

LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES

ACTIVITY REPORT

2020

***Last farewell to Saša Marinkov
Delegate of LDA Central and Southern Serbia***

Late 2020 and beginning of 2021 will be remembered for long time: ALDA together with all LDAs came closer to each other for the last farewell to Saša Marinkov, delegate of the LDA Central and Southern Serbia, who passed away on January 2021.

As expressed by ALDA President Oriano Otocan, together with ALDA Secretary General, Antonella Valmorbida, as well as the entire ALDA

“As delegate of the Local Democracy Agency Central and Southern Serbia, Saša has been part of ALDA and the Balkan Network for Local Democracy – BNLD for more than a decade. We have lost a valuable member of our family. He was modest and visionary, committed worker, a fighter for positive changes in the community. Most importantly, we lost a true friend that was alongside with us in all our ups and downs. Friend that we would truly remember and adore till the end of days.

Saša, we thank you for everything you have done for us and your community. We will continue fighting for your cause: it's the only thing we can do to reach your vision. We'll miss him immensely now and so it will be in the future.”



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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 ACTIVITIES OF THE LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES IN 2020



Delegate: Jerola Ziaj

Established: 2008

Key partners:

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

Main objectives:

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

The Association “Local Democracy Agency in Albania“ was re- opened in Vlora, in October 2015 in the southern part of the country, with the aim to be the intermediating and dialogical development place, and providing mutual exchanges at every level (cultural, social, economic) between the communities in Albania and the European Community partners.

The main purpose of LDA Albania is to promote the concrete initiatives for the consolidation of democracy at the local level as well as the development of the institutions capacity by means of exchange of expertise and experience, training of local councilors and civil administration, the development of a network of European cities in the field of human rights protection which includes minorities as a whole, a social pluralist society inclusive of all convictions and which act as a promoter of intercultural and interethnic dialogue and of human rights respect.

LDA ALBANIA IN THE FIELD

Project and activities

1) RYCE - Regional Youth Compact for Europe

On February 2020, Xheni Shehaj, from 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 she worked on project development/ratification of project proposals, assisting project implementation tasks as well as different activities LDK held in February. She spent one month in Peja as a member of the LDK team.

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

The internship program aims at providing a framework for young people in the region to gain firsthand experience regarding the way CSOs 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.



2) 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.



3) Workshops

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.

On September 2019, as Project Partner, LDA Albania took part at 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.



4) 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 Vloera, is a hilltop fortress built in the 4th century B.C. that offers spectacular views over Vloera 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 outreach 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.

5) 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.

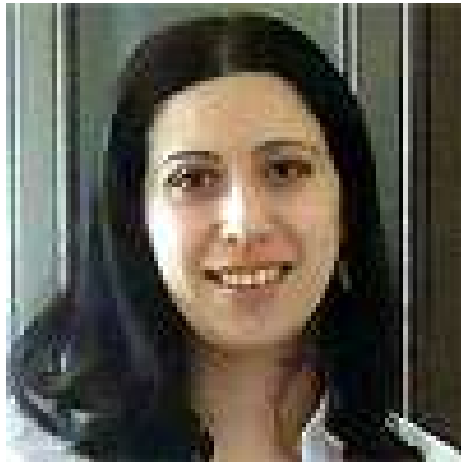
The Administrative-Territorial Reform launched in 2015 has paved the way for an effective decentralization process and fostering local autonomy with better representation; tangible local democracies; better services and easier access to every single unit in the country.

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.



Delegate: Lusine Aleksandryan

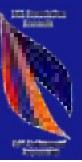
Established: 2011

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

Main objectives:

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



"Local Democracy Agency" foundation was established in 2011. Among its main priorities are to promote the capacities of local authorities and civil society in citizens' participation, support participative practices in the development of local and sustainable tourism, reinforce regional cooperation, empower youth and women in environmental, democratic and community development initiatives. Furthermore, the cooperation with the French Embassy, the Council of Europe, CSF of Eastern Partnership, Black Sea NGO Forum, UN and the European stakeholders promoted the implementation of many initiatives in the field of local democracy and participative decision-making.

