



LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES

2019

Activity report



TABLE OF CONTENTS

About ALDA	5
The network of Local Democracy Agencies - our raison d'être	6
Report of activities of Local Democracy Agencies in 2019	9
LDA Albania	10
LDA Armenia	15
LDA Central and Southern Serbia	23
LDA Dnipropetrovsk Region	38
LDA Georgia	44
LDA Kosovo	61
LDA Mariupol	70
LDA Moldova	80
LDA Montenegro	85
LDA Mostar	97
LDA Northern Morocco	115
LDA Prijedor	120
LDA Subotica	129
LDA Tunisia	136
LDA Zavidovici	143
Operational Partner Osijek	154
Operational Partner Sisak	160
Operational Partner Verteneglio	170

ABOUT ALDA

ALDA – The European Association for Local Democracy is dedicated to the promotion of good governance and citizen participation at the local level. ALDA 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 self-government. 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 300 members (including local authorities, associations of local authorities, and civil society organisations) from over 40 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:

- Coordinating and supporting the 14 Local Democracy Agencies and 3 Operational Partners in their activities
- Conducting its own projects in the field of good governance and citizen participation at the local level
- Supporting other local stakeholders' initiatives by providing expertise gained through ALDA's knowledge and experience in the regions where ALDA and the Local Democracy Agencies are working

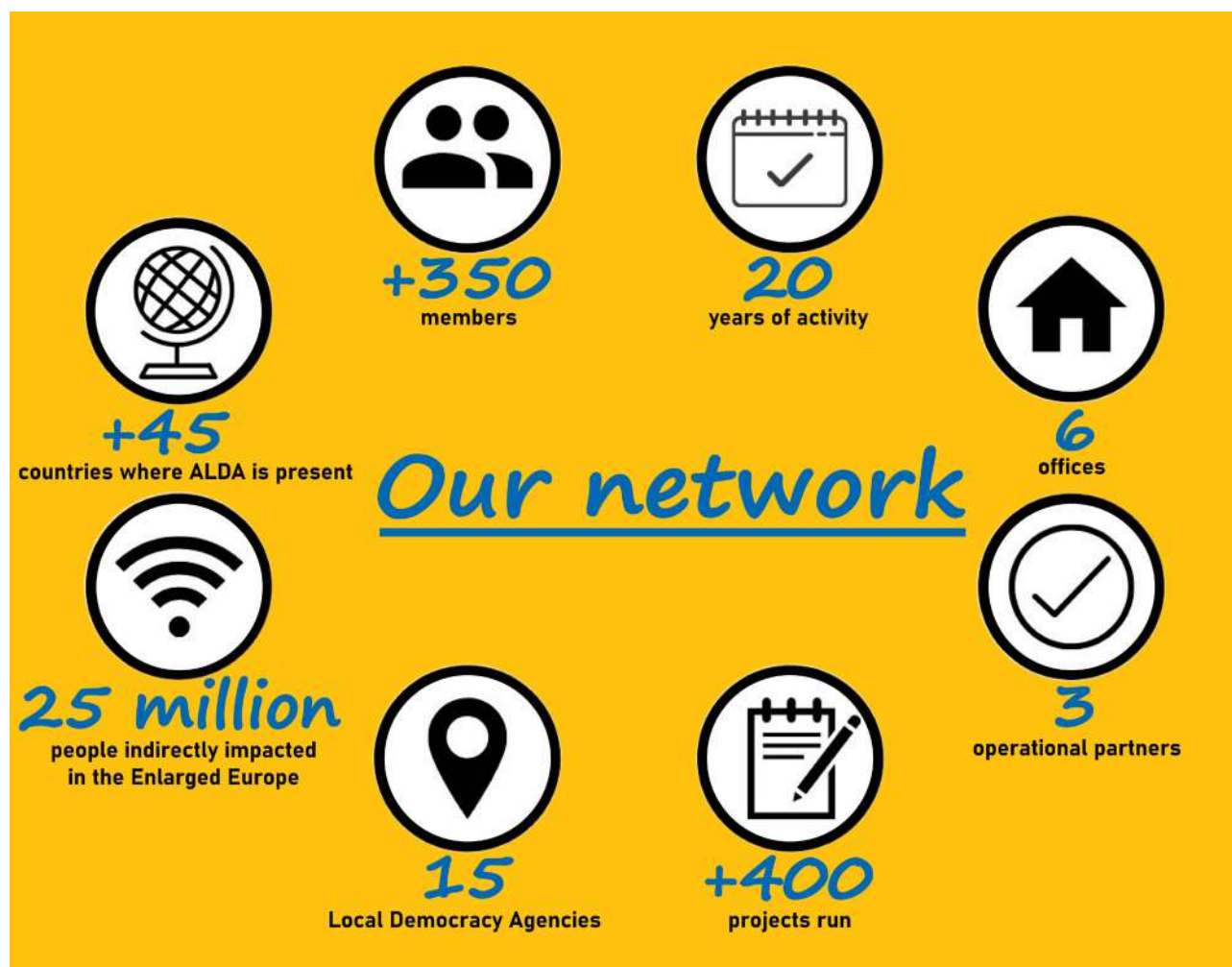
Where we work

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.

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 3 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. IN the last years, ALDA has become more and more active in the European Neighborhood with 5 LDAs in various Eastern Partnership countries and 2 LDAs in the Mediterranean area, one in Kairouan (Tunisia), established in 2017, and the other in Tétouan (Morocco), newly inaugurated in April 2019.

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 decentralized cooperation, which involves a multi-stakeholder approach and focuses on partnerships between Local Authorities and Non-Governmental Organizations. 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 strength 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 decentralized 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 know-how 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. ALDA's support to 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.



REPORT OF ACTIVITES OF THE LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES IN 2019

LDA Albania



Delegate: Jerola Ziaj
Established: 2008

Key partners:

- Europe:
 - Metropolitan City of Bari, Italy (lead partner)
 - UNISCO, Italy
 - Learning Cities, Italy
- Albania:
 - 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 councillors 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.

LDA Albania in the field

Projects and activities

On February 2020, Xheni Shehaj from the LDA Albania in the framework of the internship programme of Regional Youth Compact for Europe has completed an internship at the LDA Kosovo.

Xheni joined the team in Peja where dedicated to project development/ratification of project proposals, assisting project implementation tasks as well as different activities LDAK hold in February. She spent one month in Peja as a member of the LDAK team.

The programme offers a one-month internship for Balkan youth in one of the project partner's offices.

The internship program aims to provide a framework for young people in the region to gain experience firsthand in regards of the way CSO's operate and their missions but also supporting friendly, juvenile and innovative initiatives in the field of communication content, which would lead to the increase of youth participation in civil initiatives, policy design and structured dialogue.

Regional Youth Compact for Europe is implemented by the Center for Democracy Foundation, European ALDA network and the ALDA – Western Balkans Network for Local Democracy, CRTA, Youth Act and Sodem. This project is funded by the European Union and the Balkan Trust for Democracy, a project of the German Marshall Fund of the United States.



CLINK - Cultural heritage linking diversities in Europe (Jan 2019 – May 2020)

"Culture is In" is the local activity held on January 17th, by LDA Albania, in the framework of CLINK Project at the recently revitalized historical center of Vlora.

The aim of the activity was to connect youth and cultural actors and raise awareness about the cultural heritage of the city by reaching out to the youngsters. To this end, ten high schools were invited to participate in the event. Given the recent revitalization work held in the historical center, the high school students got acquainted with unknown sides of the history.

The teenagers were keen on using social media as a key tool to disseminate information related to culture, its actors and the promotion of potential undiscovered new historical sites.

At the end of the trip, all students had the chance to visit the Ethnographic Museum, while some of them performed a series of folkloric dances, dressed in the traditional local clothes.



On October 2019 the LDA Albania and the Regional Youth Center Vlore, organized a **local workshop** with activists and youngsters of the city in spite of the National Volunteer Day in Albania. Sharing stories, exchanging experiences and teaching youngsters on the importance of volunteerism and the impact they can have on local decision making.



September 2019 As Project Partner, LDA Albania took part on the the Second international event within the project CLINK in Knjazevac, Serbia, focused on the topic of “Cultural heritage as a source of urban regeneration: comeback of the craft-making culture”.

The event brought together state and non-state cultural actors, entrepreneurs, craftsmen, young designers and civil society organisations from 10 different countries and communities to share and exchange practices of creative and sustainable use of cultural heritage for the social and the economic development of communities.

Summer Pop Up Gallery: Revitalizing cultural heritage sites - Young local artists playing music at the Kanina Castle, 15/08/19

The castle of Kanina, a landmark of the cultural heritage in the city of Vlora, is a hilltop fortress built in the 4th century B.C. that offers spectacular views over Vlora and the sea. It is located on Shushica Mountain and covers almost 4.000 hectares. Once here, you will quickly comprehend the importance of the massive place back in ancient times, which is why Local Democracy Agency-LDA Albania chose it as the point for the second activity of the Summer Pop Up Gallery.

Seizing the opportunity of annual event celebrating local cultural heritage at the castle, LDA Albania organised a special musical performance by local youngsters Enea Fetau and Redi Rrapaj, playing piano and violin. The instrumental music was a mix between traditional Albanian music of the region and modern one. During the musical performance in the background, pictures and videos from different cultural heritage sites and the importance of their promotion were shown and people were interested to know more about culture heritage.

This event raised awareness towards the cultural heritage the region withholds by reaching out to the locals attending the event. This gallery pop-up concept evolved from music outstretch dimensions of souls and people. Thus, contrary to other activities and meetings, music was chosen as the means to revitalize cultural heritage sites like Kanina Castle.

Project RYCE - Regional Youth Compact for Europe (Dec 2018 - May 2021)

Monitoring Reforms Locally - Albania towards EU Integration – Local activity in Patos Municipality, March 2019

LDA Albania has organized this activity in the framework of RYCE Project.

The Administrative-Territorial Reform launched in 2015 has paved the way for an effective decentralization process and fostering local autonomy with better representation; tangible local democracies; better services and easier access to every single unit in the country.

In the context of the RYCE Project, the topics discussed were those of the rule of law; good governance; public administration platform; the citizens first and local accountability reform.

Therefore, an informative meeting titled "Albania's Path towards the European Union - Local Reforms" was held with representatives coming from the local government, the Municipal Council, villages' headmen and members of the Local Citizen Advisory Commission where youth play a vital role.



On the 27th of February, 2019, the LDA Albania joined **the First Regional Thematic Network Forum & Annual Conference** in Tirana, as project partner.

LDA Armenia



Delegate: Lusine Aleksandryan
Established: 2011

Key partners:

- 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

Goals and 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



LDA Armenia in the field

Projects and activities

Democracy Exchange Week

Lusine Aleksandryan and ALDA Secretary General Antonella Valmorbida were back from Dayton, Ohio 1-4th of April for the Multinational Research Exchange. The event targeted at the discussion of certain issues, e.g.: how to bring citizens of communities together for a joint work with the government in order to tackle certain issues, how governments and other institutions can become aware of the critical work done by citizens and align themselves with that work and how citizens can become aware of their resources and the government's resources, too, in order to make sound judgments about how they might work together. Representatives from different countries shared their experience, challenges they face in their countries, failures in cooperation with national and local governments, people as producers and co-producers, their role perception in the community.



ALDA General Assembly

4th and 5th of May were important dates for the ALDA network to take part in the General Assembly and other related events. New elaborated membership scheme, budget were approved. ALDA presented the projects implemented in different regions which a real step towards community development and local authorities empowerment was the establishment of ski centre in Ashotsk, Armenia. Two similar initiatives will also be implemented in the northern regions of Armenia.

During the EAP LDA's meeting all delegates shared their insights upon projects, difficulties, new ideas, new ways of cooperation. ALDA and Normandy region made sure to make this event as productive as interesting to all the participants.





Normandie pour la paix!

ALDA and LDA Armenia in cooperation with Normandy region organized a debate on the Turkish-Armenian relations. During the Peace Forum different similar debates were held in countries going through conflicts, be they political or geographical ones. Armenian and Turkish delegations included CSO representatives, teachers, academicians.



The workshop was facilitated by ALDA General Secretary Antonella Valmorbida and covered four topics for discussions: "Current State of Play between Armenia and Turkey", "Technology Goes Beyond Borders" (Startups, ICT), Role of the II Track Dialogue (Expert Policy Forums, Youth exchanges, Former officials, media), Prospects for Restarting the Dialogue on official level. Different paths for cooperation and follow up were identified. One thing was common for everybody: "Peace and cooperation are more than needed".

Black Sea NGO Forum 12th edition

From 23-25th of October Istanbul hosted Black Sea NGO forum 12th edition with the priority to support The Black Sea NGO community for sustainable development. The forum hosted more than 150 participants to share their expertise, concerns for CSO's resilience in the region. The strategic Framework of the forum was elaborated distinguishing main thematic areas enabling the participants to choose the preferred working group and draft the group's future vision and objectives.

LDA Armenia delegate Lusine Aleksandryan stayed trustful to the civic engagement group that was formed 5 years ago during the forum's edition in Tbilisi and was rather successful. The working group involved more participants and drafted the future activities and outcomes. Forum also organized donations meeting in the format of a world cafe to make the participants familiar with all possible funding opportunities. All Eastern Partnership LDA's were present taking advantage of this opportunity to communicate and work together. Thank you all organizers for making such an interesting and useful event happen.





Meetings, conferences, trainings

LDA Armenia office hosted representatives of Swedish organisations on the 28th of February. The mission was initiated by ForumSYD to promote the cooperation between local authorities and civil society organisations to set common goals for joint projects.



On 14th of March, the LDA delegate Lusine Aleksandryan joined the meeting with civil society organizations from the Shirak region were invited by the new-appointed governor. Mr. Petrosyan presented his views concerning the development of the Shirak region by encouraging the participants to show activism in education, health, tourism. He pointed out that they will commence the elaboration of the strategic plan for the development of the region and organize different meetings on various themes every Thursday in the Governor’s office in the form of a hub for discussions and participation.



On the 3rd of April a representative from LDA Armenia Lilit Grigoryan was invited to participate in the launching event of “Democratic Development, Decentralisation and Good Governance in Armenia” financed by the Austrian Development Cooperation and implemented by the Council of Europe. The project aims to support democratic consolidation in Armenia by strengthening the legal framework for local

democracy in Armenia, developing the capacities of local institutions and officials, promoting local ownership and sustainable outcomes. LDA Armenia director Lusine Aleksandryan is also a member of the Steering Committee of the project and will assist the work of SC for 3 years.



On July 19th in Aparan an event was held in the frames of the project “Citizens voice and Actions in consolidated communities in Armenia” for the presentation of successful flow of regional trainings in 52 consolidated communities and present some communities’ ideas for the re-granting scheme through “Citizens’ budget” mechanism. The governor of Aragatsotn region, EUD representatives, community

leaders were among the main guests and the event was honoured by the Head of EU Delegation, Ambassador H.E. Mr. Piotr Antoni Switalski that stressed the importance of the project and communities role in local development.





On September 2nd Shirak region civil society representatives participated in the focus group discussion on Comprehensive and Enhanced Partnership Agreement Roadmap Implementation in Armenia. The discussion was initiated by a group of national and international experts at the EUD in Yerevan to support Armenian CSO's in the implementation process of CEPA Roadmap /1st stage/.

The participants shared their concerns about some articles, expressed their opinions on the implementation of some articles defined in the document, EU-Armenia relations.

On September 18, Lusine Aleksandryan participated in a one-day training in the frames of "ARAMAZD: SMART" project implemented by Caritas Armenia on "Inter-Sector Social Partnership" facilitated by the director of the Shirak regional branch of A.D. Sakharov Armenian Human Rights Center Seyran Martirosyan. Representatives of CSOs, LSGs, business sector and active young citizens of the Shirak region were invited to participate in the training aimed at capacity building activities of key stakeholders involved in the community development processes. Mr. Martirosyan presented the concept and legislation of the Inter-Sector Social Partnership, the principles of social partnership, the stakeholders, the system, building a sustainable partnership framework. The participants exchanged their experiences, positive and negative influence of social partnership.



1. "Citizens' Voice and Actions in Consolidated Communities of Armenia"

Since March 2018 LDA foundation is involved in the project "**Citizens Voice and Actions on Local Development in Consolidated Communities in Armenia**" implemented by a consortium of 3 organizations: "Communities Finance Officers Association" (CFOA), European Association for Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA), Union of Communities of Armenia (UCA) with the financial support of the European Union. LDA Armenia is the sub-contractor of ALDA project component and supports local activities.

On 25th of January, 2019 Gyumri technological centre hosted about 80 representatives from the targeted 52 communities, ministries, local and international CSO's for the launching conference of the project "Citizens' voice and actions in consolidated communities of Armenia".

At the first plenary session welcoming speeches and project presentations were made by the



representatives of three partner organisations: Mr. Vahan Movsisyan, Mr. Alexandru Coica and Mrs. Natalia Lapauri, on behalf of EU Delegation to Armenia head of cooperation department Mr. Gonzalo Serrano. Gyumri mayor Mr. Samvel Balasanyan made the welcoming speech for the second part of the conference whereas Ambassador, Head of EU Delegation to Armenia H.E. Mr. Piotr Antoni Switalski, Mr. Mekhak Apresyan, chairman of the State Tourism



Committee of Armenia, from the ministry of Territorial Development Mr. Ashot Giloyan were official guests and they all spoke out about the importance of the project that not only promotes community development but also makes people get engaged in the decision-making processes. The project also targets regional development in the form of tourism and outdoor activities. One of the three demonstrative grants has been implemented: construction of a ski centre in Ashotsk, Shirak region. At the end of the conference the participants were asked for a brainstorming concerning other two demonstrative grants content. Although the centre was officially opened during 2019 LDA Armenia delegate Lusine Aleksandryan and CFOA representatives were involved in solving the ownership issues and receiving the legal documents. The package of documents was circulated in the Ministry of Territorial Development and Infrastructure, was amended twice and at last by the end of November the Ministry confirmed the beginning of the construction. The package was sent to Ashotsk community to get also community council decision on the land Alienation.



During the months of March-August the project team was involved in information sharing, searching for new and creative ideas to promote tourism and outdoor activities from other two northern regions of Armenia namely Lori and Tavush for the implementation of demo-grants. Out of ten ideas received only four were shortlisted for further consideration and elaboration. With a view to identify the other two demonstration outdoor activity projects with the suggestion of the European Union Delegation to Armenia and by the support of the Development and Strategic Studies, Armenia an international expert in the field of tourism was invited to make recommendations for identification of demonstration projects. With the project team an international expert paid visits to the regions to meet with relevant stakeholders and gather detailed information on the submitted project ideas. Only two ideas had the coverage of Tavush region but they all referred to Dilijan town that is a well developed touristic and resort area empowered by national and international investments.

Based on the expert report, the consortium suggested implementing both of the large scale demo-grants in one region, Lori to ensure more visible and tangible results and sustainability and cover a long distance from Vanadzor till Akhtala alongside Debed river as well as taking into consideration that the landscape and nature and historical monuments situated in the suggested area are unique and create possibilities for different outdoor activities and tourism development. From another angle the region has a strong demand of any touristic product development that would promote the quality of food and supply, reinforce the enlargement of accommodation and horeca services.



At last after long reflections and discussions with EUD in Yerevan two demo-grants would be implemented in Lori region: one project would target identification, design, planning and physical implementation of the outdoor activities (tourism products) in three directions: biking, hiking and rafting and the second one would focus on training and capacity building of local community members on professional outdoor guiding and site interpretation guiding. The objective was to develop skills amongst the local youth and community members in active life style, outdoor guiding and hospitality services. The implementing partners would be relatively "EcoLab Foundation for Sustainable Development and Active Citizenship" and Children of Armenia Charitable foundation (COAF) as both organizations are well experienced and skilful working in the target region.

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better understanding of local needs and challenges of Lori region, a meeting took place on 6th of December, 2019 in Ibis hotel, Yerevan with the organizations having more experience and success stories in tourism development and potential of Armenia as well as in the Lori region.

The recommendations and information provided were useful and were reflected in the application package drafted by COAF. Both organizations submitted application packages at the end of December, 2019.

2. Government-CSO Dialogue for Developing Consensus-based Approach for Reduction of Plastic Bags

In December 2018 three new experts on elaboration of strategy and policy on scaling up reduction of use of plastic, public education and behaviour change and measuring effectiveness in utilization of alternative packaging were recruited and contracted for a year to make study and analysis. During 2019 they provided internal and final reports to the project team, UNDP GEF/SGP and Ministry of Environment. Final reports were approved by the Ministry at the end of December 2019 that alongside with the revised activities would contribute to the MoE-led policy reforms towards the gradual phase out of the single-use plastic bags.

Activities carried out during the project in Tallin:

- **Community meetings**

Four community meetings-discussions took place with the immediate participation of the community leader, representatives of the Ministry of Environment (twice the first deputy minister Mrs.Irina Ghaplanyan was present), specialists of Urban foundation. About 100-150 people participated in each



of community meeting during which upcoming plans to turn Talin into a green city, some details referring to the draft law on the reduction of usage of plastic bags were presented. The participants agreed to have their contribution, raise awareness about the environmental damage of plastic bags, try to reduce the usage, but all expressed their concerns that as still no law is adopted that will define the final packaging price, a certain group of citizens will keep on demanding plastic bags from the businesses.

- **Open lessons in schools**

In March-June 2019 open lessons on environmental issues were organized in two basic schools of Talin. During the organizational phase the project team addressed to the Educational Department of Aragatsotsn Regional Administration for the permission, and the lesson content was agreed with the Ministry of Environment.

The lessons aimed to present the importance of environment, pollution and human damages to the schoolchildren. The lessons were welcomed with enthusiasm by the schoolchildren that showed their availability about the usage of plastic bags, and how it is possible to reduce. About 90 schoolchildren of 7-8th grades from two schools participated in the open lessons. After the lessons Urban foundation handled over environmental books to schools.





• **Painting initiative in Talin Arts school**

In February-March 2019 an event was held with the students of Talin Arts school during which the initiative of "Green Talin", project content, purpose was presented. The students of painting class were suggested to paint "Green Talin" the way they imagine it, as well craft "G" and "T" capital letters the way they imagine them in the Armenian miniature style. Interesting solutions were suggested, but because of complexity none of them was selected as a logo of "Green Talin".

• **Elaboration of publishing materials**

In October-November 2019 to promote the visibility of the project, to raise awareness of the citizens on plastic bags about 1.600 leaflets were published, that were disseminated with the tote-bags, as well as two types of 60 posters were hung in different places of the city.



• **Sewing of tote-bags and dissemination event**

As an alternative of plastic bags, a 1696 sewed tote-bags was ordered to a small LTD functioning in Talin city. The tote-bags distribution event took place on 20th of November, 2019 in the park Burg Le Valance with the participation of Mrs. Irina Ghaplanyan, Deputy Minister of Environment, Mr, Sargis Aramyan, a mayor of Talin, Mr. Hovhannes Ghazarayan and Mrs. Svetlana Harutyunyan, UNDP GEF/SGP national coordinators, project team and Talin population. A cultural performance on behalf of Talin Arts schoolchildren followed after the opening, and the rest of the day the distribution of tote-bags continued in the park. The municipality took responsibility to supply the population with the remaining tote-bags in the following days. The event was organized in cooperation with local NGO "SEMANT" implementing a project on Clean Energy access in Talin.





LDA Central and Southern Serbia



Delegate: Sasa Marinkov
Established: 2001

Key partners

- 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

Regional YOUTH COMPACT for Europe

The project Regional Youth Compact for Europe is funded by European Commission (IPA Civil Society Facility and Media Program 2016-2017) and co-funded by Balkan Trust for Democracy, a project of the German Marshall Fund of the United States.

The project consortium is made by the Centre for Democracy Foundation (Serbia), LDA CSS, LDA Subotica (Serbia); LDA Mostar, LDA Prijedor, LDA Zavidovići (Bosnia and Herzegovina); LDA Nikšić (Montenegro); LDA Kosovo* (Kosovo*); The European Association for Local Democracy – ALDA (France); ALDA Skopje (North Macedonia); LDA Albania (Albania); CRTA (Serbia); Youth Act (Albania); SODEM (Turkey).

Regional Youth Compact for Europe is a cooperation initiative launched by 14 CSOs from the EU, Western Balkans and Turkey with the aim to enhance the effective participation of civil society and youth organizations in the EU integration and accession negotiation process through capacity building, awareness raising and advocacy actions organized at local, national and regional level.



This project is funded
by the European Union



Regional
Youth
Compact
for Europe

B | T | D The Balkan Trust
for Democracy
A PROJECT OF THE GERMAN MARSHALL FUND



Activities in 2019

- Coordination activities with the project partners
- The **First Regional Thematic Forum and Annual Conference of BNLD**, Tirana, Albania, February 26-27. Those two events were a momentum of exchanges among stakeholders of the Western Balkans engaged in the furthering of the EU accession processes of the Western Balkans countries. The events gathered more than 80 participants including representatives of civil society organisations and networks, regional structures, public bodies, academia and youngsters. This diverse public created a dynamic exchange of thoughts and proposals for the key reforms needed for the progress of the society in the Western Balkans countries. The Regional Thematic Network Forum brought insight into regional structures and policies beneficial for the institutions in charge of the pre-accession processes. The general message transferred through the Forum is that the future of the European Union and the Western Balkans is tightly interconnected and the only way to move forward is together.





- **The first international workshop for youth, “Rule of law and fundamental rights – why is it important for the youth and how youth can contribute to monitor reforms in these fields”,** Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina, March 25-26.



This project is funded
by the European Union



B | T | D The Balkan Trust
for Democracy
A PROJECT OF THE GERMAN MARSHALL FUND



- **Politea Western Balkans Summer School**, Danilovgrad, Montenegro, April 1-6. Participants, 25 young people from the Western Balkans region and Turkey, had the opportunity to understand the strategic approach to reforms, designing of action plans, methodology of planning, implementation and monitoring.
- **Second regional training for the Balkan Network for Local Democracy, “The role of monitoring and evaluation in evidence-based advocacy on local level”,** Knjaževac, Serbia, September 10-12. Participants were presented with varied tools for monitoring and evaluation, as well as evidence based advocacy actions at the local level. This capacity building programme aimed to improve efficiency and effectiveness of local policy reforms in the Balkan region, in particularly those related to the Negotiation of Chapters 19, 23 and 24. All trainees are expected to develop a common methodological approach to analyse and compare local policies from their own communities in the context of the European integration process.



- **Second workshop for the Regional youth working group**, Prishtina, Kosovo*, November 5-6. The workshop had an objective to deepen the youth group's common understanding of the accession negotiation process with particular focus on the Chapter 19: Social Policy and Employment. Focus of the work was on the employment policies and labour market reforms in the Western Balkan countries. Experts from the region shared their expertise in labour market reforms, work opportunities, social cohesions, youth mobility and more. The youngsters had the opportunity to take part in group discussions, debates, different types of practical exercises and a bit of traditional lectures.
- **Regional Youth thematic forum, "Youth in the region: seeking strategic responses to meet the challenges of demography and labour market trends", Prishtina, Kosovo*, November 7.** The main goal of the forum was to establish a network of young students and activists from the Western Balkans empowered for monitoring EU related reforms within the EU integration processes. The youngsters had the opportunity to discover the project and the value of the Regional Youth compact for Europe Network and to talk about the future modalities of work of the Network: research, activism and communication. The participants gave their opinions on how to improve the platform and make it more community friendly, to increase trust in civil society and create a sense of belonging.



- **Regional Youth Compact for Europe Internship programme, started in December 2019 with a public call for Interns.** This programme offers one-month internship for Balkan youth in one of the offices of the project partners. It allows young participants to gain first-hand experience about the functioning of CSOs and the work they do but also to assist in finding out and establishing innovative, youth friendly, forms and content of communication, leading to increased youth participation in civic initiatives, policy design and structured dialogue. This activity will last until April 2020.

Project CLINK - Cultural heritage as a link diversity of Europe

The project CLINK is funded by European Commission (Europe for Citizens) - Lesson 2: Democratic engagement and civic participation.

The project consortium is made by the LDA Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina), LDA CSS, LDA Subotica (Serbia); Association des agences de la Democratie Locale (France); LDA Prijedor, LDA Zavidovici (Bosnia and Herzegovina); LDA Sisak (Croatia); LDA Niksic (Montenegro); Omma Studio (Greece).

The project aims to deepen the connection between people from 10 communities from 3 EU (CRO, FR, GR) and 4 non-EU countries (BiH, SRB, MN, AL) and the heritage that surrounds them, as well as to raise their awareness on connections and place their own cultural heritage has in the tapestry of Europe's rich and diverse cultural heritage.



