Cycle Management and European Funds has been organized, involving a significant number of stakeholders and potential beneficiaries of EU funds. Moreover, within the same convention, ALDA is supporting the Municipality of Thiene in the development of projects in the fields of youth and town twinning.

### **Management of the Cooperation Office of the Municipality of Brindisi (Italy)**

ALDA is managing since 2010 the Cooperation Office of the Municipality of Brindisi, developing on their behalf several European and transnational projects within different EU programmes. In 2012, ALDA has implemented a series of activities – workshops, trainings,

etc. – on the field of active citizenship.

### **Technical assistance for the development of the project REACTION**

REACTION: REsources Anti-Crisis - Town-twinning, Innovation, Openness and Networking. This project, led by the Municipality of Sacile (Italy), has been granted by the Europe for Citizens Programme in the framework of the measure “Thematic Networking of Twinned Towns”. It represents the follow-up of the previous granted project entitled WELCOME. REACTION aims at strengthening cooperation among 17 towns of 12 different EU and non-EU pre-accession countries, focusing on the role of local authorities to mobilize resources (i.e. public-private partnership, citizens, Europe...) at the local level to fight the current crisis. ALDA has provided technical assistance for the drafting of the action, and will also support the implementation phase starting in 2013.

### **Consultancy for Studio Progetto, a social cooperative from Valdagno (Italy).**

In 2011, ALDA delivered a tailored training course addressed to the social workers of Studio Progetto, a social cooperative dealing with youth and children, disabilities, healthcare, elderly people. In 2012, this cooperation has continued through a consultancy service that ALDA is granting to Studio Progetto for the development of different European projects addressing social and educational issues.

## Support to the Lions International Venezia Host for the organization of the International Conference on “Good governance and active citizenship”

ALDA cooperated with the Lions International Venezia Host for the organization of an international conference, held in Venice on the 28th of April, focused on good governance and active citizenship. Different institutions and organizations (Council of Europe, local authorities, NGOs, etc.) took active part in the event and the debate, as well as in the related event inaugurating the first “active citizenship park” in Venice.



*LIONS Club, Venice, 28 April 2012*

## Convention with University UNINETTUNO, Rome (Italy)

ALDA has cooperated with the telematic University UNINETTUNO, based in Rome, for the registration of e-lessons on project cycle management and European programmes. The module, structured in 13 lessons, has been integrated in the “Master course on European law and policies” proposed by UNINETTUNO. This cooperation has created the basis for further developing new on-line training and educational programmes focused on European issues.

## External evaluation of a Grundtvig Multilateral Project on urban gardens

ALDA has been selected as external evaluator of a Grundtvig Multilateral Project, led by Pistes Solidaires, a French NGO based in Marseille. The project is focused on adult education and urban gardens and aims, on one side, at providing competencies and skills for the development and management of urban garden projects and, on the other side, at granting an exchange at the European level. In particular, ALDA facilitated and coordinated the mid-term evaluation seminar held in Rome in November 2012.

## Consultancy for the British Council in Baku

In May 2012, ALDA provided a consultancy in Baku to Local authorities and civil society organisation to better engage and work together. Antonella Valmorbida, the Director of ALDA, was the official trainers. The organisations participating in the event was given the theoretical and practical information to deal with citizens' participation, in particular based on the use of the Code of Good Practices for Civil Participation in decision making process of the Council of Europe. The participants were supposed to use the acquired instruments during their own actions and training at the regional level.

## University of Catania

Antonella Valmorbida was the trainer for a master course on international decentralised cooperation of the University of Political Sciences in Catania (CEDOC Centre) in november 2012.

