

LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES

ACTIVITY REPORT

2022

Table of Contents

ABOUT ALDA.....	3
THE NETWORK OF LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES OUR RAISON D'ÊTRE	5
WE STAND WITH UKRAINE	8
LDA ARMENIA.....	11
LDA CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN SERBIA	18
LDA DNIPROPETROVSK REGION	22
LDA EDREMIT	24
LDA GEORGIA.....	25
LDA KOSOVO	34
LDA MARIUPOL.....	38
LDA MOLDOVA	44
LDA MONTENEGRO	46
LDA MOSTAR	52
LDA PRIJEDOR.....	61
LDA SUBOTICA	65
LDA TUNISIA	71
LDA ZAVIDOVIĆI.....	80
LDA ALBANIA	92
LDA NORTHERN MOROCCO	94
OPERATIONAL PARTNER SISAK.....	96
OPERATIONAL PARTNER VERTENEGLIO/BRTONIGLA	109

ABOUT ALDA

ALDA – The European Association for Local Democracy is dedicated to the promotion of good governance and citizen participation at the local level. The Association focuses on activities facilitating cooperation between local authorities and civil society. ALDA was established in 1999 at the initiative of the Council of Europe to coordinate and support the network of Local Democracy Agencies, which are self-sufficient, locally registered CSOs (Civil Society Organisations) acting as promoters of good governance and local selfgovernment. Today, ALDA is a key stakeholder in the field of local democracy, active citizenship, and cooperation between local authorities and civil society. ALDA is a membership-based organisation gathering 350 members (including local authorities, associations of local authorities, and civil society organisations) from over 54 countries in the enlarged Europe. ALDA is funded through membership fees, as well as project funding from the European Commission, the Council of Europe, and other public and private donors.

OUR UNIQUE FEATURES

Most of ALDA's work is based on the method of multilateral decentralised cooperation. This method involves a multi-stakeholder approach which focuses on strong partnerships between local authorities and non-governmental organisations. These partnerships create positive synergies and ensure that common goals are reached in a successful way.

WHAT WE DO

In the framework of the promotion of 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:

- Conducting a myriad of **projects** in the field of good governance and citizen participation at the local level in Europe and beyond, with its members, its partners and the Local Democracy Agencies
- Coordinating and supporting the **15 Local Democracy Agencies** and 2 Operational Partners
- Managing and supporting its wide network of members, made of over 350 stakeholders including local authorities, associations of local authorities, provinces, counties, civil society organisations, and academic institution
- Collaborating with European and worldwide **networks** on campaigns, statements and joint initiatives to let citizens be heard and contribute to the decision-making process of their communities. It cooperates as official partners of the **Council of Europe and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities** and it is a long-term partner of the **programme Europe for Citizens** and other key policies and programmes of the European Commission.

- Supporting local stakeholders' initiatives by providing ALDA's unique expertise gained during its over 20 years of activity in the European Union and its Neighbourhood through the establishment of **partnerships** and the identification of relevant stakeholders to cooperate with, scouting funding opportunities to implement project ideas, and assuring dissemination and visibility of their initiatives
- Leading **advocacy and lobbying activities**, raising the voice of its members and partners in order to orient local, national and European policies in our field of activities to make a stronger and more cohesive Europe, based on the principle of equality, democracy and human rights.

WHERE WE WORK

ALDA works throughout the enlarged Europe. Activities in the European Union focus in particular on the promotion of Active European Citizenship. Activities in the Western Balkans and European Neighbourhood focus on good governance, citizen participation, European integration, and decentralisation. Most of the Local Democracy Agencies (LDAs) are located in the Western Balkans, which gives a natural focus on that area. But ALDA is also becoming more and more active in the European Neighbourhood. During the years, 5 LDAs have been established in various Eastern Partnership countries, while in 2017 the first LDA of its type opened in the Southern Neighbourhood region, specifically in Kairouan (Tunisia). ALDA is also leading several other projects and developing partnerships in other European Neighbouring countries, such as Belarus, Morocco, Algeria, and Turkey. 2022, in particular, has been an eventful year in terms of meetings and new partnerships among ALDA and local authorities, organisations and associations in Ukraine in order to establish seven new Local Democracy Agencies in the country.

THE NETWORK OF LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES OUR RAISON D'ÊTRE

ALDA AT A GLANCE



Supporting good governance and citizen participation on the field

ALDA coordinates and supports the network of 15 Local Democracy Agencies (LDAs) and 2 Operational Partners (OPs) in their activities. ALDA works throughout the enlarged Europe with the majority of the Local Democracy Agencies located in the Western Balkans. During the last years ALDA has become more and more active in the European Neighborhood with 5 LDAs in various Eastern Partnership countries and 3 LDAs in the Mediterranean area with the newly established in Edremit (Türkiye) in 2021. This year, ALDA paid particular attention to Ukraine, aiming at establishing seven new Local Democracy Agencies in the country. The LDAs and OPs are supported by more than 100 partners (local authorities and civil society

organizations) all over Europe, providing financial and political support to fulfil their mandate and to accompany local democracy, civil society empowerment and participation in the decision-making process at the local level.

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

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

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

- Promoting good local governance and support initiatives aimed at improving citizen participation.
- Enhancing institution and capacity building at the local level through the exchange of knowhow and training of locally elected representatives and administrators.
- Developing a Europe-wide network of citizens committed to the respect for human and minority rights.
- Fostering the development of a civil society in which all sections of the community participate.
- Supporting intercultural dialogue and diversity management capacities in multicultural local communities.
- Promoting the respect for human/minority rights in local communities.

Financial sustainability of the LDAs

The available funds are managed by the LDAs themselves or by the members of the 7-partnerships established for the implementation of a specific project. Following the implementation of projects and activities, financial reports are drawn up to ensure transparency and appropriate use of the funds.

There are three different types of funding sources:

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

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



WE STAND WITH UKRAINE

This Activity Report brings together the achievements, activities and hard work of our sixteen Local Democracy Agencies and our Operational Partners over the course of an entire year. However, 2022 was not only studded with successes.

On 24 February 2022, the Russian Federation launched a tremendous and brutal attack against Ukraine and its population, which unfortunately has not ceased to this day.

While strongly condemning the inhuman operation conducted by Russia and any kind of war, ALDA would like to praise the courage and strength of the Ukrainian people, who never stopped fighting, defending their country and repelling the invasion of Russian troops, demonstrating heroic strength of spirit.

Since the very beginning of the conflict, the Association immediately took action to support the nation and its people and to give concrete support to the two Local Democracy Agencies present in the territory, the Local Democracy Agency Dnipro and the Local Democracy Agency Mariupol, which, as you will see in the course of this Activity Report, **have worked tirelessly and courageously for the reconstruction of their country and to help those in need.**

The Local Democracy Agencies have been instrumental since 1994 in strengthening local governance and preserving communities affected by the conflicts in their respective region. Their efficiency in addressing collectively local challenges has been demonstrated over the years by hundreds of successful projects. They represent a collective effort of multilateral decentralised cooperation where European cities and communities are engaged to support affected cities in transition or in difficulties.

Today, more than ever, the LDAs are extremely important instruments to restore **Peace, Freedom and Democracy in Ukraine** and to slowly rebuild that beautiful nation.

In this regard, the Governing Board of ALDA is supporting the opening of **seven new Local Democracy Agencies** in the country, in partnership with the District of Odesa, Vinnytsia, Bucha, Rivne, Mykolaiv, Kharkiv and Lviv.

In order to achieve this, ALDA has launched an open call to support this **flagship initiative of ALDA in Ukraine** that will bring a systemic change in supporting local communities. This initiative builds on previous experience in post-war countries and accession countries to the EU like Western Balkans, also heavily affected by the movement of populations, refugees, and IDPs.

This Local Democracy Agencies Activity Report 2022 is especially dedicated to our Ukrainian colleagues, who despite all difficulties, have never taken a step back and have never stopped fighting to defend those same values of equality, rule of law, peace, democracy and human rights on which they were founded.

The commitment of ALDA, the Local Democracy Agencies and the Association's network to support Ukraine and its people does not end in 2022, but will be continuously strengthened until the nation returns to being **free, democratic and marked by a long lasting peace.**



REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES IN 2022

LDA ARMENIA



Delegate: Lusine Aleksandryan

Established: 2011

Key partner:

- City of Gyumri, host city
- Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia (Italy, lead partner)
- Urban Foundation for Sustainable Development (Armenia)
- Journalists' Club "Asparez" (Armenia)
- "Shirak Centre" NGO (Armenia)
- Community Finance Officers Association

Main objectives:

- To settle the LDA Armenia as a key stakeholder in citizen participation, good governance and local democracy
- To promote youth participation in the decision-making processes and women's integration into society
- To upscale LDA foundation Armenia as a convincing actor for enhancing Citizen Participation, good governance and local democracy
- To promote youth participation in decision-making processes and women's integration into society
- To encourage tourism, cultural and environmental development initiatives
- To foster cooperation with international and local authorities and civil society representatives
- To promote of concrete initiatives to consolidate democracy at local level
- To boost entrepreneurship initiatives through local democracy
- To promote the respect of Human rights
- To promote cooperation at the local level, in Europe and in the EAP

"Local Democracy Agency" foundation was established in 2011 in Gyumri, Armenia. Among its main priorities are to promote the capacities of local authorities and civil society in citizens'

participation, support participative practices in the development of local and sustainable tourism, reinforce regional cooperation, empower youth and women in environmental, democratic and community development initiatives. Furthermore, the cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany, the Council of Europe, CSF of Eastern Partnership, Black Sea NGO Forum, Romanian FOND, UN and the European stakeholders promoted the implementation of many initiatives in the field of local democracy and participative decision-making.

LDA ARMENIA IN THE FIELD

Projects and activities

1. “Advocacy at the regional level- Shirak”

Useful Information	
Timespan	From December, 2021 to January, 2022
Number of partners/Associated	/
Total Budget	1.200,00 EUR per year
Funded by	USAID, Communities’ Finance Officers Association and by the sub-granting scheme

The project goal was to promote community, stakeholders’ participation and impact on decision-making processes at the local level.

In the frames of the action, LDA Armenia implemented a series of meetings in consolidated communities of Shirak region with the participation of administrative leaders, council members, municipalities’ staff and active citizens. Four meetings were held in Artik, Ani, Ashotsk enlarged communities to upscale the community issues according to the advanced proposed topics, get suggestions for problem solutions and present them to the local authorities for further consideration. The meetings were of great importance as simple discussions and conversations with the locals gives the image of reality from grass root perspective and reflects the needs and problems.





Main achievements: Community issues raised, supported and drafted to be sent as a package of reforms to the regional government.

“

"Hopefully, the project outcomes will deeply reflect the essential problems existing in our community and open doors to high-level solutions" - **Mane Vardanyan, Director of Anushavan community cultural centre.**

”

2. “Waste management” study tour

Useful Information	
Timespan	From August to September, 2022
Number of partners/Associated	/
Total Budget	10.559,00 EUR
Funded by	ALDA

The project aimed to raise awareness on waste management in Armenia, the role of civil society and the exchange of experiences with civil society representatives.

As part of the action, LDA Armenia, in coordination with ALDA, drew up the study tour programme for the international partners and arranged meetings with representatives of civil society and local authorities. The Foundation provided local transport for the entire period of the tour, accommodation and meals. The meetings were of great interest to the delegation for the exchange of experiences, capacity building and knowledge acquisition.

Main achievements: Within the framework of the project, meetings with civil society organisations and local authorities were conducted, information and knowledge gained which were transformed into a document to exchange experiences.



3. “Youth camp”

Useful Information	
Timespan	From August to September, 2022
Number of partners/Associated	Gyumri Youth Palace
Total Budget	10.559,00 EUR
Funded by	/

The objective of the action was to promote awareness among young people on the issues of local self-government, the environment and nature protection.

As part of the action, LDA Armenia conducted training courses on local self-government, community development laws and nature protection issues related to the community and municipality. The training courses concluded with a competition that generated great enthusiasm and interest among the students, aged between 7 and 14.



Main achievements: Young people's knowledge of community, good governance, citizen participation in decision-making and the environment.

“We really enjoyed the trainings, which were very important and the materials were explained in a simple way. The contest was great with high spirit and competitiveness”. “Thank you to Lusine and Lilit!” - Narek participant in the Youth Camp

4. “Career entry for young people in Armenia”

Useful Information	
Timespan	From November, 2022 to March, 2023
Number of partners/Associated	Empowerly gUG
Total Budget	38.000,00 EUR
Funded by	Federal Foreign office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany

The project goal is to promote youth capacities and reinforce intercultural exchange between Armenia and Germany. The action consisted of a series of workshops in Armenia and Germany, and a closing event for young people (15-18, 50% female) plus a bilingual website for intercultural exchange. The main focus is on: understanding social structures and processes, their connection with career choice, paths to self-realisation, equal rights and career entry, development of practical skills, as those in the digital area. Schoolchildren from

Armenia participated in the workshops where they elaborated three videos on environmental protection issues. Two participants from Germany participated as speakers at the closing conference. Three teams were awarded with presents and certificates.

As a final activity, a video on waste management and the work of the cleaning service was made in cooperation with the Municipality of Gyumri, to make citizens understand the difficulties of keeping the city clean and that everyone is responsible for not polluting nature and the environment.

Main achievements: 27 schoolchildren were trained and gained knowledge on democracy and human rights while acquiring new skills on video making.



LDA CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN SERBIA



Delegate: Ana Jovanovic

Established: 2001

Key partner:

- Associazione Trentino con i Balcani, Italy; provides program partnership
- Municipality Knjaževac, Serbia; provides in kind contribution (rent-free office space), programme partnership and financial support through open call for CSOs' project proposals

Main objectives:

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

The LDA Central and Southern Serbia was established in 2001 in the City of Niš, Serbia. With the aim of spreading its program further onto the territories in need, in 2014 the LDA has moved its headquarter to Knjaževac, a city in South-Eastern Serbia. The LDA carries on activities in Niš, Knjaževac, Kraljevo and Kragujevac and it contributes to the development of local democracy in the communities of Eastern, Southern and Central Serbia through capacity building programs based on the principles of active citizenship and establishment of concrete mechanisms of citizens' participation in development of their communities.

LDA CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN SERBIA IN THE FIELD

Projects and activities

1. From the Youth Corner to the Youth Center

Useful Information	
Timespan	From March, 2022 to February, 2023
Number of partners/Associated	/
Total Budget	9.250,00 EUR
Funded by	The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), (ACT project by Helvetas Serbia and Citizen Initiative Serbia)

In 12 month period, LDA CSS organised an advocacy campaign to influence the Municipal Council of Knjaževac to adopt a Decision on the establishment of a Youth Center that would be managed by local OGD working with young people, which would be used by the young people of Knjaževac for their activities.