Activities in 2019

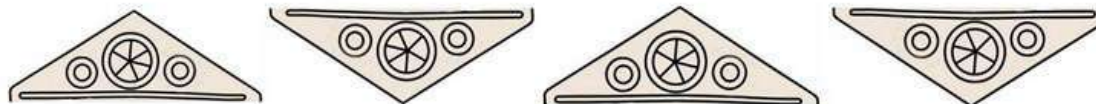
- Participation in the kick-off meeting of project partners and first international event, "Citizens' participation in preservation of cultural heritage in their communities", Caen - Normandy, France, 15th and 16th May. The event gathered around 80 participants who exchanged practices on various forms of cultural heritage as well as its preservation, prevention of deterioration and promotion through raising awareness methods. A study-visit to the "Fabrique de patrimoines" was organized. Based on the event's conclusions, specific document "Recommendations for Citizens' Participation In Preservation And Promotion Of Cultural Heritage In Their Communities" was produced. Delegation from Knjaževac included Vladana Stojadinović, librarian advisor and director of the Municipal Library Njegoš, and Bojana Ilijić, Senior Curator Archaeologist at the Knjaževac Homeland Museum. They presented their practice and experience with cultural heritage programmes and participation of young people in educational programs of their cultural institutions.



Co-funded by the
 Europe for Citizens Programme
 of the European Union



- In summer and autumn 2019, a series of pop-up galleries presenting the art inspired by local cultural heritage were organized in 6 countries by 9 partners. At least 225 youngsters were directly involved in this activity and more than 4500 citizens were involved as public. Pop-up gallery in Knjaževac was organized on the 5th of September and presented digital collages inspired by local cultural heritage created by youngsters of Knjaževac.
- The second international event, "Cultural heritage as a source of urban regeneration: comeback of the craft-making culture", Knjaževac, 12th and 13th September. More than 80 state and non-state cultural actors, entrepreneurs, craftsmen/women, young designers and civil society organizations from 10 different countries gathered to explore traditional crafts and to discover innovative ways of creative and sustainable use of cultural heritage for social and economic development of communities. The main event was organized as a best practice fair in the Archaeo-Ethno Park complex in the village of Ravna, near Knjaževac and a collection of best practices presented will be published as on-line publication.
- Youth Cultural Forum, organized on 29th of November, with the aim of connecting youth and cultural actors (state and non-state) in order to boost up participatory approach to preservation and promotion of cultural heritage. Forum resulted in joint recommendations for the advancement of youth. Besides Knjaževac, youth forums were organized in 8 more partner communities in 6 countries participating in the project.



Co-funded by the
Europe for Citizens Programme
of the European Union

Project Cultural Heritage 2.0

The project Cultural Heritage 2.0 is funded by Knjazevac Municipality.

The project consortium is made by the LDA CSS and the Municipal Library Njegoš, Knjaževac

The project represents a continuation of last year's project and aims at contributing to the promotion of the preservation, protection and promotion of the cultural and historical heritage of the municipality of Knjaževac through artistic interpretation of youngsters.

Activities in 2019

- Creation of a group of young explorers of local architectural heritage of Knjaževac municipality;
- Photo safari through the municipality to collect photo material for the artistic workshop;
- Educational and artistic workshop where youngsters created digital collages using collected photo material about local architectural heritage;
- Printing and distribution of postcards with digital collages created by youth;
- Open air public exhibition of created collages.



Project Monumental 9

The project Monumental 9 is funded by Regional Cooperation Council (“Support to the implementation of the RCC Triple-P Tourism in SEE: Promotion, Policy and Pilots Grants Work Programme”)

The project consortium is made by the LDA Nikšić, Montenegro, the LDA CSS, LDA Subotica (Serbia); LDA Mostar, LDA Prijedor, LDA Zavidovici (Bosnian and Herzegovina); LDA Kosovo*; ALDA Skopje (North Macedonia).

The project aims to help create preconditions for new tourism product development to increase youth employment and income generating activities through engaging micro-localities, youth greeters and vloggers in regional co-operation programme. More specifically, it aims to:

- develop youth friendly innovative promotional actions to provide orientation and publicise the cultural narrative of the nine magnificent monuments from the WW2 in former Yugoslav republics;
- create youth friendly online platform to present sites, locations and cultural heritage of nine micro-localities;
- develop regional pilot youth intercultural exchange programme including exploration, storytelling, digitalisation of the new cultural tourism product: Monumental 9;
- help increase attractiveness for tourist development and income generating activities at nine micro-localities.

Activities in 2019

- Signing the grant and partnership agreement;
- Coordination activities between 8 partners;
- The first partner meeting in Prishtina, Kosovo* on November 5th;
- Publishing the Call for trainers, experts on cultural tourism and communication for the upcoming training for young vloggers and greeters scheduled to take place in Prijedor, Bosnia and Herzegovina in February 2020;
- Publishing call for proposals for project web platform design and development.





Project Local Economic Monitor

The project Local Economic Monitor is funded by the European Union through the grant scheme within the project "Prepare to Participate P2P", implemented by the European Policy Centre CEP.

Project aims at enhancing the contribution of local CSOs to the negotiation process and meeting the economic criteria for EU membership. Specifically, it aims to improve participation of CSOs in monitoring progress under Chapter 20 and proactive advocating for the implementation of practical policies at the local level, with particular emphasis on entrepreneurship development. Furthermore, the project will contribute to improve the awareness of the local public and decision makers in the key challenges of industrial policy and entrepreneurship.



Activities in 2019

- Coordination activities
- Preparation for the comparative review / study of the situation by municipalities - industry and entrepreneurship in ten municipalities (north and southeast of Serbia: Knjaževac, Zaječar, Sokobanja, Aleksinac, Svrlijig, Subotica, Kanjiža, Ruma , Sombor, Stara Pazova).



Project VOLS EUROPE - Volunteer Management in Europe's Youth sector

The project Vols Europe is funded by the European Commission, Erasmus+ programme - Capacity Building Youth - Western Balkans.

The project consortium is made by the LDA Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina), LDA CSS (Serbia), LDA Zavidovici (Bosnia and Herzegovina), LDA Niksic (Montenegro), ALDA Skopje (North Macedonia), United Societies of Balkans Astik Etairia (Greece), Genista Research Foundation (Malta), Association for the development of voluntary work Novo Mesto (Slovenia), Rede Portuguesa de Jovens para Igualdade de Oportunidades entre Mulheres e Homens (Portugal), LDA Kosovo (Kosovo) Fundacion Privada Indera (Spain), Consorzio Comunita 'Solidale Societa' Cooperativa Consortile (Italy)

The project aims to promote volunteering among young people and organizations dealing with youth issues in order to promote the Erasmus + programme as a stimulus for volunteering. It also promotes the European voluntary service as a tool to strengthen counsellors for young people in their aspirations towards active a more social and civil participation at the local and European level.



Activities in 2019

- National coordination and conducting the selection process of the young participants from Serbia. Three youngsters were selected to take part in the international training.
- Participation to the international training "Volunteer Management in Europe's Youth sector", in Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina) from March 27 till April 3. Training gathered 29 youngsters from 11 countries. Participants were enabled to articulate competencies gained through volunteering, were trained on how to plan, stimulate and evaluate the learning process of volunteers during the EVS activities.



7. FOR Balkans – Integrated approach for FOrest and River sustainable management in the Balkans: Development of an information system for decision-making support in the field of sustainable forest management

The project FOR Balkans is funded by the Autonomous Province of Trento (Programme of cooperation and development Trentino-Balkans 2018-2020).

The project consortium is made by Associazione Trentino con i Balcani Onlus, LDA CSS (Serbia); Effetreseizero Srl (Italy); University Of Trento (Italy); Association Trentino con il Kosovo (Kosovo*); VIS Albania (Albania).

The project aims to promote collaborations and relations between the Trentino region and Balkan partners and experts in the field of forest management from three pilot areas (Val Rugova, Kosovo*; Shkrel - Shkrel District, Malesi and Madhe Municipality, Albania; Knjaževac Municipality, Serbia) and identification of future opportunities for cooperation for development of common actions of mutual interest. Project foresees the study and development of a support tool for sustainable and multifunctional management of forests aiming at involving the whole community of aforementioned three ecosystems.

Activities in 2019

- Mapping local stakeholders;
- Supporting for the field research in Knjaževac Municipality.

Project Balkan Kaleidoscope

Balkan Kaleidoscope is funded by European commission, EACEA Europe for Citizens – Strand 1: European Remembrance.

The project consortium is made by the LDA Subotica (Serbia), LDA CSS (Serbia); European Association for Local Democracy - ALDA (France); LDA Mostar, LDA Zavidovici and LDA Prijedor (Bosnia and Herzegovina); KulturLife (Germany); Institute for National History of Macedonia (North Macedonia); Centre for Peace, Nonviolence and Human Rights (Croatia); Municipality of Ravenna (Italy); SPES – Centro di Servizio per il Volontariato del Lazio (Italy); Sombor Education Centre (Serbia); Znanstvenoraziskovalni Center Slovenske Akademije Znanosti in Umetnosti (Slovenia).

The project aims to promote a deeper understanding of the common European history and common values, as well as to develop respect, tolerance and appreciation of European diversity based on memories of the Yugoslav wars and their consequences for modern Europe. More specifically the project aims to help young people across Europe to better understand the complexity and delicacy of the intercultural dialogue while developing the capacity of educators to use a methodology of multi-perspectivity, personal testimony and narrative that nurtures critical thinking in their teachings of history.

Activities in 2019

- Creation of the collection of best practices in implementing multi-perspective approach in history by the project partners;
- Reporting.



Other activities in 2019

BNLD - Balkan Network for Local Democracy

The Balkan Network for Local Democracy BNLD is founded by the European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA) and the 7 Local Democracy Agencies (LDAs) from the Western Balkans aiming to support regional cooperation. The network has been actively operating from 2015 and has been formally registered in Skopje, North Macedonia in 2019.

LDA CSS is one of the founding members of the regional network and its delegate, Saša Marinkov, is a member of the BNLD Governing Board. In 2019, LDA CSS hosted first Governing Board meeting in Knjazevac, on 10th and 11th of September. The second Governing Board meeting was held in Prishtina, Kosovo* on November 6th, the day before the official public inauguration of the BNLD in Prishtina.

In the framework of the project “Regional Youth Compact for Europe”, the Balkan network for local democracy was officially launched on the 7th of November 2019, in the Europe House in Prishtina, Kosovo*. More than 70 representatives of the civil sector, local authorities and media gathered to take part in this historical event for BNLD. They had the opportunity to hear about the vision and mission of the network, its origins and founders.

LDA CSS gives active contribution to the work of the Fundraising Group of BNLD. During the fourth quarter of 2019, 6 project proposals were created and submitted for potential funding to different international donors. “WB Cultural heritage in 24 hours” was the first official project granted to BNLD by the Tandem Western Balkans programme.





Support to the Association Trentino con i Balcani

During 2019 LDA CSS supported its leading partner Association Trentino con I Balcani in the implementation of the activities foreseen within the framework of the community cooperation programme between Trentino and the Balkans, mainly the follow-up activities of "Global Citizenship Education" project that included cooperation between schools from Knjaževac (Tehnička škola) and Trento (CFP-UPT) and further developing of "Grasping the EU" project that includes awareness raising actions with elementary school students on Sustainable Development Goals, a collection of 17 global goals designed to be a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all".



LDA Dnipropetrovsk Region



Delegate: Anzhelika Pylypenko
Established: 2015

Lead partner: Lower Silesian Voivodeship

Key priorities:

- assistance to the development of local democracy and the processes of decentralization 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 mobilizes civil society organizations, local and regional authorities to develop joint initiatives.

LDA Dnipropetrovsk Region in the field

Projects and activities

IDPs SAVE - Social Adaptation as a Human Rehabilitation Vital Element

The project IDPs SAVE is supported by Chiesa Valdese and ALDA, Italy. Dates: 01.04.2018-30.08.2019

The overall objective of the project was to create a favorable environment for adaptation and integration of IDPs into local communities, thus contributing to cohesion in society and stability in the region, minimizing the possibility of conflicts and IDPs marginalization.

The project also wanted to provide young IDP people with the necessary skills to integrate into the hosting society environment and establish contact and cooperation with young people from the hosting society, while ensuring raising awareness and mobilization of local actors for action.

In the cities of Novomoskovsk and Kryvyi Rih, and in the united territorial community of Slobozhanske, communication and training events were held for IDPs. After that, a micro-project competition was held, the best of which were funded by the project and successfully implemented.





Development and advocacy project of the concept of e-democracy of the Dnipro city until 2020

The project, supported by Stiftung INNOVABRIDGE Foundation, ran from 1 October 2018 to 30 January 2019.

The Objectives were to actualize the problem of the development of e-democracy, engage citizens of Dnipro in dialogue about the topic; to gather enterprising residents interested in the problem; to ensure contact with the local authorities; to develop a concept for the development of electronic democracy and a plan for its implementation of the city until 2020; conduct an advocacy campaign to adopt the concept.

The main results of the project were the creation of a community for the development and the promotion of electronic demos in Dnipro, as well as the approval both of the concept of development of e-democracy of Dnipro for 2019-2020 (first in Ukraine!) and the approval of a plan for the implementation of the concept and determined those responsible for its implementation.



We are the e-community of the Dnipro city

The project is supported by Eastern Europe Foundation and was implemented from 1 December 2018 to 10 April 2019.

Its main objectives were to Objectives to inform citizens of the city about the meaning and significance of e-democracy, e-services and e-governance; to provide practical skills for successful public impact on communities' livelihoods through the use of e-government tools; and to implement a pilot project using e-petition.

As a Result, we assisted to the creation of posters and brochures with information about the city's electronic services; to the delivery of training for heads of condominiums with a total of up to 22,000 citizens; and to the establishment of coalitions to test new services.





Who is responsible?

The project “Who is responsible?” is supported by Dnipro City Council and was active from 1 May 2019 to 30 September 2019, for a total budget of 8.663,00 EUR.

The overall objective of the project is to acquire the skills to work with executive bodies to resolve specific issues. Thus the project provides residents with information on who is responsible for resolving specific issues (names of officials’ posts, job responsibilities, contact information, subordination..).

The project resulted in raising the level of public awareness of the existing executive bodies of the Dnipro City Council, their subordinate utilities, institutions and organizations, their sphere of activity and who carries out their management. The positive result of the project implementation is the participants’ experience of appealing to the executive bodies.





Empowering local authorities and civil society to deliver solutions with Participative Democracy

The project, supported by Konrad Adenauer Stiftung and ALDA, was implemented from March to November 2019.

Its main objectives were:

- Conducting the initial desk research and identifying all supporting documents for initial city assessment;
- organizing and coordinating ALDA's expert visits to run the interviews for the drafting of the assessment;
- local coordination, organization and administration of the capacity building training;
- local /regional dissemination of the project outcomes and results;
- coordinating and communicating with all the capacity building beneficiaries within coaching phase (post- training);
- ensuring constructive communication and liaison between ALDA's expert and project;
- direct beneficiaries;
- working under supervision of ALDA's Eastern Partnership Coordinator and coordination of all project related activities with him.

The main results of the project were the assessment on the local governance capacities of Dnipro, together with the creation of a list of needs to be addressed in terms of local governance.

It thus gave the local authorities and civil society groups of the project the abilities to address local problems with participative approaches and therefore identifying more sustainable, fair and inclusive solutions.

1. Prepared 3 projects

- supporting social integration and involvement of disadvantaged groups of people (IDP and war veterans) - veteran's HUB creation;
- preparation of Dnipro development strategy 2020-2030;
- Administrative Services Center creation.

2. Started the creation of permanent and solid links between local and authorities and civil society in Dnipro communities.

3. Started the creation of long-lasting links between community of Dnipro, cities in Ukraine, Moldova and European partners, following the lines of decentralized cooperation started.





LDA Georgia



Delegate: Nino Khukhua
Established: 2007

Key partners

- 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

The Local Democracy Agency Georgia (LDA Georgia) was established in 2007 in Kutaisi, as part of ALDA's (European Association for Local Democracy) strategy in Southern 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.

LDA Georgia works closely with local self-government representatives, civil society, and the media. We have signed memorandums of cooperation with universities in Kutaisi as well as with the municipalities of Zugdidi and Batumi, the Central Election Commission, the regional administration, and various state and non-state organizations including small and medium business representatives.

LDA is currently implementing the project called "Increasing Awareness about the Association Agreement with the European Union in the Imereti Region," which aim is to inform citizens and raise their awareness about the 21st chapter of the Association Agreement, and regional development in the Imereti Region. The organization is a member of Kutaisi Municipality's Civil Advisory Council and Gender Equality Council. In conclusion, LDA Georgia works with a particular focus on the Imereti Region which has 12 municipalities and more than 162 CSOs.

During 2019, LDA Georgia organized more than 453 meetings attended by 5813 people, trained 1061 citizens', published a manual book of citizens' engagement mechanisms on the local self-governance level.

LDA Georgia in the field

Capacity Building for Local Government and NGOs - Promoting active citizenship and good governance

Imereti Regional HUB

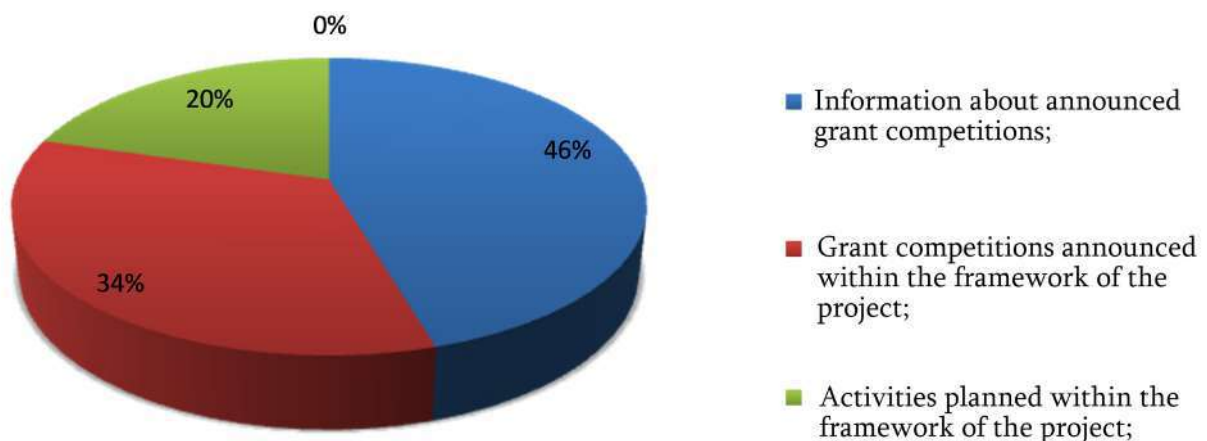
Civil society organizations (CSOs) in Georgia's regions are still a weak tool to mobilize society around democratic values. Despite the fact that civil society has learned to set appropriate priorities, better identify target groups, and they have more experience in project writing, CSO actors are still weak in their social support and representation. There is no financial sustainability, efficient functioning of organizational structure; transparency and taking responsibility also remain problematic. The state of CSOs is static and has not changed much from year to year.

Because of these challenges, the HUB project, also called "Civil Society Development Initiative", was created in 11 regions in Georgia. The purpose of the HUB is to promote the growth of civil society and create common space for people with different experiences. LDA Georgia is the representative for the Imereti Region where our goal is to mobilize and strengthen civil society. The Regional HUB will work in four strategic directions:

- Increase financial stability of civil society
- Enhance the accountability of civil society and improve public attitudes
- Strengthen the skills of civil society actors
- Raise the role of civil society actors in public accountability

Within this framework a set of consultations were delivered to civil society organizations operating in the Imereti municipalities, with the purpose to provide consultations to representatives of civil society organizations as well as provided information about the activities implemented by the project. The meeting highlighted the basic needs of the regional civil society organizations. In total, 12 meetings were held within the framework of the project, attended by 123 beneficiaries.

The hotline thus created provided legal assistance to representatives of NGOs, organizations and all citizens of the region.





Within this context, a series of meetings and trainings were implemented, such as 4 trainings on effective monitoring mechanisms, attended by 67 beneficiaries, 12 informative meetings, targeting young people in the universities operating in the Imereti region and also in the municipalities, which were attended by a total of 156 people, as well as additional 4 informative sessions were held with NGOs and other public officials of the targeted municipalities, attended by 45 public officials. Moreover, public discussions were held in Kutaisi and Terjola Municipalities on

the theme "Decentralization Reform in Georgia, Strategy and Challenges", aiming at stimulating dialogue on regional development and cooperation.

Other project activities were a "Regional forum of civil society", which attracted donors, media and potential sponsors, trainings for representatives of civil society organizations and youth on Fundraising; Social entrepreneurship; Corporate social responsibility; Regional development; Euro-Association Agreement, along with the preparation of a pamphlet and a newsletter to increase the communication within the society.

In conclusion, to generate a more effective communication, a regional HUB department has been established in which interested people can get acquainted with the activities carried out within the framework of the project.



Project “Inclusive Dialogue - Effective Social Policy”



LDA Georgia has been actively working for many years to advocate the problems of the population, especially the needs of vulnerable groups throughout the Imereti regions.

The project ,“Inclusive Dialogue - Effective Social Policy” which was aimed at improving the social service delivery system in Zestafoni and Baghdati municipalities of the Imereti region and developing better and need-oriented social policies through an inclusive cooperation with the local self-government. The target groups of the project were representatives of Zestafoni and Baghdati municipalities: Civil Advisory

Councils, Gender Equality Councils, Council for Persons with Disabilities; local population; vulnerable groups, such as: persons with disabilities and lonely elderly; mothers of many children; vulnerable women, young people, preschool teachers, victims of domestic violence; private sector.

After a first round of focus group interviews, the results were collected in a research paper to assess the needs of every segment of population. The aim of the research was to identify priority needs in Zestafoni and Baghdati municipality



After identifying the needs of the most vulnerable groups of the community, workshops were held with the representatives of Baghdati and Zestafoni Municipality’s Social and Financial-Budgetary Services, based on which two social programs were developed in each municipality.

In Baghdati municipality, the first one was to improve social inclusion of children with autism spectrum by supporting early diagnostics and rehabilitation, the second was a home care programme to help improve the quality of life for those who are in need through the provision of medical care.



In Zestafoni municipality, on the one hand an Economic support program for families with many children has been developed to support micro-small businesses or to expand existing ones, on the other, a home care program was implemented in order to provide medical care to people in need.

More, in the context of these two municipalities, social policy documents have been drafted to promote better and need-oriented social policies.

These documents are based on a strategy which includes the results of all previous assessments, interviews, focus groups and workshops.

LDA Georgia has been constantly and actively involved in the project through meetings with the representatives of Mayors, local self-government, initiative groups, and the private sector, thematic meetings with the members of the Council of Persons with Disabilities, Gender Equality Council and Civic Council, and roundtables to increase



results-oriented dialogue between civil groups, citizens and local authorities. At the local level, a platform for participatory and inclusive social policy development has been strengthened to advocate for the interests of the most vulnerable groups and to develop social policies and programs.

The forums "Citizens Voice" were held in Baghdati and Zestafoni municipality, attended by the local population, the mayors of the municipalities, the heads of municipal services and the



representatives of the mayors in administrative units, in order to identify the problems of the citizens in order to correctly set the priorities for next year's budget and increase citizen involvement in the budget planning process.

Within the framework of the project an educational program for vulnerable groups was implemented through 10 training courses, with the aim of developing social and civic competence, while another set of trainings focused on Corporate Social Responsibility

(CSR) and volunteering in both municipalities.

As a consequence, a multisectoral cooperation package for Baghdati and Zestafoni municipalities was prepared, as well as a joint project of civil society, local self-government and business operators and companies with recommendations for community-based initiatives.

All in all, the project's actions empowered a total of 850 beneficiaries and had a positive impact on the social service delivery system.

The project "Inclusive Dialogue - Effective Social Policy" was implemented by "Local Democracy Agency Georgia" (LDA Georgia), with the financial support of World Vision Georgia, the Georgian Young Economists Association (GYLA), the Georgian Association of Social Workers and the European Union. The project partners were "Women for Regional Development" and "Teacher's Union for Education and the Universe".



Project “Citizens’ Initiative for the Accountability of Self-Government”

The project “Citizens’ Initiative for the Accountability of Self-Government” kicked-off on October 2018 and targeted the municipalities of Baghdati and Zestafoni, located in the Imereti Region. The aim of the project was to ensure effective self-governance in those areas and to facilitate citizens’ involvement in the decision-making processes through systematic reporting and continuous dialogue between local authorities and the local population.



During the project, LDA Georgia signed a Memorandum of Understanding with both mayors, facilitated focus group interviews, and identified concrete citizens’ needs. LDA Georgia created the citizens’ initiative groups on the basis of the members of the focus groups, who have then been trained on “Planning and Implementation of CVA Advocacy.”

The project saw also the organization of two Citizens’ Forums, to increase the skills of municipality’s public servants, and citizens’ involvement in the budgeting process.

The project “Citizens’ Initiative for the Accountability of Self-Government,” represented the opportunity to conduct trainings for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) focused on participative budgeting and community mobilization.

The main results of the project were an increased quality of local self-government accountability and citizens’ involvement in public policy processes; an improved understanding and advocacy of CSOs target groups’ needs as well as a strengthened dialogue among all society’s components; the resolution of concrete problems, such as:

- Zestafoni municipality will give the priority to build the kindergardens in Sazano, Dzirula and Puti settlements for the 2020 budgeting period;
- Zestafoni municipality city hall will repair the drinking water reservoir in Kvaliti public school yard;
- Rehabilitation of the clinics in village Zovreti (Zestafoni) will be implemented in 2019 within the framework of the village support program;
- Zestafoni’s 2019 Local budget already includes rehabilitation of the village roads in Gantiadi and Zovreti;
- The railing of rehabilitated bridge will be setup within the framework of “Village Support Program” in Dzlourdaneti administrative district in 2019;
- In the village of Kldeeti, the water supply problem will be solved this year within the framework of “Village Support Program.” Drinking water will also be provided to the public school;
- Baghdati municipality has developed a “Youth Development Strategy”, the main task of which is the involvement of youth in the decision-making process at the local level;
- In Baghdati municipality important projects will be implemented for different vulnerable groups, such as the rehabilitation and support of persons with disabilities.



Promoting European integration and European values

Increasing Awareness about the Association Agreement with the European Union in Samegrelo-Upper Svaneti Region

The objective of the project “Increasing Awareness about the Association Agreement with the European Union in Samegrelo-Upper Svaneti Region” was to increase public awareness in the municipalities of the region on the Chapter 21 of the Georgia’s EU Association Agreement, which covers regional development, trans-border and regional cooperation. The project was funded by the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) as part of the project “Cooperation Platform within the Association Agreement between Georgia and Moldova and Ukraine.

To achieve the project’s objective, LDA Georgia performed the following activities:

Meetings with Local Self-Government representatives, Regional NGOs, Media, and Students, gathering a total of 184 participants in total, where the LDA Georgia presented and discussed the content of Chapter 21 as well as a draft law, with the contribution of experts

Public Meetings In addition to meetings with self-government representatives, LDA Georgia held 9 meetings, one per





municipality, to increase the awareness of the general public about EU Association Agreement's Chapter 21.

Other topics of discussion were the Regional Strategy 2014-2021, the importance of public participation in local governance, and a new regional development program.

Meetings with representatives of regional NGOs, media organizations and students to discuss about the Regional Strategy 2014-2021, the importance of public

participation in local governance, and a new regional development program.

Street Campaign 'Regional development means... !' - We set up a camera in every municipal center and asked passersbys to complete the sentence, "Regional development means...". Videos were posted on LDA Georgia Facebook and YouTube pages, and our website.

Poster Campaign – we printed posters reflecting projects that contribute to regional development, including the Association Agreement's Chapter 21, the regional development program of Georgia, the Imereti Region's development strategy, etc.

The project activities were actively covered by TV and radio programs and in newspapers. We also posted information on our own website. We prepared short videos targeted to deliver information to project beneficiaries, NGOs, regional and local government, and media representatives. In order to raise public awareness, we participated in six radio broadcasts. The key topics of the shows were:

- The vision and priorities for regional development of Imereti
- Social development of the region; regional economics and infrastructure; basic infrastructure and public service provision
- Basic needs for regional development of the Imereti Region.



Project "Assessing the Needs of Youth in the EaP (ANY EaP)"

The main goal of the project "Assessing the Needs of Youth in the EaP (ANY EaP)" was to promote good governance in EaP countries by engaging youth in public administrations, and to increase civic engagement among youth. To reach these goals, youngsters from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine joined a summer school on civic participation, mobilization and accountability, which took place in Kutaisi from July 19 to 25, 2019. During the summer school participants followed a detailed program, which included study visits to local and state government offices and NGOs in Georgia. They also worked on small project ideas to implement the knowledge gained during the summer school in their counties after their return home.