LDA ARMENIA IN THE FIELD

Project and activities

1) "Citizens Voice and Actions on Local Development in Consolidated Communities in 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.

The project was designed to enhance the capacity of consolidated communities of Armenia in drafting and implementing people-centred and sustainable local development projects. In this sense, a series of activities were implemented by the partners through a combination of capacity building, sub-granting and consultation actions.

A special focus of the project was to showcase good practices of community driven projects, particularly in areas of tourism and outdoor activities development. To achieve this objective, three large – scale demonstration projects were facilitated and implemented. (Ski centre in Ashotsk, and development of hiking, biking and rafting along Debed Canyon in Lori). These activities have thus highlighted the importance of and the opportunities for sustainable local development.

The project was definitely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic: all the events – such as in person – trainings with EU coaches for Armenian communities and a regional conference with the Georgian and EAP counterparts – were postponed.



2) “WE CAN”

Since December 2020, the foundation has been involved in the “WE CAN” project, proposed by the Gyumri Youth Palace and funded by the CSF of Eastern Partnership, promoting women and youngster knowledge and raise awareness on their working possibilities, and supporting women’ entrepreneurial initiatives in the struggle against COVID-19.

Capacity- building trainings on business planning, marketing and taxation system were held at the Gyumri Youth palace for the participants, who were also involved in various workshops providing essential material (masks, uniforms, liquid and hard soaps) for frontline healthcare staff.

As the activities will continue, women and youngster businesses supported by the project will mitigate the social consequences brought by the pandemic assisting families in need or employing people living in bad conditions. As stated by one of the participants, “the initiative was very important for our society these days, in which people are disappointed and hopeless towards the future. The project became very interesting during the production process of the goods that were needed in the fight against COVID-19”.



3) “CSO-Government dialogue: Towards policy reforms on reducing the use of plastic bags” project

The project focused on the promotion of a dialogue between CSOs and the government on the reduction of the use of plastic bags. Three experts worked on researching how to reduce plastic bags, proposing alternative options. Tote-bags were sewed and disseminated in Tallin, as a public demonstration, in cooperation with the local authorities. A final package of research and recommendations was sent to the Ministry of Environment as a supplementary document to promote the law on the reduction of plastic bags.

The last component of the project – a contest on environmental issues among schoolchildren – took place in September 2020, delayed by the restrictions in place against the pandemic.





Legal Representative: Ana Jovanovic
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

Project and activities

1) RYCE – Regional Youth Compact for Europe



Regional
Youth Compact
for Europe



This project is funded
by the European Union

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).

This cooperation initiative launched by 14 CSOs from the EU, Western Balkans and Turkey is aimed at enhancing the effective participation of civil society and youth organizations in the EU integration and accession negotiation process through capacity building, awareness rising and advocacy actions organized at local, national and regional levels.

2020 activities

- Coordination of the production of three short video projects, with the objective of increasing the visibility and outreach of young people;
- In cooperation with LDA Subotica, organisation of a social media campaign on the essential workers' right during a pandemic, based on the Regulation of the Government of Serbia on the organization of work of employers during the state of emergency and the broader legislative acquis of the EU Negotiation Chapter 19, 'Social policy and employment';
- Online workshop for young people from Subotica and Knjaževac focusing on their social and economic rights under the aforementioned legislative framework and discussing also the influence of the pandemic and the related crisis on labour rights.

2) CLINK – Cultural Heritage as a link diversity of Europe

CLINK is funded by European Commission (Europe for Citizens).

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 at deepening the connections between people from 10 communities from 3 EU (CRO, FR, GR) and 4 non-EU countries (BiH, SRB, MN, AL) and the heritage surrounding them, raising their awareness on the topic and placing their own cultural heritage in the rich and diverse European cultural framework.

Through planned activities, it gathered and engaged a diverse group of participants in discussions, forums, exchange of practices, study visits and art events.