## SUCCESS STORIES

- Have you ever thought to entitle a municipal park to "active citizenship"? Now Venice has its own "active citizenship park", as an outcome of the initiative launched by the Lions Club Venice, in cooperation with ALDA, that contributed to promote a debate on citizen participation at the local level!
- We can always improve ourselves! The Municipality of Sacile (Italy), duly supported by ALDA, got almost 60.000 € grant in 2010 for a project encompassing 10 partners from 6 different countries, at its first experience as a leader of a transnational project. In 2012, thanks to the cooperation with ALDA, they got a second project granted with more than 100.000 euros, including 17 partners from 12 different countries. What will be the next step?



## Chapter III: Our services for members and partners

### What can we do for you?

#### FOR THOSE ARE INTERESTED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT EU RELATED ISSUES

- Briefings on EU Programmes, funds and procedures
- Right to attend working groups on different topics (local governance, active citizenship, human rights and democracy, civil society, etc.).
- Access to EU experts, professional and support networks, academic organizations.
- Participation in international events (conferences, seminars, etc.) promoted by ALDA.

#### FOR THOSE WHO VALUE NETWORKING

- Support in the relation with EU, CoE, UN, Agencies and other public and private International institutions.
- Support in the relation with National Governments in Italy, France and other countries.
- Organization of meetings with European Officials, MEPs and other relevant international and European Authorities.
- Promotion of Members' activities, initiatives and events at the European level (mainly through the website and the newsletter).
- Free links of Members' website within ALDA website to grant European wide visibility.

#### FOR THOSE WHO ARE WANT TO ACCESS EUROPEAN FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- Priority on opportunities offered 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 relevant international partners for specific areas and support to the partnership building process (dissemination of members' calls for partners).
- Identification of potential donors.

#### FOR THOSE WHO WANT TO SUCCESSFULLY MANAGE THEIR PROJECTS

- 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.
- Free use of ALDA equipped offices and meeting rooms in Belgium (Brussels), Italy (Vicenza), and upon approval of the Council of Europe, in Strasbourg.



## FOR THOSE WHO NEED TO BE REGULARLY UPDATED ON TOPICS OF INTERESTS

- Constant updates via the periodical newsletter on EU Affairs and Policies.
- Access to ALDA and EU publications, information materials.
- Access to the information points on EU and active citizenship (info-points based in Brussels and Vicenza).

## FOR THOSE LOOKING FOR TRAINING AND VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

- Master classes in Europe for Citizens: ALDA developed a two-day training course on Europe for Citizens Programme, headed by ALDA and offered exclusively to ALDA member organisations: ALDA provides the expertise and trainers, whilst the partner gives the location and contacts.
- Active citizenship modules: Referring to its 12-year experience on civil participation in the Balkans and the South Caucasus, ALDA developed a specific methodology called Active Citizenship Modules that engages local authorities and civil society and which aims at assessing and addressing problem solving together. The module has been developed since 2008 with a training kit available in several languages and a pool of facilitators trained in the methodology. The idea is to bring together a first group of representatives of local and national authorities working locally, and a second group of representatives of local associations identified as active in the field of interest. In the first stage each group meets separately to discuss about ideas and draft conclusions about the issue at stake. Then, they join in an overall seminar where specific recommendations are drafted and presented to local media.
- Volunteers for Democracy Programme: ALDA permanent call for our members to take part in our events with their costs covered and who are interested in sending their representatives, especially those strongly interested in human rights, active citizenship and local democracy.
- Internship opportunities at Strasbourg, Brussels and Vicenza office.