During the campaign, 15 young people were involved in the planning and organisation of the project activities, four public events were held with 200 participants and more than 350 citizens signed their support for the initiative. The LDA CSS had the support of local cultural institutions and schools, as well as other CSOs active in the municipality of the LDA.

During the monitoring visit from the SDC and ACT project representatives in November 2022, the previous deputy mayor Branislav Josifovic presented the two possible locations for the youth center, but to this point, local authorities have not released any additional statements regarding the matter.

During the final meeting of the youth representatives with the new deputy mayor Marija Jelenkovic, the latter mentioned the problem of the management of the Youth Centre as the main issue for the establishment of such an institution.

Since the initiative had significant support from citizens and other local stakeholders, LDA CSS is continuing this advocacy campaign and, at the same time, preparing the proposal for the management model of the future Knjazevac Youth Centre.



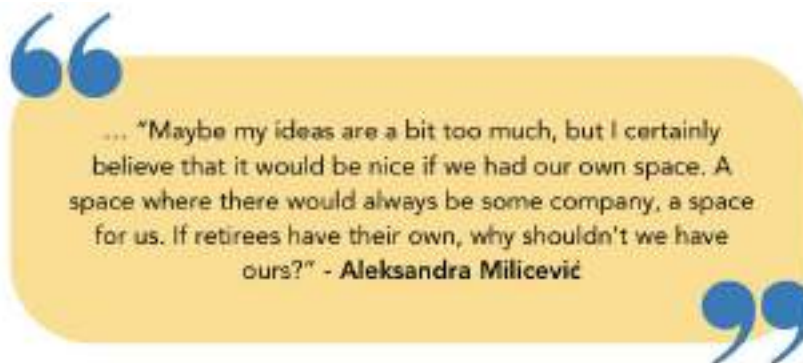
Main achievements: The main achievement of this initiative is that LDA CSS was able to organise a successful advocacy campaign that resulted in significant support from the citizens and local stakeholders for the establishment of a Youth Center in Knjaževac. The LDA CSS involved the young people in planning and organising the project activities, helping to involve the community and give momentum to the initiative. The campaign led to the presentation of two possible locations for the Youth Centre by the previous deputy mayor, and despite the challenges encountered during the process, the LDA CSS is continuing its advocacy efforts and preparing a proposal for the management model of the future Knjaževac Youth Centre. Overall, the main outcome of this initiative was to raise awareness and mobilise support for the creation of a youth centre in Knjaževac, which has the potential to provide important resources and opportunities for young people in the community.

“

“What do young people think when adults mention ‘space for youth’?”

Personally, I first think of a large room with artistically decorated walls. On one wall, there are names of famous music albums and their performers, while right next to them are the names of not so well-known albums and performers. We need to make those lesser-known ones more famous, don't we?...

”



2. CSOs Strengthening the regional cooperation to promote civic space in the Western Balkan countries

Useful Information	
Timespan	From May to October, 2022
Number of partners/Associated	Lead partner: Balkan Network for Local Democracy Other partners: LDA Knjazevac (Serbia), ALDA Skopje (North Macedonia), LDA Prijedor (BiH), LDA Zavidovi (BiH), LDA Subotica (Serbia), LDA Montenegro, LDA Kosovo, LDA Mostar (BiH)
Total Budget	18.000,00 EUR
Funded by	BCSDN / Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

The project actions aimed to promote the results and achievements of previous successfully implemented actions of the project CSOs networking for better local democracy in the Balkans, and widen the scope of modern participation tools for its constituencies. Moreover, this project demonstrates a strong and long-standing commitment to the development of local democracy, to the principles of good governance and to bringing EU integration closer to the people in local communities in the Western Balkans.

The project aimed to establish a link and synergies to connect the BNLD with other regional CSO networks, to improve communication to meet the needs of local constituencies, to develop and apply modern tools of digital democracy and e-participation, and to develop and adopt the BNLD Code of Accountability. The programme includes networking and capacity building activities, field visits and exchanges with OPENS and the Novi Sad capital of culture organisation. LDA CSS took care of the BNLD's PR and visibility activities with regard to the work programme and content creation for the campaign.

Main achievements: The adoption of the BNLD Accountability Code is a significant achievement of the project, as it demonstrates a commitment to transparency and accountability in local governance.

LDA DNIPROPETROVSK REGION



Delegate: Anzhelika Pylypenko

Established: 2015

Key partner:

- Lower Silesian Voivodeship
- Dnipropetrovsk Regional Council
- NGO All-Ukrainian public organization "Association for the Promotion of Self-Organization of the Population"
- NGO Campus Creative Club
- NGO Public Chamber of Ukraine
- NGO Gender club Dnipro
- Ukrainian Women's Fund

Main objectives:

- Assistance to the development of local democracy and the processes of decentralisation of Governance in the Dnipropetrovsk region;
- Assistance to IDPs;
- Assistance in the rehabilitation of ATO soldiers;
- Support for youth initiatives.

Local Democracy Agency of Dnipropetrovsk Region was established in 2015. It became the first LDA in Ukraine, and stands as a platform of cooperation, dialogue and exchange of experience and best practices across several aspects of regional development (cultural, social and economic) between local authorities and civil society in the EU and in Ukraine.

LDA fosters citizen participation at the local level, and mobilises civil society organisations, local and regional authorities to develop joint initiatives.

LDA DNIPROPETROVSK REGION IN THE FIELD

Projects and activities

1. “Humanitarian assistance to IDPs and their psychological rehabilitation in order to overcome post-traumatic syndrome (PTSD) as a consequence of the horrors of the war in Ukraine”

Useful Information	
Timespan	From June to September, 2022
Number of partners/Associated	LDA of Dnipropetrovsk region
Total Budget	1.910,00 EUR
Funded by	The Romanian NGDO platform – FOND (Romania)

The project was aimed at providing humanitarian and psychological assistance to Internally Displaced Persons in Dnipro.

Main achievements: Humanitarian and psychological assistance to IDPs was implemented, in the framework of which a daily lunch was provided to IDPs living in the 2 mini-shelters of the Dnipro apartment blocks. A total of 436 lunches were prepared at project expense for the 27 people who temporarily resided in these shelters during the project. Some people received psychological assistance: 9 people had 17 individual counselling sessions and 13 people participated in 2 one-day training courses on art therapy and communication techniques. As a result, it was possible to stabilise to some extent the emotional state of the displaced persons who sought help from the psychologist and participated in the training courses.

2. “Helping people wounded in combat operations”

Useful Information	
Timespan	From October 1 to October 30, 2022
Number of partners/Associated	LDA of Dnipropetrovsk region
Total Budget	340 EUR
Funded by	Nurses Volunteers, Tel Aviv (Israel)

The project’s aim was to give humanitarian aid to injured persons.

Main achievements: Targeted assistance was provided to displaced and injured military personnel, with bandages and medicines, as part of the humanitarian aid delivered.

LDA EDREMIT

Key partner:

- Edremit Municipality and Edremit City Council (Türkiye);
- ALDA – European Association for Local Democracy;
- Budva Municipality (Montenegro);
- Lushnje Municipality (Albania) ;
- Ahmetbey Municipality (Türkiye)
- CSOs representatives.

Main objectives:

- Information exchange and empowerment of other CSOs;
- Citizens' participation and involvement

Established in October 2021, the LDA Edremit is a Local Democracy Agency based in the Municipality of Edremit (Türkiye). Thanks to a participative approach in the decision making process and multilateral decentralised cooperation, it will design its actions and activities in tackling several topics and issues, such as:

- Cultural heritage and tourism;
- Relationship between local authorities and citizens stressing the importance of accountability;
- Migration;
- Gender;
- Disability



LDA GEORGIA



Delegate: Nino Khukhua

Established: 2007

Key partner:

- City of Strasbourg, France (Lead Partner)
- City of Kutaisi, Georgia (Host City)
- Municipality of Monfalcone, Italy
- Kujawsko-Pomorskie Region, Poland
- City of Tbilisi, Georgia
- National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia (NALAG), Georgia
- Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA), Georgia
- Partners-Georgia, Georgia

Local Democracy Agency Georgia (LDA Georgia) was set up in 2007 in Kutaisi, as part of ALDA's (Association of Local Democracy Agencies) strategy in the South Caucasus. LDA Georgia is dedicated to the promotion of good governance and citizen participation at the local level. LDA focuses on activities facilitating cooperation between local authorities and civil society. The mission of LDA Georgia is to strengthen local democracy and civil society, support democratic reforms in Georgia, and to develop new and innovative approaches to local and national challenges, by cooperating with local and international stakeholders through: Capacity building programs for local authorities and NGOs ; Promoting active citizenship and good governance; Promoting women's and youth rights; Supporting and initiating cross-border and regional cooperation; Promoting EU integration and European values at the local level. In 2017, LDA Georgia was selected to lead the EU Integration and Youth Development Working Group, which unites 74t NGOs from across Georgia. LDA Georgia is the regional representative of the EaP National Platform.

LDA GEORGIA IN THE FIELD

Projects and activities

1. Civil Society STAR Initiative Imereti Regional Hub

Useful Information	
Timespan	From April 1, 2021 to November 30, 2024
Number of partners/Associated	Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) Center for Strategic Research Development of Georgia (CSRDG) Civil Society Initiative (CSI) Consultation and Training Center (CTC), Education Development Employment Center (EDEC) Institute for European Politics (IEP)
Total Budget	60 000,00 EUR
Funded by	European Union and KAS

The aim of Imereti Regional HUB is to strengthen civil society at the regional level, which will be achieved by maintaining the sustainability of civil society organizations, ensuring transparency and increasing the degree of accountability. Beyond supporting main activities under the “Civil Society STAR Initiative”, the Hub implemented several activities among which, the project presentation, study visits, the creation of an SMS platform and more!



Main achievements: The organisation conducted 6 training courses for representatives of civil society organisations on financial management issues and the specifics of advocacy. The aim of the courses is to train civil society organisations and non-governmental organisations operating in the Imereti region on the issues identified as a result of the needs survey. A total of 60 people were trained. The organisation will advise representatives of civil society organisations in the Imereti region on the announced grant competitions and improve the organisation's management. The consultations were held in the municipalities of Tskaltubo, Vani, Khoni, Sachkhere, Chiatura, Zestaponi, Terjola and Tkibuli. A total of 72 people attended the meeting. One of the organisation's activities under the project is the SMS platform, which aims to have the regional hub in Imereti proactively provide information to CSOs and CBOs in

the region on various activities. An SMS platform was created on the organisation's website. 154 people registered on the platform for this phase and 60 notifications were sent about various competitions or grant events. The organisation established a youth club to change the attitude of young people/students towards civic and community organisations and to promote volunteering among young people. Six seminars were organised for this phase, which were attended by 20 young people. The organisation organises regular meetings with those responsible for relations with non-governmental organisations in the municipality. The aim of the activity is to promote the role of civil society in public policy. Participants will be presented with the results of our research on the challenges and needs of CSOs for civil society organisations. A total of 61 people attended the meetings. As the regional hub in Imereti, the organisation constantly updates its database of civil society organisations. Currently, 158 civil society organisations, 10 community organisations and 16 media organisations operate in the Imereti region.

The organisation plans to select and train newly established organisations on a competitive basis with partner organisations that do not have extensive experience and need assistance in setting up internal management/management documents and organisation structure.



2. Online Citizen Feedback Platform

Useful Information	
Timespan	From April 1, 2022 to July 30, 2022
Number of partners/Associated	/
Total Budget	4,999.9 USD
Funded by	UNDP

The purpose of creating the online platform is to evaluate the services/programs implemented by the municipality from the citizens' side.

- Determining and approving the procedure for implementing the online platform for citizens' feedback
- Holding informational meetings about the online platform for citizens' feedback
- Production and printing of an information booklet
- Preparation of infographics
- Implementation of SMS platforms

Main achievements:

The feedback platform enables citizens of the municipality to evaluate social, youth and infrastructure programmes. Furthermore, through the platform, every citizen living in the municipality has the opportunity to express his or her opinion and indicate solutions, to contribute to the activities planned and implemented by the self-government.



The municipality is responsible for the effectiveness of citizen participation. In the initial phase, information was provided to the municipalities and meetings were organised in terms of strengthening the online platform, so that the representatives of the municipalities were actively involved in the process of launching and practically activating the platform. The discussion during the meetings covered activities that increase the functions and capabilities of the online platform for citizen feedback, in particular the addition and evaluation of youth and infrastructure programmes.

A draft version of the regulations for the implementation of the citizen feedback platform was prepared and approved by mayoral order in the target municipalities. In addition, again by order of the mayor, persons were identified to ensure the effective operation of the platform. Information meetings were organised with citizens in the administrative units of the municipalities of Samtredia, Vani, Kharagauli, Baghdati, Khoni and Tskaltubo. The aim of the

meetings was to present the idea and purpose of the citizens feedback platform. During the meetings, an information leaflet was distributed and a practical presentation was given on how the platform is compiled and how the responses received are converted into a quantitative indicator.

Technical support was provided to the municipalities' IT specialists. As a result of the technical support, the existing version of the platform was better implemented in practice. Other platform resources were utilised and new municipal programmes were added to the programme.

The project team communicated with the heads of social, youth and infrastructure services of the municipalities to provide public information about the 2022 programmes. Following the programmes provided, the process of programme integration was continued.

Based on the identified needs, electronic infographics were prepared for each municipality, in which the most prioritised needs indicated by citizens are presented both in diagram form and on a quantitative level. The information mentioned in the pre-budget period will enable municipalities to correctly determine and plan the following year's budget.

3. Increasing the Quality of Citizen Involvement in Local Self-Government

Useful Information	
Timespan	From December 1, 2020 to January 1, 2022
Number of partners/Associated	/
Total Budget	29.973,00 USD
Funded by	UNDP

The aim of the grant was to increase the degree of citizen involvement in the decision-making process and to ensure the accountability of local authorities. The grant entails the following:

- Establishing an effective mechanism for citizens to appeal to local self-government;
- Empowering women and youth to identify and advocate needs and priorities at the local level;
- Strengthening dialogue and cooperation between community organizations and local government in the decision-making process;

Initiating effective cooperation mechanisms between the local self-government, the citizens' advisory council and the citizens' initiative groups, including problem planning and advocacy.

Main achievements: Various meaningful activities were carried out to achieve the goal of the project. In the first stage, a memorandum of understanding was signed with the mayors of the municipalities of Imereti and the chairmen/chairwomen of the city councils. A qualitative study was conducted in the target municipalities using the focus group method. The discussions aimed at clarifying/identifying the community needs/problems of the municipalities and post-COVID-19 challenges. During the focus group interviews, the following issues were discussed: agriculture, tourism, economic development programs, local business, manufacturing and marketing, migration and employment, infrastructure issues, access to education, sports/cultural activities, civic engagement mechanisms, health programs and social services, awareness and new needs caused by Covid-19.