Among the various activities implemented, we underline the Google Needs Identification Questionnaire, a tool specifically designed and distributed by the project partner organizations in their countries to find out what are the needs of young people and what is the reason for their passivity.

The final activity was the organization of workshops by the summer school participants and project partner organizations, where other young people shared their knowledge and experience of the summer school.



The main outcome of the project has been achieved, through the analysis of the existing challenges and needs in Eastern Partnership countries, thus connecting young representatives of the four Eastern Partnership countries.

The project supported the exchange of experiences and best practices between countries and encourage the beginning of a joint practice.





JOURNEY - Joint organization to Unite Rural Networks of Entrepreneurial Youth

The project JOURNEY has been implementing by Kutaisi City Hall, the Regional Development Agency of Ukraine (Ukraine), the European Association for Local Democracy (France), Ganja Municipality (Azerbaijan), Forma Azione (Italy), and the Lodze Marshall Office (Poland), and financed by the Erasmus + programme.

The project aims to facilitate the exchange of good practices in the field of business start-up for youngsters and local stakeholders in rural areas between Ukraine, Georgia and Azerbaijan. This would support the development of entrepreneurial skills of Rural Youth, as a category having fewer chances for self-employment by taking advantage of the existing possibilities represented by agro-tourism, the cooperative movement, rural business, etc. The project targeted youth from Vinnytsia region (Ukraine), Ganja (Azerbaijan) and the Imereti region (Georgia).

The project aimed at enabling youth workers from Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Georgia to acquire mentoring skills, as well as knowledge, methods and tools to support rural youth and young entrepreneurs; to increase entrepreneurial awareness and create networks of professionals from rural areas for the exchange of knowledge and best practices; To start a dialogue between rural youth from the European Union and the Eastern Partnership.



Europe's Day

Local Democracy Agency Georgia has joined the event to celebrate Europe's Day, where the organization has presented its publications and special materials created for the occasion.

Guests had a chance to know better about many projects of the organization, to receive gifts and to share the common festive mood.



Promoting youth engagement

Project "Raising awareness and engagement of youth in Kutaisi"

Running from February to April 2019, the project "Raising Awareness and Engagement of Youth in Kutaisi" was implemented with 12 members of the organization's youth club.

The aim of the project was to study the needs of young people living in Kutaisi, to inform local stakeholders on the situation and to train local youth on ways to solve specific problems.

Among the main project activities, we underline the Youth Needs Survey, which was disseminated in Kutaisi, an electronic questionnaire, focus groups, trainings and a conference to present the project's documentation and results to stakeholders.



Youth Club

As part of its strategic views for 2019, LDA Georgia worked to improve its youth programming. Throughout the year, the LDA hosted regular meetings and events for its 20 youth club members. They participated in volunteer opportunities, trainings, Erasmus+ youth exchanges, the English language club, and various social campaigns. With the help of the training courses designed and facilitated by LDA Georgia's Peace Corps Volunteer Erin, youth club members strengthened their knowledge and skills in different fields such as leadership, project design and management, job search skills and social media.



ERASMUS + “Turn on the flash” Youth Exchange Program in Armenia

The youth club members of LDA Georgia participated in Erasmus+ funded project titled - “Turn on the Flash”. The youth exchange hosted participants from Spain, Italy, Germany, Lithuania, Georgia and Armenia, with the aim to raise the awareness among youth workers on environmental issues and improve their photography skills. During the 10-day exchange, participants gained the knowledge on how to become an eco-photographer, how to take good photos, how to edit and make more professional photos by using Lightroom and Photoshop. They also visited Mughdusyan art center, TUMO center for creative technology and Picsart. The project is organized by European Ways e.V DE with its Armenian partner “Yeghvard” Youth Ecological NGO.



ERASMUS + „Hate Speech Less“ Youth Exchange Project in Bulgaria

The youth club members of LDA Georgia participated in Erasmus+ funded project named - “Hate Speech Less”, held in city Bosko, Bulgaria. The project hosted participants from Spain, Croatia, Georgia, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Jordan and Turkey.

The aim was to raise awareness among youth about hate speech, racism, discrimination, equality, media propaganda and fake news.

During the 8-day exchange, participants learned about the possible causes arousing hate speech and effective ways to overcome it. They also were informed about the current situation in each country represented and discussed about the necessity of intercultural dialogue in order to ensure diversity in the peace building process.

The project, organized by the Association “Znanie”, was implemented following the principles of informal education, involving participants in simulation activities, interactive presentations and practical seminars.



Youth exchange project „Free speech as the bedrock of liberty “in Malta and Ukraine

“Free speech as the bedrock of liberty” is an Erasmus+ project attended by some of the youth club members of LDA Georgia, namely Darine Saldadze and Konstantine Japaridze. The exchange took place in the city of Marsa Shlokk, in Malta and involved participants from Georgia, Ukraine, Malta, Spain, Lithuania, Great Britain, Denmark, Moldova, Armenia and Turkey. The aim of the project was to increase the awareness among young people about hate speech, racism, discrimination, equality, human rights, through an informal education approach.

The second phase of the project took place in Kiev, Ukraine, on September 9-15, where participants deepened their knowledge of the topic and discussed the importance of freedom of expression and the scope of its possible restriction on the rights of others.



European volunteer program in France

LDA Georgia is an organization accredited to the European Volunteer Project.

Giorgi Gelovani, a volunteer from LDA Georgia, left to Bordeaux, France, in September 2018, and for 12 months, along with representatives of various European countries, was involved in a volunteer project organized by "MEBA-European House'- Ambassadors of European values". The main purpose of this experience was to raise awareness of European values among French students, adolescents and adults through non-formal education.

The volunteer sent by the organization conducted trainings, seminars, cultural-educational evenings, participated in public conferences, prepared radio reports, and actively cooperated with the local press.



ERASMUS + Alumni Network

In 2019, through an initiative by LDA Georgia, a network of alumni of Erasmus + (EVS / ESC, University Exchange Programs, etc.) programs was established in Kutaisi. The Erasmus Alumni Network is useful for both network members as well as local youth to improve their learning skills and abilities.

The alumni held public meetings, seminars and trainings to share their volunteer and professional experience with other youngsters.

The Erasmus + (EVS, University Exchange Programs, etc.) Alumni Network is constantly updated and open to everyone.



Other activities

Nino Khukhua, Executive Director of LDA Georgia, participated in the Leadership Forum in Kakheti. During the panel discussion, Nino talked about the funding mechanisms of local NGOs and community initiatives.

The Community Leadership Forum 2019 was held in Tsinandali on October 17-18, organized by the Center for Strategic Research and Development of Georgia.



The forum, which has been annually taking place since 2011, aims at promoting the activities of local organizations, building contacts between them, sharing successful experiences, providing information and discussion.

The Community Leadership Forum 2019 was supported by the United Nations Development Program for Gender Equality and the International organization Bread for the World.

Strasbourg Club Meeting

The LDA Georgia was involved in the annual meeting of the Strasbourg Club European Solidarity Network, from November 5-8 2019.

Strasbourg Club unites local authorities and organizations working in the field of local democracy development. Eighteen countries and 30 cities were represented, including delegates from a mix of EU and non-EU countries.

The meeting was organized within the Strasbourg World Forum for Democracy, which is held each year at the Council of Europe and is attended by hundreds of youth delegates, NGOs, and government representatives. This year the theme was the relationship between information and the quality of democratic debate.



Deliberative Democracy Exchange

LDA Georgia, participated in the 2019's edition of the "Deliberative Democracy Exchange" – DDEX 2019, organized by the Kettering Foundation in Dayton, Ohio.

The aim of the event was to bring together civil society organizations, local authorities, academicians and journalists coming from over 140 countries around the world. During this one-week gathering, participants shared experiences and knowledge around the complex and fascinating topic of deliberative democracy.

With colleagues, Nino Khukhua shared the experiences on the mechanisms of citizen engagement, good governance and the work of local governments in Georgia.



Black Sea NGO Forum

Local Democracy Agency Georgia, presented at the Black Sea NGO Forum 2019, in Istanbul, Turkey.

The 12th edition of the Forum aims to continue the discussions held last year in Brussels and highlight the progress made so far regarding the advancement of the Black Sea Synergy European Policy, such as the adoption of the Common Maritime Agenda and the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda, as well as the role of civil society organizations in the implementation process of these very important strategic documents, having in mind their contribution to building society resilience and sustainable development in the region.



The event is organized by the Romanian NGDO Platform – FOND (as coordinator of the Black Sea NGO Forum), with the financial support of the European Commission and in partnership with the Center for International and European Studies (CIES), Kadir Has University, Istanbul.

European Volunteer Corps (ESC) program



Under the framework of European Volunteer Corps (ESC) program, we have already selected young people who will go to France.

Giorgi Burjaliani and Marita Lagidze will travel to Bordeaux in September 2019, and during twelve months, together with representatives of various European countries, will be involved in a volunteering project named "The Ambassadors of Olympics Values" organized by the Maison De l'Europe Bordeaux-Aquitaine.

The main purpose of this volunteer project is to foster European values, to develop diversity and multicultural values among young people.

LDA Kosovo



Delegate: Linda Çavdarbasha
Established: 2011

Key partners

- 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

Project “Regional Youth Compact for Europe”

The project Regional Youth Compact for Europe aims to enhance the effective participation of civil society and youth organizations in the EU integration and accession negotiation process through capacity building, awareness raising and advocacy actions organized at local, national and regional level.

First Regional Thematic Network Forum and Annual Conference - Tirana, Albania

On the 26th of February in Tirana started the First Regional Thematic Network Forum and Annual Conference.

On the first day it was discussed about the European and Regional policies for youth cooperation and making the Eu integration Agenda more youth Friendly.

Panelists from different NGO’s and Governments from Kosovo, Albania, Serbia Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro shared their opinions about the involvement of young people in the EU integration process and the actual situation of each of these states in this process.



Training on Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights, Mostar Bosnia and Herzegovina

A two-day training was held in Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina from 25-26 March 2019, within the project Regional Youth Compact for Europe. The topic of the training was the Rule of Law and Fundamental Rights with a special focus on why it is important for young people and how young people can contribute to monitor reforms in these fields.



POLITEIA Summer School- Danilovgrad, Montenegro

On April 1st, 2019 in Danilovgrad, Montenegro officially started the POLITEIA regional school for youth, attended by 25 youngsters from the Western Balkans region and Turkey, who attended 5 days of lectures, workshops and interactive activities on different topics connected to the European Union. These activities offered youngsters the opportunity to understand the strategic approach to reforms, designing of action plans, methodology of planning, implementation and monitoring

Lecturers and moderators, experts from the region were integral part of the programme, tackling important aspects of European integration, as negotiating chapters, rule of law and human rights, employment and social cohesion, key challenges in reform processes.

POLITEIA regional school for youth is organised in the framework of the project "Regional Youth Compact for Europe" implemented by the Center for Democracy Foundation, European ALDA network and the ALDA – Western Balkans Network for Local Democracy, CRTA, Youth Act and Sodem. This project is funded by the European Union and the Balkan Trust for Democracy, a project of the German Marshall Fund of the United States.



Project Management Team

This activity was held in Knjazevac, Serbia from 10-12 September 2019 with the presence of 14 members, 12 co-applicants and one affiliated entity. The aim of the meeting was to present the results of the first year of the implementation of the project and to enhance its visibility. Presentation of best performances in social media and discussions were made between all members.



Training for the members of the network “Sharing experiences- Expanding the network’s thematic working program”

This year’s training was focused on practical tools for monitoring, evaluating and evidence-based advocacy actions related to public policies at the local level, linked to Chapters 19/23/24. In this training took part young people from the partner organizations and it was divided in different training sessions about: Methodology for monitoring and evaluating public policies / legal framework at local level (policies related to Ch 19/23/24), Evidence-based advocacy on local level (policies related to Ch 19/23/24), Local Budgeting and Youth Policy, advocacy. After each session, there was a practical part during which each country had to present the situation in its cities, every partner country had to do the analysis of the local legal framework existing in their communities in the field of social welfare. The training was organized in Knjazevac - Serbia.



Workshop for Regional Youth Working group

The workshop was held in Prishtina/Kosovo from 5-7 November 2019 and it was intended to deepen our common understanding of the accession negotiation process with a particular focus on the Chapter 19: Social Policy and Employment. The main topics of the training were labor market reforms, decent work standards and social cohesion, employment opportunities and regional mobility.

On the 5th of November the training started with a welcoming speech from the delegate of LDA Kosovo, followed by the first workshop, given by the expert in the World Bank Mr. Levent Koro who talked about the education system and labour market reforms in Western Balkan countries. The second training session was presented by Mr. Jovan Protic from International labour organization on decent work standards. On the second day, participants assisted to the training on social cohesion led by Mr. Ivan Sekulovic, from Center from Democracy Foundation and then a session about was Youth mobility and employment opportunities, by Ms. Elza Ramadani from GIZ.

In general, in all workshop trainings were present 20 participants. At the end from them it was required to give some recommendations for each workshop and it was made an evaluation form to see if the workshops met their expectations.





Regional Forum Youth Regional Compact for Europe

The Regional Forum was a starting event for the Network. It resulted from desk analysis and previous activities like the Western Balkans Politelia Summer School and Local Youth Workshops. The Forum was held in Prishtina, Kosovo at the EU information and cultural centre on the 7th of November. The morning session was focused on the launching of the Balkan Network for Local Democracy – BNLD, with the presence of media, other NGOs and possible collaborators from Kosovo. The launching event had 57 participants.

The second part of the activity was held in Termokiss with 43 participants and it was focused on the Youth Platform for Regional Cooperation, a statement prepared from the trainer of the workshop, which was a platform that gives young people the possibility to express their concerns and opinions based on the points presented on this statement. The participants were divided in two groups and worked on the problems presented in the statement. The idea was that at the end young people had to sign this statement as a confirmation that they agree with all the points marked on it.



Constitutive General Assembly of the Balkan Network for Local Democracy

On the 11th of June, 2019 in Skopje was held the Constitutive General Assembly of the Balkan Network for Local Democracy.

The Founder members have adopted the statute of the BNLD network and elected the President of the network Mr. Elbert Krasniqi and the executive director Ms. Ivana Petrovska.

The Balkan Network for Local Democracy is a non-profit association promoting active citizen participation, democratic governance principles, local development and co-operation between civil society organizations and local public authorities in the Western Balkan Region. BNLD originates from and represents a fundamental part of ALDA (Association of Local Democracy Agencies) - the European Association for Local Democracy and the Western Balkan Local Democracy Agencies.



Project “Youth n’ Hike”

“Youth n’ Hike” is a project supported by the Municipality of Peja, the Directorate for Culture, Youth and Sport with the aim of raising awareness among youth on environmental pollution and problems in the area of “Bjeshket e Nemuma” National Park. The 30 participants involved had the possibility to go through some hiking trails in Rugova Mountains, had a debate about environment protection, movie screening and visit the Radavc Cave. During the trip, it was recorded a video for the promotion of the walking trails and natural beauties that cover the city.





Project Activity “Workshop on Sustainable Development Goals”

On the 25th of September 2019, Associazione Trentino con i Balkani Onlus and Trentino con il Kosovo in cooperation with Local Democracy Agency of Kosovo organized a workshop on the “Sustainable Development Goals”- 2030 Agenda of the United Nations.

27 students from Gymnasium “Bedri Pejani” attended the workshop, and they were given a general explanation about the Agenda 2030 and each goal of the Agenda.

The students had the chance to work in groups on the three dimensions of the Agenda: sustainability, environment, society and economy.

This activity was financed by the Autonomous Province of Trento.



Summer school “BalkanAnimazione”

From 17-24 July in Peja, Kosovo was held BalkanAnimazione, a one-week summer school with youngsters and pupils, organized by Associazione Trentino con i Balkani Onlus and Trentino con il Kosovo in cooperation with Local Democracy Agency of Kosovo.

The focus of summer school was on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and especially the ones related with environmental protection.

Animators from Italy together with young people from Peja worked on the realization of a short-animated film, part of the Anibar International Animation Festival on the topic Hopes and Fears.

During the workshops “paper makers” and “turning plastic to fantastic” at the city park “Ibrahim Rugova”, children turned plastic into something useful by promoting the “reduce, reuse, recycle” rule. The project was financed by Autonomous Province of Trento.



Project “Monumental 9”

Monumental 9 is a nine-month project which will help creating preconditions for new tourism product development to increase youth employment and income-generating activities through engaging micro localities,

youth greeters and vloggers in Regional cooperation programme.

On the 6th of November, in Prishtina was held the first Team Meeting of the project. During the meeting, the project leader gave explanations about the project activities and implementation. This project is funded by the Regional Cooperation Council.



Project “European Towns - Enacting Common Values of Solidarity and Intercultural Dialogue -VALID”

The project VALID aims at building a strong network of towns, committed to intercultural exchange through promotion of cultural participation as a tool for improving social inclusion, active citizenship, intercultural dialogue as well as fostering solidarity and respect for cultural diversity. The Municipality of Peja is the beneficiary of the grant and LDA Kosovo is responsible for the coordination of the project.



The project's first activity took place through a Skype meeting with 12 partners coming from 10 countries, to discuss about the action plan, partner's responsibilities and other details related with the project implementation.

LDA Kosovo & the Local Youth Action Council of Peja

The LDA Kosovo is a member of the Local Youth Action Council and together with other youth NGOs worked on the activity plan for year 2020, with the objective to offer youngsters different opportunities to get involved and to spread the volunteering spirit and knowledge.



LDA Mariupol



Delegate: Tetiana Lomakina
Established: 2017

Key partners

- City of Gdańsk, Poland (Lead Partner)
- City of Mariupol, Ukraine (Host City)
- NGO Mariupol Development Fund
- NGO Mariupol Youth Union

Main objectives

- increase the level of interest, awareness and ability of citizens to participate in local decision-making process;
- give an opportunity for citizens to exercise their rights, to manage their lives through increasing their awareness about their subjectivity, choice and freedom of participation, acceptance of their common responsibility for the common good;
- involve citizens in programs of positive changes in the city;
- develop responsible attitude to personal lives, people around and the urban space;
- support programs of reforms at local levels;
- support young active people in the realization of their initiatives;
- promote the Sustainable Development Goals and ensure active steps to achieve these goals;
- support and assist the dialog process between civil society and local authorities.

The values of Local democracy agency Mariupol are unity, solidarity, mutual trust and opportunity for self-actualization, which became a platform for cooperation of communities, business structures and local authorities. The mission of the LDA in Mariupol is to create a platform for cooperation, facilitation of dialogue and mutual exchange between local communities of Mariupol and European partners aiming at facilitating the participation of civil society in decision-making process at the local level.

LDA Mariupol in the field

Empowering local authorities and civil society to deliver solutions with Participative Democracy

Timespan: 01.03.2019-30.11.2019

Donor: Konrad Adenauer Stiftung

The project "Empowering local authorities and civil society to deliver solutions with participative democracy" is funded by Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) and run from March until the 30th of November 2019.



Local authorities nowadays have the difficult role to deliver solutions for their communities with limited human and financial resources in a complex society facing economic and social challenges, environmental issues, radical changes on the labor market and economy. Together, local authorities and civil society can identify better solutions to improve their living due to implementation of simple and efficient tools and instruments. Participative processes make it possible to find better ways to address community problems and challenges.

The project is addressing Ukraine and Moldova where, thanks to the support of the local LDAs and their local and international partners, it empowers the capacities of local elected leaders and civil servants and civil society in implementing participative processes. Together they will be able to identify particular problems of the community that will be solved using a participative approach.

The project, therefore, builds capacities and solves problems, by consolidating the approach in the years to come. By sharing the processes with international partners and supporting the LDAs, the impact of the work will emphasize the decentralized cooperative approach as a means to promote local development on solid and sustainable and fair basis, because of a multi-stakeholder approach and aiming at implementing the global Sustainable Development Goals at the local level.

To reach the targeted goals, an initial research was carried out to identify to which extent Mariupol (Ukraine) achieves a certain standard of governance according to the 12 Principles of Innovation and Good Democratic Governance, defined by the Council of Europe.

Establishing synergies between local authorities and civil society groups made it possible to identify more sustainable, equitable and comprehensive solutions at the local level. IN order to do so, various activities were organized. Firstly, a set of trainings led by ALDA Secretary General Antonella Valmorbidia, involving representatives of Mariupol City Council and civil society leaders, in September 2019. Then, working groups, and dialogue meetings took place with senior citizens of Mariupol, within the framework of the micro-project "Organization of access of elderly people to social services". Thus, the problem of queues to local administrations of the Pension Fund of Ukraine (PFU) was identified, due to a





reorganization which led to the merging of district units and the reduction of staff. As a result, there are only 2 representative offices serving more than over 200.000 residents of the city. During the consultative meeting with the participation of active residents of the city, representatives of the Committees of self-organization of the population (OSP), leaders of condominium associations, possible solutions were identified and a structured plan of action and coordination was developed. Thus, OSPs and city councils were equipped with the necessary computer facilities at the expense of the city budget.

As a result of the project, the citizens of Mariupol can receive retirement services in the premises of the OSP, which are located near their place of residence. The person no longer needs to spend time and money on commuting to the service premise. The new forms of work that have been worked out will continue to be applied, so the Pension Fund is preparing to open full- fledged representative points on a permanent basis.

With the participation of the elderly, a series of pilots were conducted in different parts of the city, feedback and customer recommendations were worked out. As a result of the project, the citizens of Mariupol can receive retirement services in the premises of the OSP, which are located near their place of residence. The person no longer needs to spend time and money on commuting to the service premise. The new forms of work that have been worked out will continue to be applied, so the Pension Fund is preparing to open full-fledged representative points on a permanent basis.

In the framework of the micro-project "Action to increase the attractiveness of the city for young people", the working group aimed to identify, via the dialogue with young residents of Mariupol, the main reasons leading to migration of young people, to analyze possible ways to increase the attractiveness of the city. A survey was elaborated and disseminated, whose results have been discussed in 2 focus groups. From the discussion emerged that there was no single youth employment support system in Mariupol at that moment, that City schools and colleges did not have enough assistance to help students after graduation, did not develop contacts with local businesses and employers, that no work had been done to promote education and employment in Mariupol. As a result, the working group concluded that it was necessary to create a city map indicating the potential locations of youth centres, which could be exploited as a place for training or for potential employers, advocacy of the functioning of the youth centres network in the city, with the support of deputies of the city council and the format of work of the youth body at the city council by creating a new structure - the Youth Coordination Centre. The project resulted in particular proposals for the municipality to improve the migration attitudes of young residents of Mariupol.





Youth4Democracy

The project Youth4Democracy is running in partnership with the Donetsk State University of Management and it was active from March to July 2019.

The Youth4Democracy training program included a series of trainings and internships at the Local Democracy Agency for Students from Mariupol. The brightest students had the opportunity to learn how to implement social projects, gain experience with European partners, communicate online with ALDA members, become a participant in the change in the area of participatory democracy with the involvement of members of the public and local authorities, and practice business English.



All this, in order to strengthen the potential of students of higher educational institutions of Mariupol and prepare them to enter the labour market.

20 candidates were invited to participate in the 12-day Youth4Democracy course. Based on the results, participants who successfully completed the training received a certificate of completion, and three of them were offered an internship at the LDA Mariupol.

The Youth4Democracy programme included, among others, a training on the principles of dialogue in the community, according to the European standards in the promotion of human rights; a training on project management applied to the field of local democracy and the implementation of their social micro-projects.





IMPULSE – Innovative modern practices upgrading language specialist education

The project IMPULSE, funded by the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine and implemented in partnership with Mariupol City Council, Donetsk State University of Management, Mariupol City Lyceum, Mariupol Youth Union and the LDA Mariupol, started in September 2019 and will run until the end of June 2020.

The project has the objective to promote English language teaching in the schools of Mariupol through practical trainings for young teachers, creating programs to engage students in the English learning process, and developing videos on how to make school lessons fun and effective.

From October to December 2019, within the project, a series of training courses for 20 English teachers from Mariupol were held to develop teaching methods, disseminate best practices and support their social initiatives.

The trainings within the IMPULSE project were developed in accordance with the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) system of the British Council, a methodology designed for all teachers allowing to understand and plan their own professional development.

General secondary school teachers will be able to use the obtained skills and knowledge in their classes to meet the goals of the New Ukrainian School program. Participants will also share this information with their colleagues through a series of online trainings, videos, and presentations of best practices.





Youth-Friendly Mariupol

The project Youth-Friendly Mariupol, funded by the European Union and implemented in partnership with the Thomson Media Foundation, LDA Mariupol, Mariupol City Council, started in August 2019 and will run until the end of January 2020.

According to the Regional Statistics Department, more than 100 thousand young people aged 18-35 years reside in Mariupol. After the relocation of several universities from the temporarily occupied territory, Mariupol became a large student city. Now at the higher educational institutions of the city, about 15.000 students are receiving their education. However, currently, the level of participation of Mariupol youth in shaping the picture of the future city, in the processes of finding solutions to local problems and resolving conflicts at the local level remains extremely low. The feedback mechanisms that were piloted by local authorities in past years, in particular, the "Youth Parliament", showed their insufficiency due to bureaucracy and an ineffective representation system. Thus, the Mariupol community needs new innovative solutions that would facilitate the establishment of interaction between youth and local authorities, the involvement of young people, and the solution of latent civil conflicts.

In light of this, the project wants to contribute to the transformation of the youth policy of Mariupol towards a greater inclusiveness, focusing on dialogue, responsibility through the involvement of young people in the processes of developing strategic solutions at the local level.

Within this framework, a selection of 25 active participants was organized among Mariupol students, who had two blocks of trainings within the scope of the Summer School of Youth Activists (a total of 10 training days).

After the training, a survey was disseminated among youth representatives regarding their vision of youth policy in Mariupol. After analyzing the results, the young activists took part in a series of dialogue meetings with representatives of the municipality dealing with youth policy issues, as well as representatives of the deputy corps. The meetings discussed issues such as the willingness of local governments and other interested parties to make strategic decisions based on youth proposals; mechanisms of participation; the current level of student confidence in local governments.

The project ended with the NETAKSAMO, a Youth Forum devoted to an in-depth analysis of the problems faced by the youth of Mariupol, attended by over 120 young people. Representatives of local governments and specialists of international organizations, including International Alert, UNDP, Danish Refugee Council, UNICEF, facilitated and participated in the discussion. The Forum's achievements were systematized and analyzed; on their basis a document with recommendations was compiled, which was introduced to the municipality of Mariupol.

LDA Mariupol was invited to the project as an expert on participative democracy and advised young activists on the tools and formats for such participation, approaches to dialogue with local authorities.

Results:

1. 25 representatives of the student community have become a team that has the skills to analyze problems, build dialogue and use advocacy tools in order to become providers of positive changes in the youth policy of Mariupol.
2. At least 250 representatives of the student community joined in identifying the priority problems faced by youth and developing recommendations to address them. 70% of them believe that the voiced proposals will be heard and used to make strategic decisions for the community - taking into account cultural characteristics, gender sensitivity and sensitivity to conflicts. As a result of close cooperation, a set of recommendations was prepared on improving the youth policy of Mariupol.
3. In the course of dialogue processes with the local authorities, recommendations for the youth policy program of Mariupol were considered by the responsible representatives of the municipality, the deputy corps and the public in order to ensure inclusiveness in the subsequent strategic decisions.



International Cooperation

Since 2017, LDA Mariupol along with the local City Council has been developing a close and fruitful cooperation with the Municipality of Gdansk. There are significant similarities between the two cities, like the number of inhabitants, both are close to the sea,... Mariupol is learning from the experience of Gdansk in developing local democracy and building trust between citizens and local authorities and attempts to implement these best practices in Ukraine. In November 2019 a group of local government officials from Mariupol visited Gdansk and had a productive meeting with the mayor Aleksandra Dulkiewicz.

Gdansk actively supports the "Port of Cultures" project in Mariupol, the aim of the project being the creation in Mariupol a multifunctional cultural center with a modern narrative exposure of local identity. With the help of its public and educational programs, the center will tell residents and visitors of the city about Mariupol's cultural phenomenon and historical layers. Scientific research in the history of the city will contribute to the discovery, development and popularization of cultural and historical values of Mariupol and the Sea of Azov.

Gdansk and Mariupol are also cooperating in developing joint projects to apply for funding from international institutions. One of such projects that is dedicated to the implementation of the digital tickets system in public transport has been drafted by the working group during 2019.