## Annexes:

# List of members

### Municipalities

#### **Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Mostar Municipality

#### **Croatia**

Sisak municipality

Verteneglio municipality

#### **Croatia**

Osijek municipality

#### **Denmark**

Aarhus municipality

Vejle Municipality

#### **France**

Kingersheim municipality

Strasbourg municipality

#### **Greece**

Patras Municipality

#### **Italia**

Bari municipality

Borgo Valsugana municipality

Brindisi municipality

Lavis municipality

Lecce municipality

Monfalcone municipality

Morigerati Municipality

Porto Cesareo municipality

Portogruaro municipality

Ravenna Municipality

Reggio Emilia Municipality/Reggio nel Mondo

Ribera Municipality

Sacile Municipality

Schio municipality

Thiene municipality

Trento municipality

Trieste Municipality

Valderice Municipality

Vibonati Municipality

#### **Malta**

Birgu Local Council

#### **Norway**

Saltdal Municipality

#### **Poland**

Bydgoszcz municipality

#### **Republic of Macedonia**

Skopje Municipality

#### **Serbia**

Kragujevac Municipality

Nis Municipality

Subotica municipality

#### **Spain**

Santa Eulalia de Gallego municipality

#### **Switzerland**

Bellinzona municipality

Lausanne Municipality

Lugano municipality

Yverdon-les-Bains municipality

#### **UK**

Wolverhampton municipality

### Provinces or Counties

#### **Italia**

Bari Province

Trento autonomous province

#### **Romania**

Prahova County Council

## Regions

### Croatia

Istria Region

### France

Lower Normandy Region

### Italia

Friuli Venezia Giulia Autonomous Region

Puglia Region

Sicily Region

Veneto Region

## Associations of Local Authorities

### Belgium

AER, Assembly of European Regions

### Bulgaria

UBBSLA- Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local

### France

AFCCRE, Association française du conseil des  
ENTO

Pays Vichy-Auvergne

### Georgia

NALAG - National Association of Local au-  
thorities of

### Italia

Associazione dei Comuni della Marca Trevigiana

Consorzio dei comuni trentiniKatrin

CONSVIPO, Consorzio per lo Sviluppo del Polesine

Patto Territoriale Oristano Società consortile a r.l.C

Tecla, Associazione di province Italiane

### Kosovo

AMK - Ass. of Municipalities of Kosovo

### Latvia

Latvian Association of Local and Regional

### Malta

Local Councils Association

### Republic of Macedonia

NALAS, Network of Associations of Local Au-  
thorities in

ZELS, Association of the units of local-self  
government

### Romania

AMR, Romanian Association of Municipalities  
Iezer Muscel Mountain Community Association

### Serbia

Standing conference of towns and municipalities

### Switzerland

Causes Communes Ticino

## NGOs, Associations, ONLUS, Non Profit

### Albania

CRCD Center

HORIZONT NGO

### Algeria

FACM

### Austria

Europazentrum Wien (EZW)

Foster Europe

### Azerbaijan

Center "Women and Modern World"

ERC - Economic Research Centre

"Intelligent Citizen" Enlightenment Center (ICEC)

NGO ALLIANCE FOR MUNICIPALITY

DEVELOPMENT

### Belarus

Lev Sapieha Foundation

**Bulgaria**

Association Generations  
 Balkan Assist Association  
 IDA Network -International Development  
 Alliance  
 INTERNATIONAL PLATFORM FOR CITIZEN

**Cyprus**

The Management Centre

**Czech Republic**

AGORA CE

**France**

ALFA Formation

**CIDEFE**

Maison de l'Europe

**Germany**

SJR Betriebs gGmbH

**Greece**

EGTC Amphictyony  
 KMOP (Kendro Merimnas Oikoyenias kai Pediou)

**Israel**

SHATIL

**Italia**

Aequinet  
 Altiero Spinelli Institute  
 Associazione per l'Ambasciata della Democrazia Locale  
 Associazione Progetto Prijedor  
 CISP  
 Confartigianato Vicenza  
 Cosmo s.c.s.  
 EUROCULTURA  
 Fondazione Opera Campana dei Caduti  
 Identità e Dialogo