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 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 were raised interest in cultural heritage for direct and indirect participants, improved awareness on EU policies on cultural heritage and how to promote, protect and sustainably use it for socio-economic development of societies, as well as an enforced sense of belonging to a common European space.

2020 activities

– Final project event as an online webinar attended by representatives of project partners, cultural workers, representatives of cultural institutions and associations. More than 95 participants discussed the results of the project implementation and exchanged their views on the topic “Regenerating heritage: new life for abandoned industrial, religious, military and public buildings”. Through a number of different presentations and discussions, prominent international speakers from academia and cultural and historical institutions, as well as experts of the field of cultural heritage presented the challenges related to giving a new life at the cultural heritage. The panelists showcased different aspects of the abandoned cultural heritage and its regenerating.



3) 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 Balkan Network for Local Democracy (BNLD with its main office in Skopje) with the aim of developing and promoting a new cultural tourism product – Monumental 9 Tour – together with the training and engagement of young people in the tour operation and promotion.

Activities resulted in the development of a new cultural touristic product, presenting the rich cultural heritage of the WW2 monuments in the Western Balkan economies. The tour around 9 selected locations encompasses invitations to explore the cultural diversity of the region, natural beauties, historic narratives, colossal architectural designs, traditional and fine artistry, recreational routes and local food specialties.

The project is designed to help creating the preconditions for the development of a new touristic product, increasing youth employment and sustaining income-generating activities through the engagement of micro-localities, youth greeters and vloggers in regional co-operation programs. More specifically, it aims at: developing youth-friendly, innovative promotional actions to provide orientation and publicize the cultural narrative around the nine WWII monuments in the former Yugoslav republics; creating youth-friendly online platforms to present sites, locations and cultural heritage of these nine micro-localities; developing regional pilot youth intercultural exchange programs including exploration, storytelling, digitalization of Monumental 9; increasing the attractiveness through tourism development of income-generating activities in these nine micro-localities.

2020 activities

– In August 2020, LDA CSS piloted the part of Monumental 9 Tour 2 encompassing Bubanj memorial park in Nis, Red Cross concentration camp, the Fortress of Nis and Niska Banja spa.



4) Local Economic Monitor



This project, funded by the European Union through a grant scheme within the project 'Prepare to Participate P2P' and implemented by the European Policy Centre (CEP), aims at enhancing the contribution of local CSOs to the negotiation process, meeting the economic criteria for EU memberships. Specifically, it is set to improve the CSOs' participation in monitoring the progresses under Chapter 20 and the 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 local public decision makers in key areas of industrial policy and entrepreneurship.

2020 activities

– Two virtual roundtables were organized, dedicated to the theme of industrial policy and entrepreneurship – Chapter 20 within the EU accession process of Serbia. Concrete examples on transposition of such policies at the local level were presented, focusing on how local authorities and local civil society are providing support to the development of local economies. The first virtual roundtable was dedicated to examples of good practices from Subotica and Vojvodjina, while the second one was concentrated on good practices delivered by the Municipality of Knjaževac. Both virtual round tables ended with recommendations for the involvement of civil society organizations in the process of monitoring EU integration at the local level, with a particular reference to the areas covered by Chapter 20 of the negotiations.

5) FOR Balkans – Integrated approach for FOrrest 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); Effetresezero Srl (Italy); University Of Trento (Italy); Association Trentino con il Kosovo (Kosovo*); VIS Albania (Albania).

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

6) VALID European Towns – Enacting Common Values of Solidarity and Intercultural Dialogue



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

The project VALID aims at building a strong network of towns committed to intercultural exchange, using a bottom-up approach and through promotion of cultural participation. Cultural participation is seen as a tool for improving social inclusion, active citizenship and intercultural dialogue, as well as fostering solidarity and respect for cultural diversity. The partnership involves Kosovo*, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, North Macedonia, Italy, Montenegro, France, Greece and Slovenia.