Relevant and interesting groups were identified for the purposes of the study: representatives of local municipalities, formal and non-formal community leaders and representatives of vulnerable social groups. Through the focus groups, it was possible to obtain important qualitative information about the existing challenges, based on the views of the participants.

The budget programs of the municipality, the local economic development action plan and the document of priorities were studied. For each municipality, a document of the needs of the local population was created with attached recommendations and budget programs. The development of democracy is directly related to the presence of



active citizens in the country. As more citizens participate in democratic processes, the government assumes increased responsibility for managing the country. For this purpose, initiative groups were created on the basis of focus group members in municipalities, which united representatives of different groups of society (women, single parents, disabled people, young people, etc.). The goal of the initiative group was to create a resource that would support citizen engagement and needs advocacy campaigns at the local level.

Group leaders who were actively involved in grant activities were identified.

Trainings were held for them on the specifics of advocacy, which represent the specifics of advocacy at the local level. The following issues were discussed at the training: three sectors of the state; what is advocacy? principles of active citizenship; types of advocacy; basic elements of advocacy; identifying the problem of advocacy, the specifics of advocacy. This training gave the members of the initiative group the opportunity to get information on topics unknown to them, which are related to the specifics of advocacy. After the training sessions, it can be said that with the information received, the participants can put a specific problem on the agenda and take immediate actions aimed at the welfare of the community through the improvement of local services.

It is a sort of moral obligation of a citizen to make maximum use of the opportunities granted by the constitution and law and to actively participate in the management of the state, or even of his/her own city or municipality. To activate citizens, within the framework of the grant, Local Democracy Agency Georgia appealed to Imereti municipal councils to reduce the minimum 1% threshold for petition voters, since the majority of citizens face a significant barrier in the process of submitting a petition - the problem of mobilising the minimum number of citizens defined by law. The initiative was positively assessed by Samtredia, Baghdati, Khoni, Tskaltubo, Chiatura and Sachkhere municipalities. The result was a reduction of the standard 1% threshold for registered voters to 0.5%.

Consequently, the voters of these municipalities have the opportunity to easily ensure the mobilisation of 0.5% of registered voters, collect signatures and submit a joint petition. This helps the municipality to strengthen the involvement of citizens in public life and participation in the activities of local government.

There is not live broadcast of the city council sessions in the municipalities of Imereti. The introduction of livestream became even more necessary during the COVID-19 pandemic, when citizens could not attend the session of the City Council due to the imposed restrictions. Within the framework of the grant, in seven municipalities - Khragauli, Sachkhere, Baghdati, Samtredia, Khoni, Tskaltubo, Tkibuli - live broadcasting of the council meetings was introduced. To inform the citizens, the agenda and the date of the meeting of the municipal council were posted in advance on the website of the official social network of the municipality. Which means that part of the population, who could not attend the session due to the pandemic or other reasons, could watch the session via live stream and listen to the positions expressed and the decisions made regarding the discussed issues.

Roundtable format meetings, both face-to-face and online, held due to the pandemic. Both local self-government representatives and members of the initiative group attended the meetings.

At the meetings, through the project team and the initiative group, the problems identified in specific municipalities as a result of the research were presented. The attending public assessed the existing problems and discussed effective ways to solve them. Also, they discussed what is the situation at the local level in terms of citizens' involvement and how ready the local self-government is for population participation and solving local problems.

Through thematic meetings, the results of the survey, identified problems and developed recommendations were presented to the members of the councils working on issues of gender equality, civil advisors and disabled people of municipalities. At the meeting, they discussed the needs identified as a result of research. The members of the councils expressed their opinions about the existing important challenges on the issues that belong to the sphere of competence of the local self-government. The purpose of the meetings was to create a basis for the councils represented at the local self-government level to establish a tradition of consultation not only with the civil sector, but also to involve citizens in the process.

Local Democracy Agency Georgia held a regional conference on citizen engagement mechanisms, which was attended by grant donor organizations, invited speakers, members of the local self-government of Imereti region and the initiative group created within the grant. The regional conference aimed to share best practices and existing challenges on each engagement mechanism with the participation of different municipalities in Imereti region, as well as to devote some of the conference to presenting the results and achievements of the implemented grant. The second part was dedicated to the importance of ensuring citizen engagement mechanisms and sharing of best practices by the representatives of Imereti municipalities, also an online citizen's feedback platform was presented, which was piloted for Vani, Khoni, Kharagauli, Samtredia, Baghdati and Tskaltubo municipalities.

Within the framework of the project, training was conducted for the representatives of civil society organisations in the target municipalities of Imereti region. The training module covered issues such as:

- Citizen engagement mechanisms;
- Citizen participation in the implementation of local self-government;
- The role / function of the civil advisory council in the process of local self-government implementation;
- Program budget processes and stages;
- Main principles / authorities of local self-government;
- Local self-government in a democratic state;
- Municipality Finances.

The training improved the skills and local networking capabilities of the organisation's representatives, which in the future will contribute to their improved coordination, communication with the local self-government, citizens and representatives of the civil sector.

4. Youth Exchange program "YOU.TH" in Italy

Useful Information	
Timespan	August 2022
Number of partners/Associated	/
Total Budget	/
Funded by	Erasmus Plus

Young people were sent to Italy by LDA Georgia - Local Democracy Agency Georgia within the project "YOU.TH". The project "YOU.TH" aimed at equipping youth workers with methodologies and practices that are mainly used in the field of theater and can be used to implement inclusive activities in non-formal education.



Main achievements: Four young people from Georgia were involved in the exchange program. In this youth exchange program 34 youth workers from eight different countries (Italy, Spain, Georgia, Portugal, Ukraine, Armenia, Jordan, the Republic of North Macedonia) learnt together in 7 days of training course in Morfasso (Italy).

OPEN DOOR DAY AT AKAKI TSERETELI STATE UNIVERSITY

Local Democracy Agency Georgia (LDA Georgia) held an Open Door Day for young people at Akaki Tsereteli State University. At the meeting students received information about the activities of the Local Democracy Agency Georgia, youth exchange programmes; had the opportunity to undergo an internship announced by the organization; to listen to exchange programme participants who were recently in Italy within the framework of the “YOU.TH” programme.

Also, they had the opportunity to fill in the application form of the youth club at the base of the organization and become members of the club.

INTERNATIONAL FORUM “CITIES CHALLENGES AND WAT FORWARD”

Local Democracy Agency Georgia participated in the Second International Forum “Cities’ Challenges and Way Forward”.

At the forum, the Executive Director of LDA Georgia - Nino Khukhua spoke about the role of civil society organizations in the process of economic stimulation of municipalities and good governance. To share good practices, she reviewed the projects implemented by the organization in the recent past, in particular, SMS online platforms were created to promote good governance, medium-term development strategies and investment profiles were developed, an Entrepreneurship-Investment regional forum was organized, etc.

The following participants took part in the Forum: partner cities and regions of Kutaisi City Municipality; Cities from the Eastern Partnership and Western Europe; Representatives of civil society and the business sector, experts from around the world, took part in the forum.

LDA KOSOVO



Delegate: Shpresa Sefaj Berisha

Established: 2011

Key partner:

- Association Trentino con i Balcani, 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 objectives:

- 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

The LDA Kosovo was officially opened in 2011 in Peja/Pec, to promote local democracy in the country. The LDA implements its mission through activities in the fields of democracy, justice, human rights, youth and equal opportunities, dialogue among minority communities in Kosovo, economic development, and social and cultural development. LDA Kosovo implements capacity building programmes aimed at fostering active citizenship and at establishing concrete mechanisms of citizens' participation, thus empowering citizens to improve their communities, as well as their society.

LDA KOSOVO IN THE FIELD

Projects and activities

1. Volunteerism Marathon Day

Useful Information	
Timespan	From January to April, 2022
Number of partners/Associated	2
Total Budget	3.000,00 EUR
Funded by	Balkan Fund

The general objective of the project clearly and directly contributes to the specific objective No. 3 of the call “Increasing public awareness and grassroots activities on environment and natural resource protection, waste reduction and recycling, which aims to protect the environment of the CB area between Albania and Kosovo, creating and promoting the tradition of Volunteerism Marathon Day while activating youth, as a vulnerable community



that needs to be involved and play a leading role in this process. The overall objective was achieved through the following specific objectives:

O1: Increasing the capacity of young people and their commitment to volunteering, protection, safe environment and recycling.

O2: Creating a sustainable tradition to support young active citizens offering inclusive transferable

models and inclusive opportunities to connect with others and protect natural heritage.

Main achievements: This project aimed to implement, develop and create possibilities for further development of this strategic intervention in the creation of a Volunteer Marathon Day as a tradition in the two countries, to be promoted annually by educational institutions and local governments.



2. European Label of Governance Excellence (ELOGE)

Useful Information	
Timespan	From March to April, 2022
Number of partners/Associated	3
Total Budget	5.000,00 EUR just for Kosovo
Funded by	Council of Europe

The ELOGE program – European Label of Governance Excellence offers tools to local authorities to measure how they comply with the 12 Principles of Good Democratic Governance.

Main Achievements: Improving and enhancing the democratic governance of local governments. Promote the democratic participation of citizens in the public life of their municipality. Supporting local governments in understanding the strengths and weaknesses of decision-making and public service provision.



LDA MARIUPOL



Delegate: Tetiana Lomakina

Established: 2017

Key partner:

- City of Gdańsk, Poland (Lead Partner)
- City of Mariupol, Ukraine (Host City)
- NGO Mariupol Development Fund
- NGO Mariupol Youth Union
- Mariupol State University
- Mariupol City Council
- Mariupol Youth Union
- Women's Council of Donetsk Oblast

Since the beginning of the war in Ukraine in 2022, the LDA Mariupol team has been forced to leave the city of Mariupol, which was occupied and bombed by the Russian army. The LDA Mariupol moved to Kyiv and now works in cooperation with the teams from Mariupol State University, Mariupol Municipality, Mariupol Youth Union and Donetsk Oblast Women's Council, who were also forced to leave the city. After the traumatic experience of surviving the blockade, all Mariupol residents are in need of recovery and continued support, including the team members.

LDA Mariupol has had many attempts to find resources for the teachers and students of Mariupol State University who left occupied Mariupol and moved to Kyiv. There, people are trying to adapt to the new living conditions in the capital of Ukraine, teaching and studying online and offline, supporting communication with other students and teachers who have remained in Mariupol not having the possibility to move to other parts of Ukraine or abroad. The goal of LDA Mariupol is to establish social links between the educational community and youth movements, and to involve people in shaping the future of the city of Mariupol. In November 2022, the Mariupol City Council conducted a survey among Mariupol residents on how they see Mariupol in the future, according to the city's vision plan called '**Mariupol Reborn**'.

The LDA Mariupol has established strong relations with the 'I am Mariupol' centre, created by the team of Mariupol Mayor, Mr. Vadim Boichenko with the aim of supporting and providing assistance to the Internally Displaced People of Mariupol. The centre has been opened in 17 different regions of Ukraine (cities and towns in central, eastern and western Ukraine) where

most of the citizens of Mariupol reside; and to this day, the centres continue to open their doors to IDPs from Mariupol and other territories of Ukraine occupied by the RF.

In 2023 the LDA Mariupol is planning:

- to develop joint projects with AMD partners and other stakeholders on topics related to the organisation's mission;
- to involve Mariupol City Council, Mariupol State University, NGO "Mariupol Youth Union", NGO "Women's Council of Donetchyna", different representatives of government bodies, CO "I am Mariupol" in order to organise a fruitful partnership and joint implementation of projects;
- to support the European integration of Ukraine;
- to support such activities as: summer schools, capacity-building activities for public opinion leaders who are ready to participate in democratic processes to increase citizens' involvement in the decision-making process at the local level;
- to establish the interaction with ALDA structures and stakeholders for the exchange of experience and best practices.

LDA MARIUPOL IN THE FIELD

Projects and activities

1. "Skills Lab: Local Leaders" training program

Useful Information	
Timespan	From July 2021 to September 2022
Number of partners/Associated	1
Total Budget	Volunteer project
Funded by	NGO "Women's Council of Donechchyna"

The overall objective of the project's training course is to familiarise participants with opportunities to implement change and to provide them with the necessary skills to realise their ideas.



In the period from July 2021 to September 2022, a series of activities were carried out, such as: designing the training programme, conducting 7 modules, developing a communication strategy.

As a result of the project, young leaders were informed about the basics of local democracy and opportunities for youth participation in the Donetsk, Kherson, Zaporozhye and Lugansk regions.

Main achievements: Due to the beginning of the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation on February 24, 2022, the project was changed and adapted to the new needs of young people.

In May 2022, the project started under the new name 'TURBOta'. The new objective of the project was to contribute to the processing and restoration of documents, psychological counselling and the integration of young people in host communities.



“This project brought me fresh ideas for further projects’ implementation, new connections and understating of the project management itself.” - Olena.

2. Talking about the future of Mariupol

Useful Information	
Timespan	From March to December 2022
Number of partners/Associated	Lead partner - LDA Mariupol, 2 associated partners: Mariupol State University, Charitable organization “I am Mariupol”
Total Budget	/
Funded by	Volunteer Project

The objective of the project was to build partnerships with Mariupol State University and with the community of Mariupol, relocated to Kyiv and other places of Ukraine, aiming to build joint work.

Main achievements:

1. A discussion on the future of Mariupol after its de-occupation together with the Mariupol State University; the planning of a strategy to rebuild the city of Mariupol after its de-occupation by Russian soldiers, as well as how people will be involved locally in the reconstruction of the city;
2. On 11 December in Kyiv, LDA Mariupol delegate Tetiana Lomakina met with American writer and journalist Tamar Jacoby for an interview. They discussed cooperation and support for the city of Mariupol and its restoration after unemployment, the main challenges and problems of today;
3. A meeting with Mariupol activists was organised in Kyiv aiming to plan a Strategy for rebuilding the city of Mariupol in cooperation with "I am Mariupol".
4. LDA Mariupol took part in the exhibition "Mariupol. Where are you?" which was held in Kyiv on 26 October, 2022.
5. Participation in the open discussion "Mariupol. Cultural de-occupation" in Kyiv on December 22, 2022. Discussion of the future of Mariupol and its inhabitants, their culture and history.
6. Participation in the opening of the second center "I am Mariupol" in Kyiv.