IPRES

Isbem

Istituto Euromediterraneo

LC Associazione Learning Cities

Leonardo

Progettarte

Putignanonelmondo

S.U.D., Solo Uguali Diritti

SPES - Associazione Promozione e Solidarietà

Studio Progetto Società Cooperativa Sociale ONLUS

Tavolo Trentino con Kraljevo

UNESCO - Network per lo sviluppo locale

Università delle LiberEtà del Friuli VG

**Lithuania**

EuroBelarus

**Moldova**

TERRA 1530 - Asociația obștească

**Poland**

International School of Bydgoszcz

**Republic of Macedonia**

CIRA

Community Development Institute

CSCD-Center Sustainable Community Development

Foundation for local development and democracy

Sega

**Slovakia**

CEE Citizens Network (CEECN)

**Slovenia**

Association for Developing Voluntary Work

Novo Mesto

**Ukraine**

Ukrainian Agency for Democracy and Local Self-

## Universities

### Italia

IUAV Venezia University  
Padua University

### Ukraine

Ukrainian School of Political Studies

## Single members

### Belgium

Van Damme Lukas  
Vinther Per

### France

Affholder Sylvie  
Bohner Ulrich  
Friederich François  
Rinaldo Locatelli

### Germany

Schley Michael

### Italia

Bottacin Diego  
Franco Lara  
Gianfranco Martini  
Rizzo Sebastiano

### Poland

Imislawa Gorska

### Spain

Fischer Dorothee

### Switzerland

Tschudi Hans-Martin

### UK

David Mayer  
Malcom Boorer  
Owen Master

## LDAs

### Albania

LDA Albania

### Armenia

LDA Armenia  
Bosnia and Herzegovina  
LDA Mostar  
Lda Prijedor  
LDA Zavidovici

### Croatia

LDA Osijek  
LDA Sisak  
LDA Verteneglio

### Georgia

LDA Georgia

### Kosovo

LDA Kosovo

### Montenegro

LDA Montenegro

### Serbia

LDA Center South Serbia (LDA CSS)  
LDA Subotica

**Current members of the Governing Board are (mandate 2012-2016):**

## **Elected members**

**Mr. Oriano Otočan**

Istria Region (HR), Director of Department in charge of international cooperation and European integration (President, bureau member)

**Mrs. Imislawa Gorska**

International School of Bydgoszcz, (PL), Principal, (Vice President, bureau member Coordinator Eastern Partnership Working Group)

**Mr. Alessandro Perelli**

Friuli Venezia Giulia Region (IT), European integration, international relations and financial management Service (Vice President, bureau member)

**Mr. Roger Lawrence**

Wolverhampton City Council (UK), Councillor  
(Treasurer of ALDA - bureau member)

**Mrs. Paula Rauzan**

Delegate of the local Democracy Agency of Sisak, (HR)  
(Secretary - bureau member - Coordinator LDAs Working Group)

**Mr. Per Vinther**

(DK) Individual member  
(Coordinator Eastern Partnership Working Group)

**Mrs. Annie Anne**

Lower Normandy Region, (F) Vicepresident, International relations  
(Coordinator South East Europe Working Group)

**Mr. Mircea Cosma,**

Prahova County (RO), President

**Mr. Lucio Gregoretti**

City of Monfalcone (I), Head of the International relations Service  
(Coordinator Eastern Partnership Working Group)

**Mr. Dobrica Milovanovic**

City of Kragujevac (SRB), Deputy Mayor

**Mr. Ruggiero Mennea**

Apulia Region, (I), Councillor  
(Coordinator Med Working Group)

**Mr. Valery Deschamps**

Association "Maison de l'Europe", Caen (F), President  
(Coordinator Active Citizenship Working Group)

**Mr. Slajan Ilic**

Chair of the LDA Delegates' Advisory Committee, LDA Zavidovici (BiH)

## Appointed members

**Mr. Herwig van Staa**

President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe,  
or his representative  
Appointed by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe



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## ALDA Staff

### Director

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Life is busy but exiting !