VALID pinpoints cultural participation as an effective tool for establishing and upholding this process, generating counter narratives and providing a more inclusive pathway for citizen's participation in policy making while raising awareness on key social issues.

The project promotes the principles of interculturalism as inclusion tools for local development, models for policy making and fostering continuous culture of dialogue and open space for public cross-cultural discourse.

Four International event will be followed by local paths dealing with the same topic for the local communities to be actively engaged and mobilized. More specifically, local paths will be implemented in the local communities of partners' countries from the Western Balkans and 3 EU Member States.

7) Action 4 Europe of Solidarity – A4EUS



This project, funded by the Europe for Citizens Programme, features as a consortium the following partners: LDA CSS (Serbia); COPPEM (Italy); Roma Youth Center (North Macedonia); Municipality of Tuzi (Montenegro); Asociación Pasos Solidarios (Spain); International Platform for Citizen Participation Sdruzhenie (Bulgaria); Municipality Mazara del Vallo (Italy); FTZ - Community Foundation Valletta (Malta); Culturepolis (Greece); Peipsi Koostoo Keskus (Estonia); European University College Association (Belgium); Institute for the development of Sport and Education (Poland); Centre for International Relations (Poland); Qendra e Studimit te Politikave Europiane per Zhvillimin Rajon (Albania); Municipality Osilo (Italy); Unione dei Comuni del Gerrei (Italy).

Focusing on the values of solidarity and peace as the elements granting strength and stability to the European engine for 70 years, the project aims at analyzing the EU Immigration policies and the management of immigration flows from the perspective of those countries struggling with this. For such a purpose, a series of activities in 7 countries (Italy, Malta, North Macedonia, Serbia, Greece, Albania, Belgium) will be organized.

Through its activities (webinars, research, video production, surveys), the project is carrying on the promotion of an inter-cultural and open dialogue to understand migrations and improve the immigration narrative with the final aim to combat xenophobia in Europe.

8) WB Cultours – Cultural tours in Western Balkans

The project, funded by the Balkan Network for Local Democracy, aims at contributing to regional cooperation and cohesion in the Western Balkans, through cultural cooperation and activities for sustainable growth. Specific project objectives are: the promotion of shared cultural heritage in WB countries, the support of local sustainable development of micro-localities through income-generating activities and tourism and the reinforcement of cooperation and networking among different stakeholders at local and regional levels.

The project partners have developed 3 regional tours around historical monuments, with activities to carry out in the surrounding areas. To further promote the historical and cultural heritage of the WB region, an application employing promotional clips, virtual tours, narratives and maps will be created. Such an app will thus support understanding and good-neighbourly relations and reconciliation in the region, by increasing people to people contacts and exchange.

2020 activities

– LDA CSS hosted a virtual panel discussion of the topic of ‘Tourism in times of COVID-19 crisis, addressing its potential for local development. The panellists from the cultural and tourism industry explored the topic of tourism as an economic response to Covid-19. They discussed how micro-localities can use the period of travel restrictions to re-launch their local touristic activities within their own country and region. This event aimed at creating links for cooperation among the tourist stakeholders and promoting tours for cultural heritage, which will widen the tourist offer and support local sustainable development of micro-localities through income generating activities and tourism.



9) Grasping the EU – Cooperation Program Trentino-Balcani

During 2020, LDA CSS supported its leading partner 'Associazione Trentino con i Balcani' in the implementation of the activities foreseen within the framework of the community cooperation programme between Trentino and the Balkans, further developing the 'Grasping the EU' project, aimed at increasing the awareness of young people on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, in particular the ones related to environmental sustainability.

2020 activities

– Organisation of a workshop focusing on UN SDGs: After familiarisation with SDGs, pupils discussed and identified problems and possible solutions to the environmental issues that are considered the most serious within their local community with ideas on how to promote the 17 SDG in school and wider community. They created a booklet on the topics discussed called EKO VUKOV ZABAVNIK.