3. Living with Young People in Crises

Useful Information	
Timespan	December 2022
Number of partners/Associated	/
Total Budget	/
Funded by	Local NGOs of Kyiv

On December 9, a presentation of the educational course "Living with Young People in Crises" was held. The purpose of the course was to provide young people with an opportunity to learn how to deal with the trauma they experienced during the war, as well as to share exercises through which they can learn how to act and react effectively to the situations they face in order not to harm their psychological health.

4. Participation in ALDA's activities

Useful Information	
Timespan	June & October 2022
Number of partners/Associated	/
Total Budget	/
Funded by	ALDA

On June 22, 2022, some representatives of the LDA Mariupol had a trip to Brussels (Belgium) for the at the conference of ALDA – the European Association for Local Democracy, organised within the framework of the European Partnership for Democracy (EPD) Conference. The purpose of the trip was to talk about the assistance needed by Ukrainian cities and large towns, as well as to present the activities of the LDA in Mariupol under martial law and the transfer of the LDA in Mariupol to Kyiv.

The LDA Mariupol took also part in ALDA General Assembly 2022, which was held in Strasbourg (France).

On October 25-27 LDA Mariupol attended the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg (France). The LDA Mariupol had the opportunity to talk about the development of democracy and free society even during the war in Ukraine.



LDA MOLDOVA



Delegate: Nicolae Hristov

Established: 2017

Key partner:

- Solidarité Eau Europe, France (lead partner)
- City of Cimișlia, host city
- IASCI – International Agency for Source Country Information (Representative Office Moldova) - NEXUS Moldova

Main objectives:

- Facilitate the participation of civil society in the decision-making process at the local level.
- Increase the interest, awareness and capacities of citizen to take part in the decision-making process at the local level.
- Increase the awareness and skills of the local communities and local authorities to address the needs of citizens.
- Increase the interest and sharing of information between Moldova and other European.
- Countries and stakeholders to enable closer cooperation and ongoing exchange of the practices.
- Raise the awareness of the importance of migration with regards of local development.

The LDA Moldova in Cimișlia was established on 3 March 2017. It represents the first Local Democracy Agency in Moldova, based in the city of Cimișlia, a historic and symbolic city, the aim is to create a platform for cooperation, dialogue and mutual exchange of experience in all aspects (cultural, social and economic) between local communities and communities of European partners and will constitute a platform of discussion between citizens, local associations and authorities on the field in order to meet the needs of local communities.

LDA MOLDOVA IN THE FIELD

Projects and activities

1. LDA Moldova in support of people with disabilities and marginalized on the protection of human rights

Useful Information	
Timespan	From April, 2021 to September, 2022
Number of partners/Associated	Institute for Penal Reform
Total Budget	50 000 USD
Funded by	Sweden

The overall objective of the project was to contribute to more efficient judicial services and better access to justice for men and women in Moldova, particularly vulnerable and marginalised groups, by enhancing the capacities of forensic institutions to provide quality judicial services, strengthening the capacities of justice sector actors in the selected pilot areas to provide a coordinated response to the justice needs of men and women, and strengthening civil society to be able to demand respect for rights and engage in a constructive dialogue with actors in the justice chain.

Main achievements: Among the many achievements of the project, there are the coordination, cooperation and capacity-building of key actors of the judiciary in four (4) regions of the Republic of Moldova (North, South, Centre and ATU Gagauzia), in order to create platforms for dialogue on issues related to efficiency and access to justice for the local population, with a special focus on vulnerable groups;
Strengthened capacities of civil society in the pilot regions, to proactively oversee justice delivery and engage in improving access to justice;
Public awareness on access to justice increased amongst men and women from pilot regions.

LDA MONTENEGRO



Delegate: Kerim Medjedovic

Established: 2001

Key partner:

- 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 objectives:

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

The Local Democracy Agency in Nikšić was established with the support of the Council of Europe on May 11th 2001 as a local NGO. LDA Montenegro functions within the network of 11 Agencies in the former Yugoslav republics and with the support of the Association of Local Democracy Agencies. The creation of Local Democracy Agencies was one of the measures proposed in 1993 by the Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe. Local Democracy Agency of Montenegro together with the Association of Local Democracy Agencies works on the development of democratic processes and socio- economic development of Southeast and Eastern Europe in co-operation with partners, cities, regions and other organizations through decentralized co-operation and partnership.

LDA MONTENEGRO IN THE FIELD

Projects and activities

1. Cooperazione Montenegro

Useful Information	
Timespan	From January 2021 to March 2022
Number of partners/Associated	6
Total Budget	20.000,00 EUR
Funded by	Friuli Venezia Giulia

The objective of the project was to create local services for supporting young people in their development and to conduct pilot actions to improve local participation mechanisms. Several activities have been carried out within the framework of the project, among which trainings for youth in the field of CSO management, Media literacy, youth participation minorities rights, European integration processes; and several public actions concerning advocacy, environmental protection, minorities rights, European integration processes.

Main achievements: One great achievement of the project consisted in the organisation of the International Youth Day manifestation, carried out for the 6th consecutive time with the program for youth participation and youth voice to be heard. Moreover, the Youth Taking Over Day was also organised for the 6th consecutive year, and it included visit to municipal institutions and getting acquainted with their mandate and possibilities to get involved in decision making processes. Moreover, two volunteers were sent to Greece for a three months programme.



2. ERASMUS FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS -EYE - SEE SMART SMEs project (South Eastern European coalition to cultivate SMART SMEs in Europe)

Useful Information	
Timespan	From February 2020 to February 2023 (extended until February 2024)
Number of partners/Associated	7
Total Budget	87.000,00 EUR
Funded by	European Commission

The project addressed three main challenges that European SMEs need to face and overcome in order to keep on being the backbone of the European Union (EU) economy and thus contribute to reach the Europe 2020 Strategy.

Within the framework of the project several activities were carried out, among which provide information to Nes; Promote the programme and search for HE, Verify applications from NEs and Hes; Pro-actively match relationships; Provide induction training for NEs in the country of origin; Manage commitments & agreements; Assist on the practicalities /logistical support; Administer financial assistance, Ensure high standards and evaluation feedback, Organise active networking amongst Ios; Report to the Lead IOS.

Main achievements: During the year 2022, seven exchanges were carried out within the framework of the project. The promotion of the programme and the recruitment process for new entrepreneurs continued. LDA Montenegro managed to organise four promotional events at the Chamber of Commerce, the 'Birziminium Hub' in the capital and with two NGOs. A total of 29 registrations were made by the end of 2022. LDA Montenegro continued to build relationships, organising 7 exchanges: Vladimir Djurovic, Jvana Nikecevic, Jelena Vujisic, Tanja Pejovic and Andrija Terzic in Spain, Srdan Djurovic in Serbia and Ivana Milic in Croatia.



“

"I want to encourage young people not to wait to get informed and consider participating in the Erasmus program for young entrepreneurs. With the experience in Croatia I saw my entrepreneurial predispositions, and I am sure that even by choosing another country where a different language is spoken, you will test and upgrade your skills that you will apply tomorrow at the sales meeting, forming partnerships and similarly. By participating in Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs, you surround yourself with successful stories and people, and at the same time, you train for success in your entrepreneurial field." - Ivana from Zagreb.

”

3. INER – Intelligent Energy Management and Renewable Energy Sources Promotion

Useful Information	
Timespan	From April 2020 to December 2022
Number of partners/Associated	6
Total Budget	87.000,00 EUR
Funded by	European Union, IPA Interreg CBC Croatia - Bosnia and Herzegovina – Montenegro program

The objective of the project was to increase energy efficiency EE, the use of renewable energy sources RES as well as intelligent energy management in CRO, BiH, MNE through promotion, raising awareness, improving knowledge, competences and enabling transfer of best practices between project territories.

Within the framework of the project, numerous activities were carried out among which the preparation of Local buildings typology and lists of recommended EE measures; the



elaboration of Scenarios for EE improvement; Implementation of 5 Energy audits in public buildings (these audits include: analysis of energy category of building, balances of energy use, measures for improvement of energy efficiency, calculation of possible savings and payback period for each measure, as well as potential financing sources); Conducting a TNA; development of a Training curricula; conducting Energy management (EM) training, EM software training and Training on profitability of EE measures; Installation of Energy

management software; realisation of coaching on practical measures, Analyses of financing sources; Creation of Technical documentation for investments; and implementation of EE/RES Demonstration action, development of Transferability report.

Main achievements: the main achievements of the project included; the installation of a solar park (solar tree, 5 solar benches, 10kW solar power plant) ,5 public buildings energy audits conducted and reports produced, Nikšić building typology developed, energy management trainings for energy managers and other technical staff from 3 municipalities realised.

Cross border conference in Nikšić: an inauguration for the Solar park and solar power plant installed was organised in the public park in the centre of Nikšić, where more than 30 participants from partners countries participated. They also took part in the debate about prospective for EE and Res with panellists from the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry of spatial planning, the University of Montenegro and the Municipal Agency for planning.

“

The Mayor of Niksic thanked the LDA Montenegro for this action and marked this event as the announcement of the “Energy revolution” that is going to happen in Montenegro with the new initiatives by state electrical company EPCG.

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LDA MOSTAR



Delegate: Dženana Dedić

Established: 2004

Key partner:

- Apulia Region, Italy (Lead Partner)
- City of Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina (Host City)
- City of Vejle, Denmark
- Fargfabriken, Sweden

Main objectives:

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

Since its establishment in November 2004, Local Democracy Agency Mostar acts as a locally registered non-profit, nongovernmental organization, with the support of its partners and cooperation with other Agencies and the Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA). It is precisely this co- operation, both on local and regional level that has enabled numerous activities and projects useful for the development of local community and its inclusion into processes at the regional level. Activities of LDA Mostar, which aim to create a more active citizenry on one side, and transparent and accountable local authorities on the other, are focused towards development of a modern democratic society. These activities entangle every segment of life of the local community and offer a possibility of improving the living standard of all categories of the society by directly influencing concrete changes.

LDA MOSTAR IN THE FIELD

Projects and activities

1. YAMNFL - Youth Ambassadors of Non-Formal Learning

Useful Information	
Timespan	From November, 2019 to March, 2022
Number of partners/Associated	11
Total Budget	149.357,20 EUR
Funded by	Erasmus+ (KA2 – Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices – Capacity Building in the field of Youth)

The project was based on non-formal education and aimed to develop the new methodology of Youth Ambassadors of Non-Formal Education, trained young people who can use the peer-to-peer approach by providing their experience to inspire other young people and stakeholders to give more credit and better use to NFL experiences.

The project's objective was to promote participation in Non-Formal Education activities and the power of validation and recognition of competences acquired outside the formal education environment through an innovative methodology. The project wanted to take into consideration what has been done so far within this area, research for best practices and successful stories, and get ready to go on the field to reinforce the importance of Non-Formal Learning.



Main achievements: The project presents quite an innovative character, as the whole methodology used is a completely new concept in terms of promotion of the power of Non-Formal Learning and its validation and recognition. It targets at improving its recognition both from the personal, social and political point of view.

2. STAR – Street Art

Useful Information	
Timespan	From November, 2019 to April, 2022
Number of partners/Associated	15
Total Budget	148.680,00 EUR
Funded by	European Commission (Europe for Citizens - Network of Towns)

The project aimed to create a network with a common strategy to promote social inclusion and the reduction of marginalisation through the regeneration of deprived and abandoned areas of European cities through street art. Street art is seen as a form of social expression, which allows the engagement of communities and the regeneration of neighborhoods; it can increase local identity, mutual understanding and solidarity. Within the framework of this project, the street art was realised in cooperation with citizens, artists, migrants, schools and local organisations.



The Local Democracy Agency Mostar project associate to the City of Mostar. The objectives of the STAR project were to increase citizens' participation and solidarity; connect people of different backgrounds and cultures; regenerate deprived and abandoned areas resulting in decreased marginalisation and carry out public awareness-raising activities to prevent discrimination and intolerance.

Main achievements: Using the street art as a way to involve communities and regenerate public spaces.

3. Strengthening local participation and cooperation through partnership of Public Authorities and CSOs in Bosnia and Herzegovina - LINK 4 Cooperation

Useful Information	
Timespan	From January 2021 to December 2023
Number of partners/Associated	6
Total Budget	545.897,00 EUR
Funded by	European Union



The project promotes principles of good governance with a view to effective and responsive performance of the local government units in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The project will empower the capacities of local authorities (elected leaders and civil servants) and civil society in implementing participative processes. Together they will identify concrete problems of the community that will find their

solutions thanks to the participative approach. The project will therefore build capacities and solve problems, by consolidating the approach in the years to come.

The main target group of this project are the 40 local Civil Society Organisations and grassroots organisations from Bosnia and Herzegovina and 12 Local self-government units – municipal administration and local councilors as local decision makers.

The overall objective is to strengthen the capacities of CSOs engaged in public policy processes to become skilled and reliable partners in policy-making and reform processes in B&H.

Main achievement: Establishment and implementation of the European Label of Governance Excellence (ELOGE) methodology of the Council of Europe in Bosnia and Herzegovina. One important achievement to mention is that the LDA Mostar becomes the holder of the first accredited ELOGE platform in BiH, implementing the ELOGE process in 12 cities/municipalities. Furthermore, in 2022, the Council of Europe's Leadership Academy Programme (LAP) was implemented, which enabled capacity building of more than 60 representatives of local governance and CSOs from Bosnia and Herzegovina. Lastly, two project Forums for sharing best practices of CSOs and LAs cooperation were organised in Zavidovici and Prijedor gathering altogether more than 120 attendees, representatives of the international community, LAs and CSOs.

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"The reform of local government in Bosnia and Herzegovina must achieve a high degree of direct participation of citizens, which is in accordance with current strategies and recommendations of international organisations. Accordingly, local government bodies in Bosnia and Herzegovina should provide conditions and tools for the inclusion of citizens in the decision-making process, and citizens should take responsibility for decision-making" ...

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"...The process of moving from a representative or indirect form of democracy to a direct or participative form is long and complex, and above all it implies an adequate assessment of the situation and then adequate education as a basis for creating a system that will ensure participatory democracy."- **Dženana Dedić, Director of the Local Democracy Agency Mostar.**

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4. MOSTAR - Spaces to Activate and Rejuvenate

Useful Information	
Timespan	From April, 2021 to April, 2023
Number of partners/Associated	5
Total Budget	3.000.000,00 £
Funded by	UK Government

The 3-year UK Government funded (Conflict, Stability and Security Fund, CSSF) project seeks to improve public space and its use in Mostar through the mobilisation of citizens and by supporting citizen-led initiatives that contribute to shared civic, cultural and economic life of Mostar. The project also aims to support citizens and local authorities to effectively use new skills, tools and mechanisms to address citizen priorities in an inclusive, gender-sensitive, participatory and systematic manner.