Other Activities during 2019

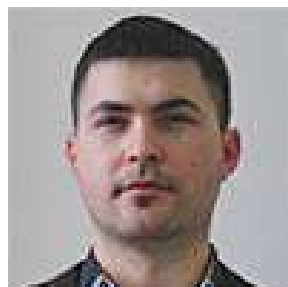
- Development of an informative publication about LDA Mariupol (February-April 2019)
- Participation in the ALDA General Assembly (Caen, France, 16-17.05.2019)
- Presentation of LDA Mariupol and ALDA during the Day of Europe in Mariupol (18.05.2019)
- Presentation of LDA Mariupol and ALDA during the Local Development Forum, organized by USAID and Mariupol City Council (Mariupol, 28.05.2019)
- Participation in the Ukrainian Women's Congress in Mariupol, initiated by the inter-fractional parliamentary association of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine "Equal opportunities" organized by NGO «Ukrainian Women's Congress» (Mariupol, 7.06.2019)
- LDA Mariupol intern Dasha Rudenko took part in Young Leaders meeting for Peace during the Normandy World Peace Forum 2019 (Caen, France, 4-5.06.2019)
- Participation in Black Sea NGO Forum (Istanbul, Turkey, 23-25.10.2019)
- Participation of Mariupol as one of the first 2 cities in Ukraine assessed in accordance with the ELoGE Benchmarking during Conference on the 12 Principles of Good Democratic Governance (Strasbourg, France, 28.10.2019)



- Arrangement of the participation of the Mayor of Mariupol Vadim Boichenko in the Eastern Partnership debate during 25th meeting of the Commission for Citizenship, Governance, Institutional and External Affairs (CIVEX) that is a part of the European Committee of the Regions (Brussels, Belgium, 14.11.2019).



LDA Moldova



Delegate: Nicolae Hristov
Established: 2017

Key partners

- 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

AGREED - ACTIVATING GOVERNANCE REFORM FOR ENHANCING DEVELOPMENT

The project aims at strengthening the capacity of Moldovan local authorities to perform a transparent and participatory governance in their communities, with a specific reference to the policy making process related to the upcoming decentralization reform.

The main objectives are:

- Strengthening the capacities of Moldovan local authorities to perform a transparent and participatory governance in their communities;
- Implementing a policy making process related to the upcoming decentralization reform;
- Building capacities of Local Authorities (LAs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to plan and implement their activities in close cooperation with local communities, and other stakeholders involving them into planning and implementation;
- Strengthening capacity to respond to challenges;
- Promoting a multi-level governance dialogue between the national government and the local authorities;
- Implementation of participatory and multi-stakeholder's local governance initiatives;
- Strengthening LAs' willingness to involve local communities in the decision-making process, at the local level.

The main expected results are:

- Analysis on the current state of art of the decentralization reform;
- LA's and CSO's representatives are trained (8 2-day trainings provided);
- Consultations in all 35 administrative units (32 districts, 2 municipalities and Gagauzian region), thus ensuring a truly national and inclusive dialogue on the planned reform;
- Re-granting scheme implemented (at least 20 small grants awarded);
- National policy dialogue established on the Local Public Authorities Reform.



EMPOWERING LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND CIVIL SOCIETY TO DELIVER SOLUTIONS WITH PARTICIPATIVE DEMOCRACY

The project, thanks to the financial support of Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, is addressing Ukraine and Moldova, to 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. By sharing the processes with international partners, supporting the Agencies, the impact of the work will emphasize the decentralized cooperation approach as a mean to promote local development on solid and sustainable and fair basis, thanks to a multi stakeholder approach and aiming at implementing the global Sustainable Development Goals at the local level.



Through the assessment of local governance using the Eloge programme, a set of training for local authorities and civil society in participative democracy, followed by the implementation of coaching for a participative process for local problems and a final event, a wide list of goal was achieved.

Thus, the project not only solved concrete local problems, but it also contributed to the development of local economy, solved the issue of security and integration in certain neighborhoods,

created a solid link between local authorities and civil society and between local communities in Ukraine and Moldova and the European partners, following the lines of the decentralized cooperation.



TRANSPARENT BUDGETS AND ACTIVE CITIZENS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



The project, implemented between 2018 and 2019, is funded by the Dutch Embassy in Bucharest within the MATRA program and Expert-Grup.

The project aims to increase among the population and local civil society, the level of understanding, awareness and monitoring of the budget, the cycles and the budget documents, and empower the inhabitants to assume a more active role in the consultations and the supervision of the local budgets.

Its main objectives are:

- Creating the framework for involving citizens.
- Motivate local public administration to increase transparency and budgetary openness.
- Enabling local change agents.
- Increase the level of understanding of budget documents.
- Increase the level of participation in the budget process.
- Dissemination of information on budget documents.



Participation in the 12th edition of the Black Sea NGO Forum

Consolidating the Black Sea NGO Community for Sustainable Development, 23rd – 25th of October 2019, Istanbul, Turkey.



LDA Montenegro



Delegate: Kerim Medjedovic
Established: 2001

Key partners

- Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region, Italy (Lead partner)
- Municipality of Niksic, Montenegro (Host city)
- Municipality of Kotor, Montenegro
- Municipality of Rozaje, Montenegro
- Union of Municipalities of Montenegro
- Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Montenegro
- Association Betton-Montenegro, France
- City of Neuchatel, Switzerland

Main objectives

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

The Local Democracy Agency in Niksic 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

Regional Youth Compact for Europe

The project Regional Youth Compact for Europe, funded by the Programme “Consolidating Regional Thematic Networks of Civil Society Organisations” of the European Union, is led by the Centre for Democracy Foundation (Serbia), in partnership with the Local Democracy Agencies of Peja (Kosovo), Subotica and Knjazevac (Serbia), Mostar, Prijedor and Zavidovici (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Vlora (Albania), ALDA (France), ALDA Skopje (North Macedonia), CRTA Belgrade (Serbia), Youth Act Albania and SODEM Turkey.

The project started in April 2018 and will end in April 2021. As the logical sequel of the 4-year “Balkan regional platform for youth participation and dialogue”, the project responds to the need to strengthen capacities of CSOs and encourage youth participation in policy creation and in monitoring the process of EU integration in the Western Balkans. Special focus is on the rule of law, fundamental rights (Chapter 23 and 24) and economic and social issues where employment is priority concern for citizens (Chapter 19).

Multi-stakeholder platform for Youth Employment “Local monitoring of reforms - best practice becomes our practice”

The LDA Montenegro organized a dialogue platform to discuss about social policies and negotiation (Chapter 19) through youth perspective focusing on Youth Employment, gathering 30 stakeholders among them 20 young people.

On this occasion young people got first-hand information on programs that state and local institution develop for the youth employment, while institutions were surprised by the high level of interest and involvement witnessed by the participants.



“POLITEIA” Summer School April 2019



LDA Montenegro organized the POLITEIA Summer School, which took place in Danilovgrad, Montenegro. The LDA managed to involve media and representatives from Governmental and European Integration institutions.

Workshop on EU Chapters 19, 23 and 24 & Youth taking over day

On December 6th, 2019 the LDA Montenegro gathered 16 high- school students in order to inform and give them basic knowledge on participatory mechanisms at local level and on the EU negotiation process especially referring to Chapters 19- Social Policies 23 - Judiciary and Rule of Law 24 - Justice, Freedom and Security. Further that day the students visited relevant local institutions: Youth Secretariat, Spatial

Planning and Sustainable Development Office, Addiction Prevention Office, Information and Career Counselling Centre, City Library in order to implement insights they gained during the workshop and to take active part in reforms processes related to EU accession.

Local Activity Plan for Youth 2019-2021: Participation and Public Hearing Added Value



The group of Info-Point volunteers participated in public hearing on Local Activity Plan for Youth 2020- 2021 giving relevant inputs and shedding light on youth's needs in local community. Focus groups with Municipality's Youth Office representatives preceded this event and our staff and volunteers took part discussing different topics from participation, health, employment, education to leisure and free time.



The Project is funded
by the European Union



CO.CO TOUR – Safeguarding, enhancing and promoting the natural and cultural heritage of Coastal Communities by boosting the eco- museum model aiming at smart and sustainable TOURism management

The Co.Co Tour project (April 2018 - April 2020) funded by the INTERREG IPA II CBC Italy-Albania-Montenegro 2014-2020 Programme of the European Union, is led by the Albanian Development Fund, in partnership with the Municipality of Herceg Novi, Montenegro, Municipality of Tricase and Magna Gracia Mare from Italy and Himara Municipality and National Agency of Protected Areas NAPA - Albania.



It aims to a smart, inclusive and sustainable growth of the coastal communities in the targeted areas through the development of a cross-border model of cooperation based on heritage enhancing and tourism innovations. Starting from the example experience of Tricase Port Museum (IT), the project creates two new eco-museum realities in Albania and Montenegro. The project will activate a tourism package for each territory by improving organizational and promotional capacity, activating public and dynamic eco-museums centers, improving accessibility of spaces and services by upgrading structures, developing web and ICT devices join with graphic and narrative tools in order to increase attractiveness and tourism competitiveness.

The LDA Montenegro is in charge of developing a community and eco-museum model in Herzeg Novi and of creating good narrative for the tourism packages around the only Balkans' Nobel Prize Laureate for literature, Ivo Andrić's house and his life in this city. This model includes accessibility principles. Among the foreseen activities we mention the development of a cross-border eco museum model, the development of diversified and accessible tourism products, the strengthening of ICT tools and a small-scale infrastructural investments.

Project meetings

LDA MNE participated and contributed to Kick-off (bis) meeting, three Consortium Meetings, one Steering Committee and hosted Mid-term review meeting. LDA MNE organized successful 3rd Consortium Meeting and 1st Steering Committee in Herzeg Novi on 31st July and 1st August 2019. Monitoring visit by the Office for EU Integration was hasten in the premises of LDA and on 19th December we organized the Mid-term review in Podgorica.

Warm stories and community research

LDA MNE team members researched community of Herceg Novi in order to get to know the only Yugoslavian Nobel prize winner's life in this community, interviewing his over 90 years old contemporaries and friends from way back during the 60's when the late writer lived in this splendid city. The team also had several meetings with different local CSOs in order to encourage them to get involved in the community tourism model.

Accessibility capacities development

Project partners conducted a research on the accessibility of touristic products and on the offer through a wider perspective, having in mind not only persons with permanent disabilities, but a wide range of tourists presenting cultural and linguistic differences, temporary disabled persons, parents with baby- trolleys, etc. The purpose was not only to take a snapshot of the existing situation but also to create synergies and identify stakeholders to work with in the following period for developing an comprehensive approach that would make the touristic offer closer to a wider range of modern travelers.



This project is co-financed by the European Union under the Instrument for Pre - Accession Assistance (IPA III)

CLINK- Cultural Heritage Linking Diversities in Europe



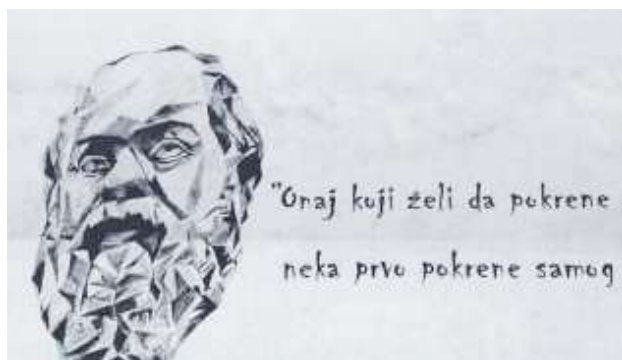
The CLINK project is led by the LDA Mostar and implemented in partnership with Omma Studio (Greece); Local Democracy Agencies Subotica and Knjazevac (Serbia); LDA Zavidovići and Prijedor (Bosnia and Herzegovina); LDA Sisak (Croatia); LDA Albania and ALDA (France).

It is funded by the Europe for Citizens programme of the European Union and it has been running from January 2019 to June 2020.

Its main objective is to raise interest in cultural heritage, raise awareness of EU policies on cultural heritage and initiate processes for its promotion, protection and sustainable use for socio- economic development of societies, as well as to stimulate sense of belonging to a common European space.

Activities: Pop up galleries - to showcase young artists inspired by cultural heritage; Community forum, connecting youth and cultural actors - to boost participatory approach to preservation and promotion of cultural heritage.





Above: Faculty of Philosophy Niksic – Socrates

Right: Institute of Black Metallurgy - Poet Vito Nikolic



Pop up galleries in Niksic

POP UP 1 two murals

With the participation of different stakeholders, two murals were produced in Niksic, the first one in cooperation with the Faculty of Philosophy, showcasing Socrates with a special message to the students. The second one captures the most appreciated poet from Niksic, realised by an academic painter, in cooperation with the Institute of Black Metallurgy. The Institute provided ateliers spaces for more than 30 local artists. The mural and the public disclosure event were manner followed by the public exhibition of the works of artist hosted and a poetry night engaging several local institutions and more than 50 artists.

POP UP 2 Art colony (colonies)

Art colonies were motivated by two historically significant bridges and lapidarium/collection of Stecci. Two high-schools were involved under supervision of the art professor Marija Lazarevic and the local museum curator Miso Milatovic. Students had amazing time painting the motives.



POP UP 3 Urban history tour

In cooperation with a collector of old Niksic photos and postcards, urban action were held to inform and remind citizens on old urban features that no longer have their original function, through the use of plaques, promoted by LDA Volunteer service members. Five info points were chosen: old hotel Europe, Public bath, First elementary school, existing famous gathering place Hotel Onogost terrace, Girls's Instutute and Charity organization "Kosovka djevojka". More than 100 citizens were informed on the spot of the historic values of these localities.



Moreover, one elementary school contributed to the local cultural heritage promotion by making a short video titled "Niksic through history" with their own view and what is important to them as representatives of their city. They also made local heritage leaflet for their peers in Rozaje. Short video link: <https://youtu.be/5EeFKLOk3Lc>

Community forum and exhibition

The local activities foreseen by the project ended with the community forum "Niksic – city of culture – European city, Promotion and protection of cultural heritage". This round table gathered local stakeholders, participants of pop up galleries and public with the conclusion that Niksic indeed has many cultural, historical and natural jewels that need firstly protection, then proper promotion and valorization.



IMPACT - Inclusion matters: Using performance art towards Cohesion and Tolerance

The project IMPACT is led by Videnscentar for integration VIFIN, Vejle (Denmark) and implemented in partnership with the LDA Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Urban Development Centar (Serbia), Društvo za razvijanje prostovoljnoga dela (Slovenia), Theatre La Piccionaiia (Italy), Coalition of Youth Organizations SEGA (North Maceconia).

Funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union, it started on March 2019 and will be active until May 2021.

Its main objective is the development of the NEW methodology for inclusion through arts for vulnerable groups, migrants and refugees, to be achieved through trainings of trainers and artists, local workshops, development of the methodology, local and international promotional events.

Training of trainers in Vicenza - Local Workshops

Artist and Local Democracy Agency Montenegro team members organized 3 art workshops with sensitive group of refugees and migrants in an NGO - Shelter for victims of domestic violence in Pljevlja that changed its purpose for center for reception of refugees and in state facility Centre for Asylum Seekers in Spuz. The methodology was developed and realized together with the team of professional artists and educator who already work with difficult groups: Milena Krivokapic, Mirko Dragovic, Milosav Milatovic and Kenan Delic, with the participation of LDA staff, volunteers and local people. They managed to pull out the



refugees from everyday grey mood of uncertainty waiting to cross over the borders by offering them the activity that is so common for everyday lives. The participants felt appreciated, relaxed and happy to get involved. Workshops gave back faith in humanity for all participants including the LDA volunteers in the third workshop.

"We feel happy because you have come and we did something good together"
- Riden, Nepal

Local crafts fair /added value

Thanks to the Impact project activities, on 30th and 31st of August LDA MNE facilitated Iranian girl Sahar and her boyfriend Said participation in handcraft fair – on the margins of the Street Art Performance festival in Nikšić together with local handcraft association presenting her culture through aesthetics of her jewellery and interacting with locals. They presented their hand made jewellery presenting at the same time their culture.



Erasmus+



CHECK, CHOOSE, ANALYZE! Campaign for promotion of media and information literacy

The project, active from July 2019 to March 2020, is led by the LDA Montenegro, in partnership with the Media Institute of Montenegro through Media for Citizens-Citizens for Media regional Program and funded by the European Union.

Its main objective is the promotion of media and information literacy using innovative tools and arts, through the development of online tools: workshops of creating video game and GIFs, Info-sessions in high schools, creation of short video on partial reporting dangers and public performance.

Online quiz game, GIFs, Hip Hop song

A group of 11 high/school students learned about media ads information literacy, internet security, fake news and click-baits during the workshop "Check, chose, analyze!". The workshop resulted with online game compiling interesting quiz question related to local and national news that came as a click baits or fake- news.

Another result and added value to the project is hip hop song created by students refereeing to fake news and calling up to the listeners to double check and thing of the values standing behind certain news. It will be used in the following planed public performance. The one can hear it at the end of the game during credits.



Video game quiz:

<https://scratch.mit.edu/projects/337344468/>

Acceleration of Info Point activities

This project accelerated Info Point dynamics, since volunteers gathered around it and kept coming to regular meetings, creating new GIFs and videos related to its subject.



The Project is funded by the European Union



MONUMENTAL 9 - Help create preconditions for new tourism product development to increase youth employment and income generating activities through engaging micro-localities, youth greeters and vloggers in regional co-operation programme.

Led by the LDA Montenegro, Monumental 9 is implemented in partnership with the LDAs Knjazevac, Subotica, Mostar, Kosovo, Prijedor, Zavidovici, ALDA Skopje Northern Macedonia and the Balkan Network for Local Democracy.

Funded by the Regional Cooperation Council through Tourism Development Programme of the European Union, it started on 24 October 2019 and will end on 24, July 2020.

The project's objective is to develop preconditions to increase youth employment and income generating activities through engaging micro-localities, youth greeters and vloggers in regional co-operation program.

In so doing, all partners will work for the development of regional tourism packages related to 9 WW II monuments and their localities by strengthening young people to become greeters and vloggers thus unlock their potentials to generate incomes, as well as for the development of the touristic online platform Monumental 9, highlighting the peculiarities of each location.



Regional Cooperation Council

Provided by the RCC Tourism Development and Promotion Project's Grant Programme

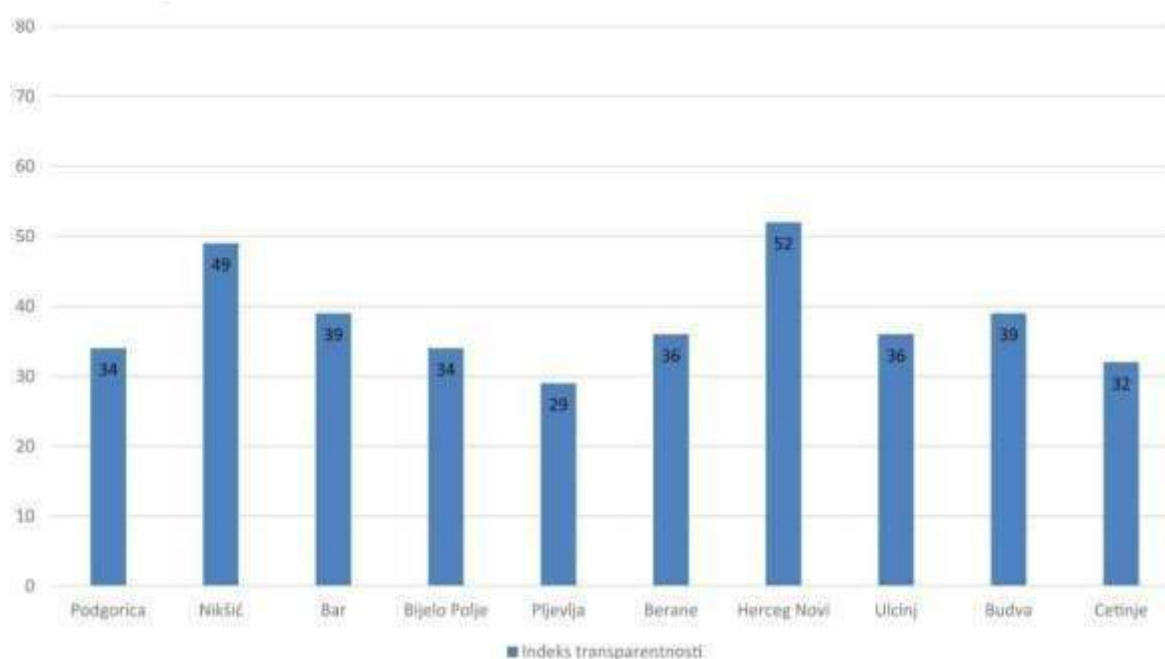


The Project is funded by the European Union



Balkan Network for Local Democracy

Transparency index of local self-governments



The Local Democracy Agency Montenegro, supported by the Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia, Government of Montenegro –Employment Bureau and Ministry of Economy, implemented this project to analyse the transparency of Local Authorities and thus encouraging citizens participation in decision making, confidence building and better service provision for citizens.

The project started in July 2019 and will end in March 2020. As main activity, it foresees a research among 15 Montenegrin municipalities with the TI methodology applied.

The level of responsiveness and the interest in the topic in general by LA representatives and the benefits it brings was significant and gave the researchers team a great deal of optimism and confidence.

LDA Montenegro conducted **the research for second consecutive year** measuring the transparency index of local self-governments. First year covered 10 municipalities, while during the second year the research was extended to total of 15 municipalities using methodology developed by the Council of Europe. LDA MNE plans to bring this research to the regional level and broaden it by implementing ELoGE - European Label of Governance' Excellence methodology.

INFO POINT FOR YOUTH

The project Info Point for Youth was implemented by the LDA Montenegro, with the support of the Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia and the Government of Montenegro – Employment Bureau and Ministry of Economy.

Information services for youth

Young people in Nicksic developed a habit to come to Info point and seek for the information relevant for their education, possibilities for community engagements., volunteering, education studying abroad, EU accession, employment, cultural happenings (in Nicksic and in the region) – and it is working!



Voluntary service



All services are provided by the youth, with the support and supervision of LDA Staff. The Info Point has a pull of over 50 volunteers created in years of activities cooperation with schools, universities and other local institutions and through the opportunities given by ALDA, BNLD and other partners' network in the Balkans and in Europe. Together with the municipality of Nikšic, a strategy for voluntary service has been developed and implemented, bringing to the creation of the Centre for Youth of Nicksic, upon the initiative of the local LDA, which is about to obtain the ESC Quality Label for hosting and coordinating volunteer exchange.

Employment/entrepreneurship

The Info Point is constantly offering information and training for youth interested in stepping into the area of work and entrepreneurship. Since 2004, a program for professional orientation of graduates in cooperation with the Employment Bureau of the Government of Montenegro is being implemented.

A new program has been inaugurated, the Youth Employment Incentive Program, with the Municipality of Nikšic, through which 33 candidates applied for 3 positions within the LDA and 2 were accepted to join the team for 12 months. At the end of this year, it was announced that the LDA Montenegro has become a beneficiary of the European Youth Entrepreneur program for the next three years.



International Youth Day – Youth Megaphone



Through the Info Point every year we enquire about youth's needs and problems taking advantage of the International Youth Day, a public event organized on 12 August. In 2019 the main topic was youths' satisfaction and the four youth life dimensions on local level: Education, Sport, Culture and participation in the decision-making processes. The goal of this action is to draw attention of the local institutions addressing youth and their needs.





LDA Mostar



Delegate: Dženana Dedić
Established: 2004

Key partners

- 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 co-operation 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

INCOME - Innovating CO-working Methods through Exchange

The project INCOME, funded by the ERASMUS+ programme of the EU, is lead by Stiftelsen Fargfabriken, Stockholm (Sweden), in partnership with Clube Intercultural Europeu, Lisbon (Portugal); Consorzio ARCA (Italy); Development Centre Novo Mesto, Novo Mesto (Slovenia); European Association for Local Democracy – ALDA, Strasbourg (France); LDA Mostar, Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina); Megahub, Schio (Italy); Municipality of Larissa, Larissa (Greece).



The project, running from the beginning of March 2017 until the end of February 2019, targets people who coordinating co-working spaces in the countries involved, in order to improve their practices, skills and capacities for the good management of those spaces. They will act as multipliers, sharing the lessons learnt with their peers and colleagues. The project also wants to raise awareness on methods for supporting youth entrepreneurship and employability among a wider audience, addressing namely youth associations, business organizations, culture organizations and public authorities. Putting together different co-working spaces from all over Europe while also discussing and investigating the concept of co-working in itself, the project wants to raise a discussion on the alternative ways of promoting youth employment and empowerment. Different examples will serve for defining the concept of co-working, looking at comparative perspective on the practices existing in different countries, analysing their strengths, weaknesses and opportunities.

The INCOME-project, acting at the intersection of culture and economy through the co-working space format, will perhaps become one way to answer these questions and to find new opportunities within the concept co-working spaces. With an eclectic mix of members from around Europe, it is an opportunity to explore new ways of how to achieve greater job sustainability and opportunities across traditional formats, borders and methods. But in order to get there a crucial starting point is of course a critical overview of where and why we are in this situation, including an analysis of how we talk about these issues and what our conceptual understanding is.

Activities in 2019

Considering that all the INCOME project activities have been completed by the end of 2018, the only thing left in 2019 was the completion of the **project's final publication** "[Exploring collaboration experiences and innovative work spaces in Europe](#)". The publication gathering the outcomes of the project, reports on how coworking can have an impact on local contexts, drawing from the experiences of each participating partner. In particular, the focus was set on youth, to understand if coworking could be a valuable tool to fill the gap between school and the job market. The other highlighted aspect is sustainability, both in terms of economy and structure.





Snapshot from the Borders – Small towns facing the global challenges of Agenda 2030

Snapshot from the borders is a project led by the municipality of Lampedusa and Linosa and implemented with other 29 international partners and 8 affiliated partners. The project, started in October 2017 and funded by the European Union aims to improve the critical understanding of European, national and local decision makers and of public opinion about global interdependencies determining migration flows towards European borders, in the perspective of reaching SDGs targets, especially SDG 1, 5, 10 11 and 16. Specifically, the project intends to strengthen a new horizontal, active network among cities directly facing migration flows at EU borders, as a way to promote more effective policy coherence at all levels (European, national, local).



Thus, the project will contribute to a new European narrative which re-localizes the development discourse in the Mediterranean and at other European borders: this includes a shift towards a more coherent human rights-based approach to migration and development; new territorial policies aimed at creating decent work, sustainable production and consumption patterns; transnational and decentralized cooperation fostering strong linkages among communities; and migrants as a new human development actors participating actively in local communities at the social, economic and political levels.

The LDA Mostar is the only non-EU partner of the project thus is not allowed to implement any local activities within except if those activities are of exceptional importance for the Union. However, as the project partner is obligated to share experiences, the LDA Mostar participates in the project international events and disseminate project activities and outputs.

Activities in 2019

In regards to position within this project and in line with its budget line, LDA Mostar was asked by the lead applicant to implement some local activities which were the crucial element missing to fulfil the higher project agenda.

Accordingly, from April to Jun 2019, LDA Mostar conducted the **local investigation and created the report on migrations on the Bosnia and Herzegovina territory** which was later enlisted as an integral part of the publication "[Global report of the participative investigation on migration in 20 border territories in Europe](#)". This integral document was first publicly introduced during the EED-European Days of Development in Brussels organized from 18th – 19th of Jun, 2019. Our colleagues from ALDA represented LDA Mostar on this important event.

During 2019 two international events were organized within the project. The **first event** was organised in **Brussels**, April 4-5, including a high-level meeting with the president of the European Parliament, public presentation of the Border Towns and Islands Network at the European Parliament as well as the project coordination meeting.





The **second local activity** LDA Mostar has taken part in the organization of the “**Capital Event**” in Mostar on October 3rd, 2019. Similar events were organized throughout Europe, in more than 30 capital cities, at the same date, in order to raise the awareness on migration issues and with the aim to present the petition on proclaiming October 3 the European Day of Memory and Welcome to all the migrants. The petition was addressed to the EU Institutions (Parliament, European Commission and Council) in order to make an impact on these institutions to proclaim more coherent laws on migrations on the EU level.

The **second international coordination meeting** was organized in **Malta** (December 18-19), where the project partners discussed the project implementation and the results achieved so far with the focus on different pillars within the project as well as the plans for the Border Towns and Islands Network in 2020.

Balkan Kaleidoscope



Balkan Kaleidoscope is a project funded by the Europe for Citizens programme of the European Union and it run from 8 January 2017 to 31 January 2019. The project leader is the LDA Subotica, which implements the project in partnership with other twelve partners, including the LDA Mostar.