10) United by Diversity

This project, funded by the Civil Society Facility Serbia and the EU Delegation to Serbia, is led by the European Movement Serbia, in partnership with LDA Subotica, Timok Club, European Movement in Serbia – Leskovac, Forum of Civil Action (FORCA).

In its two years of activities, from January 2020 to January 2022, the project aims at increasing the capacities of the Serbian CSOs to address cultural diversity within reform process and EU integration process, creating institutional support for the promotion of intercultural dialogue and cultural diversity by establishing the network 'United by Diversity' of youth CSOs and CSOs dealing with youth in Serbia. Moreover, the project activities are designed to empower youth in Serbia on such topics, enhancing common consciousness of being part of the same society.

LDA CSS is member of the established 'United by Diversity' network, together with the applicant and partners of the project, alongside other 24 CSOs from Serbia.



2020 activities

- Establishment of the 'United by diversity' network;
- Capacity-building workshops for network members;
- Development of innovative methodology for intercultural exchanges;
- Conducting the competition 'My community in intercultural Europe' in selected high schools;
- 20 three-day exchanges for high school students, including 20 intercultural European classes;
- Creation of quiz 'United in Diversity' and board game 'Let's unite in diversity';
- Creation and promotion of the short movie 'Intercultural puzzle of Serbia'.





Delegate: Anzhelika Pylypenko

Established: 2015

Key partners:

- Lower Silesian Voivodeship
- Dnipropetrovsk Regional Council

Main objectives:

- 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

Project and activities

1) Provision of advisory and organizational assistance for the creation of self-organization bodies of the population

The LDA of Dnipropetrovsk region held regular consultations with the initiative group (representatives of 15 apartment buildings of the housing estate “Topol-1”), with the aim of preparing and managing explanatory and educational work among the residents of the estate, organizing meetings to elect the delegates for the conference on the creation of the neighborhood association, in accordance with the quota established by the Regulations on the bodies of self-organization of the population, approved by the Dnipropetrovsk City Council.



Selected delegates from these 15 blocks of flats, representing the interests of 5700 people living there, gathered in a constituent conference, scheduled for the spring of 2020.



2020 activities:

- Creating conditions for the participation of residents in addressing issues of local importance within the limits of the Constitution and laws of Ukraine;
- Satisfying social, cultural, household and other needs of the residents by assisting them in providing relevant services;
- Participating in the implementation of the socio-economic and cultural development of the respective territory, and other local programs.

2) Preparation by the LDA of Dnipropetrovsk region and its main partners – the Province of Lower Silesia and the Dnipropetrovsk Regional Council – of the visit of the Marshal of Lower Silesia and the Prime Minister of Lower Saxony, Mr. Kretschmer to Dnipro.

A preliminary visit of the Protocol services was prepared - air tickets were purchased, letters were written to the key participants in the meeting - the mayor of the city of Dnipro Borys Filatov, the deputy head of the Dnipropetrovsk regional council - Svyatoslav Oliynyk. The delegate of the LDA Dnipropetrovsk region organized the program of the visit (prepared and agreed with all stakeholders and with Alexander Raksha - the head of the department of foreign economic relations of the Dnipropetrovsk regional state administration). The following program was previously agreed upon: 1) a meeting with the leadership of the Dnipropetrovsk region and deputies, 2) inspection of the Heroes' Alley and visiting the ATO museum, 3) visiting the wounded in the Mechnikov's hospital and the military hospital, 4) a visit to the restaurant "Pizza-veterano" (business of veterans and ATO participants), 5) a visit to the All-Ukrainian Festival of a military song of ATO participants, 6) a visit to the rocket-building center - Design department "Yuzhnoye".

But, unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the introduction of a lockdown in our countries, the visits that were scheduled for March 24-26, 2020 (Protocol Services of Lower Silesia (Poland) and Lower Saxony (Germany) and on July 7 (Marshal of Lower Silesia and the Prime Minister of Lower Saxony (Germany) did not take place.