Main achievements: Implementation of the capacity building programme - the Council of Europe's Leadership Academy Program (LAP) and coaching programme for 40 representatives of the City of Mostar and CSOs from the Mostar area. The capacity building programme was developed based on the results of the self-

assessment process of the City of Mostar in the first quarter of 2022 and a questionnaire for CSOs. Through both documents, participants expressed their desired areas of improvement. The CSOs participating in these programmes will have the opportunity to apply as project leaders for grants for joint actions for civil society organisations (CSOs) and local authorities (LAs).

In addition to that, after a series of events through which the Project team collected inputs from citizens about spaces that need to be improved in the City of Mostar, 12 closed public spaces and 4 open public spaces were selected for infrastructural improvement in 2023.

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"As an activist for the rights of people with disabilities I have participated in many educational programs. What fascinated me about the capacity building programs organised by LDA Mostar, in addition to excellent trainers and well-chosen topics, were the new friendships and new opportunities for future cooperation with the City of Mostar and other civil society organisations." - **Igor Ledić, participant.**

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5. Beyond the Tales

Useful Information	
Timespan	From January, 2022 to December, 2023
Number of partners/Associated	5
Total Budget	193.845,00 EUR
Funded by	Erasmus+ (KA2 – Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices – Capacity Building in the field of Youth)

The project is a response to the disconnection between climate change and migration among young people, building on the results of the survey, which suggest that young people do not currently associate climate change and migration to a great extent, but are aware of their connection in relation to the future. The overall goal of the projects is to target youth workers with knowledge and information to build and strengthen competences and critical understanding of climate migration.



Main achievements: the main achievement of the project consists in promoting and strengthening the networking and solidarity between youth workers and young people and to foster understanding, solidarity, and encourage activation for a climate and social justice society. Increasing the organisational capacity of the NGO sector in the partner countries through the dissemination of the acquired organisational skills across the networks of the partner organisations and support and promotion of the new EU initiative “Climate Education Coalition” in the fight against climate change.

6. Youth Empowered to Change the World (YECW)

Useful Information	
Timespan	From January, 2022 to December, 2023
Number of partners/Associated	6
Total Budget	253.856,00 EUR
Funded by	Erasmus+ (KA2 – Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices – Capacity Building in the field of Youth)

With this project, LDA Mostar will promote the socio-political development and psychological empowerment of young people, so that they understand the roots of the problems affecting their communities and have the skills and motivation to act using the participatory action-research (PAR) methodology. By applying the methodology in the local community, young people will be able to conduct public advocacy towards decision-makers leading to a potential solution to the problem and their direct or indirect involvement in decision-making processes.

The overall objective of this project is to build the capacity of partner organisations and their members on participatory action research (PAR) and to promote the use of PAR methodology in addressing different community issues and taking concrete actions leading to social change.



Main achievements: Development of the participants' understanding of the participatory action research (PAR) methodology and how it can improve the practices of the participants and their organisations in the field of youth participation and engagement. Development of the competences, knowledge and skills of future researchers on the PAR process and the multiplication of the PAR methodology for the use of PAR methodology focused on urgent youth issues: engagement and participation, especially engagement and participation in decision-making. Promotion of the PAR methodology to support sustained youth participation in democratic life and strengthen youth participation and engagement initiatives and support the socio-political development and psychological empowerment of young people so that they understand the roots of the

problems facing their communities and have the skills and motivation to undertake PAR action as agents of positive change.

7. PIROUETTE – Performative aRts fOr yoUth EngagemenT and communiTy rEgeneration

Useful Information	
Timespan	From January, 2022 to December, 2023
Number of partners/Associated	4
Total Budget	153.265,00 EUR
Funded by	Erasmus+ (KA2 – Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices – Capacity Building in the field of Youth)

“Pirouette” is a 24-months Capacity Building project aimed at promoting the use of performative street arts such as circus, street dance and street painting as an innovative NFE methodology to foster social and civic engagement of youth and, eventually, lead to a community-led regeneration of urban/disadvantaged areas. The idea behind the project stems from the recognition of youth’s social and civic engagement as a driving force for community development.

The project specific objectives, in line with the specific thematic areas set out in the Programme Guide, are:

- The inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities through the participation in mobilities and local activities, designed to provide them with the skills needed to carry out community-led performing arts festivals/projects/initiatives autonomously.
- The promotion of the values of democracy and tolerance among young people who will pass these values through their more familiar tools: that of the arts.
- Planting seeds for peace and post-conflict reconciliation through the empowerment of young people thanks to the encounter of peers with different cultural background, the exchange of ideas/challenges/issues/proposals, the capacity to put in place youth-driven initiatives for reconciliation through the power of the arts.

Main achievements: The Project aims to produce the following results:

- Research conducted on best practices of performative arts for educational, community development, regeneration purposes
- Training Format designed and tested
- Toolkit designed and tested
- Mobility of youth workers
- YE of young people on creative urban regeneration through performative arts.



LDA PRIJEDOR



Delegate: Dragan Dosen

Established: 2000

Key partner:

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

The Association Project Prijedor includes:

- 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

Main objectives:

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

LDA PRIJEDOR IN THE FIELD

Projects and activities

1. Link 4 Cooperation

Useful Information	
Timespan	From January 2021 to December 2023
Number of partners/Associated	
Total Budget	545.897,00 EUR
Funded by	European Union

The aim of the project is to strengthen the capacity of civil society organisations involved in advocacy processes to become a trained and reliable partner for local authorities to create policies and reforms within BiH. Strengthening local participation and cooperation through partnership of Public Authorities and CSOs in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Main achievements: Thanks to the implementation of the project, the project consortium has; created stronger links with citizens by engaging them in public policy process, reaching out to society as a whole including marginalised groups and grass root communities and encouraging civic activism and public participation in policy-making; ameliorated the status of Local Authorities in terms of capability, transparency and accountability; Rendered Civil Society Organisations more effective; helped Local Authorities to have enabling policies and rules for grass root organizations and civic initiatives; helped CSOs create network for coalition-building for increased impact in campaigning and advocacy.



Other activities realised by LDA Prijedor in 2022 with the support of Associazione Progetto Prijedor – Trento, Italy.

YOUTH AND SCHOOL EXCHANGE

1. The LDA organised several online meetings between primary and secondary schools in Prijedor and Trento in order to maintain contacts and cooperation during the third year of Covid-19. Although trips and physical exchanges could be formally realised in 2022, there was still a dose of caution, so they were diluted.
2. A cooperation between the 'Savo Balaban' music school in Prijedor and the 'Diapason' music school in Trento led to a physical exchange, i.e. a visit of the Prijedor music school to Italy in the period from 28 September 2022 to 1 October 2022. The guests from Prijedor had two noteworthy performances, and a return visit to Prijedor is planned for 2023.
3. Ninth edition of the project 'Prijedor, city of murals', international award 'Paola de Manincor' 2022.

SOCIAL AREA

1. Continue to support the social centre with the public kitchen in Ljubija.
2. Long-distance adoption' project, support for poor families in Prijedor by Italian families
3. Support for the Day Center for People with Mental Disabilities, which is managed by the Association of Parents of Children with Disabilities "Neven".

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Continuation of the project "Participatory spatial planning of local development" with the aim of implementing the activities produced by the results of an analysis of the situation and needs of one of the marginalised rural areas of Prijedor.
2. Organisation of an online training for micro-entrepreneurs and micro-enterprises.
3. Implementation of the microcredit program for small entrepreneurs from the Prijedor area

LDA SUBOTICA



Delegate: Silvija Patarcic

Established: 1993

Key partner:

- Wolverhampton City Council, UK (Lead Partner)

Main objectives:

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

Local Democracy Agency LDA Subotica was founded in 1993 under the auspices of the Council of Europe and by an agreement with the local government of Subotica as a local NGO whose main mission was to promote local democracy and human rights in local multicultural community in the then war torn former Yugoslavia. Today LDA Subotica is registered as a local NGO, member of the European Association for Local Democracy – ALDA, consistently advocating democratic governance and participation and getting the accession negotiation process with the EU closer to citizens in local communities in Serbia and in multicultural Autonomous Province of Vojvodina in particular. Our main programmes are focused on capacity building, awareness raising and advocacy actions intended for three main target groups – policy and decision makers at local level, civil society organisations, youth and women’s groups in particular. Educating for democratic citizenship, promoting intercultural dialogue, regional cooperation, cross-sectoral partnership building for local sustainable development are the main types of our activities including also networking at regional and European level.

LDA SUBOTICA IN THE FIELD

Projects and activities

1. ALL our towers: Fostering a culture of interreligious dialogue among young people

Useful Information	
Timespan	From January to October, 2022
Number of partners/Associated	5 local CSOs
Total Budget	12.000 USD
Funded by	National Democratic Institute

ALL our towers was designed as a comprehensive set of awareness raising, research and advocacy activities, jointly developed by LDA Subotica team and local partner CSOs as well as individual associates and experts. Its main rationale was to reinvigorate the public debate on inter-religious tolerance particularly among youth and open up the public space for a broader participation of diverse local actors who would contribute to a more effective functioning of the Municipal Council for inter-ethnic relations.

Four components are integrated in the project structure comprising awareness raising, promotion of diverse religious heritage, research and evidence based advocacy in order to help put inter-religious dialogue and tolerance in a multicultural local community higher on the agenda, not only of the political actors, but also of civil society actors and diverse ethnic minority groups and religious communities.



Main achievements: Research report "Religious (int)tolerance, values and social attitudes; Two guided walking tours ALL OUR TOWERS designed by the group of young people led by Prof. Rudolf Weiss, historian, revealing cultural diversity and rich religious heritage of the city of Subotica. This walking tour was organised in July 2022, as a learning opportunity for the youngsters to get to

know better their own city, while the brochure they designed can certainly serve as an inspirational guide for numerous sightseers and globetrotters visiting Subotica.

The main deliverable of the project activity is the online brochure: All Our Towers – Beautiful Religious Sites in Subotica, published in ENG and SRB languages.

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While visiting religious sites in Subotica, I learned a lot about others, but also about myself. I found myself several times in a situation where tourists asked me to tell them something about the Synagogue, the Orthodox Church, the Mosque and other religious buildings, about whose history I unfortunately could not say much. This project helped me to get to know my city better and therefore I feel even more proud of Subotica and its culture. ...

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The feeling of closeness with other religions and cultures, love and respect for others and the desire to get to know each other, the pride we feel for each other is something that characterises our city. I had a wonderful experience. Although we were a small group, we were welcomed with generosity and great respect in all religious facilities."
– Nadia Kovac, participant.

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2. United by diversity

Useful Information	
Timespan	From February 2020 to April 2022
Number of partners/Associated	4 partners European Movement Serbia – project coordinator
Total Budget	244.000,00 EUR
Funded by	EU Delegation to Serbia

The overall objective of the project was to increase capacities of the Serbian CSOs to address cultural diversity within reform process and EU integration process. Specifically:



- 1) To create institutional support for the promotion of intercultural dialogue and cultural diversity through the establishment of the United by diversity network of youth CSOs and CSOs in Serbia and to strengthen the capacities of the network members;
- 2) to empower young Serbian people on issues related to intercultural dialogue and cultural diversity, and to increase their awareness of being part of the same society as a whole.

Main achievements: The main achievement was the creation of the non-formal network United by Diversity with 25 member organisations. The purpose of the network is to conduct activities for high school students, focusing on the importance of interculturality and cultural diversity. High school students had the opportunity to learn and improve their knowledge on these topics in a non-formal way, using an innovative methodology created within the framework of this action. They also had the opportunity to meet their peers from different cultural backgrounds in Serbia by participating in intercultural exchanges between high schools. Furthermore, the intercultural board game Let's Unite in Diversity was an interesting and innovative way to learn about interculturality in this age group and will serve as a useful tool for similar activities in the future.

3. CSOs Strengthening Regional Connections for Protecting Civic Space

Useful Information	
Timespan	From January to October, 2022
Number of partners/Associated	BNLD Lead Partner LDAs from the Balkans - partners
Total Budget	18.000,00 EUR
Funded by	BCSDN / Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency

Over the course of 6 months, this project undertook a series of comprehensive and interconnected activities to improve the capacity of CSOs in the region, including increased cooperation, networking, building on the results of previous projects, improving management, and promoting knowledge. The activities comprised a series of three main work packages, focusing on management and coordination, capacity building and networking, and communication and awareness-raising.

Specific activities included a training seminar for regional networking in Novi Sad-Serbia, additional training workshops for accountability, a series of promotion and communication activities using an online learning platform, social media campaigns advocating for improvement of the state of CSOs and a regional exchange and cooperation programme.

The primary objectives of this project include fostering an environment where CSOs can develop more and become more influential actors in society and policy-making, done through strengthening the connections between regional CSOs, and the objective of making sure CSOs contribute towards the protection of civic space through effective, transparent, and accountable work, and increasing the capabilities for communication and outreach.



Main achievements: The main estimated outcomes of the project include strengthening the networking and exchange capacities of CSOs, consolidating the sustainability of the network and previous project achievements, expanding the knowledge base of CSOs and creating a knowledge-sharing platform for good governance, and generally improving the network's ability to implement global accountability standards.

4. Strengthening the capacities for development of creative industries – Creative Subotica

Useful Information	
Timespan	From October, 2022 to July, 2023
Number of partners/Associated	Partner – InspiraHub Subotica
Total Budget	25.000 USD
Funded by	ReLOaD Programme UNDP Serbia – European Union

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to the development of the creative industry as a driver of cultural participation and sustainable local community development through the strengthening and improvement of cross-sectoral cooperation.

The project activities will contribute to improving participation, consultation and mobilisation of local resources and potential, and especially the knowledge and creativity of young people, both in the civil and ICT and entrepreneurship sectors. Activities include research work, a training programme for digital cultural content creation and capacity building of the IT sector in the area of cultural heritage presentation, the creation of a web platform - Creative Subotica, a series of public forums - Creative industry as a development potential of the city.

Main achievements: The main output of the project is the development of the web platform 'Creative Subotica' intended to consolidate and promote the cultural and creative offer of the city.

LDA TUNISIA



Delegate: Afaf Zaddem

Established: 2017

Key partner:

- City of Kairouan (Tunisia)
- ALDA
- COPE (Italy)
- Fons Mallorquí de Solidaritat i Cooperació (Spain)
- T4D Tamkeen for Development
- LDA Zavidovici
- Other Tunisian NGOs

Main objectives:

- Building a platform of dialogue territorial analysis and training (TAT) with local administrations and local authorities ;
- Facilitating cooperation between civil society and local authorities in conducting citizens initiatives (culture, social, public life...);
- Encouraging citizen participation and sharing best practices through meetings and sensitization workshops with youth, and families;
- Capacity building for different targets and beneficiaries.