Balkan Kaleidoscope draws attention to the importance and value of oral traditions, promoting among youngsters a deeper understanding of the common European history, common values, and to develop respect, tolerance and appreciation of European diversity based on memories of the Yugoslav wars and their consequences for modern Europe and its society, and the importance of foundations EU integration insistence.

The project aims to help young people across Europe to better understand the complexity and delicacy of the intercultural dialogue while developing education capacity to use a methodology different perspective as a tool easy to use, personal testimony and narrative that nurtures critical thinking and impartially. Through these values project fosters reflection on the importance of peace in Europe as well as an understanding of the goals and commitments they have made in the area of the Balkan countries towards democratic reforms and progress towards EU integration.

VOLS EUROPE - Volunteer Management in Europe's Youth sector



Vols Europe is a project funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union and it run from December 2017 to May 2019. Led by the LDA Mostar in cooperation with other partners, the project aims to promote volunteering among young people and organizations dealing with youth issues in order to promote the Erasmus + program as a stimulus for volunteering, and especially the European voluntary service to strengthen counsellors for young people in their aspirations towards active participation (social / civil) young people how to European and local level.

In 2019, the international training “Volunteer Management in Europe's Youth sector” took place in Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina) from March 27 till April 3. The host of the event was project leader, LDA Mostar which hosted all together 29 young people from 11 different countries. The training was conducted by two experienced trainers who embedded into a clear competence management – dimension in this training. Participants were enabled to articulate competencies gained through volunteering, were trained on how to stimulate the learning during the service activities, and how to plan the learning process prior to the EVS and local volunteering activities. The exchange about how to facilitate the learning and gained competencies during the volunteering were also a crucial part of the training, and last but not least was how to evaluate the learning during volunteering.



WomCom - Women's Communication for Solidarity

The project WomCom run from September 2017 to March 2019 and it was funded by the European Commission.

The project aims at increasing the capacity of young women in rural areas of the Western Balkans in order to achieve progress in equal opportunities, more specifically at building international solidarity between young women from rural communities of the Western Balkans and Europe; improving the capacity of young workers who facilitate and support the social communication of young women; developing the skills of assertive communication and artistic young women to express their opinion and create an active influence in their communities; increasing interest and knowledge among young women in rural areas of the Western Balkans on European policies on gender equality and inclusion justifying the celebration of the International Day of Rural Women in the communities involved in the project.

In 2019, project WomCom was finalised with the International Conference "Women's Communication for Solidarity" taking place in Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina) on 4th and 5th of February. LDA Mostar had the pleasure to host the 5 representatives from each partner organization, in total 30





representatives who shared their experiences and knowledge with the conference participants. The conference consisted of 4 interactive panel discussion and evaluation session: "Women's rights in rural and urban areas", "Solidarity among young women from urban and rural areas", "Perspectives of women's activism today", "European Union in the eyes of young women from EU and WB countries", "Art and women's activism". As a part of the conference three cultural events were organized. On February 4th the photo exhibition and video guide presentation were held in the Youth Cultural Centre Abrašević. Photo exhibition consisted of the photos made by some of the conference participants and was followed by the presentation of 6 short videos showcasing the position of the women in the society. LDA Mostar presented the short video "Remember" which was previously conducted as the live performance during the last October 15th – UN International Day of Rural Women. The final cultural event organized within the conference was the play "Three Guineas" by a visiting theatre troupe from Belgrade based on the book of English writer Virginia Woolf.



Regional YOUTH COMPACT for Europe

The Regional Youth Compact for Europe started in April 2018 and will end in April 2021, and is funded by the European Commission, co-funded by the Balkan Trust for Democracy.



The project is a cooperation initiative launched by 14 CSOs from the EU, Western Balkans and Turkey with the aim to enhance the effective participation of civil society and youth organizations in the EU integration and accession negotiation process through capacity building, awareness raising and advocacy actions organized at local, national and regional level.

In 2019 several international events were organized within the project.



The **First Regional Thematic Forum and Annual Conference of BNLD** took place in Tirana, Albania, in February 2019. Those two events were a momentum of exchanges among stakeholders of the Western Balkans engaged in the furthering of the EU accession processes of the Western Balkans countries. The events gathered more than 80 participants including representatives of civil society organisations and networks, regional structures, public bodies, academia and youngsters.

This diverse public created a dynamic exchange of thoughts and proposals for the key reforms needed for the progress of the society in the Western Balkan countries. The Regional Thematic Network Forum brought insight into regional structures and policies beneficial for the institutions in charge of the pre-accession processes. The general message conveyed by the Forum is that the future of the European Union and the Western Balkans are tightly interconnected and the only way to move forward is together.



Another activity was the **first international workshop for youth** organized by LDA Mostar. The international workshop **“Rule of law and fundamental rights – why is it important for the youth and how youth can contribute to monitor reforms in these fields”** took place in Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina on the 25th and 26th of March. The activity had an objective to empower young people to join thematic networks and create their own, by focusing on rule of law, fundamental rights, employment, social cohesion and public administration reforms. This workshop also gave the opportunity to youth organizations to gain and afterwards - share the knowledge regarding the EU accession procedures and the key reforms in the specific areas.



The new edition of **Politea Western Balkans Summer School** was held in Danilovgrad (Montenegro), in April, giving 25 young people from the Western Balkans region and Turkey the opportunity to understand the strategic approach to reforms, designing of action plans, methodology of planning, implementation and monitoring. The youngsters were expected to share their new gained knowledge with their peers and to continue their work in their communities.



The role of monitoring and evaluation in evidence-based advocacy on local level was the topic of the **2nd Regional training for the Balkan Network for Local Democracy**. The event took place from 10th to 12th September 2019 in Knjazevac, Serbia and it was organized by the Local Democracy Agency Central and Southern Serbia. More than 30 participants from the Western Balkans region join the training as part of the component: “Sharing Experience – Expanding the Networks’ Thematic Working Program”.



The program tried to bring together varied tools on the strategic role of monitoring and evaluation in evidence-based dialogue on a local level. The aim was to improve usefulness, efficiency and effectiveness of local policy reforms in the Balkan region in line with the Negotiation Chapters 19, 23 and 24. The training program was designed to cover



the thematic area of rule of law, fundamental rights, employment and public administration reform including interactive lectures, case study, best practice analysis, discussions, work in small groups and daily evaluations. The participants were trained to respond on monitoring and evaluation of public policies, evidence-based advocacy at local level, local budgeting and youth policies. All trainees are expected to develop a common methodological approach to analyse and compare local policies in the context of the European integration process.

Employment policies and labour market reforms in the Western Balkan countries were some of the topics covered in the **Second workshop for the Regional youth working group** organized in Pristina, Kosovo* on the 5th and 6th November in the framework of the project Regional Youth Compact for Europe. The workshop had an objective to deepen the youth group's common understanding of the accession negotiation process with particular focus on the Chapter 19: Social Policy and Employment. Experts from the region shared their expertise in labour market reforms, work opportunities, social cohesions, youth mobility and more. The youngsters had the opportunity to take part in group discussions, debates, different types of practical exercises and a bit of traditional lectures.



In the framework of this project, the **Balkan Network for Local Democracy was officially launched** on the 7th of November 2019, in the Europe House in Pristina, Kosovo*. More than 70 representatives of the civil sector, local authorities and media gathered to take part in BNLD history being made. They had the opportunity to hear about the vision and mission of the network, its origins and founders. Balkan Network for Local Democracy is a regional network founded by the European Association for local democracy (ALDA) and 7 Local Democracy

Agencies from Western Balkans, working on promotion of active citizen participation, democratic governance principles, local development and cooperation between civil society organizations and local public authorities in the Western Balkan Region.

On the 7th of November 2019, Balkan youngsters gathered in Pristina for the **Regional Youth thematic forum**. The forum tackled the topic of **"Youth in the region: seeking strategic responses to meet the challenges of demography and labour market trends"** in order to deepen the common understanding of the accession negotiation process with particular focus on the Chapter 19: Social Policy and Employment. The youngsters had the opportunity to discover the project and gave their opinions on how to improve the platform, to make it more community friendly, to increase trust in civil society and create a sense of belonging.

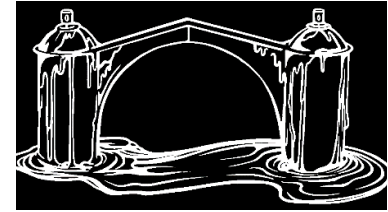


The final project activity in 2019 was the **Regional Youth Compact for Europe Internship programme - Call for Interns** launching for the period December 2019 - April 2020. The programme offers one-month internship for Balkan youth in one of the offices of the project partners. The internship aims to provide youth with first-hand experience about the functioning of CSOs



BRIDGE (Part 2) - BeRlin cultural Intervention - Differences Grow Equal

Bridge is a project funded by the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Sarajevo (Small Culture Funds / "Kleiner Kulturfonds"), which run in September 2019 in partnership with the Street Art Festival of Mostar.



Bridge (Part 2) is the extension of the 2018 Bridge Concept project and its mission is cultural exchange program between artists from Germany and the artists from Bosnia and Herzegovina through street art and urban music. The idea is to bind Berlin and Mostar through the realization of cultural programs and art interventions in public space during the 7th Street Arts Festival Mostar.

Objectives:

- Having continuity in developing the Bridge Concept in Mostar and contribution to the Street Arts Festival Mostar program
- Networking artists and musicians from Berlin and Mostar for the purpose of future collaborations
- Promotion of Berlin's street art and electronic scene
- Empowering the artistic cultural urban art platform in Mostar with artistic support from Berlin

Activities in 2019

The project consisted of two activities which were implemented within the frame of Street Arts Festival Mostar: mural painting and one music event.

First activity was the **intervention in public space** by German street artist **Kevin Kandetzki aka Sokar Uno** who painted a large mural on the Boulevard in the City of Mostar, near the entrance to the Old City of Mostar. Street Art, as one of the most interesting creative scenes that exist in Berlin, was also represented through this activity. While creating his mural young artist from Mostar Medina Dedić assisted Sokar Uno and that process produced interesting collaboration between professional muralist and young talent.



The second activity was the **performance** of the Berlin-based **DJ Niko Schwind** who played at the Stil Vor Talent Party in Spark and presented his Stil Vor Talent Label. Schwind was joined by Marina Mimoza & Mili Sefic - DJ's from Mostar as well as by the DJ's from Delta Swam Music based in Metkovic, Croatia. The event also promoted collaboration between local and regional DJ's and the DJ's from Berlin. Niko Schwind took also part of **Artist's Talk** event where he talked about his career and its challenges.

CLINK - Cultural heritage as a link diversity of Europe

The project CLINK started in January 2019 and will end in June 2020.

Funded by the Europe for Citizens programme of the European Union and led by the LDA Mostar in cooperation with 8 partners, CLINK project aims to deepen the connection between people from 10 communities from 3 EU (CRO, FR, GR) and 4 non-EU countries (BiH, SRB, MN, AL) and the heritage that surrounds them, as well as to raise awareness on connections and place their own cultural heritage has in the tapestry of Europe's rich and diverse cultural heritage.



Throughout its activities, the project will involve different stakeholders (state and non- state cultural actors, entrepreneurs, craftsmen, designers, architects, youth, local authorities and CSOs) i in discussions, forums, exchange of practices, study visits, art events and more.

Activities follow two paths: international events gathering all partners and local events in 9 communities. Activities have been designed to reach 750 direct and 100.000 indirect participants, to have strong European dimension and tackle three out of four themes of the European Year of Cultural Heritage: engagement (practices of bringing Europe's cultural heritage, history and shared values closer to people; direct engaging of young people in a dialogue with state and non-state cultural actors on the policies of promotion and preservation of cultural heritage, exploring cultural heritage and creating artistic reinterpretation of it; engagement of a wider public with those reinterpretations), sustainability (re-imagining public, industrial, religious or military heritage sites; responsible and sustainable tourism developed around cultural heritage) and innovation (education and training for the traditional crafts in order to foster participation and social innovation).

Activities in 2019

First International Event entitled "Citizens' participation in preservation of cultural heritage in their communities" took place in Caen - Normandy, France on 15 and 16 May. The event gathered around 80 participants who exchanged practices on various forms of cultural heritage and its preservation, and promotion. The main message that followed through all presentations was that citizens need to acknowledge their own cultural heritage even before it's recognised as such. The international event was preceded by the kick off meeting of project partners and a study visit to the association "Fabrique de patrimoines" where the project partners had the opportunity to see a multipurpose space dedicated to restoration, digitalisation and raising awareness of the cultural heritage of Normandy. This expertise from Normandy was very well perceived and inspired the project partners. The document was produced based on the event conclusions entitled "[Recommendations for Citizens' Participation In Preservation And Promotion Of Cultural Heritage In Their Communities](#)".





In summer and autumn 2019, the Pop-up galleries series took place around 6 countries. At least twenty-five youngsters per community were involved in this activity directly and more than 500 citizens per community were reached by this activity. Pop-up galleries were the direct showcasing of local cultural heritage through art seen by the eyes of young artists. At the same time, it was the popularisation of cultural heritage within the community.

On September 3 the **POP-UP Market** event was organized on the plateau of Mala Tepa in the City of Mostar. The POP-UP Market was designed as an exhibition and sales market gathering more than 50 young artists from Bosnia and Herzegovina who exhibited their artwork and handicrafts inspired by the cultural heritage of their country. POP-UP Market program was intertwined with the **POP-UP Galleries** program, which was the opportunity for more than 100 local and international visitors to view but also to become active participants of performances by young artists through traditional songs, dances and dramatic works based on BiH cultural heritage. The event was also an opportunity for visitors to enjoy the **traditional gastronomy** with the accent on learning the coffee drinking culture and coffee making tradition.



The POP-UP Market and POP-UP Galleries were preceded by the **first solo exhibition** by young BiH photographer Nermin Krupic, also inspired by the cultural heritage of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which was held on August 30, 2019 at Black Dog Pub in the Old City of Mostar. The photos of Nermin Krupic were also displayed within POP-UP Market.

As the extension of POP-UP Galleries program, LDA Mostar in cooperation with Street Arts Festival Mostar, hosted two young artists who painted **murals inspired by the cultural heritage** of BiH, in a period from 1st-8th of September (murals of Aleksa Santic, famous Mostar poet and his beloved muse Emina Sefic). All these events altogether raised awareness towards the cultural heritage of Bosnia and Herzegovina and this topic has gained even more importance since it was presented by young people becoming a bridge between the past and the presence giving an excellent example of how to preserve and promote the rich cultural heritage of their country.





For the **Second International gathering** the project partners travelled to Serbia on the 12th and 13th of September. In the city of Knjazevac, located in the eastern part of the country, they had the opportunity to explore traditional crafts and to discover innovative stories. The two days' event started with a **project team meeting** in order to discuss the progress of the local activities and the implementation of the pop-up galleries. Further, a walking tour for the participants was organized to discover Knjazevac and its cultural heritage. A **best practice fair** was organised in the Archaeo-Ethno Park complex in the village of Ravna. More than 80 state and non-state cultural actors have visited the fair and took part in the presentation of using traditional craftwork for economic development. **"The cultural heritage as a source of urban regeneration: comeback of the craft-making culture"** was the main topic of the event. The event brought together various stakeholders from 10 countries to share and exchange practices of creative and sustainable use of cultural heritage for social and economic development of communities.



At the end of 2019 project partners started with the organization of **Community Forums** within their local communities. These events are organized with the aim of connecting youth and cultural actors (state and non-state) in order to boost up participatory approach to preservation and promotion of cultural heritage.

IMPACT - Inclusion Matters! Using Performing Arts towards Cohesion and Tolerance

The project IMPACT is led by the Municipality of Vejle (Denmark) and implemented with other 7 international partners.

Funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union, the project wants to foster the inclusion of refugees in the Western Balkans through arts.

On the one hand, IMPACT promotes collaboration and exchange of best practices among European theatre companies with previous experience social working, on the other, a social inclusion strategy will be developed and implemented. All activities will be accompanied by a communication and dissemination campaign.



Objective: The main objective is to bring together Balkan's refugees with local communities by fostering cohesion and tolerance. Participants shall understand that people are stronger together and that they can learn from each other.

Activities in 2019

The project started with the **kick-off meeting** in Novo Mesto, Slovenia (April 9-11) hosted by the project partner Drustvo za razvijanje prostovoljnega dela Novo Mesto.

The project team had the **second transnational meeting** in Vicenza, Italy from the 24th to the 26th of July, hosted by La Piccionaia – Centre for theatre production. The partners took part in several sessions of the **pedagogical workshop** that united artists from all involved communities.



At the end of 2019 LDA Mostar started implementing the **local pedagogical workshops** in cooperation with MTM - Mostar Youth Theatre using theatre tools. Beneficiaries of the workshops were the displaced persons and migrants currently residing in the Refugee Camp Salakovac situated near the City of Mostar. The workshops will be continued in 2020 and crowned by the final theatrical performance in front of the wider public.





SPRAY - Space Regeneration through Art by Youth

Active from April to December 2019, the Project SPRAY is funded by the Erasmus + programme of the European Union and led by the Municipality of Bassano del Grappa (Italy).



SPRAY believes in the opportunity to reconcile street art and urban and social regeneration through the empowerment of youths at the European level for them to act as multipliers of sustainability in their own communities.

It responds to the need of regenerating degraded quarters in both urban and social terms, by using art and, specifically, street art. Moreover, it empowers young citizens to take up the renewal of their own town through a bottom-up approach, while inverting the perspective associating graffiti with vandalism and the disfigurement of public spaces.

By capitalising on experiences, techniques and knowledge at the European level, the project aims at testing the interconnection between contemporary arts and social complexity of degraded quarters to transform them in sustainable urban hubs. Urban regeneration pursued through artistic and cultural participation by citizens can trigger a virtuous circle of local identities and public spaces rediscovery.

Activities in 2019

The project started with the publication of the **call for participants** made by each partner organization - seeking a group leader as well as young artists willing to participate in the youth exchange, the core activity of the project.

The selected group leaders were then invited to participate in **Advance Planning Visit - the kick-off meeting** in Bassano del Grappa held from 26th to 28th of May defining a well-structured agenda for the activities that will take place during the youth exchange and evaluate the feasibility of the Wall Experience and the modalities.

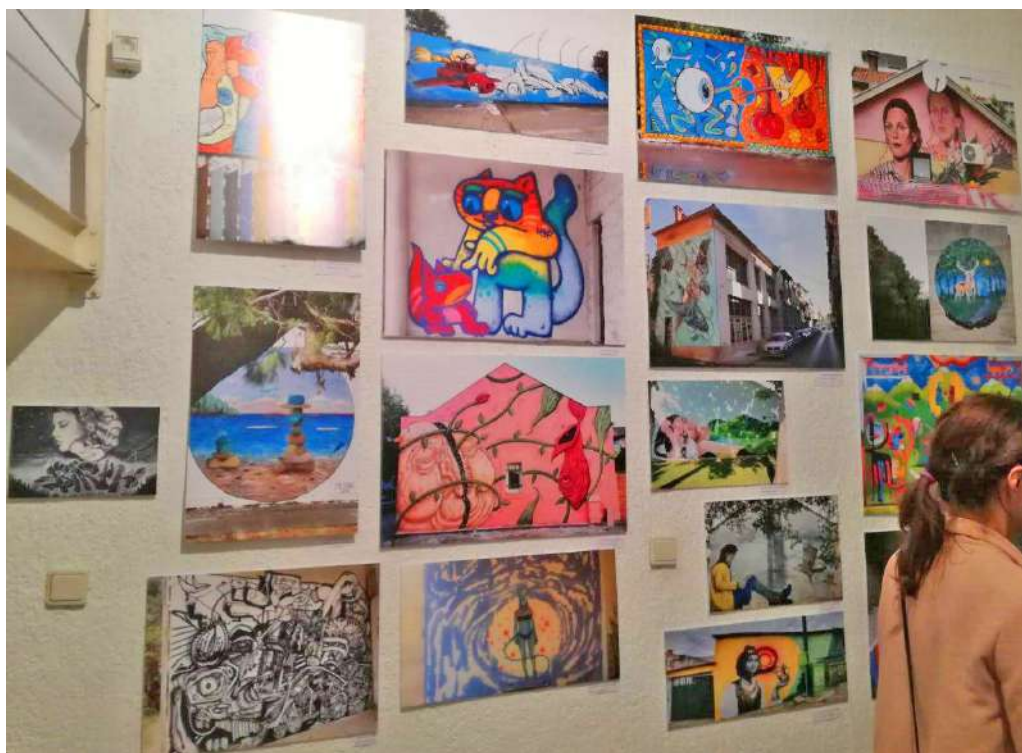
After the young artist were selected in accordance with the call for participants procedures, LDA Mostar organized the **local info session** for the participants on September 5 and informed the candidates on all the details of the youth exchange.

From 14th to 20th of October, the City of Bassano del Grappa in Italy hosted young people from 10 european countries for the **youth exchange activity**. During the exchange they learnt art as a tool for mending different social issues and revitalising spaces. One of the crucial tasks for each group of young artists was to design and paint the idea for the mural on the canvas which will later on be the draft for the real mural. The final activity of the exchange was the joint painting of the mural on one of the public institutions of the City which would revitalize community space.





The final activity of the project was the so called **"GRAFTernoon"**, a creative workshop opened to the public where the youth exchange participants will showcase the art works done in Italy. LDA Mostar in cooperation with Street Arts Festival Mostar enabled the showcasing of the canvas "Birth" which was created by the young artist from Mostar participants in the Bassano del Grappa youth exchange. The canvas was displayed to the wider audience during the Street Arts Festival Mostar **Photo Exhibition of murals** which was opened from November 29 to December 9. In this period a large number of people had the opportunity to visit the exhibition.



Capacity building, support to the local Institutions and contribution to the economic development of the renewable energy, environment sustainability, forest management, promotion of micro and small enterprises in three BiH municipalities

The project, led by Associazione Trentino con i Balkani Onlus, is funded by the Autonomous Province of Trento through the Programme of cooperation and development Trentino-Balkans 2018-2020.

As general objectives, it wants to promote the exchange of experiences and the dissemination of good practices in three municipalities of Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning: sustainable development; local socio-economic development; professional options for young people; participation and dialogue between civil society and local institutions; global citizenship.

More specifically, it will improve the capacities of local public institutions, competent ministries and Bosnian civil protection in designing and managing public initiatives related to the mitigation of climate change effects, prevention and management of natural disasters, management of natural resources and use of alternative energy sources

It will also Strengthen the tools and capacities of the micro and small enterprises, associated and cooperative enterprises and foster cohesion, convergence and participation between civil society and public administrations in promoting sustainable local development models.





Activities in 2019

After the **first partners meeting**, which took place in Mostar, the **first capacity building training entitled “Participatory planning”** was organized in the same city from 27th to 31st of May gathering local promoters from Mostar, Prijedor and Zavidovići, as well as the representatives of the local authorities.

The **second partners meeting** which took place in Mostar on Jun 26th, was the opportunity to detect the specific local territory on which the participatory planning investigation will take place. In cooperation with the City of Mostar and its Department for Economy the local territory was detected and the research was conducted during June and July 2019. The aim of the territorial analysis was to create a pilot project for the local community which would improve a situation in the aspect of environmental protection.

The last activity in 2019 was the **second capacity building training “Land Cover Seminar”** and **third partners meeting** held in Zavidovići from November 26th-29th. The training was the introduction to the program Corina Land Cover intended for use by persons employed in public institutions, and is related to urban planning, agronomy, ecology, waste management, water, forests and related areas.

Youth Ambassadors of Non-Formal Learning

Funded by the Erasmus+ programme, this project, led by the LDA Mostar, is based upon Non Formal Education and is working to develop the new methodology of the Youth Ambassadors of Non Formal Education, trained youngsters which can use peer-to-peer approach providing their experience to inspire other young people and relevant stakeholders in giving a higher credit and a better use to NFL experiences.

The project aims at promoting 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. Project wants 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.

Activities in 2019

Since the project started so late in 2019, project partners had the time to begin with the preparatory activities for the kick-off meeting which is planned to take place in Kumanovo, North Macedonia from 15th -17th of January.

Monumental 9

Monumental 9 is a project funded by the Regional Cooperation Council and led by the LDA Montenegro.

The project will help creating preconditions for new tourism product development to increase youth employment and income generating activities through engaging micro-localities, youth greeters and creative writers (and/or vloggers) in regional cooperation programme. Capacity building for LDA greeters and vloggers, professional tour guide skills development exercise, field visit and learning by doing approach are all intended to contribute to the overall objective with specific focus on activities designed to engage youth from local communities in regional intercultural exchange programme to work together on a new tourist product development.

Thus, it will help create preconditions for new tourism product development to increase youth employment and income generating activities through engaging micro-localities, youth greeters and vloggers in regional co-operation programme



Activities in 2019

The project officially started with the partners meeting in Prishtina, Kosovo* on November 5th.

In 2019 a **call for the experts** has been published, seeking the professional trainers for the upcoming training for young vloggers and greeters scheduled to take place in Prijedor, Bosnia and Herzegovina in February 2020.

The last activity and the second public call opened in 2019 was the **call for proposals for project web platform design and development**.

STAR – STreet ARt

The project STAR started in November 2019 and is funded by the Europe for Citizens programme of the European Union. It is led by the Municipality of Arcugnano (Italy) and its main objectives are:

- tackling the regeneration of depressed and abandoned areas of European cities, by using the power of community street art in order to generate local identity, social inclusion and active citizenship;
- building a strong network of towns, committed to exchange positive results of using the street art as a way to involve communities and regenerate public spaces, by creating a multiplier impact.



OTHER ACTIVITIES IN 2019

BNLD - Balkan Network for Local Democracy

LDA Mostar is one of the founding members of the regional network - Balkan Network for Local Democracy formally registered in Skopje, North Macedonia in 2019. LDA Mostar delegate Dzenana Dedic is one of the Governing Board members. In 2019, first Governing Board meeting took place in Knjazevac, Serbia on 10th and 11th of September while the second meeting was held in Prishtina, Kosovo* on November 6th, the day before the public Inauguration of the BNLD took place in Prishtina.

Network for building Peace

In 2019, Network for Building Peace became formally registered. Since then two Governing Board meetings were held. LDA Mostar delegate Dzenana Dedic is one of the Governing Board members. On 15th and 16th November the first Governing Assembly took place in Sarajevo. Network for building Peace was established in February 2010 as a non-formal network and currently gathers 150 NGO's and CSO's and 20 educational institutions legally registered in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

UNESCO - Old City of Mostar Management Strategy

A representative of LDA Mostar was invited to participate in the workshop for development of the Old City of Mostar Management Strategy which took place on May 13th in Mostar City Hall. The aforementioned workshop has been carried out within the framework of the UNESCO project, funded by the Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism. The workshop program presented the UNESCO approach to sustainable tourism and world heritage, the results of tourism needs assessment and stakeholder consultation, and the workshop participants tried to create a vision for sustainable tourism in Mostar, develop a sustainable tourism strategy, and identify strategic priorities and action plan.



European Capital of Culture 2024 – City of Mostar Candidature

LDA Mostar representatives, along with the representatives of other CSO's and stakeholders, participated in the 2019 consultations for the development of the application for European Capital of Culture 2024.

Info Days “From idea to realisation - European Union programmes”

EU Info Centar in Bosnia and Herzegovina organised the Info Days “From idea to realisation - European Union programmes” in a period from 19-24 July, presenting the Creative Europe, Europe for Citizens and Horizon 2020 programmes. As a part of the panel discussions of each event, programme users and programme representatives had the opportunity to exchange good practices with the event participants. Within the Info Days panel discussions in three cities - Banja Luka, Mostar and Sarajevo, representatives of the Agencija lokalne demokratije Mostar had the opportunity to present CLINK Project (from the idea to the implementation) and share their experiences related to the Europe for Citizens programme. Info Days were realized in cooperation with Desk Kreativna Evropa BiH, as well as with the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

ALF - Anna Lindh Foundation activities

The Tenth Meeting of the ALF Network of BiH, organized by the Tuzla Youth Resource Center - ORC Tuzla, was held in Tuzla from October 11 to 13 with the participation of the LDA Mostar representative. The meeting primarily summarized what has been done in the past ten years of ALF BiH's existence. Participants had the opportunity to share experiences and information about the coming period related to the work of the ALF network in BiH as well as to discuss current issues in BiH society, the role of ALF in intercultural cooperation in the Euro-Mediterranean region, mechanisms of action of the non-governmental sector towards governing structures, funds, and cross-border cooperation. Representative of LDA Mostar also participated in the Regional training for trainers on Intercultural citizenship education on the Euro-Mediterranean region in Nicosia, Cyprus organized by Anna Lindh Foundation EUROMED. The training is addressed to educators on the formal and non-formal education sector. 30 participants from European Union and Mediterranean participated in the ToT from 25th to 30th of November gaining the well-deserved certificates.