I still feel like it is the first day of work but I realize that already 20 years have passed since the end of University in Milan and that I have been on the road almost every week since then. I started with the LDAs many years ago and I had the chance to see and work for the development of the programme and the setting up of ALDA. I feel "at home" everywhere in Europe and I know people of any kind in every corner. Since I can't stop adding interesting pieces in my life, I am not only leading a fantastic organisation like ALDA but also teaching at University in Padova. That is a demanding but rewarding experience since the contact with students is a source of permanent inspiration. Recently, I am also happy to be engaged in a great organisation like Civicus, which is touching the whole world in citizens' participation, leading the programme from the US and South Africa. 2013 is even more demanding since ALDA is so much involved (and at the front !) for the European Year of Citizen. It means more international travels, more ideas and constant attention. Probably because there is a little bit of madness in all of this, I am learning Russian as an ad-

ditional language and heading for a quite high level exam this spring... Without any doubt, I would not be able to have the necessary energy if I would not really love my job and the people I am working with. But, deep in my heart, when the day ends and the lights are off, here is the real reason of my life : my family and my three children.

### Senior Programme Co-ordinator

**Biljana ZASOVA**

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I am a thirty something year old Franco-Macedonian woman interested in gender rights, citizen participation and cooking Italian food with her husband during weekends. I am a French lawyer with a diploma of a Master of Arts and Science in EU Law from the College of Europe. I put an end to an eight-year career within the Council of Europe to work for ALDA. My main responsibility here: that each project that we won is implemented the way it was submitted and as efficiently as it was granted. Reality is: this never happens! So my main duty in ALDA is to juggle with activities, action plans and budget with this little team of projects managers based in five different countries; to coordinate with partners and discuss with the donors to develop a plausible implementation of each project. And when it works out, it is magic. This super-project manager tasks is what I do for three years now. More recently, I am in charge to develop ALDA's Mediterranean strategy and work on projects there. For the last ten years, however, I have been investigating

about the phenomena of citizen involvement in public life and have been glad to see in ALDA how it is done in practice. I am highly dedicated to contribute to its evolution into a strong, renowned and ever bigger Europe-wide organisation. Fingers crossed that it continues like that!

**Project Manager****Marine HENRY**Email: [marine.henry@aldaintranet.org](mailto:marine.henry@aldaintranet.org)

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I have been working for the Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA) since January 2012. Before joining ALDA, I completed a Master Degree in International Cooperation and Development Studies at the University of Montpellier (France) and worked as Coordinator Assistant in the Coordination of International Solidarity Organizations in the Region Lorraine (LOR-SUD) (France). In ALDA, I work as project manager in charge of Active Citizenship projects. What I particularly appreciate in my job is the close cooperation we develop with partners coming from the enlarged Europe and pursuing a same objective of promotion of European values. "United in diversity" is my daily reality and I like it!

**Accountant****Alexandre BALIYANGA**Email: [alexandre.baliyanga@aldaintranet.org](mailto:alexandre.baliyanga@aldaintranet.org)

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**Senior Policy Officer****Peter SONDERGAARD**

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I'm ALDA's Senior Policy Officer based in Brussels. I'm responsible for ALDA's work in the Eastern Partnership area and also follows the EU and European policies. Prior to joining ALDA, I was Country Director for the International Republican Institute in Kyrgyzstan and worked with development of political parties. Earlier I spent a lot of time in the Balkans in various positions, such as intern at the Danish Embassy in Bosnia and election advisor for OSCE in Bosnia. As chairperson of ESU – The National Unions of Students in Europe I was also involved in a number of student projects in particular in Serbia and Kosovo. I have a Master's degree in Political Science from University of Aarhus in Denmark.

**Policy officer assistant – Eastern Partnership area****Alena ZUIKOVA**Email: [alena.zuikova@aldaintranet.org](mailto:alena.zuikova@aldaintranet.org)

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**Project Manager****Alfonso ALIBERTI**Email: [alfonso.aliberti@aldaintranet.org](mailto:alfonso.aliberti@aldaintranet.org)

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I have been working for the Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA) for the last three years. I joined ALDA after completing a Master Degree (with honour) in International Cooperation and Development Studies at the University of Rome “La Sapienza” with a thesis on the legal basis for the international involvement of Local Authorities. Over the past three years, I have been managing different EU projects dealing with the promotion of local democracy, social integration and the empowerment of marginalised groups. I’m currently managing a major EU funded project aiming at reinforcing the capacities of over 20 Association of Local Authorities and Networks of CSOs to act as decentralised cooperation agents.