The LDA Tunisia represents a platform that facilitates citizen participation at the local level through implementing participatory democracy tools. On a long-term basis, the main objectives of the LDA are to improve decision-making at the local level, to mobilize various actors to develop joint citizen initiatives, to encourage trust and dialogue among actors to better meet the needs of the groups, and promote an inclusive city. The LDA Tunisia designs its work following a “bottom-up” and multi-stakeholder approach. It consults focus groups, potential beneficiaries, and other stakeholders to encourage them to get involved in the design and implementation of cooperative actions. Also, the LDA's work strategy focuses on developing solutions to improve local governance. It relies on direct meetings with the community and actively listens to their preoccupation to assess their needs. This helps the agency to identify the relevant partners and mobilize support. Hence, this approach ensures a precise and impactful intervention that is in tandem with the aspirations and needs of the community.

LDA TUNISIA IN THE FIELD

Projects and activities

1. Je Repars de Toi

Useful Information	
Timespan	From November, 2019 to June, 2023
Number of partners/Associated	9
Total Budget	877.640,534 EUR
Funded by	The Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS)

This project is co-financed by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) and implemented by the Italian association COPE - which leads the partnership together with the Ministry of Social Affairs (MAS), the Municipality of Kairouan and the LDA Tunisia. The project aims to promote the rights of young people with disabilities and to strengthen the capacities of their associations. In particular, the project activities aim to strengthen the role of Tunisian CSOs that promote rights and services for persons with



disabilities and to establish a multi-sectoral dialogue at the regional level to improve the training and employment opportunities of young people with disabilities, focusing on issues such as social and economic inclusion, mobility and accessibility of cities and transport. In addition, meetings with families of people with disabilities are an important recurring activity, crucial for raising awareness, exchanging good practices and providing training and advice. In addition, inclusive theatre workshops for young people to strengthen their capacities and defend their rights to be fully included in society.

Main achievements:

- The administrative staff of 3 rehabilitation centres developed financial skills and became more familiar with the procedures needed to receive funds and purchase quality furniture and equipment.
- 30 children with disabilities participate annually in inclusive theatre workshops, develop artistic skills and personal growth and perform in plays, poems and choreographies.
- The engagement of more than 10 administrations through regular meetings to strengthen regional awareness and coordination.
- The LDA staff is more aware of the concerns of families of persons with disabilities and has created a platform for exchange, counselling and coaching.



2. Chabab In

Useful Information	
Timespan	From April to December, 2022
Number of partners/Associated	/
Total Budget	15.000,00 EUR
Funded by	Fons Mallorqui

The CHABAB IN project aims to promote the active engagement of young people aged between 18 and 35 in public, socio-cultural and environmental life.

Specific objectives are (1) to improve young people's involvement in public, social and environmental life through capacity-building and dialogue; (2) to support citizens' initiative to enable young people to experiment their own initiatives and to engage in public and cultural life.

The CHABAB IN project is developed around three axes: (1) City Camp: this activity involves a series of training sessions on design thinking and the implementation of citizens' initiatives. The camp is aimed at 12 young participants from disadvantaged areas of the city. It provides an animation and support framework for structuring ideas and then putting them into practice in the field in order to provide solutions to urgent social, cultural or environmental

problems identified by the young people. (2) Citizens News, this activity is aimed at 8 young people between the ages of 18 and 35 from disadvantaged backgrounds who are passionate about digital communication, photography, documentaries and video shooting. The activity consists of capacity-building sessions on digital communication, local journalism and awareness-raising sessions focusing on city-related topics such as the environment and improving the living environment, youth unemployment, etc. (3) City Talk: this activity will create a space for meeting, dialogue and exchange between the city's various actors and stakeholders on topics chosen by the young people.

Main achievements: The young people were able to use digital tools to address the city's problems. They were enthusiastic about their participation in the workshops and made short videos addressing the city's environmental issues.

- The citizens were able to collaborate, plan and carry out activities together.
- The meetings with the municipality fostered the emergence of creative ideas for citizen involvement through art and community activities, which were then collaboratively planned and implemented.

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"I'm now more aware and knowledgeable about the digital apps and tools that I can use to defend environmental issues and advocate for social issues, I definitely would like to share what I've learned with my peers and I am looking forward to working on my digital skills" - **Mariam, 18 years old participant**

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3. READY

Useful Information	
Timespan	From June 2022 to June 2024
Number of partners/Associated	5
Total Budget	279.697,00 EUR
Funded by	ERASMUS-YOUTH-2021-CB



The Raise Environmental Awareness for Deprived Youths (READY) project aims to build socio-ecological awareness and capacity, based on the cause-and-effect aspects of 'environmental circularity' for young people. It focuses on peri-urban areas, characterised by a deprived and polluted area and a multi-ethnic environment, where young residents have fewer opportunities.

The activities include:

- Needs analysis to identify obstacles and opportunities for young citizens in their neighbourhoods/areas
- Co-design and implementation of environmental training for young people, based on non-formal education methods with a combination of online and offline tools, such as short videos, individual exercises, group work, study visits
- Transnational training of trainers for partner youth workers.
- Creation of short-term voluntary work. Interested young people will carry out voluntary work and will be guided by host organisations in the discovery of 'green jobs'.
- Peer-to-peer environmental workshops, young citizens have completed their empowerment and are ready to defend the environment through specific workshops in schools.
- Communication and dissemination of project results

Main achievements:

- More awareness and capacity building of young people on social-ecological issues.
- Youth workers improved their awareness of the specific needs of young people and how to respond to them.



4. Ena Creator

Useful Information	
Timespan	From November, 2022 to March, 2023
Number of partners/Associated	2
Total Budget	/
Funded by	Professional Fellows Program

The Ena Creator project aims to help create a culture of initiative and leadership for 10 young people between the ages of 12 and 16 through artistic and cultural activities that include them in the community.

The Ena Creator project aims to build a culture of initiative, leadership and life skills for vulnerable young school dropouts through creative ways and to introduce them to entrepreneurship and work principles through art, culture and community mobilisation. This work will help the target group integrate into the community and strengthen their sense of belonging, network with stakeholders and connect with professionals and institutions. It will build their skills, help them think about their future at a young age and connect with their culture as a source of identity and social and economic inclusion. The scholarship holder implements the project with the support of the association Local Democracy Agency at local level. The association is adopting a more inclusive approach in its activities to reach this target group.

The aim is to empower young school drop-outs, connect them and include them in the community by improving their mindset and soft skills.

The specific objectives are:

- To build the capacities of school drop-outs in leadership, initiative culture and life skills in creative and artistic ways.
- To connect young people with services and stakeholders, strengthen their sense of belonging and raise community awareness of the importance of their economic and social inclusion.



These objectives were realised through promotion and awareness-raising activities on the characteristics of child entrepreneurs and a series of training courses to develop skills in communication, creativity, design and implementation of activities. To strengthen links with local identity, participants visited a number of museums, monuments and craft

workshops, which in turn influenced them on the different alternatives of employment opportunities in this sector.

Main achievements: This project helped the agency to deeply include the target group of school drop-outs in its activities and interventions, to better understand their situations and problems, and to provide more customised solutions that had a positive impact on their mentality and attitude.

The initiative was an opportunity to involve the school's educators and staff, providing ideas and possibilities to the experts who accompanied the young people during the project.

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"I've enjoyed this experience and I've learned a lot, I see myself as a young person who is able to realise and plan activities. I have enjoyed the field visits to these places like the museums, the handicraft shops, and the monuments... and I will definitely try to go there again to learn and explore further" - A 15-year-old school dropout

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5. National Conference under the name "Advocacy carried by Tunisian civil society at COP 27"

Useful Information	
Timespan	From October to November 2022
Number of partners/Associated	5
Total Budget	/
Funded by	In partnership with GIZ, the town of Kairouan, GNDR, RAED and PACJA



The project consortium, composed of Tunisian civil society, 22, gathered at the National Conference with the theme "Advocacy of Tunisian civil society brought to COP 27" co-organised on Saturday 22 October 2022 in Kairouan (Tunisia) by the Local Democracy Agency (ADL-Kairouan, Tunisia), the Association for the Protection of Nature and the Environment of Kairouan

(APNEK) and the Association for the Protection of the Environment and Sustainable Development of Bizerte (Apeddub), in partnership with GIZ, the Municipality of Kairouan, GNDR, Raed and Pacja.

A national conference on the occasion of COP 27 bringing together civil society active in the field of environment and sustainable development. Organised by the Association for the Protection of Nature and the Environment of Kairouan (APNEK), the Agency for Local Democracy (ADL Tunisia) and the Association for the Protection of the Environment and Sustainable Development of Bizerte (APEDDUB).

Main achievements: The participants provided a declaration document that included the recommendations of environmental NGOs at the national level to the official delegation representing Tunisia at COP27, held in Sharm sheikh in November 2022.

The conference was attended by 43 representatives of 22 environmental NGOs.



“The recommendations, which are the result of today’s meeting, are aligned with the themes that will be negotiated during the COP27.

The signatory countries need to raise their ambitions in terms of emission reduction and energy transition.” - Mohamed Zmerli, national coordinator of the project.



6. “The breast cancer screening campaign continues after Pink October”

Useful Information	
Timespan	October 2022
Number of partners/Associated	3
Total Budget	/
Funded by	/

150 female workers in the cabling industry of the Yura Corporation were examined by health personnel of the Office Nationale de la Famille et de la Population in Kairouan in the mobile clinic provided in the factory during several sessions.

The process was based on awareness-raising sessions on the importance of examining women to enable early detection of a possible abnormality. In addition, practical examinations and listening sessions provided by psychologists.

The cooperation with the staff and the human resources manager of the factory was excellent for the success of the initiative.

Main achievements: The key player in the screening, the ONFP, its director Dr AbedAllah Jlassi, and his team did valuable work in the campaign and ensured the follow-up of the screenings. The Yura factory has promised to take care of cases that require further investigation (within the framework of corporate social responsibility).

LDA ZAVIDOVIĆI



Delegate: Slađan Ilić

Established: 1997

Key partner:

- Associazione per l'Ambasciata della Democrazia Locale a Zavidovići Onlus – Impresa Sociale (Lead partner)
- Municipality of Zavidovići (Host city),
- Comune di Alba - Ufficio Pace
- Comune di Roncadelle
- Coordinamento enti locali per la pace Provincia di Cremona
- Associazione “Strani Vari” Alba
- UISP Brescia/Cremona

Main objectives:

- Activities in the sectors of Youth policies, Social Welfare and Sustainable Economic Development
- Increasing the net of local actors involved, promoting their role, animating and supporting them through LDA’s partner network
- Enlarging the relationship with local and international NGOs, institutions and authorities
- Supporting local NGOs active in the social and educative field

The Local Democracy Agency in Zavidovići was established in April 1997, following many years of cooperation between Italian NGOs and local authorities with the host city of Zavidovići. It is located in the Zenica-Doboj Kanton, BiH Federation, Bosnia Herzegovina. Zavidovići and the surrounding area were severely affected by the war.

LDA ZAVIDOVIĆI IN THE FIELD

Projects and activities

1. Strengthening local participation and cooperation through partnership of Public Authorities and CSOs in Bosnia and Herzegovina- LINK 4 Cooperation

Useful Information	
Timespan	From January 2021 to December 2023
Number of partners/Associated	6
Total Budget	545.897 EUR
Funded by	European Union

The project promotes the principles of good governance to make local government units in Bosnia and Herzegovina effective and responsive. The project will strengthen the capacities



of local authorities (elected leaders and civil servants) and civil society in implementing participatory processes. Together they will identify concrete community problems that will be solved through the participatory approach. The project will then build capacity and solve problems, consolidating the approach in the years to come.

The main target groups of this project are the 40 local CSOs and grassroots organisations in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the 12 local self-government units - municipal administration and local councillors as local decision-makers.

Overall objective: to strengthen the capacities of CSOs engaged in public policy processes to become competent and reliable partners in policy-making and reform processes in B&H.

Specific objectives:

- Create stronger links with citizens by engaging in the public policy-making process, reaching out to society at large, including marginalised groups and grassroots communities, and encouraging civic activism and public participation in policy-making;
- Enhancing the capacity, transparency and accountability of local self-government;
- Increasing the effectiveness of CSOs;
- Reaching out to local government so that it can activate policies and procedures for civic initiatives of local organisations;
- Create networks of CSOs to build coalitions for greater impact in campaigning and advocacy.

Main achievements: Establishing good collaboration with project beneficiaries. Capacity building of the project team - Implementation of the ELoGE programme methodology.

2. Wim Laboratories Iuvenis II

Useful Information	
Timespan	From November 2021 to November 2024
Number of partners/Associated	11
Total Budget	393.830,00 EUR
Funded by	Agence Erasmus+ France

The WIM Laboratories Iuvenis II project is funded by the Erasmus+ programme and aims at foreign language learning through theatre.

The project responds to a clear need to think of new, openly inclusive and more easily accessible ways of learning for learners who struggle in the traditional system.

Theatre forces consideration of otherness. Play is only possible through the acceptance of the other in the stage space one occupies. The stage is a place of shared citizenship. Based on this analysis, we ask young Europeans from across the continent to explore their individual stories of conflict, migration and dictatorship, and to explore the individual and collective memories that surround them. In doing so, they construct new narratives of the continental past for the stage. Then, playing with each other, moving to France, Italy and elsewhere, they confront these narratives to see that European History is made up of individual narratives, which everywhere are those of fleeing conflict, suffering their time, protecting their loved ones and wanting to move towards peace. By doing so, they fully measure the commonality of their experience, they measure the European identity, the values of peace and dialogue that it brings. The WIM Laboratories Iuvenis II project responds to a need for mutual consideration between peoples, between individuals on a continental scale, for dialogue and thus for democracy.



Main achievements: Meeting with International partners in Brescia, January 2022; LDA Zavidovići organised a theatre workshop for young people in Zavidovići. The workshops aimed

to initiate three-year exchange activities through creative work, theatre and language learning.

The participants in these workshops were high school students, members of the theatre school of the municipal public institution Centre of Culture Zavidovići, with which LDA Zavidovići has been cooperating for many years in the realisation of various cultural initiatives. The workshops were conducted by experienced professionals Fabrice Dubusset, Etienne Russias and Arnaldo Ragni, accompanied by local partners Nusmir Muharemović and Alma Osmanović. The first workshops focused on getting to know each other, the basics of movement and behaviour on stage, breathing techniques, and developing mutual trust. The group will continue to work on theatre and historical research in preparation for the Water is Memory Festival in Vichy 2023.