3) Workshops with the local community Dnipro city – June-August 2020

Once a week, representatives of LDA Dnipropetrovsk region met with active citizens of the local community Dnipro city, heads of condominiums and bodies of self-organizaion of the population for strategically planning the development of condominiums and self-organization bodies in Dnipro until 2024.



The project of strategic plan was presented in September 2020, discussed between community activists and the mayor of Dnipro city – Borys Filatov – and included in the strategic plan for the development of the Dnipro city for the next five years (2020-2024).



4) Participation in the online webinar ALDA dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the association on 8th July, 2020

15 participants, including partners of LDA of Dnipropetrovsk region, officials of Dnipropetrovsk Regional Council (Local Government Department - 3 people), official of Lower Silesian Voivodeship (International Department - Alexandra Mirowska), officials of Dnipro City Council (International Department - 4 people, Legal Department - 2 people), 5 active peoples of civil society took part in such webinar, partly following the broadcasting from the International Department of the Dnipro City Council.

5) Tripartite partnership meeting - Lower Silesian Voivodeship - Dnipropetrovsk Regional Council - LDA of Dnipropetrovsk region.

On July 14, LDA of Dnipropetrovsk region met virtually with its two leading partners – Lower Silesian Voivodeship and Dnipropetrovsk Regional Council – sharing significant updates from the three bodies. Indeed, Lower Selesia Voivodeship presented a new Director of the International Cooperation Department of the Admnistration of the Marshal of the Lower Silesia Voivodeship - Karol Przywara, and LDA of Dnipropetrovsk region presented a report on its activities for 2019. All parties then discussed options for cooperation on various issues from culture to entrepreneurship and development of local democracy.

List of online meeting participants and topics discussed:

Polish side:

- Karol Przywara - Director of the International Cooperation Department of the Administration of the Marshal of the Lower Silesia Voivodeship
- Aleksandra Mirowska-Piałucha - Head of Protocol

Ukrainian side:

- Vladimir Tyurin - a deputy head of the Dnepropetrovsk Regional Council for international relations and entrepreneurship;
- Irina Molodan - director of the Department of International Relations and Investments of the Dnipropetrovsk Regional Council
- Valentina Zatyshniak - head of International Department of the Dnipropetrovsk Regional Council
- Nikolay Shevchenko - head of the Association of Entrepreneurs of the Dnipropetrovsk region
- Anzhelika Pylypenko - Delegate of LDA of the Dnepropetrovsk region

Topics of meeting:

1. Exchange of experiences on local government activities at regional level during the coronavirus epidemic in Lower Silesia and Dnipropetrovsk region.
2. Presentation of the functioning of the LDA of Dnipropetrovsk region in Dnipro and the possibility of implementing joint projects within the framework of ALDA.
3. Discussion of possibilities for further cooperation in the framework of the agreement on interregional partnership agreement.

Topics for discussion:

- a) Presentation of the current epidemiological and economic situation in Lower Silesia and Dnipropetrovsk region.
- b). Presentation of the functioning of the LDA of Dnipropetrovsk region and possibilities to implement of joint projects in the framework of ALDA.

Discussion on the directions and possibilities for interregional cooperation

(proposals):

- Changing the form and terms of the tripartite meeting Lower Silesia - Dnepropetrovsk region - Saxony, which did not take place in May 2020, due to epidemic.
- Proposal to organize, if necessary, support in the difficult epidemiological situation in the region by the local governments of Lower Silesia and Saxony.
- Exchange of experiences on the decentralization and functioning of local authorities in both regions.
- Possibility of economic cooperation (participation of Ukrainian entrepreneurs in the Industrial Forum scheduled for December 2020).
- Organization of partner and regional knowledge competitions for schoolchildren from both regions exchange of competition winners (one week stay in Lower Silesia and Dnepropetrovsk region).

- Continuing cooperation between the National Museum in Wrocław and the Museum of Arts in Dnipro.
- Organization of an exhibition of folk crafts; Petrykovka in Wrocław.