This complex work helped me to understand the meaningful importance of working jointly with LAs and CSOs to deliver successful results. I have acquired a significant knowledge of the EU Development Cooperation framework as well as of the main international and national structures dealing with decentralised cooperation. I have a relevant experience as trainer

and group facilitator. I have been recently appointed as member of the Youth Advisory Group of CIVICUS, I am the Convener of the EPAN working group of CONCORD, and I am part of a group of 20 pioneers in charge of re-thinking the new political narrative of CONCORD.

**Director’s Assistant****Cinzia SPINAZZÈ**

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I joined ALDA in April 2009 after a brief experience in the no-profit sector. I have a Master Degree in Intercultural studies with a post degree diploma in cooperation and development and I’m strongly interested in migration and co-development issues. I assist the Director and the Governing Board and I’m in charge for membership issues.

**Resource and Development Unit Coordinator****Marco BOARIA**

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Skype: mboaria

I am married with Raquel, who is Spanish, and have a 2-years old Italian-Spanish daughter, Isabel: I live 24h in an international environment, both at home and at work!

I work as Coordinator of the Resources and Development Unit for the Association of Local Democracy Agencies since 2004: my main task is to transform ideas into projects, a very interesting and exciting challenge! I have a 12-year experience in international work, with a specific focus on youth, active citizenship and citizens participation. I have been working as programme developer, trainer (co-operating with different European training agencies), project coordinator and supervisor in the framework of different European programs. I am particularly interested and involved in delivering trainings, which are essential for my personal and professional growth. Since I started to work for ALDA, I have widened my interests and broaden my fields of specialization towards other topics (local sustainable development, development issues etc.) and larger geographical areas (Med, Eastern Europe and Caucasus...) in order to be able to better contribute to the achievement of the goals of our network.

**Financial Officer****Barbara ELIA**Email: [barbara.elia@aldaintranet.org](mailto:barbara.elia@aldaintranet.org)

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I am 39 years old , I am married with Andrea and we have three wonderful children : Filippo 9 years old, Niccolò 6 years old and Jacopo 4 years old that fill our lives with joy!

I am working in Alda in VICENZA since 2005 .When I won the selection of the financial officer Alda 's research in April 2005 I was very enthusiastic.

I realized I have finally found the job which pursue my ideal.

I attended an economic college and I have worked always on accountancy and financial issue in profit areas.

I was looking for a different context , for something could give to my technical professional skills a "human" value.

I am responsible for finances in our Association. My working life is dominated by the numbers but I deal with them with a lot of satisfactory and the contribution of our Association to the building of Euroepan values and to promoting human rights, peace and democracy constantly motivate me to fulfil my tasks .

Working in Alda is like being in a big family , all together to the same direction!

**Project Development Officer****Anna DITTA**Email [anna.ditta@aldaintranet.org](mailto:anna.ditta@aldaintranet.org)

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I am Anna Ditta. I work with ALDA since 2011 as a project development officer, in Vicenza.

Among my tasks in ALDA, I also realise some trainings about EU programmes and I work as a tutor for a Master on EU in a telematic University.

I graduated in International Politics at the University of Padua in 2004. I have seven year of experience in the management and development of EU funded projects and I mainly worked on programmes for the Balkans.

I love working in ALDA because of its international dimension and its multicultural environment, which is enriching and highly stimulating.

I fully share the vision of this Association, because I believe that citizens should gain awareness of their rights and become the main actors of the political process, in order to make true democracy happen. This is indeed my vision of international co-operation.