3. CSOs Strengthening Regional Connections for Protecting Civic Space

Useful Information	
Timespan	From May to October, 2022
Number of partners/Associated	8
Total Budget	18.000,00 EUR
Funded by	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) through a project implemented by Balkan Civil Society Development Network (BCSDN)

The project's actions aim to promote the results and achievements of previous actions successfully implemented by the CSOs networking for better local democracy in the Balkans project, and to broaden the scope of modern participatory tools for its constituencies. Moreover, this project is a demonstration of a strong and long-standing commitment to the development of local democracy, to the principles of good governance and to bringing EU integration closer to the citizens in the local communities of the Western Balkans.

Main achievements: The project aims to establish links and synergies between the BNLD and other regional CSO networks, to improve communication to meet the needs of local constituencies, to develop and apply modern tools of digital democracy and e-participation, and to develop and adopt the BNLD Code of Accountability. The programme includes networking and capacity building activities, field visits and exchanges with OPENS and the Novi Sad capital of culture organisation.

4. Sigurno Mjesto: Services and Activities for Women

Useful Information	
Timespan	From January to December, 2022
Number of partners/Associated	1
Total Budget	2.000,00 EUR
Funded by	Comune di Alba

For many years, the association's activities have been supported by the Zavidovići Local Democracy Agency and the Municipality of Alba. The association organises educational and interactive workshops on violence with pupils from primary and secondary schools, parents of pre-school children, groups of marginalised women, educational workshops for pregnant women with associated experts, gynecologists and midwives, contributing to the development and strengthening of the healthy family, and organises creative workshops with the aim of a qualitative use of women's free time; organises and participates in meetings, round tables, public debates, seminars and events that bring women together and that have as their main theme the improvement of women's position in society, the promotion of laws protecting women's rights and the fight against prejudices and stereotypes based on gender and sex.

Among the main activities of the project:

- Workshop for pregnant women;
- Workshop on domestic violence with high school students;
- Workshops on domestic violence with rural women;
- Public debates on domestic violence;
- Meeting and support groups for women's economic empowerment;
- Activities to promote and celebrate the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

Main achievements: Implementation of measures to prevent domestic violence and raise awareness on gender relations and strengthen the local network against domestic violence.



5. Ludobus - Activities for children in rural areas

Useful Information	
Timespan	From January to December , 2022
Number of partners/Associated	1
Total Budget	1.500,00 EUR
Funded by	Associazione Mimi

"Ludobus" is a service offering recreational, cultural, educational, sporting and creative activities for children in parks, schools, streets and green areas in the city and villages. The activities are carried out by young people with the assistance of teachers. "Ludobus" is a mobile toy library that has a great capacity to gather, attract and animate children through play as a basis for socialising and gaining new experiences. With its simplicity, the mobile toy can be involved in various programmes (school and extracurricular) and events in the city and beyond. LDA Zavidovići is actively involved in the development of non-formal education and children's creativity through play and educational workshops with "Ludobus". In the previous period, "Ludobus" visited almost all schools in the rural area of Zavidovići and the activities involved a large number of children.

Main achievements: Development of non-formal education and creativity for young people and children through fun and educational workshops.



6. Family Gardens

Useful Information	
Timespan	From January to December, 2022
Number of partners/Associated	1
Total Budget	6.000,00 EUR
Funded by	Fondazione Ampleos Alba

The "Family Gardens" project has characterised LDA Zavidovići's cooperation activities with



partners in Italy since 2014 and has continued over the years in providing training and assistance to women engaged in agricultural activities in order to increase the production and quality of products for self-consumption and small-scale sale. Food security, sustainability and productivity of

family farming are a fundamental resource for many families in a context of economic stagnation and severe impoverishment of large segments of the population.

The activities included:

- Educational workshops for women beneficiaries of the project;
- Field consultancy visits;
- Purchase of seeds, sifting equipment, fertilisers, etc;
- Workshops for processing and canning fruit and vegetables;
- Organisation of promotional events for local production in collaboration with the municipal administration and local associations;

Main achievements: Assistance to women engaged in small-scale agriculture to increase the production and quality of products to cover their food needs.

Promotion of local agricultural production.

7. "Youth City – My City"

Useful Information	
Timespan	From September to December , 2022
Number of partners/Associated	1
Total Budget	3.500,00 EUR
Funded by	Federal ministry of culture and sport, City of Zavidovici

The project "Youth City – My City" aims to provide young people from the municipality of Zavidovići with the opportunity to participate in educational workshops that will improve their skills that will benefit them during schooling,



entry into the labour market, knowledge to participate in public tenders for youth projects, while also automatically educating young people by improving their position in society and voluntary activism in the community.

Main achievements: This project contributed to the implementation of the Youth Policy Strategy of the Municipality of Zavidovići 2018-2023.

8. Strengthening the community center in the local community Dubravica

Useful Information	
Timespan	From December, 2022 to December ,2023
Number of partners/Associated	1
Total Budget	17.895,00 EUR
Funded by	UNDP - funded by jointly the governments of Switzerland and Sweden

The main objective of the project is to promote the functioning of the local community centre in Dubravica and to make it available and suitable for generations.

During the 12-month implementation period, the community centre will become a recognisable place of meeting, participation, citizen activism, information exchange, education, and teaching, as well as a place where the residents of the Dubravica community can spend their time with greater quality.

Main achievements: The project started in December 2022.

Expected results: Creation of a functional space for the implementation of activities in the community centre in all weather conditions, thanks to the renovation of the roof. Increased citizen participation in the local community of Dubravica in one year of creation and completion of educational, recreational and leisure activities.

9. Il teatro Verde. Giovani e cura dei beni comuni

Useful Information	
Timespan	From January to December ,2022
Number of partners/Associated	1
Total Budget	5.000,00 EUR
Funded by	Consulta per la pace Comune di Brescia

The main aim of the project consisted in strengthening youth participation in cultural gathering spaces in the city of Zavidovići and revitalising the Centar Za Kulturu Zavidovići space with new cultural initiatives.

In addition, the project's purpose was also to create opportunities for mutual growth and exchange in order to deepen and bind social ties among young people after the isolation caused by the Covid19 pandemic and raise young people's awareness of the conscious use of environmental resources.

Main achievements: Raising awareness of environmental protection through the artistic experiences of young people.



Other activities:

AMBULANCE DONATION

SARC – Soccorso Ambulanza Roncadelle Castelmella donated an ambulance to the Zavidovići health centre, to improve the health service in Zavidovići.



LDA ALBANIA



Delegate: Jerola Ziaj

Established: 2008

Key partner:

- Metropolitan City of Bari, Italy (lead partner)
- UNISCO, Italy
- Learning Cities, Italy
- Region of Vlora, Albania (host partner)
- Municipality of Vlora, Albania (host partner)
- Municipality of Patos, Albania
- Municipality of Fier, Albania
- Centre for Research Cooperation and Development, Albania

Main objectives:

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

The Association “Local Democracy Agency in Albania“was re- opened in Vlora, in October 2015 in the southern part of the country, with the aim to be the intermediating and dialogical development place, and providing mutual exchanges at every level (cultural, social, economic) between the communities in Albania and the European Community partners. The main purpose of LDA Albania is to promote the concrete initiatives for the consolidation of democracy at the local level as well as the development of the institutions capacity by means of exchange of expertise and experience, training of local councilors and civil administration, the development of a network of European cities in the field of human rights protection which

includes minorities as a whole, a social pluralist society inclusive of all convictions and which act as a promoter of intercultural and interethnic dialogue and of human rights respect.

The LDA Albania has suffered operational problems during 2021 & 2022, but we are working to make it fully active!

LDA NORTHERN MOROCCO



Delegate: Mouna Saihi

Established: 2019

Key partner:

- Local communities (Chefchaouen, Tetouan, Larache, Tanger)
- Local CSOs
- Fond Mallorqi
- Fond Menorqi

Main objectives:

- Defend human rights
- Develop social and solidarity economy
- Support and train young people
- Strengthen the associative action in the region
- Strengthen and improve good local governance in partnership with local actors
- Promote sustainable development, environmental and rural tourism and citizen participation in local environmental policies
- Encourage the exchange of good practices between local actors and develop partnerships
- Encourage intermunicipal administration to improve best services
- Encourage decentralized cooperation in the region

In Morocco, the ADL has been operational since April 2019 thanks to the support of the Fons Mallorqui de Solidaritat i Cooperació. The different opening ceremonies in the above-mentioned branches have made known the actions of the ADL, its future projects and the support it provides to the different actors in the field (based also on the reference of the consequent work carried out so far by the ADL of Kairouan in Tunisia, with the presence of the mayor of Kairouan and the delegate of the ADL Tunisia), a real support on technical issues related to citizenship and participatory processes. The ceremony therefore specifically brought together interested audiences, particularly CSOs and Local Authorities (LAs), as well as ADL's international and local partners who work together with ADL to implement projects

and ensure good financial and administrative management. Other institutional and non-institutional actors also took part in this event in order to give visibility to ADL's actions.

As the Local Democracy Agency Albania, the Local Democracy Northern Morocco has suffered operational problems during 2021 & 2022, but we are working to make it fully active!



OPERATIONAL PARTNER SISAK



Delegate: Paula Raužan

Established: 1996

Key partner:

- ALDA (Lead partner)
- Municipality of Sisak, Croatia (Host city)
- Municipality of Hrvatska Kostajnica, Croatia
- Municipality of Petrinja, Croatia
- Municipality of Dvor, Croatia
- NGO “Going to Europe”, Modena, Italy
- International School for Peace Studies, Northern Ireland

Main objectives:

- Local democratic processes development by citizens’ participation in decision-making, planning and development of pluralistic and multicultural society;
- Promotion, education, development and advocacy of human rights, active citizenship and volunteering;
- Fostering and development of life-long-learning and non-formal education;
- Support to civil society organisations and local authorities in sustainable and participatory democracy development;
- Social innovations and community services development;
- International cooperation development.

The OP Sisak was opened in 1996 in Sisak, Croatia, in a very difficult area which was heavily damaged by the conflict from 1991 to 1995. The region went through an economic turmoil at the end of the industrial period which determined the economic landscape for decades.

OP Sisak is established with the aim to support local democratic processes, promote human rights, active citizenship and international cooperation.

It is strongly involved in the local development through its programs: Local democracy and active citizenship, Volunteer’ Centre Sisak, Sustainable development and Social-cultural Centre. Since the accession of Croatia to the European Union in July 2013, the Sisak is an Operational Partner of ALDA.

OPERATIONAL PARTNER SISAK IN THE FIELD

Projects and activities

1. Volunteer Centre Sisak

Useful Information	
Timespan	From January to December ,2022
Number of partners/Associated	Elementary school Budaševo-Toplovac-Gučće
Total Budget	1.990 EUR
Funded by	City of Sisak



The Sisak Volunteer Centre (VCS) is a social infrastructure at the disposal of all beleaguered people in the community, providing free of charge to citizens who want to volunteer and to legal entities that need volunteers, in accordance with the legal framework and standards of volunteer programmes.

The objective is to contribute to the strengthening of democratic society through the development of local

partnerships and the active involvement of citizens, children and young people in the public life of the community, creating resources for potential and existing volunteer organisers and promoting the positive impact of volunteering in the Sisak area.

Main achievement:

- 9 people (volunteers, coordinators, schools) honoured with the Sisak Volunteer Awards 2022.
- 7th Annual photo exhibitions of voluntary programs opened with 20 photos of 13 organisations all over the Sisak-Moslavina County.
- 6th Annual photo exhibitions of voluntary programs were set up in 4 different public spaces in the Sisak-Moslavina County.
- 14th Annual Sisak Fair of NGOs and Institutions gathered 20 organisations.
- 4 information days during major events in the community
- 35 legal entities supported in development of voluntary programs and in engaging volunteers.
- 167 citizens received support in informing and/ or finding suitable voluntary placement.

2. Volunteer' Network

Useful Information	
Timespan	From January, 2021 to January, 2023
Number of partners/Associated	1. Town of Sisak 2. Elementary school "Budaševo-Topolovac-Gušće" Sisak 3. High school Gymnasium Sisak 4. Centre for Social Welfare Sisak 5. Centre for Social Welfare Hrvatska Kostajnica 6. Town of Hrvatska Kostajnica
Total Budget	26.545,00 EUR
Funded by	Croatian Ministry of Labour, Pension System, Family and Social Policy and City of Sisak

The aim of the project was to contribute to the development of local partnership, solidarity and social capital in Sisak-Moslavina County through the development of quality and diverse volunteering programmes that improve the services of volunteer organisers, increase the number of citizens involved in volunteering, especially the young and disadvantaged, and through the promotion and recognition of the positive impact of volunteering as an activity that influences the development of a more humane and equitable democratic society.

Main achievements:

- 535 direct beneficiaries involved in project activities, 52% of whom were children and young people.
- 16 new volunteer coordinators trained by 8 associations/institutions.
- 60 legal entities involved in project activities and/or received support for the development of their voluntary activities.
- 167 volunteers received support for volunteering and 52 of them were involved in volunteering activities.
- 70 primary and secondary school pupils organised and implemented 5 volunteering actions in their school.
- 26 primary and secondary school students were educated about formal volunteering.
- Development of a new volunteer programme to provide learning assistance to primary and secondary school pupils from socially disadvantaged families, Ukraine and immigrant families.

3. Community Constellations

Useful Information	
Timespan	From January to December, 2022
Number of partners/Associated	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shadow casters, Zagreb (Leader) 2. Association for promoting a healthy life and improving the quality of life LUČ
Total Budget	64.843,80 EUR
Funded by	European Union from the European Social Fund. Co-funded by the Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs.

The objective of the project was to strengthen the capacities of civil society organisations or NGOs in Sisak-Moslavina County for community work through the development of innovative tools and working methods during times of crisis caused by the earthquake, but also during others such as pandemics, global economic crises, and depopulation.

The main problem the project aims to solve is the current insufficient capacity of local NGOs to offer content that best suits the needs of their users in the areas of Sisak, Petrinja and Glina that were affected by the devastating earthquake.

The first step in solving this problem was to help organisations in Sisak-Moslavina County to go through the strategic planning process and design the most appropriate content for their users, as well as to enable them to carry out the necessary advocacy activities in the event of a crisis.

The second part of the project's activities addressed the needs of the local community in Sisak, Petrinja and Glina through creative and artistic workshops, workshops in the form of art therapy/psychosocial counselling, and individual psychosocial counselling organised in the Sisak-Moslavina county area to help people who have experienced trauma, stress or loss due to a crisis. Through listening and exchanging stories, participants had the opportunity to identify with the problems of others, their obstacles, ups and downs, and to realise that they are not alone in their trauma.

Main achievements:

- 6 civil society organisations participated in strategic planning workshops and created strategic plans for their organisations.
- 150 people from three towns severely damaged by the 2020 earthquake (Sisak, Glina and Petrinja) participated in



several art-therapy workshops and group psychosocial counselling, which facilitated the management of trauma and related health problems.