6) Final online event of the project “Empowering local authorities and civil society to deliver solutions with Participative Democracy”

On the 7th of October, LDA of Dnipropetrovsk region organized an online meeting, featuring the participation of the Mayor of the City of Dnipro, to summarize the results achieved during the implementation of the aforementioned project. This event was also the occasion for presenting the Mayor of Dnipro with the ALDA Diploma of Positive Evaluation of Openness of Power in Dnipro City, virtually handed by ALDA Secretary General, Antonella Valmorbida.



7) Online Dnipro Condominiums Forum

On the 23th of October, Delegate of LDA of Dnipropetrovsk region Anzhelika Pylypenko took part in the online event organized by the Dnipro Condominiums Forum, aimed at disseminating the Dnipro Condominiums Development Strategy 2020-2024 – developed by condominiums activists and participants of the workshops held by the LDA.

The Forum participants supported the Strategy and signed a collective petition to the Mayor of Dnipro to include such document in the City Development Strategy of Dnipro for the years 2020-2024.

8) “Black Sea NGO Forum: Building CSO Capacity for Regional Cooperation within the Black Sea Region”

LDA of Dnipropetrovsk region took part in the research section of this project through a sub-granting scheme of the project, implemented by the Romanian NDGO Platform – FOND and financially supported by the European Union.

The research study represented the central activity of the “Digital Tools for Active Citizens” project, run in partnership with the Civic Resource Centre – Romania, “Open Borders” Institute of Peace, Democracy and Development NGO – Armenia, “Local Democracy Agency” Foundation - Armenia, “Local Democracy Agency” - Georgia, “Local Democracy Agency of Dnipropetrovsk region” - Ukraine.

With the participation of LDA of Dnipropetrovsk region, it was possible to include in the surveys 26 people – equally divided between men and women of different ages –, active members of civil society, member of youth organizations, organizations of Afghanistan Veterans, heads of condominiums and bodies of self-organizing of the population. The translation of the research results and their dissemination to survey participants are scheduled for March 2021.



9) Regular consultations for youth organizations in order to activate their position in local elections

LDA of Dnipropetrovsk region provided regular consultations for youth organizations to strengthen their positions before running for the local elections. One of the participants of the consultations – a sixth year university student, Kateryna Nemchenko – took part in the elections and became a deputy in the Dnipropetrovsk Regional Council.



10) Establishment of a regional coalition of organizations supporting gender equality for further cooperation and collaboration in project activities

A coalition of organization comprising NGO Campus Creative Club, NGO Public Chamber of Ukraine, NGO Gender club Dnipro, NGO Eastern European Centre for Multiparty Democracy – EECMD and LDA of Dnipropetrovsk region was established.

All NGOs directors received training from experts of the International Charity Organization “Ukrainian Women’s Fund”, with the objective of developing a strategy for joint activities within the coalition, which took part also in the project "Information campaign to counteract the influence of anti-gender movement" with the support of ICO "Ukrainian Women's Fund".





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 GEORGIA IN THE FIELD

Project and activities

1) „Racha-Lechkhumi and lower Svaneti Regional Development Initiative”

Local Democracy Agency Georgia has been actively working, with the involvement of various community actors, to strengthen Georgian regions for many years. The accumulated experience allows us to draw some conclusions that one of the major challenges in the regions remains: the need to diversify and strengthen the local economy, empowering municipalities and communities to manage current and future economic challenges; implement and deliver relevant municipal services to support local economy and business development.

To be above mentioned, Local Democracy Agency Georgia has been implementing the grant „Racha-Lechkhumi and lower Svaneti Regional Development Initiative” within the framework of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) “Fostering Regional and Local Development-Phase 2” project, with financial support from the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC), Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC) and Government of Georgia. The purpose of the grant is to stimulate regional and local economies and to involve different stakeholders in the policy making process in Racha-Lechkhumi and lower Svaneti region.