Reflection Group on Mostar of the Congress of local and regional authorities of the Council of Europe

On November 27th LDA Mostar representatives participated in the meeting organized by the Reflection Group on Mostar established by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe. The meeting was a part of the preparatory mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina in view of the local election which is planned for October 2020. The meeting participants, mainly representatives of the political parties and NGO sector had the opportunity to listen to the presentation by Congress Expert Marcin GERWIN, PhD, on “Building Democratic Participation in the City of Mostar” – innovative local initiatives on citizen participation for representatives of political parties and NGOs. The meeting continued with the exchange of views with representatives of political parties and civic society on Mostar issue.



LDA Northern Morocco



Delegate: Mouna Saihi
Established: 2019

Key partners

- 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

The LDA Northern Morocco is a Local Democracy Agency based in the Tangier-Tetouan-Al Hoceima region, which works to promote good local governance and citizen participation in Morocco. LDA Northern Morocco, based in the Tangier-Tétouan-Al Hoceima region, works to promote good local governance and citizen participation in Morocco. Its purpose is to act as a platform for dialogue between citizens, local associations and elected.

LDA Northern Morocco in the field



Constitutive General Assembly 28th April 2019
Municipality Al Azhar - Tétouan

EGAL Project



EGAL is a project funded by the Mallorqi Funds, carried out in partnership with ALDA, it aims to improve the socio-economic condition of women in rural areas and to promote their participation in municipal public life. By mobilizing three categories of local development actors from five priority municipalities (elected, municipal officials, associations), the project is an opportunity to strengthen local democracy and improve the relationship between public decision-makers and civil society. It is also a space for collective learning and networking to build synergies and drive collective change. EGAL can only succeed through understanding the challenges of socio-economic inclusion of women in local life. This is the reason why the project invests in human capital to raise individual and collective awareness through a logic of capacity building and skills. But also by mobilizing innovative forms of activities and mechanisms to get into practice and lead the experience of change within the municipalities. The project was developed through a training-action cycle through 3 activities with a group of 25 beneficiaries (elected, officials, associations).

- Training on the mechanisms of participatory democracy
- Training-action on gender mainstreaming mechanisms in local public policies
- Implementation of 5 inclusive gender participatory activities (IGPA), 5 subgrants (1000 eur) per association has been implemented. This activity aims to conduct 5 awareness-raising activities around 4 themes related to gender and local life. In October 2019 a technical meeting was organized to explain the processes and the reporting procedure related to these activities. For operational reasons, an extension of the agreement was requested in order to implement these IGPA until January 2020.





LDA's Visual identity created by youth «Fikra Log»



3rd July 2019 workshop «Fikra-Log»

This workshop helped young people to discover LDA NM and to learn:

- How to design a Logo
- What are the specific criteria for creating the LDA NM logo
- How to think about the logo in Mind Mapping
- How to draw logo ideas (sketching) in free paper
- How to select the most significant concepts
- How to do a graphic Design and finalize the concept-Logo in projection

The young people left with small POLO rewards printed with the logo that they have designed, and certificates of participation in the workshop.



- Bands mean gateways to Europe, opening up to each other and to international cooperation
- The circles represent citizens
- Bright and brilliant colors represent dynamics and movement



Workshop Youth & citizen participation in TAMKIN ACADEMY

As part of the establishment of the TAMKIN Academy organized by the Association Jeunes pour Jeunes (AJJ), member of the ADLNM, we have contribute in the preparatory phase by the mobilization of a panel of young people at regional level, we have taken part at the opening ceremony, as well as the workshops on governance and citizen participation.



August 2019, Agriculture Institute DAR BEN KARICH-Tetouan province

Exchange visit among partners and leaders of ALDA and the LDA NM



LDANM received a delegation made up of the partners Fons Mallorqi, Fons Menorqi and the Catalan and the PIRUS funds. During their stay in Chefchaouen, a meeting was organized on the new LDA NM branch, as an opportunity to visit the new office, to discuss the progress of the EGAL Project and its impact on the beneficiaries with the donor and the ADEO association. A visit followed in the city of Chefchaouen to discover local development projects and target new needs.

10th October 2019 - Antenna ADL NM Chefchaouen



LDA Prijedor



Delegate: Dragan Dosen
Established: 2000

Key partners

- 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

Note: The activities below are realized within the projects implemented by the Association Progetto Prijedor, Partner leader of LDA Prijedor and activities implemented by ALDA support. In this document we highlight the most important activities.

Theater workshop

The fourth edition of the project "Theater workshop", led by the Associazione Progetto Prijedor (Italy), together with the cultural association "Portland" from Trento and the Projedor Theater, is funded by the Autonomous Province of Trento and it was implemented from August 2019 to September 2019. The project is destined to young people aged between 15 and 25 to foster their creative expression through acting as a tool to know themselves and others and to express their feelings and needs.

Activities:

In the period from 13rd to 18th August 2029, in Prijedor was realized the youth theater show named "The end of the world ". Participants were 5 young people from Trentino and 8 young people from Prijedor.

After that was realized a trip to Trento in the period from 27th of August to 01th of September, where participants with help of experts continued to work on finalization of the show already started in Prijedor. The show was presented in four locations in Trentino: Mezzocorona, San Lorenzo in Banale, Borgo Valsugana and Mattarello

Successful stories:

- The youth from Prijedor and Trento, despite the linguistic barriers, managed to do a good job together
- The youth become more aware of their abilities
- The project helped the youth to express themselves
- The citizens of Prijedor and Trento are more aware of importance of youth projects





Prijedor – city of mural

The seventh edition of the project “Prijedor – city of mural”, led by the Associazione Progetto Prijedor (Italy), together with the Association of Artists of Prijedor, the Association Andromeda and the Municipality of Lavis, is funded by the Autonomous Province of Trento.

The project was an invitation for artists to participate in the competition of the seventh edition of the international prize named Paola de Manincor (an artist from the Trentino Region who in 1998 painted, with the support of the City of Trento, the first mural in Prijedor). The best proposal was selected as the new mural in Prijedor and it was carried out on the facade of a building in the same city.

Activities:

- Writing and publishing the competition on the website of the Association and social networks – 21st of May 2019
- Closing of the competition and sorting and publication of submitted proposals – 21st of July 2019
- Selection of winners - August 2019
- Realization of the winning mural – the second half of September
- Inauguration of seventh mural in Prijedor – 12 of October 2019



The project thus contributed to the development of culture and tourism of the city of Prijedor, to the improvement of the offer of cultural and tourist experiences in Prijedor. It also encouraged the promotion of tourism in Prijedor as a city of art and artists, Improving the appearance of the space of the city through the rehabilitation and beautification of surfaces that needed technical and aesthetic interventions, provided more information to citizens about the artistic and cultural past of the city and encouraged an increased sensitivity of policy makers towards art and culture in general.





School Cooperative Fair

The School Cooperation Fair, funded by the Municipality of Trento, represents a summary of the “Become an entrepreneur” project that the LDA Prijedor has implemented in Prijedor in the last three years. with the support of the Municipality of Trento. In the last years the results of the school cooperatives have been presented in a structure reserved only for schools while after three years of the project it has been decided to promote cooperation in schools also to the citizens of Prijedor.

Activities:

- Study visit to Trento for Prijedor professors on the topic of cooperative education
- Organizing the competition for best cooperative project for the schools
- Chose the best cooperative project for the schools on the first School Cooperative Fair, which was held on Monday, 03 June 2019 in the small square in Prijedor from 10:00 to 12:00h

Successful stories:

- Promoting and strengthening the entrepreneurial spirit among students
- Promoting and strengthening the cooperative model as an alternative way to market and recruit
- Promoted entrepreneurial culture in the Municipality of Prijedor
- Promoted self employment as one model of alternative work
- Promoted relations between the territories of Trento and Prijedor for entrepreneurship





Recycling project in the schools “Learn by doing”

The project, implemented in partnership with the elementary and High schools of Prijedor and Public Institution “Municipal services” Prijedor, waste management company “Ekomir” and supported by the Municipalities of Trento and Prijedor, aims to help the population of Prijedor to achieve a degree of self-sufficiency in protecting the environment.

Over the past three years, the LDA Prijedor, with the contribution of the Municipality of Trento, has supported the promotion of cooperative training in schools and the promotion of a local economy through the application of the cooperative model to youth entrepreneurship, which have been carried out with success. Following the on-site contacts and also in response to a specific request from the local administration, were decided to enhance environmental education, starting from education to the separate collection of waste in schools. In the municipality of Prijedor only 2-3% of the waste is collected separately: much of the material is collected by private individuals directly on the regional landfill. The LDA Prijedor aims to carry out targeted training in schools with 2 environmental promoters, trained in Trento, and to equip each school (10 educational institutions) with three plastic containers and each classroom with three suitable cardboard containers.

Activities:

- Education of teachers and students on selective waste collection
- Procurement of garbage cans in classrooms
- Procurement of large containers in front of the 10 elementary schools involved in the project
- Organizing competitions by classes and primary schools involved in the project
- Organizing the purchase of recycling material by Ekomir

Thus, students and professors became aware of the importance of selective waste disposal and environmental conservation and learnt how to make minimal profit from the sale of recycled materials. Thanks to promotion in the media, the local community became more aware of the importance of proper waste selection and environmental protection.

Study visit in Trentino for students from agricultural school from Prijedor

The study visit, organized from June 24th to 29th, 2019, in partnership with the Agricultural Institute San Michele all'Adige (Italy) and supported by the Province of Trento, was about “Didactic modalities and instruments to improve students’ success and interest in teaching, as well as to increase their involvement in teaching”.

Activities:

Realization of a string visit to Trentino which included:

- Professional training on the topic of didactics in vocational school in order to increase the interest of students
- Exchange of experience and good practice with colleagues from Italy
- Visits to employers who take students to practice
- Experience and organization of work of school psychologist

Main results:

- Strengthening the knowledge of teachers about didactic modalities and instruments to improve student’s success and interest in teaching, as well as to increase their involvement in teaching
- Motivation on improving practical teaching in Prijedor’s agrarian and alimentary school
- Strengthening relations between two institutions.



Participatory territorial planning of local development

Within the Municipality of Prijedor, the project promoted sustainable local economic and social development and global citizenship, facilitating professional options and dialogue between people, communities, public bodies and businesses in the Prijedor area and in Trentino.

Through a wide range of activities, including research analysis, training courses, network establishment and cultural exchanges, the project strengthened and sustained entrepreneurship, small enterprises, associations and cooperatives in the field of agriculture, handicraft and services, it delivered quality training for the development of these companies, associations or cooperatives, on site; the circumscriptions of the Municipality of Prijedor acquired skills and activated methodologies for participatory diagnosis of the needs for the development of the territory.

Specific courses started at the Agricultural School of Prijedor in collaboration with the Agricultural Institute of San Michele all'Adige, on the themes of analysis and participatory diagnosis of the territory for local development and for business promotion.

Capacity building for local institutions

The project called "Capacity building, support to the local Institutions and contribution to the economic development of the renewable energy, environment sustainability, forest management, promotion of micro and small enterprises in three BiH municipalities", promoted in the three local communities of Bosnia and Herzegovina the exchange of experiences and the dissemination of good practices relating to sustainable development, local socio-economic development, opportunities to find ways to stay young in their local communities, participation and dialogue between civil society organizations and local authorities; global citizenship.

Activities:

- Environmental needs and waste management needs analysis
- Seminars aimed at analyzing, agreeing and presenting needs proposals
- Diagnosis of local needs / rehabilitation and prevention of natural disasters
- Seminars for representatives of local government and interest groups
- Definition of needs related to forest resources and solar energy
- Seminars aimed at analyzing, agreeing and presenting proposals
- Diagnosis of small business needs / young people
- Seminars aimed at analyzing, agreeing and presenting proposals in cooperation with the relevant ministry / LDA's
- Training on small and medium-sized enterprises and cooperatives (cooperation)
- Seminars with focus groups of public administration and private companies
- Supporting the development of a business plan for SMEs and associations
- Selection and support of start-ups
- Supervision and support of enterprises
- Realization of sales center
- Procurement of drying and packaging machinery
- E-commerce in public administration, participation and territorial planning



Successful stories:

- Increased the capacity of local public institutions, relevant ministries and civil protection institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina to plan and manage public initiatives related to climate change mitigation, environmental protection, as well as the prevention of potential natural disasters, the management of natural resources and the use of renewable resources energy sources
- Strengthened instruments for strengthening and supporting the model of small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as cooperatives and joint ventures
- Empowered the cooperation between civil society and public administration institutions in promoting the model of local sustainable development

Daily center with public kitchen for elder people in Ljubija

The Prijedor Project Association, in agreement with the local administration, with the aim of mitigating the problem of the poverty of inhabitants of Ljubija, also continued in the year 2019 to support the Social Polo project with the public canteen in Ljubija, officially opened in September 2013 with the support of the Trentino Alto Adige Autonomous Region. Users of the Polo and the canteen are people in socio-economic distress, mainly elderly, without family assistance.

The project continued to support the social centre of Ljubija, specifically with the financing of the coordinator of the centre and the coordinator of the elderly day center.

The project supported working spaces for social inclusion through the opening of spaces and services is possible to improve the quality of responses to the needs of the most vulnerable groups of the population and the well-being of the community in general.



Remote adoption

Since 1997 began the Project "Distance Adoptions" (entrusts) that involved up to now 811 families in Prijedor and as many from Trentino (for most). This activity goes beyond economic aid: among many families has created a stable relationship, made of meetings in Prijedor and exchanges in Trentino.

Activities:

- Distribution of material assistance in the amount of 120 euros every four months
- Visiting the families of the donors once a month
- The exchange of letters or e-mails between donors and families in donations

Successful stories:

The economic aid, while important, becomes an instrument through which to create relationships that go beyond this dimension, and help to feed the population of Prijedor greater hope for the future and to combat the apathy that is currently one of the major problems of the area. The recipients of this aid are especially families in economic distress, lonely elderly and students of secondary schools and universities, who need support in order to continue their studies and to become in this way a resource for the future of their community.

ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED BY ALDA

CLINK – Cultural heritage as a link diversity of Europe

The project aims to deepen the connection between people from 10 communities from 3 EU (CRO, FR, GR) and 4 non-EU countries (BH, SRB, MN, AL) and the heritage that surrounds them, as well as to raise their awareness on connections and place their own cultural heritage has in the tapestry of Europe's rich and diverse cultural heritage.

Through planned activities it gathers and engages in discussions, forums, exchange of practices, study visits, art events a diverse group of participants: state and non-state cultural actors, entrepreneurs, craftsmen, designers, architects, youth groups, local authorities and CSOs.

Pop up galleries: In the framework of this activity 9 partners in 6 countries will publish a call for young artists to submit their art inspired by cultural heritage. Twenty-five (25) youngsters were involved in this activity directly and it reached more than 1000 citizens in community.

RYCE - Regional YOUTH COMPACT for Europe

Local Youth Workshops "Regional Youth Compact for Europe – We are Europeans

Knowledge from training and study group is shared with youth associations in local communities; Youth organizations are motivated and encouraged to up-grade their practice on the basis of shared knowledge and engage in structured dialogue and/or initiate, demand and/or join the existing forms of structured dialogue on national level; Prepared launching of the Regional Youth Compact for Europe; Motivated youth organizations to participate in Network.

Training for the members of the Network "Sharing Experience – Expanding the Networks'.

Forum Youth Regional Compact for Europe

Youth in the region: seeking strategic responses to meeting the challenges of demography and labour market trends



Training is intended for deepening our common understanding of the accession negotiation process with particular focus on the Chapter 19: Social Policy and Employment. The main topics of the training are: Labor Market Reforms; Decent work standards and Social Cohesion; Employment opportunities and regional mobility.



LDA Subotica



Delegate: Silvijja 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 focussed 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

Regional Youth Compact for Europe

The project Regional Youth Compact for Europe – Consolidating Regional Thematic Networks of Civil Society Organisations, European Commission, aims to empower CSOs, particularly youth organizations in the Western Balkans and Turkey to more effectively participate in policy design and in monitoring the process of EU integration.

A combined set of awareness raising, capacity building and regional networking activities are aimed to strengthen the impact of CSOs in the reform process towards the EU integration.

The Balkan Network for Local Democracy acting as a consolidated cooperation/consultation platform will be engaging local public authorities, CSOs and youth groups from across the region in EU integration related policy dialogue through innovative mechanisms for influencing public policies and reform process.

In 2019 one of the main events was the Regional Network Forum and launching of Balkan Network for Local Democracy in Prishtina.



New Intercultural Concept

The New Intercultural Concept, implemented by the LDA Subotica in cooperation with the City of Subotica and the City Library, was designed as a coherent set of social and artistic events, workshops and discussions aimed to improve the diversity and inclusive practices in the City of Subotica, Serbia in the field of enhancing ethnic and minority equality principles through promotion of intercultural dialogue and exchange interwoven with art and music.

The project has helped to develop public space and tools for enhancing intercultural exchange and dialogue with specific focus on youth groups of diverse ethnic and cultural background and to help raise public awareness of ethnic and cultural diversity as a source of innovation, creativity and growth. The project activities were designed to enable young people from different cultural backgrounds to exchange and interact productively and creatively. The project has achieved to reach the aimed target group and to stimulate public consultation which has reflected the local community's ethnic and cultural diversity in a sense of encouraging citizens' participation in creating a shared space to promote intercultural exchange.

This project has set the grounds for further long-term local networking, reintroducing cross-sectoral co-operation and partnership initiatives and ensuring effective management and coordination of local activities. Project has redeveloped connections and capacities of local CSO-s and local public institutions for cross-sectoral partnership building, and reinforced the role of CSO-s as a relevant stakeholder on the local level.

Cultural Heritage Linking Diversities in Europe – CLINK

Project aims to deepen the connection between people from 10 communities from 3 EU (CRO, FR, GR) and 4 non-EU countries (BH, SRB, MN, AL) and the heritage that surrounds them, as well as to raise their awareness on connections and the place that their own cultural heritage has in the tapestry of Europe's rich and diverse cultural heritage.

Through planned activities, it gathers and engages in discussions, forums, exchange of practices, study visits, art events, a diverse group of participants: state and non-state cultural actors, entrepreneurs, craftsmen, designers, architects, youth groups, local authorities, and CSOs.

Activities follow two paths: international events gathering all partners (Knjazevac, SER; Strasbourg, FR; Mostar, BH) and local events in 9 communities. Activities have been designed to reach 750 direct and 100.000 indirect participants, to have a strong European dimension and tackle three out of four themes of the European Year of Cultural Heritage: engagement (practices of bringing Europe's cultural heritage, history and shared values closer to people; direct engaging of young people in a dialogue with state and non-state cultural actors on the policies of promotion and perseveration of cultural heritage, exploring cultural heritage and creating artistic reinterpretation of it; engagement of a wider public with those reinterpretations), sustainability (re-imaging public, industrial, religious or military heritage sites; responsible and sustainable tourism developed around cultural heritage) and innovation (education and training for the traditional crafts in order to foster participation and social innovation).

Expected outcomes are raised interest in cultural heritage with direct and indirect participants, awareness of EU policies on cultural heritage and ways of its promotion, protection and sustainable use for socio-economic development of societies, as well as enforced sense of belonging to a common European space.



Monumental 9

This nine-month project has been designed as a collaborative initiative of the members (seven Local Democracy Agencies -LDA and ALDA Skopje) of the newly created thematic CSO network - Balkan Network for Local Democracy (BNLD with its main office in Skopje) with the aim of development and promotion of a new cultural tourism product – Monumental 9 Tour – and training and engagement of young people in the tour operation and promotion.

Activities will result in the development of a new cultural tourism product promotional web platform, training manual and established group of young greeters and vloggers. Regional youth empowerment network which functions under the auspices of regional LDAs will continue to engage and train young people in being greeters and vloggers while young people will continue to provide new content for the promotional online platform.

Overall objective: Help create preconditions for new tourism product development to increase youth employment and income generating activities through engaging micro-localities, youth greeters and vloggers in regional co-operation programme; Specific objective(s): 1) develop youth friendly innovative promotional actions to provide orientation and publicise the narrative of the nine magnificent monuments from the WW2.; 2) create youth friendly online platform to present sites, locations and heritage 3) develop regional pilot youth intercultural exchange programme including exploration, storytelling, digitalisation of the new cultural tourism product: Monumental 9; 4) help increase attractiveness for tourist development and income generating activities in micro-localities.

Townlab MEET



Townlab MEET, funded by the Europe for Citizens Programme of the European Union, is led by the Municipality of Chiesanova, in partnership with the Municipality Quincinetto, the Municipality of Marnaz, the Municipality of Novo Mesto, the City of Subotica, the LDA Subotica, the University of Turin and the University of Speyer.

This 2-year project intends to promote transnational relations between LAs, CSOs and citizens thanks to a partnership which includes organizations from Eastern, Central and Southern Europe and a structured schedule of international meetings and

research activities, as well as information and awareness rising. It focuses on migration as one of the most debated issues at EU level, due to the complex management of reception and of resulting processes of social integration, it is one of the most tangible phenomena at local level, with direct repercussions on the daily life of each community.

The objectives of the project:

1) To implement the understanding of European policies by means of:

- a two-way process of analysis and research with the aim of framing the phenomenon of migration, a study of the regulatory framework and the role of institutions (from EU level to local administrations level), as well as focusing on opportunities in the areas of employment, training, education and social security services
- programming of public information events in these six involved countries, which are useful to raise awareness of citizens, stakeholders, refugees and asylum seekers about the instruments adopted by the EU



2) To pursue the democratic and civic participation of European citizens through workshops, thematic tables and focus groups with the application of participatory methodologies, stimulating the comparison between stakeholders from different countries and giving priority to the active involvement of civil society and stakeholders directly involved in social integration processes (asylum seekers, refugees, operators of reception centres, etc.)

3) To encourage intercultural dialogue, social commitment and fight against stigmatisation of migrants

Citizens of Macro Regions for a Stronger Europe

The project "Citizens of Macro Regions for a Stronger Europe, funded by the Europe for Citizens programme, started in October 2018 and ended in December 2019.

The project builds upon on the unused potential of a relatively new EU policy-making framework, the Macro-regional strategies (MRS). The participating CSOs from AT, DE, DK, FR, HU, IT, PL, RO, RS and SK cover in balanced manner all the 4 macro-regions: the Baltic Sea, Danube, Adriatic-Ionian and Alpine Regions.

The novelty of the project is that it brought together CSOs from all the Macro-regions thereby increasing their potential of influencing macro- and EU-level policy-making processes. This was achieved by:

- a) a joint contribution to the elaboration of the biannual Commission's Report on MRS (released by the end of 2018) and assisting the implementation of its recommendations and
- b) attending the Annual Forums and other macro-regional programmes of the MRS.



Balkan Kaleidoscope

Balkan Kaleidoscope was a project that involved students and teachers on the importance of multiperspectivity in learning history and emphasizes on the importance of having a knowledge of Yugoslav Wars as a fundamental tool to understand the present. Consortium includes 13 partners, from 8 different countries.

The main objectives of this project were:

- Bring attention to the importance and value of oral history and multiperspectivity in historic narrative.
- Develop teachers' capacities for using multiperspective methodology, personal narratives and oral history, participative and interactive methods starting from Western Balkans most recent history.
- Promote among young people a deeper understanding of Europe's shared history and common values, develop respect, tolerance and appreciation of European diversity on the background of remembrance of Yugoslav Wars and efforts for European integration. Help them to better understand the complex and sensitive issues of intercultural and interethnic dialogue.
- Reflect of importance of peace in Europe and of furthering the EU integration.



Activities:

1. International event in Osijek, Croatia - Training for teachers on multiperspectivity in History teaching. Main objective: preparation of pilot training modules to be applied in respective local communities.
2. Local activities in partner countries: Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Italy, Serbia, Slovenia,

the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia: Students learning and reflecting on the Yugoslav Wars in history classes/training workshops/non-formal education classes/workshops moderated by the History teachers trained in Osijek.

3. International conference in Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina - Experts, teachers, and students involved in the project presented multiperspective approach to history, and share the personal testimonies, narratives, and methodological approaches in formal/non-formal education collected in the course of the project.
4. Online platform presenting outcomes of students' research projects.



Practice solidarity and shape Europe



“Practice solidarity and shape Europe” is funded by the Europe for Citizens Programme of the European Union, and is led by the European House, Budapest, in partnership with the LDA Subotica and 9 other partner organisations.

The aim of the project was to bring relevant EU related issues closer to the citizens, discussing proposals that foster European citizenship, solidarity and dialogue.

Topics tackled were: European Solidarity Corps, Commission’s White Paper on the future of Europe, 2017 European Citizenship Report, 2019 European Parliamentary elections and others related to civil dialogue and EU policy making.

Public Administration Reform

The project “Public Administration Reform – Membership in National Working Groups” is carried on together with the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self Government, the Serbian Government Office for Cooperation with Civil Society and the European Policy Centre.

Within this framework, the LDA Subotica is involved in:

- Special Working Group for the preparation of the Action Plan for the implementation of the Public Administration Reform Strategy for the period 2018-2020 which is coordinated by the Office for Cooperation with Civil Society, in cooperation with the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self-Government.
- National working group for Public Administration Reform within the WeBER Platform.

LDA Tunisia



Delegate: Afaf Zaddem
Established: 2017

Key partners

- City of Kairouan (Tunisia)
- City of Strasbourg (France)
- Region of Sardinia (Italy)
- Fons Mallorquí de Solidaritat i Cooperació (Spain)
- Auxilia (Italy)

Main objectives

- Support the participative processes within the decision making process at local level, help the local authorities to operate in an open manner and encourage them to take into account the needs of citizens;
- Expand the opportunities, improve the skills and capacities of civil society to engage the dialogue, encourage the communication with local authorities;
- Strengthen the knowledge and the capacity of citizens in their level of involvement within the decision process, encourage citizens to have the will to exercise their rights and the capacity of taking their grievances to local authorities;
- Reinforce the existing twinning collaborations or promote new connections between municipalities and other local and regional authorities in Tunisia.

The LDA Tunisia was established in April 2017. It represents the first Local Democracy Agency in the Mediterranean. The Agency is based in the city of Kairouan, a historic and symbolic city, and constitutes a platform of discussion between citizens, local associations and authorities on the field in order to meet the needs of local communities.

LDA Tunisia in the field

Raising citizens' awareness of political participation and elections

Raising awareness of elections as part of the PARFAIT project

The action consisted on the organization of a voting awareness campaign called "Awareness truck" that travels across different regions in Kairouan, mainly rural places.

The aim was to raise awareness among the Tunisian population of the importance of women's participation in political life, and of the exercise of the right to vote with particular attention paid to rural areas where women may not hold the national identity card required to register on the voting rolls.



The action involved 13 localities of Kairouan and was implemented by ALDA, the LDA Tunisia and the European Partnership for Democracy (EPD).



Development of community support and mentoring projects for socioeconomic integration and active citizenship

Ramadan Cultural Evening and Collective Reflection on Citizenship

By the end of the Islamic holy month "Ramadan", a cultural evening of collective reflection on citizenship, entitled "Kairouan and Mysticism: The Debate in the Service of Citizenship" was held. The interventions of scholars were highly enriching and constructive as they tackled inter-related issues such as gender, history, citizenship, sociology, religion and mysticism. The discussion included presenting academic papers that tackle the aforementioned issues.

The purpose is to deepen a group reflection on the collective identity of Kairouanese citizens and the role of women's leadership.

It took place on 20th May (By the end of Ramadan) at the Sidi Bouraoui Mausoleum (Kairouan city), through the cooperation between the LDA Tunisia and SAWAMED.

World Cleanup Day campaign for citizens to promote active citizenship and raise awareness of environmental challenges

The LDA joined the international campaign “World CleanUp Day” to raise awareness of environmental preservation issues and active citizenship. Consequently, The LDA organized a campaign to collect a maximum quantity of plastic bottle caps within a period of one week. The campaign also was inclusive as it included students, housewives, cafés and offices in sorting and collecting plastic caps at source for recycling. Many associations collaborated and contributed to the success of the event as hundreds of citizens from different walks of life came and celebrated the accomplishment of the aim.

The campaign was widely covered by the media, and local radio interviews and face-to face communication were the main channels used.

The campaign was implemented in the third week of September by the LDA Tunisia, The Association de Protection de la Nature et de l’Environnement de Kairouan – APNEK, The Jeune Chambre Internationale de Kairouan – JCI, The Union Nationale de la Femme Tunisienne de Kairouan – UNFTK, The Association We Love Kairouan and Radio Sabra FM.