“

“Expressive art therapy has proven to be very effective in working with traumas caused by natural disasters such as earthquakes. In traumatic situations, what we feel and think can be difficult to express verbally. Art therapy enables a wide spectrum of non-verbal expression of our thoughts and feelings”...

”

“

In art therapy, artistic talent and the result of artistic creation are not important, what is important is the expression of what is inside us. Thus, in an indirect way, traumatised persons comes in contact with what they feel and think, but also find answers on how to deal with trauma in their artistic expression.” – **Monika Selimović, program assistant and volunteers’ coordinator in the OP Sisak.**

”

4. WalkON: Walking the path of reconciliation- empowering communities for a peaceful society

Useful Information	
Timespan	From November, 2019 to January, 2022
Number of partners/Associated	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Beyond Barriers Organisation, Albania (leader) 2. Youth Cultural Club Bitola (North Macedonia) 3. LENS (Kosovo) 4. Educational Centre Kruševac (Serbia) 5. Young Volunteers (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Total Budget	138.569,50 EUR
Funded by	EU, Erasmus Plus Programme

This project aimed to build the skills of youth workers, teachers, youth and community leaders in the Western Balkans to address and work with reconciliation, countering hate speech and promoting peace building. Peace-building cannot be achieved unless we all work together, so this project proposes an in-depth approach to engage different community actors and equip them with skills and competences to combat these negative phenomena in their environment. The project aims to establish successful practice and create a network of associations in the World Bank and the EU that are committed to promoting reconciliation, sharing know-how and combating hate speech at different levels. Through a combination of work packages and educational approaches, this proposal not only brings direct change at the personal level of directly affected participants, but also promotes a greater sense of community cohesion and brings the discourse of reconciliation to the grassroots level, making it more responsive to communities and reaching out to young people as direct agents of change.

Main achievements: The photo exhibition "No Hate Speech in My School" at the Sisak Vocational School brings together photos taken by youth exchange students in Albania. The photos explore the concepts of human rights, culture, identity, peace and solidarity, with the aim of combating hate speech in everyday life.

The project led to the production of:

- The Intercultural Learning as a Peace Toolkit - a training kit to help teachers and youth workers work with pupils and young people on how to be resilient to reconciliation, not incite hatred and promote peace-building with their youth at the community level. The toolkit is bilingual - Croatian and English.
- "Status Quo on Reconciliation and No Hate Speech! Available tools and resources" a research on available policies, practices and methods for educating young people and youth workers on peace and no hate speech issues in Croatia.
- "State of Play - Reconciliation and No Hate Speech in Western Balkan Region" a collection of research conducted in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo,

North Macedonia and Serbia on policies, practices and methods available for educating youth and youth workers on peace and no-hate speech issues.

- “Policy brief New Age of Reconciliation - Generation Z as the Engine” a document designed to be used a) as an advocacy tool to support policy dialogue with relevant stakeholders (decision-makers, communities of practitioners, donors, etc.), explaining the position, role and modalities of youth intervention.) by explaining the position, role and mandate of the youth sector in the overall reconciliation ecosystem, as well as providing recommendations for policy improvement; b) serve as a solutions-based roadmap for the youth sector in the reconciliation and hate speech programme and policy development; and c) serve as an educational resource/capacity for the regional practitioner community to support synergistic and networking actions on these issues at the regional level.
- Training for OCD on non-hate education for youth.
- Training for teachers on non-hate education for youth in the formal education system.
- Evaluation seminar in Serbia.
- International seminar "Paving the way to reconciliation", training "Roots and branches of hate speech" and youth exchange "Peace is the way" in Albania.
- Youth postcard competition "UnitedWeStand" conducted in 6 countries and selection of 6 postcards that were printed and sent to decision makers regarding the peace and no-hate speech.



Civil society organisations have a crucial role in both, the top-down and bottom up approaches. On the first scenario CSOs should influence policies through advocacy actions and active participation in policy processes. While on the bottom up approach their role is important to support education of young generation for peace building and active participation in society, targeting the low youth participation and interest about the topic...



... "In these terms, youth organizations who have the power to represent the voice of youth, have to play a crucial role in this process by leading an open dialog and consulting the youth they represent. * From the Policy brief **New Age of Reconciliation – Generation Z as the Engine.**



5. Social-cultural Centre Sisak

Useful Information	
Timespan	From June, 2021 to April, 2022
Number of partners/Associated	/
Total Budget	11.130 EUR
Funded by	Foundation SOLIDARNA, Relief Fond 5.5

The objective of the project was to create a concept design of the Sisak Socio-Cultural Centre (SCC Sisak) building as a precondition for the creation of an inter-sectoral platform that contributes to the relief and development of the community through a cooperative management and utilisation system of the SCC Sisak multipurpose premises.

Activities:

- Networking of local actors and inter-sectoral cooperation
- SCC Sisak live design workshop
- Preliminary design of the SCC Sisak building
- Conceptual design of the SCC Sisak building

Main achievements: Representatives of the civil, public and private sectors and citizens planned the future SSC Sisak building together, with the cooperation of architects. The live planning workshops included the results of the needs assessments made with citizens, CSOs and public institutions. Based on the results of the workshops, the architects produced the preliminary design of the SSC Sisak, communicated in a participatory manner to the local community, and then produced the conceptual design of the building and presented it publicly. Large-scale fundraising is planned in the next stages.

6. Living with us

Useful Information	
Timespan	From June, 2021 to April, 2022
Number of partners/Associated	1. DKolektiv (leader) 2. Information Legal Center 3. Red Cross Osijek 4. Association for creative development – SLAP 5. City of Osijek 6. City of Slavonski Brod 7. Local Democracy Agency Sisak
Total Budget	6.600 EUR
Funded by	European Social Fund

The objective of the project is to prepare local communities in 3 Croatian regions for the integration of persons with international protection by: a) strengthening the role and capacities of local communities for the integration process through empowerment and networking of CSO experts and social service providers; b) raising public and community awareness of integration; and c) ensuring social support through volunteering.

Main achievements:

- Local coordination of CSOs/institutions and persons with international protection established in Sisak.
- Integration camp in Eastern Croatia. Long-term training for local experts on discriminatory practices and good integration practices.
- Training for teachers on discriminatory practices and good integration practices.
- Development of a volunteer programme for social support to local integration.
- Needs analysis of people with international protection graded living in Sisak.

7. Age do not matter

Useful Information	
Timespan	From October, 2020 to April, 2023
Number of partners/Associated	1. Association KAS Sisak (leader) 2. Red Cross Sisak 3. Labour Disability Association Sisak 4. City of Sisak
Total Budget	144.400 EUR
Funded by	European Union from the European Social Fund. Co-funded by the Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs.

The aim of the project is to increase the capacities of CSOs on the topic of active ageing and quality of life of pensioners in Sisak-Moslavina County. Activities are also aimed at the elderly in the areas of health, social networking, IT skills, employment activities and volunteering.



Main achievements:

- 250 direct beneficiaries (pensioners) involved in project activities in the Sisak-Moslavina region
- 48 gymnastics workshops and lectures on the importance of exercise
- 10 internet banking workshops
- 20 floriculture workshops
- 20 gardening workshops
- 17 lectures on health and disease prevention
- 27 lectures on psychological and mental health
- 19 social and emotional skills workshops
- 20 psychological help workshops
- 42 computer literacy workshops
- 2 regional round tables on active ageing
- 20 volunteers involved in project activities

8. White Water Lily Travelling Book

Useful Information	
Timespan	From September, 2021 to September, 2023
Number of partners/Associated	1. Public library Lekenik (leader) 2. Association PET PLUS 3. Municipality of Lekenik
Total Budget	517.400,00 EUR
Funded by	European Social Fund and Croatian Ministry of Culture

The project aims to increase the availability of materials and activities that motivate reading and to develop the reading skills of the elderly, children and unemployed in the rural area of Lekenik. It also aims to raise awareness of the importance of reading and literature for individual and social development. The project activities will be implemented in remote locations in the Lekenik area, in public spaces (where there are any) but also in biblio-van, a travelling library that arrives at the doorstep of every individual.

Main achievements:

- 30 comics workshops for 50 primary school students followed by a children's comics exhibition.
- A custom-made Biblio-van was purchased and a mobile library was set up.
- Volunteers collected dialect words and expressions, which will be compiled into a dialect dictionary.
- Poetry Evening in Letovanić (small village in the Lekenik area)
- Volunteers read stories to children and elderly people.
- Creative writing workshops for young people, the elderly and the unemployed.
- 3 theatre performances for children.

9. U(Z)DRUGE

Useful Information	
Timespan	From February, 2022 to February, 2023
Number of partners/Associated	1. Centre for education and counselling Lumos 2. Udruga PET PLUS 3. Local Democracy Agency Sisak 4. Udruga NADA
Total Budget	63.860,00 EUR
Funded by	European Union from the European Social Fund. Co-funded by the Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs.

The project addresses the problems of smaller and less experienced CSOs in managing day-to-day activities and local crises.

The teams of the two associations experienced in various areas of work and in ESF management are transferring their knowledge and skills to their less experienced peers, using the project activities to become more organised and effective in responding to the needs of their final beneficiaries.

The overall objective of the project is to ensure civil society development that ensures equitable social and economic growth and democratic development in the Republic of Croatia.

Specific objectives:

- Transfer of the knowledge and skills of the CSOs most experienced in the management of the European Social Fund to their less experienced counterparts.
- Improvement of CSOs' capacities to respond effectively to local community needs in crisis situations.
- Strengthening the capacity of local CSOs to implement activities tailored to local needs.

Main achievements: It developed and implemented an extensive capacity-building programme for CSO members, employees and volunteers, which strengthened 208 people throughout Croatia to work in crisis situations and to work remotely using innovative digital tools.

During this intensive programme, consisting of 17 different topics necessary to work and grow successfully, CSOs acquired new knowledge and skills on: effective organisational planning, managing volunteers in crisis situations, citizen activism, financial and legal issues of CSO work, crisis management, online work, web development, social network management, public procurement, personal development and a series of group psycho-educational workshops, followed by individual psychological support. Moreover, a comprehensive digital handbook on the financial and legal work of CSOs has been produced in Croatian.

10. Platform for development of school volunteering

Useful Information	
Timespan	From October, 2022 to December, 2023
Number of partners/Associated	1. Vocational School Sisak 2. Human Rights House Zagreb 3. Norsensus Mediaforum
Total Budget	87.870,00 EUR
Funded by	Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway within the European Economic Area and Active citizens fund

The objective of the project is to systematise the practice and long-term efforts of the OP Sisak and the educational institutions of Sisak-Moslavina County (SMC) for the development of school volunteering clubs through the creation of the Platform for the Development of School Volunteering, as a place for training, exchange and advocacy towards decision-makers. The project aims to create a prerequisite for systematic support of SMC schools by strengthening their capacity to develop and implement practical and engaging content on topics such as active citizenship, social justice and social inclusion.

The main activities consist of connecting schools where volunteer clubs exist with schools that are interested in developing this type of extracurricular activity. The backbone of the work of school volunteer clubs is the collaborative (co-creative) work of teachers and pupils in detecting community needs and problems, finding the best solutions and implementing concrete actions. The volunteer club will be developed at the Sisak Vocational School, where the innovative methods and approaches designed through the Platform will be tested.

Main achievements: Established an international consortium to conduct the first research on the educational needs of teachers and students on the topics of social justice and active citizenship and on possible voluntary actions that could improve the practical learning of young people.

Conducted a preparatory and motivational workshop on volunteering for the students of the vocational school in Sisak.



OPERATIONAL PARTNER VERTENEGLIO/BRTONIGLA



Delegate: Umberto Ademollo

Established: 1996

Key partner:

- Municipality of Bellinzona, Switzerland (Lead partner)
- Municipality of Vertenglio/Brtonigla (Host City)
- Istria Region, Croatia
- Friulia-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 objectives:

- 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

The Operational Partner Brtonigla is a non-governmental organisation founded in 1996 as part of the Council of Europe's initiative to establish lasting peace in the post-Yugoslav region. It began in 1993 with Resolution 251 of the Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe, which called for the establishment of several Local Democracy Embassies in the SEE region. The Local Democracy Embassy in Brtonigla (called Operational Partner since 28 July 2005) was established in Brtonigla (Istria-Croatia) on 5 May 1996 by the partners of the OP (regional bodies from various European countries) and the Congress of

Local and Regional Authorities. In 1997, the OP Brtonigla signed an agreement with the Istrian Region with the aim of implementing its activities on the entire Istrian territory and becoming an instrument of development in the region.

For the past 20 years, the OP has been dedicated to supporting local democracy and active citizenship, civil society, raising awareness of European values and citizenship among young people, facilitating and promoting development opportunities through various European programmes, supporting the efforts of local institutions and the community to create solutions to social and economic challenges, promoting and supporting the unique richness of the multicultural and multilingual regional identity, and developing networks and partnerships with many local, national and international public bodies and NGOs with the aim of creating new opportunities for sustainable development in the region.

Istria has a history shaped by its strategic geographic position in Europe, as a bridge between its western and eastern parts, connecting the Balkans with Central Europe; traditionally, it has been a focal point of conflicting interests of various international actors, experienced periods of authoritarian regimes and changing national borders during the 20th century. Nevertheless, the local population has inherited, preserved and strengthened the strong sense of regional belonging and affiliation to the Istrian identity, making it richer and extremely important in the context of its symbolic role as a bridge between East and West in the heart of Europe. Over the past 20 years, the OP has built a long track record as a major actor in strengthening democratic values and culture among the local population and in particular among the local youth, its European awareness has enabled the participation of a large number of local young people and professionals in various programmes in Europe, and it has been actively involved in the implementation of a large number of projects under various European programmes in cooperation with its regional partners in the region.

1. ESC Project

Useful Information	
Timespan	From September 2022 to July 2023
Number of partners/Associated	2
Total Budget	
Funded by	European Solidarity Corps programme

The project consisted in carrying out solidarity activities to support people and parts of the population that are disadvantaged and 'forgotten' by society.



Other activities:

EUROPE DAY

On 7 May 2022, the Operational Partner Brtonigla, with the support of the Italian Community Verteneglio organised the celebration of Europe Day, in cooperation with the school and local Italian communities.

PROMOZIONE CULTURA DI CONFINE

On 14 July, 2022, the OP Brtonigla participated in the meeting “Promozione cultura di confine” organised by Ponti d’Europa in the Municipality of Monfalcone.

SEMINAR ON DANTE ALIGHIERI

In November 2022, the OP Brtonigla organised a seminar on Dante Alighieri, on the occasion of the 700th anniversary of his death.

LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES

ACTIVITY REPORT

2022