I believe in the EU project because I think we can only face the global challenges and grow if we act together. Thanks to the EU we can travel freely, benefit of precious mobility exchanges (in and out of Europe) and learn from other cultures.

I'm therefore very committed to the scopes of ALDA and very keen to contribute to its mission in all its areas of action: EU, Eastern Europe, North Africa... and maybe more in the future".

**Skopje Head of office****Ivana DIMITROVSKA**

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I am Ivana Dimitrovska, Head of ALDA office in Skopje and Coordinator of the programme for decentralized cooperation between the Region Lower Normandy and Macedonia. I have been born and raised in Macedonia, in the Balkan spirit! I studied applied languages in Skopje. Then, my dream to discover the world and other cultures took me to Lower Normandy for my Master degree in Management of EU projects for local development. Since then, I have been "adopted" by this lovely French Region and working on this project for ALDA for the past 5 years. Little by little, I am fulfilling my dream to discover the world by working in intercultural context as well as by traveling around.



**Project manager*****Katica JANEVA***

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I am Katica, one of the three employees in Skopje office, and I'm Macedonian. I've studied French language and I had a master's degree in European administration management. I'm working in Skopje office since November 2009. Currently I'm working as Project manager on the project for decentralised cooperation between the French Region Lower Normandy and the Republic of Macedonia.

**Communication Officers*****Sanja TRPKOVSKA*** (beginning 2012)

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If you try to Google me it is possible that you will find various icons, banners and clipart rather than other information about me. That's because I work as a Communication Officer for the Decentralized Cooperation between Lower Normandy and Macedonia, and as skilled Graphic Designer, and among others, I've created many visual materials for the Project. Computers are my passion, foreign languages are my first love and Communication is my future. My favorite three words are Mommy, Thank you and Team work.

***Sanja Karakuseva*** (end 2012)

I am Sanja Karakusheva and I am from Macedonia. I have a bachelor's degree in translation and interpreting Macedonian/French/English and I am currently enrolled in a master's degree in International Business. I have been working in Skopje office since August 2012 as a Communication Officer on the project for decentralised cooperation between the Lower Normandy Region and the Republic of Macedonia. I am replacing Sanja Trpkovska who is on maternity leave until the end of March 2013.

# ALDA membership form 2013

**Name of the organization** asking to become member (or name of the person for individuals):

**Type of organization** (tick the appropriate cell)

Municipality  County  Region  NGO  OTHER  Mr.  or Ms.  (if individual member)

**Name and Surname of the contact person of the organization** (only if it is not an individual member)

**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 members services (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	1200	2400	4800
* For municipalities hosting an LDA, only half of the fees are requested			For NGOs and associations the annual fee is 300 Euros		

## 2. MEMBER OF ALDA + PARTNER OF LDAs

It will be member of ALDA (see payment fees above) AND will also be active and engaged on the field, by becoming partner of one or more LDAs (fees of LDAs defined by the LDAs).

## 3. FRIEND OF ALDA

It is an individual who wishes to support ALDA's mission by becoming part of an international network of people committed to active citizenship and human rights. The contribution per year is 60 Euros.

Members of ALDA who wish to be informed or actively participate to the association activities are kindly requested to select one or more than one working groups:

- EU Enlargement and Active Citizenship  Situation in SEE  
 Human rights' protection and awareness, including women's rights  Situation in Caucasus  
 Local development issues, good governance, decentralization  Active citizenship in MED area  
 Citizens participation and civil society empowerment

### Bank details of the Association of Local Democracy Agencies:

Bank: Credit 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 ALDA:

**By post:** Secretariat of the Association of Local Democracy Agencies - c/o Council of Europe - F - 67075 Strasbourg

**or by e-mail:** alda@aldaintranet.org

For more information: Tel. +33 3 90 21 45 93 - Fax +33 3 90 21 55 17

**Thank you for your interest in the programme of the Association of Local Democracy Agencies!**





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