Training in digital communication for local CSOs

Following a strong demand from local associations and public actors concerning digital communication in the context of citizen mobilization and dialogue between citizens, the LDA Tunisia organized on the 2nd and 3rd November at its premises a training course entitled: “Digital Communication for Active Citizenship and Local Governance”.

The training aimed at improving digital communication as an effective tool for citizen’s mobilization and local governance.



Recycling workshop for citizens to promote active citizenship and raise awareness of environmental issues

On the occasion of Tree Festival, the LDA and its partners organized an event entitled "Gardening in A Container and Plant in Colors". During the event, various workshops were held that brought together students of all generations, who enjoyed creating colorful and varied artworks and participating in these activities while fulfilling a task of active citizenship.

The aim was to promote active citizenship and raise awareness of the importance of contributing to gardening and recycling through workshops that teach both gardening culture and skills through the Recycling and Relooking of Plastic Buckets.



Friendly Talks

"Friendly Talk" was among the main activities organized by the LDA Tunisia, which took place on its premises and addressed various and relevant topics with young citizens.

The objective was to further improve the effectiveness of the LDA action as a platform for engaging authorities and citizens as these collective reflection meetings contribute to the creation of a more inclusive society in which the citizen is a key actor in local action.

Sensitizing local authorities on civic participation in public decision-making processes

“Table of Mayors”: a space for dialogue between the local authorities of the governorate to design a space for concerted citizen dialogue

The LDA Tunisia took the initiative to organize a meeting entitled “Table of Mayors”. This first “Table of Mayors” was chaired by Mrs. Antonella Valmorbidia, Secretary General of ALDA, with the objective of introducing the representatives of the different local authorities that were present, sharing local priorities and ways of collaborating with the LDA to strengthen the process of local democracy and decentralized cooperation between cities.

The LDA Tunisia is perceived as a facilitator of this dialogue and will proceed in the coming months to organize focus groups with elected officials of the region on learning needs to establish a work based on a multilevel approach and a participatory territorial diagnosis.

The purpose was to bring together the Mayors and representatives of local authorities in order to design a space for dialogue and exchange.

It took place on December the 7th, 2019 on the occasion of the Final Conference of the PARFAIT Project in the Continental Kairouan Hotel

Sensitizing LAs and CSOs to the gender approach for its integration in the management of local affairs

Meeting of women elected at the municipal level as part of the PARFAIT project

As part of the PARFAIT project, the LDA Tunisia organized three participatory exchange visits. These meetings brought together elected municipal women and members of civil society from the municipalities of Abida, Sbikha and Bouhajla, and were coordinated by participants of the PARFAIT project.

The goal was to create a space for dialogue and exchange around the objectives and priorities of the municipalities, and to explore ways of future collaboration between civil society actors and the elected representatives.

Final Conference of the PARFAIT project

The conference, organised in Kairouan on December 7th, 2019, involved the discussion about gender issues and the involvement of women in local governance. The LDA’s delegate introduced the association and its role in the implementation of the project and the inclusion of women in decision-making. Also, the LDA was involved in the preparation of this event and ensured the mobilization of renowned and influential actors.

The aim was to report on the results of the project through 1: the elected women benefited from support sharing their experiences, & 2: the encounter of the 24 associations that received subsidies and carried out actions aimed at increasing the presence of women in local public life.





Participation in the coordination meetings of the projects implemented by the LDA Tunisia and ALDA

Information session on the mechanisms of the PARFAIT project subgranting scheme to local CSOs

The LDA Tunisia organized in coordination with ALDA an information meeting for associative actors from the governorate of Kairouan on subgrants applications and micro-projects proposal drafting in the framework of the PARFAIT project, in order to subsidize initiatives aimed at improving women's participation in local public life.

Preparatory field visit for the establishment of the LDA Northern Morocco and inter-partner meetings

During the field visits and preparatory meetings in Morocco, the LDA's delegate shared her experience in the implementation of the LDA Tunisia, the opening procedures, the risks and the elements to be taken into consideration.

The purpose was to strengthen relations and to contribute to the establishment of the LDA Northern Morocco. The activity was carried out from 28 February to 1 March and involved the LDA Tunisia, ALDA Mediterranean area team & the association partners and representatives of the Moroccan local authorities concerned.

Presence of the LDA Kairouan at the opening ceremony of the LDA Northern Morocco in Tetouan (Morocco)

On April 28th, 2019, the Tunisian LDA delegate and the Tunisian Mayor were present at the opening ceremony of LDA Northern Morocco. They emphasized the importance of their collaboration in order to achieve success.

The aim was to strengthen relations between the two LDAs of the Mediterranean region and the respective local authorities, and to demonstrate the positive experience of cooperation between associative and public actors at the local level.

Participation in the European Forum on Decentralized Cooperation in Brussels, Belgium

The LDA was present at the European Forum, and in the presentation ceremony of the ALDA Secretary General's recently published book. The presentation consisted of a constructive round table discussion over the place of decentralized cooperation in Europe today and its possible evolution.

The event wanted to bring the vision of decentralized cooperation from the point of view of countries outside Europe, and also to establish relationships and expand its network for future projects.

ALDA 2019 General Assembly

The delegate of the LDA Tunisia was invited to this gathering meeting of all ALDA members. She supported the active participation of members and the inclusion in the decision-making process of ALDA.

The Assembly took place on 17 May as part of the European Citizens' Week, Abbaye-aux-Dames, headquarters of the Normandy Caen region, France.



Submission of new projects to donors and conclusion of agreements and partnerships

Project for the Elaboration of a Strategy (2030) for the Integrated and Sustainable Management of Household and Similar Waste

In the framework of its commitment for the implementation of sustainable development actions, the LDA Tunisia was involved in the development of a project in partnership with the Association de la Protection de la Nature et de l'Environnement de Kairouan - APNEK (member of the LDA Tunisia).

The main objective was to provide the city of Kairouan with a strategic vision for the sustainable and integrated management of household waste of all categories and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of Kairouan's municipality services.

The project, funded by the US Forest/IP in Washington-USA, was implemented by the LDA Tunisia, the Association de la Protection de la Nature et de l'Environnement de Kairouan - APNEK (member of the LDA Tunisia), the Commune of Kairouan.

Project "Ricomincio da Te" / translation: I am Starting again by You)

On 25 November 2019, took place the first meeting of the International Management Committee (IMC), during which the project partners signed the partnership agreements. The project is a Community-Based Rehabilitation Project and Theatre of Social Inclusion, aiming at improving the equality and inclusion of people with disabilities in Tunisia.

Funded by the Italian NGO "Co.P.E. - Cooperazione Paesi Emergenti", the project is led by COPE Italy in partnership with COPE Tunisia, the LDA Tunisia, the association "Mettiamoci in Gioco", the Municipality of Kairouan, the Tunis and Kairouan Sections of the Tunisian Union for the Assistance of the Mentally Disabled (UTAIM), the Association for the Support of the Hearing Disabled (ASDA) and the General Association for Motor Disabilities (AGIM).

In City Project - Inclusive City

The LDA Tunisia is a partner in the project In City and actively participated during 2019 on its writing development and the meetings with the partners.

It aims to contribute to the inclusive and sustainable development of the city of Kairouan through alternative tourism that promotes the development of local capacities and the social and economic integration of youth and women, particularly from rural areas.

The partnership is made of UNFTK (lead partner), the LDA Tunisia, Association Initiative, Kairouan (AIKA), Municipality of Kairouan City, Regional Directorate of Vocational Training and Employment of Kairouan, Regional Support Committee (CAR) and Tunisia Ecotourism, thanks to the support of Cities Alliance.

Project proposal Jossour Mowatina

The LDA Tunisia and the newly established LDA Northern Morocco wrote a project proposal, which was submitted to the Kahane Foundation as part of a call for projects.

The project Bridges for youth for Active Citizenship through Social Mobility and Inclusion of Disadvantaged Youth in Morocco and Tunisia represents the first concrete collaboration between the two Mediterranean LDAs. The project objective is promoting the development of active citizenship through social mobility and the inclusion of disadvantaged young people from Morocco and Tunisia.



LDA Zavidovići



Delegate: Slađan Ilić
Established: 1997

Key partners

- Associazione per l'Ambasciata della Democrazia Locale a Zavidovići Onlus – Impresa Sociale (Lead partner)
- Municipality of Zavidovići (Host city)
- Municipality of Alba - Ufficio Pace
- Municipality of Roncadelle
- Local Coordination for Peace of Cremona
- Association "Strani Vari" Alba
- UISP Brescia
- UISP 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 Zavidovici in the field

Regional Youth Compact for Europe



The Regional Youth Compact for Europe is a cooperation initiative launched by 14 CSOs from the EU, Western Balkans and Turkey with the aim to enhance the effective participation of civil society and youth organisations in the EU integration and accession negotiation process through capacity building, awareness raising and advocacy actions organised at local, national and regional level.

The project comprises 6 work packages representing its structure:

1. Project Management

- Encompassing an established efficient and engaged project team and Regional Thematic Network Forum for content enrichment on the topics of education and employment of youth, rule of law, public administration reform, structured dialogue and advocacy on regional and local level.

2. Capacity Building

- Made of trainings and study visits which aim to provide exchange of knowledge and experience, strengthening capacity of CSOs to advocate within their local community and on national level;
- Workshops that aim to empower and motivate young people to get engaged focusing on key issues of the rule of law and fundamental rights, employment and social cohesion, and public administration reform;
- The Western Balkans Politeia Summer School which aims to upgrade knowledge and skills of young people in the area of EU accession process and youth participation in this process.

3. Monitoring and Advocacy

- Comparative study "Civil Society involvement in monitoring EU accession and EU Integration Processes in the Western Balkans – from initial projects to structured dialogue" on Chapters 19, 23, 24 and public administration reforms.
- "Youth Transformational Potential in EU Integration Processes" desk analysis on existing forms of participation, new IT technology approaches and tools which boost youth motivation.
- My City - Youth City, open Local Assemblies initiative – youth participation in decision making processes on local level.

4. Regional Networking and Exchange programme

5. Sub-granting Programme fund for Local Youth initiatives

- With the main objective of improving and developing participatory youth policies and local democracy in communities of Western Balkans through support to youth initiatives fostering active citizenship and participation of young people at the local level.

6. Public Campaign

- Promotional activities and direct actions with citizens it aims to raise awareness about the benefits of CSOs and youth involvement in EU integration processes and ensure continued motivation and willingness of young people for activism and participation.





Cultural Heritage Linking Diversities in Europe – CLINK

The project CLINK aims to deepen the connection between people from 10 communities from 3 EU (CRO, FR, GR) and 4 non-EU countries (BH, SRB, MN, AL) and the heritage that surrounds them, as well as to raise their awareness on connections and place their own cultural heritage has in the tapestry of Europe's rich and diverse cultural heritage.

Through planned activities it gathers and engages in discussions, forums, exchange of practices, study visits, art events a diverse group of participants: state and non-state cultural actors, entrepreneurs, craftsmen, designers, architects, youth groups, local authorities and CSOs.

Expected outcomes are raised interest in cultural heritage with direct and indirect participants, awareness of EU policies on cultural heritage and ways of its promotion, protection and sustainable use for socio-economic development of societies, as well as enforced sense of belonging to a common European space.



The project's activities followed two paths: international events gathering all partners (Knjazevac, SER; Strasbourg, FR; Mostar, BH) and local events in 9 communities. Activities have been designed to reach 750 direct and 100.000 indirect participants, to have strong European dimension and tackle three out of four themes of the European Year of Cultural Heritage: engagement (practices of bringing Europe's cultural heritage, history and shared values closer to people; direct engaging of young people in a dialogue with state and

non-state cultural actors on the policies of promotion and perseveration of cultural heritage, exploring cultural heritage and creating artistic reinterpretation of it; engagement of a wider public with those reinterpretations), sustainability (re-imagining public, industrial, religious or military heritage sites; responsible and sustainable tourism developed around cultural heritage) and innovation (education and training for the traditional crafts in order to foster participation and social innovation).



Capacity building, support to the local Institutions and contribution to the economic development of the renewable energy, environment sustainability, forest management, promotion of micro and small enterprises in three BiH municipalities

The project, led by Associazione Progetto Prijedor in cooperation with City Administrations and Local Democracy Agencies Prijedor, Mostar and Zavidovići; City of Trento; Civil Protection of Trentino, Consortium for Environmental Protection; Ministry of Environmental Protection of Federation of BiH and Republic of Srpska; Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of Federation of BiH and Republic of Srpska, is supported by the Autonomous Province of Trento and Associazione Trentino con i Balkani Onlus.

It promotes the exchange of experiences and the dissemination of good practices in three municipalities of Bosnia and Herzegovina concerning: sustainable development; local socio-economic development; professional options for young people; participation and dialogue between civil society and local institutions; global citizenship.



Activities:

The main activities were conceived to:

- Improve the capacities of local public institutions, competent ministries and Bosnian civil protection in designing and managing public initiatives related to the mitigation of climate change effects prevention, management of natural disasters, management of natural resources and use of alternative energy sources.
- Strengthen the tools and capacities of the micro and small enterprises, associated and cooperative enterprises.
- Fostering greater cohesion, convergence and participation between civil society and public administrations in promoting sustainable local development models.



Monumental 9



The project, led by the LDA Montenegro, aims to help creating preconditions for new tourism product development to increase youth employment and income generating activities through engaging micro-localities, youth greeters and creative writers (and/or vloggers) in regional co-operation programme. Capacity building for LDA greeters and vloggers, professional tour guide skills development exercise, field visit and learning by doing approach are all intended to contribute to the overall objective with specific focus on activities designed to engage youth from local communities in regional intercultural exchange programme to work together on a new tourist product development.



Volunteer Management in Europe's Youth sector - Vols Europe

The project Vols Europe wants to promote volunteer work among young people and youth organizations, Erasmus + as a stimulus for volunteering, to empower youth workers in their efforts to encourage active (social / civic) participation of young people in promoting European values of volunteer work and improve volunteer management in partner organizations.

The international training "Volunteer Management in Europe's Youth sector" is the main activity of the project VOLS EU - Volunteer Management in Europe's Youth sector. The training took place in Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Building Equality – Building Future



Lead by Associazione Strani Vari (Italy) in partnership with the LDA Zavidovići, Building Equality is an Erasmus + project aiming at promoting women and LGBT rights through a bilateral youth exchange.

Wim Laboratories Iuvenies

The project Wim Laboratories Iuvenies is funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union and led by Procédé Zèbre in cooperation with other 9 international partners.

Started in 2018, The goal of the project is to adopt innovative strategies in terms of linguistic, cultural and artistic transmission. Young high school students will confront the theater professionals according to a principle of "richness of the mixture". Writing workshops (collecting testimonies, reports), theatrical practice and performances will help to acquire skills, but also autonomy and self-confidence. These seem to us essential elements to solve the many problems that affect our contemporary societies, to move towards equality between women and men, the inclusion of migrants, and more broadly to contribute to the creation of a sense of belonging to Europe.



The shared commitment of teachers, students, amateur and professional actors will make possible new cooperation strategies, bringing together the fields of education, training and youth. The theater will develop skills, autonomy and self-confidence by creating flexible learning pathways that meet the needs and goals of youth. Multilingualism and cultural diversity will have a driving role among the competences that allow European youth to be better prepared for the international labor market, and to develop a look and a critical spirit. This project will develop cultural tourism, and highlight a heritage of European interest in the different countries participating in the project.

Sigurno Mjesto: Services and Activities for Women

For many years now the activities of the Association "Sigurno mjesto" Zavidovići have been supported by the LDA Zavidovići and the Municipality of Alba. The association organizes educational and interactive workshops on violence with pupils of elementary and secondary schools, parents of pre-school children, marginalized groups of women, educational workshops for pregnant women with expert associates, gynecologist and midwife, providing its contribution to development and strengthening of the healthy family, organization of creative workshops with the goal of quality use of free time for women, organizes and participates



in meetings, round tables, public debates, seminars and events which are gathering women and which are mostly discussed about improving the position of women in society, promotion of laws that protect women's rights, and the fight against prejudices and stereotypes based on gender.

Strani Vari – summer centres for children

This project, aimed to support creative expression and imagination of children, raise awareness of children on different themes, Indirect involvement of family and citizens, support the joint efforts of Bosnian and Italian animators, expand CSOs participation of civil society organizations, promote of the Association and voluntarism, thus creating useful relations between the actors involved.

From 22nd July to 2nd August 2019, educative workshops and leisure activities for children, were organised in the Municipality of Zavidovići, wich gathered 350 kids from two primary schools and in five schools in rural areas (Gostović, Poljice, Hajderovići, Kovači, Brezik). Around 30 Bosnian youth from Zavidovići and 20 young Italians from Alba were included as animators.



Promotion of cultural heritage of Zavidovići Municipality

The project, led by the LDA Zavidovići and funded by the Municipality of Zavidovići, contributed to the promotion and preservation of the cultural and historical heritage of the local Municipality.

The project aims to enable young people and the wider community to become acquainted with the cultural and historical heritage of the municipality of Zavidovići. We organized a series of activities that stimulate dialogue on the topic of promotion and the importance of preserving cultural and historical heritage between young people and other actors involved.



Ludobus - Activities for children in rural areas

"Ludobus", funded by Ass. ADL Zavidovići and Associazione Mimi, is a service that offers recreational, cultural, educational, sport and creative activities for children in parks, schools, streets and green areas of the city and villages. Activities are implemented by young people with the assistance of teachers. "Ludobus" is a mobile playroom that has a great ability to gather, attracts and animate children through the game as a basis to socialize and acquire new experiences. "Ludobus" with the simplicity can be involved in various programs (school and extracurricular) and events in the city and beyond. LDA Zavidovići is actively involved in the development of non-formal education and creativity for children through fun and educational workshops with "Ludobus". In the previous period, "Ludobus" visited almost all schools in rural Zavidovići and the activities involved a large number of children.



The activities involved some 350 children from schools in rural area, by giving them an opportunity to play and learn with educators. Moreover, the volunteers realized some workshops during the cultural and entertainment events in the city as during manifestation "Summer in the City" and "Festival of Children's Theatre".

Development of family gardens in the Municipality of Zavidovići in Bosnia and Herzegovina

This project, led by LDA Zavidovići and funded by Mondoinsieme, aims at providing assistance to women engaged in agriculture on a small scale in order to increase production and product quality covering own needs for food.

Among the main activities implemented, we highlight the trainings educational lectures with an agronomist, meeting and visits of the participant's gardens for a shared "fieldwork".



Twinning Zavidovici - Roncadelle “Memorial Alessandra”

Funded by Roncadelle municipality, the twinning aims to improve cooperation between Italian and BiH subjects, in the frame of the twinning agreement between municipalities Zavidovici and Roncadelle (Italy).

LDA Zavidovici organised and supported the participation of Women’s Volleyball Club “Zavidovici” in a volleyball tournament “Memorial Alessandra” in Roncadelle in December 2019. Delegation from Zavidovici met with local authorities of Roncadelle in order to confirm long term friendship established between our towns.



Vivicittá – sport events for peace and solidarity

Vivicittá is an international sport event, whose general sponsor is the UISP - Unione Italiana Sport per tutti, takes place in many cities around the world, and also in Zavidovici since 1998. The aim is to promote peace, solidarity and friendship.

“Vivicittá” 2019” was held in Zavidovici on June 2nd 2019. The sports event was organized by Association of Zavidovici sport teachers, in collaboration with the Municipality of Zavidovici and UISP Brescia and Cremona. Hundreds of athletes from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Italy participated in the race. As a part of this sports event, there were also a female and male volleyball tournament and male basketball friendly match.



“Culture of Peace” - Coalition of associations in Zavidovici

The LDA Zavidovici is a member of the Coalition for prevention of incidents motivated by prejudices “Kultura Mira – Culture Of Peace”, supported by the OSCE and created in 2014 in Zavidovici.

The local Coalition is part of wider national network SuperCitizens with participation of representatives of civil society, local communities and individuals working on the prevention of incidents and crimes of hate and contributing to the process of reconciliation. SuperCitizens come together in a coalition to combat hate, basing its unique work on the premise that real change begin at the local level.

The main activities in 2019 were:

- February 21st – Marking “World day for cultural diversity for dialogue and development” in Visoko;
- April 8th - Marking Internatiabl Roma Day in Zavidovići;
- October 24th - Educational tour of cultural and historical monuments in the municipality of Zavidovici for high school students and members of local associations;
- November 15th - The Coalitions against hate from Gornji Vakuf-Uskoplje, Jajce, Vitez, Zavidovici and Zenica, with the support of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, marked the International Day for Tolerance in Zenica.



Operational Partner Osijek



Delegate: Miljenko Turniski
Established: 1993

Key partners

- City of Lausanne, Switzerland (Lead partner)
- City of Osijek, Croatia (Host city)

Main objectives

- Democratic governance and active European citizenship
- Social inclusion and intercultural dialogue
- Local Sustainable Development

The LDA Osijek was opened in 1993. It is located in a border area close to Serbia and the Vojvodina Region as well as Hungary. The Osijek area, in particular the city of Vukovar, was very affected by the war. A part of the region was under UN administration until the end of 1998. Since the accession of Croatia to the European Union in July 2013, the Agency is an Operational Partner of ALDA.

Operational Partner Osijek in the field

INTO THE WALD - FRANCE

The project "Into the Wald" is supported by the French – German Youth Office has the objective to sensitize young people to other European cultures, enable them to live and understand those cultures, to teach young people how to cooperate, to foster linguistic learning (French, German, Croatian), to help local French community to cultivate plants in a protected nature site which local community uses for outdoor activities.

Activities implemented:

- consultations with project partners and youth exchange leaders
- publishing of call for participation for young people from Croatia
- selection of participant
- preparation meeting of youth exchange leaders, Landeda, France, 15th – 18th March 2019
- organisation of the interpretation in Croatian language
- preparation of linguistic animations
- preparation of the travel
- international youth exchange, Landeda, Germany, 13h – 24th April 2019
- evaluation and reporting



Thanks to the projet, 8 young persons from Croatia spent 8 days in Landeda, France together with their peers from Germany and France and developed their intercultural skills and experience.



INTO THE WALD - CROATIA

The project "Into the Wald - Croatia" has the following objective:

- to sensitize young people to other European cultures, enable them to live and understand those cultures
- to enable young people to learn to cooperate
- to foster linguistic learning (French, German, Croatian)
- to enable young people to develop their confidence
- to make young people aware of importance of inventors and inventions through the past
- to foster creative and critical thinking of young people by combining project-based learning focusing on inventions and ecology

Activities implemented:

- consultations with project partners and youth exchange leaders
- publishing of call for participation for young people from Croatia
- selection of participant
- preparation meeting of youth exchange leaders, Landeda, France, 15th – 18th March 2019
- organisation of the interpreting in Croatian language
- organisation of leadership
- preparation of overall project logistics
- preparation of overall project programme
- preparation of linguistic animations
- preparation of the travel
- international youth exchange, Prvić Luka, the Island of Prvić, Croatia, 23rd July – 3rd August 2019
- evaluation and reporting

As main achievement, 8 young persons from Croatia spent 8 days in Prvić Luka, The Island of Prvić, Croatia together with their peers from Germany and France and developed their intercultural skills and experience.



PEACEBUILDING SCHOOL AWARD PROGRAMME



Supported by the Ministry for Demography, Family, Youth and Social Policy (Croatia) and the City of Osijek, the project run from November 2018 to October 2019.

Its main objectives were to recognize and support schools that contribute to society through non-violent methods of making progress toward solidarity, fair, peaceful and peacebuilding community.

Activities implemented:

- selection process of school nominees and election of awarded schools
- peacebuilding school award (as a part of the Krunoslav Sukuć award ceremony for peacebuilding, nonviolence and human rights)
- preparation, organisation and implementation of a study visit programme of awarded school to Osijek and Vukovar region including visits to war memorial sights in the region
- evaluation and reporting



Creative Intercultural Club

Started in November 2019, the Creative Intercultural Club aims at establishing a platform of local volunteers for local youth and create space for diverse activities aiming to improve social, intercultural and creative competences of young people in the suburb of Osijek.

Activities implemented:

- animation and selection of local volunteers
- communication channels established
- equipping and organizing of space
- development of programme draft
- establishing of cooperation at local level (city district, school, other associations)

The project created a motivated team of volunteers interested in developing of local activities established.

Dignity World and Beyond

Funded by the Erasmus + Programme of the European Union, the project "Dignity World and Beyond" has the main following objectives:

- to promote active citizenship among young people
- to encourage participants and young people to make changes in the life of their communities
- through playful tools to make young people more curious and eager to learn about human rights
- to stimulate European cooperation between NGOs

Activities implemented:

- communication with partners
- promotion of the Training in Lorca, Spain
- selection of Croatian participants to take part in the training in Lorca, Spain
- providing of logistics for selected participants (travel, communication with partners, coordination)

Other projects and activities

CUT project - Culture Twinning: Twinning Tourism Promoting Cultural Heritage (Europe for Citizens Programme)

Representatives of the Local Democracy Agency, local experts in tourism working for the Tourist Bord of the City of Osijek, participated in the fifth event of the project CUT which took place in Vilafranca del Penedès, located 50 km from Barcelona. During this project's event participants had a chance to participate in a meeting debate, present their tourism destination and areas of work. During the panel discussion participants exchanged ideas about the methods for creating cultural knowledge, enhancing culture in society and enhancing the promoting quality of cultural tourism. The hosts showed to their guests how they promote and develop leadership



and team building with their social, educational and sporting value and presented them a house located in downtown Vilafranca del Penedès specially adapted for human tower building activity, a traditional, attractive and breathtaking activity of Catalan culture and people.

White Cane Day 2019 in Osijek

This year representatives of Local Democracy Agency participated in the celebrations of the International Day of the White Cane. It is the event which the Sports Association of the Blind, Svjetlost and the Tenja Volunteer Center, in our local community which has already been organized for 10 years in a row. The aim of this event is to point out to the fellow citizens to the importance and significant characteristics of the International White Stick Day, as well as the problems that the visually impaired people face every day. Deputy Mayor of the City of Osijek, Ms Žana Gamoš, also took part in the walk through the center of Osijek with a blindfold.



Project: Štruca kulture (Loaf of Culture)

Participatory planning workshops on development of the newly renovated social cultural centre “Stara Pekara”

At the series of meetings project of the fully renovated building in the old part of the town of Osijek, Tvrđa, titled “Stara Pekara” containing spaces for cultural and civic activities was presented. Stakeholders and representatives of civil society, local authorities, business and academic community had the chance to participate in the process of designing and mapping possible models of cooperation and business. Representatives of the Local Democracy Agency gave their contribution to this participatory planning process.

Collective Tree Planting Days in Osijek



The City of Osijek joined the Collective Tree Planting Days by organizing the planting of 473 trees that were planted at 22 locations throughout Osijek. Representatives of Local Democracy Agency participate in the tree planting action organized on 9th November 2020 in Tenja. Many citizens joined this action and communal department of the City of Osijek was in the field to assist citizens in planting. Prior to the tree planting activities there were educational

activities about tree planting which citizens had to attend and which was organized by the City of Osijek and Agricultural and Veterinary School in Osijek.

MOTUS – platform of civil society organisations in Osijek-Baranja County

The platform brings together civil society organizations from the area of Osijek Baranja County, which carry out activities of general good and advocate for the values of modern democratic societies. During 2019 Local Democracy Agency actively participated in this work.





Operational Partner Sisak



Delegate: Paula Raužan
Established: 1996

Key partners

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

Main objectives

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

The LDA Sisak was opened in 1996 in a very difficult area which was heavily damaged by the conflict from 1991 to 1995. The region was going through an economic turmoil at the end of the industrial period which determined the economic landscape for decades. Different ethnic groups are still returning to the war-affected city which is still going through a consolidation process. Since the accession of Croatia to the European Union in July 2013, the Agency is an Operational Partner of ALDA.



Operational Partner Sisak in the field

LDA Sisak program Volunteer' Centre Sisak has quality standard mark of the National Volunteer' Centre Norm

Volunteer Centre Sisak



The Volunteers' Centre Sisak (VCS) is the local volunteer center, operating within the LDA Sisak, intended for volunteers' programmes in Sisak area. VCS is working on community developing throughout volunteering, connecting people want to volunteer with institutions and organisations that need volunteers.

Moreover VCS:

- In cooperation with public institutions and non-governmental organisations creates and implements quality local programmes based on identify needs of the local community and potential programmes' users.
- Recruits volunteers and keeping data in the database, provides their preparation if needed, organise education, supervision, monitoring, programme implementation evaluation, and secure legal volunteers' engagement.
- Raise capacities of public institutions and non-governmental organisations in order to set up unique quality and effective volunteers' management.
- Promotes and develops volunteering as such, in cooperation with public institutions and non-governmental organisations, works on local volunteer' policy development and monitoring together with local authorities.

The center has a dedicated webpage offering information regarding local volunteering, recruiting volunteers, legal framework and tools for efficient volunteer' management. LDA Sisak coordinates the **Town of Sisak Committee for Development of Volunteering** that has the following tasks:

- foster volunteering in the Sisak area by monitoring local volunteering policy and recommending its changes
- prepares annual report on voluntary programs' implementation to the Town of Sisak
- specially dedicated to promotion of voluntarism, improvement of conditions for its acknowledgment and rewarding by recommending concrete measures to organisers of volunteering and the Town of Sisak
- conducts process of the Annual volunteer' prize awards
- in charge for the Town of Sisak Strategy for volunteering development, the Action Plan, for monitoring its implementation and recommends its further changes and addendums.



10th Sisak Fair of Associations and Institutions during national manifestation "Croatia Volunteering"



Awarded volunteers and volunteer' coordinators in 2019



Sisak Volunteer's Network

The project purpose is to contribute increased the number of citizens, especially youth, involved in different types of volunteering program in town of Sisak that contribute to the development of the local community and their personal development by strengthening the resources of potential and existing volunteer organisations and promoting positive influence of volunteering.

It will increase the number of volunteer organisers using the Volunteer Centre Sisak services and develop volunteering programs, the number of citizens informed and recruited to volunteering and the number of youth involved in volunteering activities.

The results will be attained through the following group activities: 1. Development and capacity building of existing and potential volunteer organisers in Sisak for the development of new volunteering programs and increasing opportunities for inclusion of many citizens in volunteering through education, networking and exchange of information on volunteering opportunities and work, 2. Contribute to the promotion of the benefits of volunteering on personal development of citizens by getting familiar with volunteers, volunteer organizers and employers with the Certificate of competences gained through volunteering, and 3. Contribution to the promotion of volunteering among citizens and inclusion of children, young people in long-term volunteering through the development of school volunteering as a new form of volunteering in Sisak.

The activities are in synergy with those of the Volunteer Centre Sisak program.



A Sisak elementary school volunteer club in action!



Multimedia exhibition – photos of diverse volunteering programs, volunteers' personal experiences, video clips on volunteering



Life Experience – My Youth for an Active Ageing

Led by the Centre for Civic Initiatives, in cooperation with the LDA Sisak and Fair Society Alliance, the project is supported by the European Social Fund (Office for NGOs of the Republic of Croatia and National Foundation for Civil Society Development).



The project partners will contribute to the social and democratic reform in Croatia implementing innovative forms of youth volunteering and inter-generation solidarity in local communities by volunteering in health and social public institutions. We are planning to increase the number of volunteering activities organisers - civil society organisations and educational facilities (6), children and youth, high school pupils in three Croatian towns and number of volunteers in local communities projects (total 120 volunteers) which will gather 600 final beneficiaries in health and social public institutions. Training of the project leader, partners and public institutions' employees on voluntary management is part of the project, which will ensure the achievement of the project results, considering that 12 employees will continue to develop voluntary programs in the future as well.



High school volunteers creating Easter decorations in the Sisak Home for elderly

Volunteer's School

Volunteer's School is a project led by Association Carpe Diem, implemented in cooperation with LDA Sisak, LAG Vallis Colapis, Slobodna škola- association for promoting democratic education, Primary school Grabrik and the Gymnasium Karlovac.

Funded by the European Social Fund, the project contributes to the social and economic growth and democratic development in Karlovac and Sisak-Moslavina County by strengthening partnership of civil society organisations and educational facilities in the field of volunteering.

The project also aims to include quality volunteer' programs in school curriculum and stimulating volunteer education development in the area of Karlovac and Sisak-Moslavina County.





Four civil society organisations will be educated for designing and implementing school volunteering programs and transfer new knowledge to representatives of nine schools within the project. Upon the training, schoolteachers will be mentored by the civil society organisations and develop volunteer programs which will be integrated in the school's curriculums. Volunteer club will be organised in each of the nine schools, a manual on school volunteering produced and system of volunteers' validation developed. Moreover, several public events will be organised, such as dedication of the International Volunteer Day, Festival of Volunteering and voluntary actions within the national manifestation "Volunteer Croatia".

On volunteering waves – an infrastructure for strong and connected communities

Lead by the Volunteer Centre Zagreb and implemented with LDA Sisak, Association IKS, ACT Group, Network of organisations Zagor, Home for elderly people "Centre" and the Croatian centre for volunteering development, is funded by the European Social Fund.

The project contributes to building society in which volunteerism is a moving strength of an active, responsible and human communities and that strongly contributes to social and economic development.

As specific objectives, the project "On Volunteering Waves":

- 1) Ensure quality and sustainable support system to the volunteering organisers and to volunteers by strengthening volunteer centres in central Croatia region.
- 2) Increase number of public institutions and civil society organisations implementing quality-volunteering programs aiming to improve services in the area of healthcare, welfare and other common interests' area.
- 3) Contribute strengthening public awareness on benefits and values which volunteering gives to each individual, community and society in whole.

Volunteer centres in Zagreb, Petrinja, Sisak, Zabok and Čakovec jointly ensure quality and sustainable support system to the volunteering organisers and volunteers in the central Croatia. The project improves capacities of public institutions and civil society organisations for quality-volunteering programs aiming to improve services in common interests' area.



Volunteering organisers trained on issuing Certificate of competences acquired during volunteer work



Inclusive volunteering in action! Adults with intellectual difficulties living in organised households volunteer in Sisak Children Home



Youth Work in Progress

Youth Work in Progress is a project funded by the Erasmus+ programme and led by South East European Youth Network in cooperation with other international partners.

The main aim of the project is to raise quality and sustainability of youth programs, through competence development of youth workers and leaders to provide innovative, modern and quality youth work service which effectively respond on current socio-economic needs of young people in the EU and Western Balkans.



Project activities:

- Online platform for online learning;
- Training course on non-formal learning in online space;
- Training course on sustainable youth work on youth development;
- Training course on leadership and management of the youth initiatives;
- Training course in employing digital tools in youth work;
- Follow up activities for each training;
- 2 educational handbooks (online and offline) on mentorship and digital non-formal education.



What's the issue 2?

The project, funded by the Croatian Ministry for demography, family, youth and social policy and led by the Sisak-Moslavina County, contributes to the improvement of the young people position, active participation in democratic life and to the development of youth policies in the Sisak-Moslavina county through dialogue between young people and decision makers. Target groups are youngster age 15-29, civil society organisations' staff and volunteers, local and regional government, public institutions and informal citizens' initiatives.



Main activities:

1. Work group establishment
2. Work group meetings and preparation for Sisak-Moslavina county Youth program process development
3. Sisak-Moslavina county Youth program development
4. Online consultations with young people and decision makers
5. Dissemination of the Sisak-Moslavina county Youth program to a wide range of stakeholders.



CLINK – Cultural heritage linking diversities in Europe

The project aims to deepen the connection between people from 10 communities from 3 EU Member States (Croatia, France, Greece) and 4 non-EU countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and Albania) and the cultural heritage that surrounds them, as well as to raise awareness of the connections and place that their own cultural heritage occupies in the tapestry of Europe's rich and diverse cultural heritage.



Co-funded by the
Europe for Citizens Programme
of the European Union

Activities are: international events bringing together all partners (Caen / Normandy, France; Knjazevac, Serbia; Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina) and local events in 9 communities.

The activities are designed to reach 750 direct and 100,000 indirect participants, have a strong European dimension and address three of the four themes of the European Year of Cultural Heritage: engagement (the practice of approaching European cultural heritage, history and shared values of people; direct involvement of young people in dialogue with national and non-state cultural actors on the policy of promoting and preserving cultural heritage, exploring cultural heritage and creating artistic reinterpretation, engaging the general public with those reinterpretations), sustainability (building public, industrial, religious or military heritage from the ground up, responsible and sustainable tourism developed around cultural heritage) and innovation (education and training for traditional crafts to encourage participation and social innovation).

Project Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CulturalHeritageLINK/>



Pop-up gallery and open discussion on industrial heritage and youth



Follow my Steps! – Youth for a Sustainable Community

Supported by the Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs, Swiss-Croatian Cooperation Programme, the project contributes to the promotion of partnership between civil society organisations and educational institutions in the field of volunteerism, which contributes to economic and social cohesion and sustainable development in Sisak – Moslavina County. It will result of the development of sustainable development education programs through volunteering, by establishing 2 high school volunteer clubs in Sisak and Hrvatska Kostajnica whose activities are focused on the goals of sustainable development and increased local community awareness about the possibilities of cooperation between sectors in promoting sustainable development through the benefits of volunteering. The target groups are high school students (80), 2 High schools, 15 CSOs/institutions/administration. 40 volunteer students will develop new competencies and builds capacity for active involvement in the lives of their local communities.



Teachers and pupils working together – Training of Trainers on practical youth work on sustainable development goals

Future: for us and for you!

As part of the Project Future: for us and for you! elementary school students from the Međimurje, Krapina-Zagorje and Sisak-Moslavina counties will be provided with an interactive education program on Sustainable Development for the purpose of acquiring competencies and active involvement of students and parents in the field of sustainable development. The aim is to strengthen the partnership between civil society organizations and elementary schools in the Međimurje, Krapina-Zagorje and Sisak-Moslavina counties in which a sustainable development training program is implemented. In addition to strengthening the partnership of civil society organizations, one of the goals is to strengthen the competence of children in the field of sustainable development and to enhance the active participation of children and parents in the sustainable development of the local community. The main activity of the project is to develop and implement a sustainable development training program for 3rd and 4th grade elementary school students and their parents / guardians and to provide professional support in its implementation.



Facebook project page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Budu%C4%87nost-za-nas-i-za-vas-2281223005423992/>



Elementary school pupils learning on gender equality
 – Sustainable development educational program



Family volunteering with elderly people – Sustainable development educational program

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

This project, led by the Albanian organization “Beyond Marriers” and funded by the Erasmus+ programme, aims to build the competences of youth workers, teachers, young people and community youth leaders in the Western Balkans, to address and work with reconciliation, countering hate speech and promoting peace building. Peace building cannot be reached if we do not all work together, therefore this project proposes a thorough approach in involving different stakeholders of the community and equipping them with skills and expertise on how to fight this negative phenomena in their environment. The project seeks to establish a successful practice with positive regards to establish a network of association in the WB ad EU who are committed to promoting reconciliation, sharing know how and fighting hate speech on a different level. By the combination of the working packages and the educational approaches this proposal not only makes a direct change at the personal level of the directly impacted participants, but also promotes a greater sense of community cohesiveness and brings the reconciliation discourse to grassroots level, making it more sensible for the communities and reaching out to the youngsters as direct change makers.



SWIS-YO: Straight way to integrity and self-development of youth with fewer possibilities

Swis-Yo is led by the Social Help for Women Householders (Albania) and funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union. The project focuses on giving opportunities to youth workers, especially youth with fewer opportunities, to gain skills, knowledge, connections and experiences in inclusive social enterprise establishment as a development opportunity for themselves and their peers. It addresses the need for opportunities for self-development, integrity and inclusion in society without discrimination because of their economic or social status. In accordance with European Youth strategy, the consortium will engage in information, education and training of youth with fewer possibilities to gain social entrepreneurship skills and knowledge in becoming active citizens fully prepared to build their future in the European society. The project aims to include youth workers and youth with fewer possibilities as well as a 50% participation of women. It will blend together capacity building, youth exchange, network building, good practices and non-formal learning, to empower youth with fewer possibilities to overcome social barriers, and initiating inclusive social initiatives.



Operational Partner Verteneglio



Delegate: Umberto Ademollo
Established: 1996

Key partners

- Municipality of Bellinzona, Switzerland (Lead partner)
- Municipality of Verteneglio/Brtonigla (Host city)
- Istria Region, Croatia
- Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region , Italy
- Province of Florence, Italy
- Municipality of Portogruaro, Italy
- Municipality of Ravenna, Italy
- Municipality of Greve in Chianti, Italy
- Municipality of Russi, Italy
- Municipality of Duino-Aurisina, Italy
- Province of Florence, Italy
- Association "Marevivo", Italy
- Association Circle of Culture Istria, Italy
- Association Causes Communes Switzerland

Main 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 LDA Verteneglio/Brtonigla was opened in 1996. It is located at the border with Slovenia and very close to the Italian border. Verteneglio/Brtonigla is the only city of Istria (Croatia) with a majority of Italians. Since the accession of Croatia to the European Union in July 2013, the Agency is an Operational Partner of ALDA.



Operational Partner Verteneglio in the field

Projects and activities

Volunteering project T.E.N.Team for European Networking

The long-term volunteering project Team for European Networking is the tenth long-term volunteering project which LDA Brtonigla develops as a pioneer in Croatia since 2009. The common theme in each of the past projects has been the development of youth's capacity and potential while bringing different European cultures together to share, work and explore Croatia. The transformative power of EVS projects has brought numerous positive changes in the life of the local community in Brtonigla and across Istria, improved and expanded the network of partnerships of the agency, improved the professional standards and expertise applied in all of the local, regional and international work, and has empowered the life of the young Europeans who chose to volunteer with us and realize their potential, enriched with new knowledge, skills and perspective.

The current project aims to focus on networking, connecting the active Europeans, driven by different cause to improve the life in their community and turning the attention on fighting the similar (for different European communities) challenges, important locally and nationally. It aims at building bridges between the representatives of active European citizens who fight for original local solutions based on the European values and principles. The volunteers will be able to create networks of the root-grass leaders, organizations who share and voice their experience, achievements and vision, among themselves and across Europe. These networks will build a deeper understanding that regardless



of the differences in the national processes, there are common problems and common goals for all Europeans through bottom-up initiatives and active engagement of the citizens.

The concrete objectives follow that concept by aiming at enabling the volunteers' creativity and originality. The volunteers original point of view will be encouraged in presenting and connecting the faces, the organizations and the themes in the youth's life in their own communities: environment, institutions and technology, laws, culture, social topics, etc. They will be able to learn and compare, together with the local youth of Istria how and in what areas they face similar challenges, defined goals and essentially understand each other and establish networks. The networking will draw parallels and map of the locally diverse, but in its totality common goals and agenda of the young Europeans, across geographical, political and historical divisions. The project aims at:

- 1) The agency's team to enable the creative process of presenting to the local community and internationally, volunteers' local communities causes, goals and active leaders and organizations;
- 2) Support the individual project ideas which the volunteers want to develop in the context of the agency's resources and system of partnerships;
- 3) Through participation in the work of some of the agency's partners to collaborate, learn and train skills with the local people and institutions such as the kindergarten, the Center for inclusion and the touristic office;
- 4) To raise the awareness of the Erasmus plus programme opportunities for young people;
- 5) Contribute for the inter-cultural dialogue, among the volunteers and with the local community.



Croatia shares many of the persistent problems with the other Eastern and Western member states, and the T.E.N. project will provide a platform for information circulation, experience exchange and will align creative thinking on concrete topics among the participants.

During the project, the Erasmus+ programme, its goals and opportunities will reach to more young people in the countries of our partners through various events, meetings, presentations and social media. Life in Istria, the programme activities and the personal initiatives of the volunteers will shape an eleven months learning process, individually for each participant and as a group experience. This individual learning process will be the basis on which each volunteer will express and point to the concrete possibilities for personal growth through the programme when meeting with the local youth and through personal blogs, presentations, photo galleries and other original forms chosen by the volunteers.

The design of the project fully matches the goals of Erasmus+ programme, aiming to improve the level of competences and skills of the youth, to promote active citizenship, the EU standards and values, social inclusion. The project will also affect positively the cooperation, organizational and presentational skills. It will be a valuable contribution to the international dimension of youth activities of the agency and its partners.

On the side of the local community, it will benefit from: the presence and the activities of the volunteers, the possibility to collaborate with them in the project activities and local festivities, learn their languages, get to know their original cultures and create new friendships.

ESC E.P.I.S.T.O.L.E. European Project, Ideas, Skills, Together in Original Local Events

The long-term volunteering project E.P.I.S.T.O.L.E. represents a structured programme for 11 months, which long-term aims to strengthen and enlarge the impact of the European values, principles, and policies among the youth in the small rural communities of Istrian region and increase the knowledge, awareness and participation in the EU youth programmes, as a way to reinforce the common sense of belonging to the European community. Through participation in the project activities, the four participants will enhance various aspects of their personal development: new knowledge, train skills and shape attitudes, acquire experience of exploring, working and living abroad in an international environment leading to growth and advancement of their capacity to pursue the chosen professional and personal path. The objectives of the project target the direct results of the implementation of its activities and the subsequent results achieved by the team and the sub individual youth projects with an emphasis on their impacts on both an individual and communal level. Primary, we aim to engage youth in direct meetings, thematic debates, celebrations, organized by the agency with the support of our partners on the territory of the region, and by means of reaching out to young people we will be able to spread programme rules and requirements. Based on youth personal background, volunteers will learn how to turn opportunities into advantages which would enhance their personal or career plans, gaining the experience they were missing and were unable to acquire. The project will train volunteers on developing project writing skills thanks to the creation of youth exchange programmes during which volunteers will have the chance to draft proposals and apply them, counting on the full support of the LDA team. The volunteers will create a special thematic blog, advertised and publishable on the LDA's website. This blog will be dedicated to life abroad as a first hand learning experience





triggering cultural enrichment, integration and integrity. These soft skills will be acquired through the collaboration of young volunteers and their participation in the various projects. The implementation of the activities will also have a direct impact on the trustworthiness of the LDA Brtonigla as a source of information regarding EU perspectives, youth news, programmes and activities. The design of the project shares and fully matches the European Solidarity Corp objectives. It will raise awareness of EU values, principles and programmes. Planned activities will serve as tools to develop and improve various skills and will. Young volunteers will upgrade their personal and professional competences. This endeavour will be a chance to build an intercultural bridge by living and interacting with different European cultures, it will undoubtedly nurture empathy, respect, partnership and understanding.

EVS Viseu Jovem - CREATING OPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH4 - From M.E. to E.U. Project

When you try to define the word "affection", various synonyms appear next to it: love, friendship, caring, sympathy, kindness, closeness, desire, influence and a good will. Today's world is too complex and with all the new technologies and millions of new ideas, humanity is too busy to think about other issues. Yet, more than a billion of people are believed to have some kind of disorder. That makes 1 out of 7 individuals you meet that could be left behind. However, somebody still believes that love and kindness can save relationships and spark the will to resolve these issues.

This is what NGOs are doing while working with children/youngsters with autism or other kind of disorders or special needs. Simply because they are human beings too, this project wishes volunteers to constantly provide support and care, showing sympathy and building up closeness. And that's why this project is called Viseu Jovem. A project that is within and to the community in general, promoting social inclusion. The most important objective is to promote welfare and quality of life of people with mental disorder with special needs.

The following activities are recommended to our volunteers in order to achieve social inclusion: Attending old people's house providing attention and gathering stories; Organizing social, engaging art events across the city that are open to everyone independetly of skills and difference in abilities; Organizing in or out-door movie sessions on social topics, in particular short films; possible in partnership with local cinema and Youth Center; Launching unusual fundraising campaigns; Street actions to promote FAJUVIS and APPDA explaining that with European programs there is the possibility to integrate youngsters with youngster with special needs; Promoting volunteering between local community and organizations.

GOALS:

Improvement of the 8 key competences of lifelong learning knowledge in European Union project management related to Youth, Culture and Citizenship Deep knowledge about the EU policies involving Youth Promotion of Erasmus+ for the youngsters and local community Skills and competences in Youth Working Development of capabilities in a transversal way Ability to be participative and active in the society empowerment and development of a sense of ownership, acquiring and understanding of their wider communities Ability for planning and achieve objectives and anticipated learning outcomes strenghts and weaknesses; learning and improving from experience Awareness for the volunteering in the development of local communities Engaging in group work, led by young people exploring issues in depth Development of creativeness and sense if initiative Ability to work with young people on self awareness and addressing needs.





EUROPE FOR CITIZENS „FROM M.E. TO E.U FROM Migrants’ Engagement TO Europe Upgrade“

The project proposal aims to provide spaces and opportunities for European citizens and migrants’ communities to work together in order to build up and share a new idea of a multicultural Europe. The concept we believe-in is that, beside formal citizenship, there are different ways and method to involve people in the growing up of a society. Refugee communities are, as a matter of fact, a part of our population and will contribute, together with us, to the shaping of our future. For this reason every migrant should be considered a citizen and every citizen could bring ideas, innovative approaches, participation methods to the community in which he lives. Our aim, as an NGO, is to overturn the idea of a society in which refugees are outsiders to be managed, a problem to be solved, a crisis to deal with. Our will is to move out, from migrant people, the guilt of stealing our “well-being” and of ruining our values and give them back the responsibility of being part of the growing of our society.

One of the most big challenges of the new century could then be tackled with a new approach, not only centered on pitiful and helpful, but on sharing of experiences, collaboration, building of double-win solutions.

Our project FROM M.E. To E.U. will consist in a path of inclusion between citizens and refugees and migrants, fostering a mutual assistance through a peer-to-peer approach.

The project will be developed in 3 phases. Each phase will be developed in 2 different levels: international training meetings and local activities, as described below.

PHASE 1 “GETTING TO KNOW”:

a) International training course: 4 days with 56 participants (7 pax per country: 3 form each municipality and 4 from ONG)

Target: citizens and representatives from partner organizations

Aims: to train participants on how to run the local workshops. They will improve their knowledge about:

- European Union and the meaning of European citizenship
- Intercultural learning
- Team building
- Conflict management

Venue: Brussels - Belgium



b) Local activity “MY EUROPE, MY STORY”: 3 local workshops using storytelling as a tool to better understand each other cultures. EU citizens will explain European Union (Organization, Institutions, values, purposes); migrants will tell about who they are, where they come from, their history, etc.

PHASE 2 “NEEDS AND DREAMS”:

a) International training course: 4 days with 56 participants (7 pax per country: 3 form each municipality and 4 from ONG)

Target: citizens and representatives from partner organizations

Aims: to share ideas and set up the following local activities (survey and workshops) Venue: Larissa, Greece



b) Local activity "SURVEY": citizens and volunteers will collect video-interviews addressed to citizens and migrants to gather their opinions on this topic: mutual support between citizens and migrants.

c) Local activity "I NEED (E)U, (E)U NEED ME": 2 peer-to-peer workshops designed and implemented by citizens and migrants to bring out their needs and dreams; Europe citizens will state their difficulties, refugees will explain their needs. Together they will try to find solutions, exchange good practices, make concrete proposals on how to foster a better common living in their community.

PHASE 3 "LET'S DO IT TOGETHER":

a) Local activity "S.O.S. VOLUNTEERS": starting from the needs and solutions arisen during the previous local activities, a platform on volunteering bases of mutual help will be implemented. Eg: citizens could offer assistance to migrants in practical/bureaucratic/legal issues; migrants could propose actions useful for citizens and local community (such as to help elderly people in daily matters, gardening, shopping and so on). Volunteers will be recruited also through the European Solidarity Corps.

b) Local activity "S.O.S. VOLUNTEERS": implementation of volunteering activities

c) International final meeting: citizens and representatives from partner organizations will meet to share the local activities implemented, to set up a dissemination strategy and to evaluate the project.

Target: citizens and representatives from partner organizations

Aims: final evaluation of the project and sharing dissemination strategy

Venue: Valdagno - Italy

The project will last 18 months, from January 2019 to June 2020. All participant organizations will be involved in every step of the flow. All Municipalities from partner organizations' areas will also be involved in the project, in order to maximize the impact of the concrete actions at local levels.

Youth Exchange Let's Get it Started

Venue: Kristiansand, Norway, The applicant is Youth for Diversity Agder. The project aims to improve Partnership Building for organizations active in youth work. Preparation of future youth exchange projects. Getting to know new tools and methods to be used in youth work. Furthermore it gives a chance to and improve various themes as well as to get to know ways of local involvement of young people to accept diversity, fight racism and increase tolerance in local societies. Self-directed learning, as a tool for personal and professional growth through local volunteering.





PROMOTION ON TERRITORY

International Day of Acceptance

We celebrated the International Day of Acceptance. It was established to spread more social acceptance towards people with disabilities. In other words, with or without disability, everybody has interests, talents, opinions and a voice that wants to be heard. And the potential to make a difference in the world. Like Annie Hopkins, the woman with whom the movement began, showed us.

We wanted to join. So, we created stickers and put them all over the towns of Brtonigla and Umag. In that way, we hope, we have raised more awareness on this day. The stickers have the "Wheelchair Heart" on them, which was created by Annie and is now symbol of the movement.

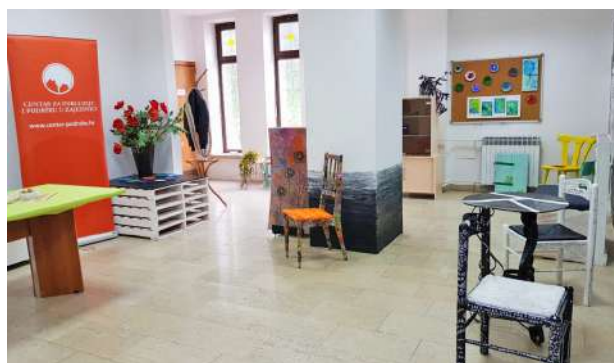
"Tell the world that you are accepting of people with disabilities. As our parents, siblings, relatives, spouses, children, lovers, coworkers, teachers, personal assistants, friends, and anyone else – you also have a role in our culture and life. You can start change by demonstrating acceptance and showing the world that you embrace people of all abilities.

The Exhibition of the Center of Inclusion of Buje

in the Center of Inclusion of Buje was opened the exhibition of all the projects the members of the Center of Inclusion of Buje have been working on for the past couple of months.

The objects displayed ranged from small objects like painted bookmarks and magnets to pieces of furniture.

Two of our volunteers have been helping them out since the end of September and have lended their hand to some of the artwork, like finishing plates the members of the center have put the background on or putting on the base for the furniture. They also helped out in organizing the exhibition itself.



World Hello Day

The 21st of November is the international World Hello Day. The premise might sound simple but the meaning behind it is becoming more and more relevant.

Anyone can participate in World Hello Day simply by greeting ten people. This demonstrates the importance of personal communication for preserving peace.

We found the message to be a timely one and invited the local community to participate by spreading around posters with greeting slips. Each paper slip held a greeting in a different language and an encouragement to spread positivity and kindness.





Bike ride with the kindergarten in Brtonigla-Verteneglio

On 24th of October, the kindergarten arranged a bicycle ride for the children. In fact, they rode their bicycles along a track near the kindergarten under the policeman's supervision.

The volunteers, made sure that they followed his instructions and were safe. At the end of the ride, the policeman gave a medal to each child and did some magic tricks with handcuffs. Overall, the children liked this activity and learnt something new.



European Day of Languages

26 September is the international European Day of Languages, so we decided to spend it with the local kindergarten.

There are 24 official languages in Europe but in actuality more than 200 are spoken on the continent. European Day of Languages is annually held in order to promote and celebrate the rich linguistic and cultural diversity as well as to encourage learning of languages. As each one of us

comes from a different corner of Europe we decided to promote this diversity through presenting our own mother tongues (Spanish, German and Latvian) to the children. By teaching them some simple words, like "hello" and "goodbye" and playing some games with them, like finding the correct emotion on a balloon and imitating animals, we were able to show how different our languages were. At the end of the day we had a lot of fun and the kids seemed to enjoy it as well!

Sustainable Communities Day in Umag

On the 21st of September we took part in the European Day of Sustainable Communities in Umag along the Center of Inclusion of Buje and other local associations.

The European Day of Sustainable Communities was celebrated for the second time in many communities across Europe to promote environmental awareness. Lately, climate change and consequently environmental-friendly living has been brought into the public eye more than ever before, so we were encouraged to contribute to the community-led action on sustainability too. Therefore, we offered to recycle old, unused bottles by transforming them into plant pots or pen holders. The outcome was really nice and especially liked by the youngest ones.

ERASMUS+ promotion in local Highschools

Like every year the Team of the LDA together with the ESC volunteers visited the local Highschools of Pula "Dante Alighieri" and Buje "Leonardo da Vinci" to promote the ERASMUS + programme. The presentation of the programme is a core element to promote what the European values are and to make the local youth understands and knows what the opportunities the European Union provides to gain new skills, make new experiences and grow. The presentation was structured so that it explained all focal points and Key actions as well as the volunteering opportunities available.



LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES
ACTIVITY REPORT
 2019



**LOCAL
 DEMOCRACY
 AGENCIES**



Activity report