The activities of the grant are divided into three main areas:

- Promoting sustainable development of mountainous municipalities;
- Citizens' awareness about their rights, functions and obligations of municipalities, sustainable local economic development (LED) initiatives and citizen participation instruments;
- Strengthen cooperation between the public, private and civil sectors for local economic development.

2020 activities:

– Within the framework of the first area of the aforementioned project, the following activities were implemented: LDA Georgia presented the grant in Ambroulari, an occasion to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with Racha-Lechkhumi Lower Svaneti Regional Administration. Different trainings for the various stakeholders involved were organized. To enhance the popularity of the tourist destination, promotional videos were made and the project activities were also broadcasted on central television. A Regional Tourism Forum was held, with mayors presenting their municipalities alongside local farmers and entrepreneurs. A local business information center was established in Ambrolauri. To support the entrepreneurial activities of the region, an agri-tour was held, involving 66 young people and 4 municipalities.



– Regarding the second area of the project, trainings for public servants, civic advisory councils' members and CSOs representatives were held, alongside the creation of an online platform for citizens. In order for the Advisory Council to work effectively, changes were made to the councils' provisions based on LDA Georgia recommendations.



– Concerning the third area, a regional platform was created, to stimulate local economies, with the involvement of state representatives, municipalities administration and CSOs members.

2) Increasing the Quality of Citizen Involvement in Local Self-Government

Local Democracy Agency Georgia shares the view that citizen participation in the process of local self-government is one of the essential components of democratic governance and a key indicator of its evaluation.

Local Democracy Agency Georgia continues to work actively for the development of self-government and support the development of local democracy, has been actively working for many years to advocate for the problems of the population, especially vulnerable groups throughout the region of Imereti.

Local Democracy Agency Georgia (LDA Georgia) is implementing the project "Increasing the Quality of Citizen Involvement in Local Self-Government" in eleven (11/eleven) municipalities of Imereti region (Baghdati, Zestaponi, Samtredia, Vani, Khoni, Tskaltubo, Sachkhere, Chiatura, Kharagauli, Terjola, Tkibuli). The aim of the project is to increase the quality of citizen involvement in the decision-making process and ensure the accountability of local governments.

The grant covers such tasks/objectives as:

- Establishing an effective mechanism for citizens to appeal to local self-government;
- Empowering women and youth to identify and advocate needs and priorities at the local level;
- Reinforcing dialogue and cooperation between community organizations and local government in the decision-making process;
- Initiating effective cooperation mechanisms between the local self-government, the citizens' advisory council and the citizens' initiative groups, including problem planning and advocacy;

The target groups of the grant are representatives of the municipalities of Imereti region (11/eleven municipalities), civil advisory councils, members of the gender equality and council of persons with disabilities, active citizens / initiative group and civil society.

2020 activities

- At the initial stage of the project implementation, visits were held in the involved municipalities, an occasion to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the mayor of each municipality, the Chair of the City Council and the Executive Director of LDA Georgia;



- Within the framework of the project, an initiative group of citizens was created in each municipality of the Imereti region, with the objective of creating a resource that will support citizen engagement and needs;
- During the period of the project implementation, a qualitative survey was conducted in the target municipalities, whose results will help take into account the interests of local population on the process of planning and implementing strategic priority areas at local level;
- Taking into consideration that less than 1% of registered voters has the right to submit a petition, an initiative targeting such issue was prepared and sent to the municipal councils. The municipality of Khoni and Baghdati shared such proposal.

- Livestream sessions of city council meetings are now available for the municipalities of Imereti;
- A document of problems and recommendations was submitted to citizens' advisory councils, gender equality councils and the councils of persons with disabilities, which are obliged to develop recommendations and submit them to the self-governing authorities.;
- Trainings were conducted among the members of the Civic Advisory Council of the Mayor of Kharagauli, Chiatura, Sachkhere, Tkibuli, Terjola Municipalities;
- LDA Georgia in partnership with the Service Development Agency created an online platform for citizen involvement on the official websites of the municipalities.



3) Imereti Regional HUB

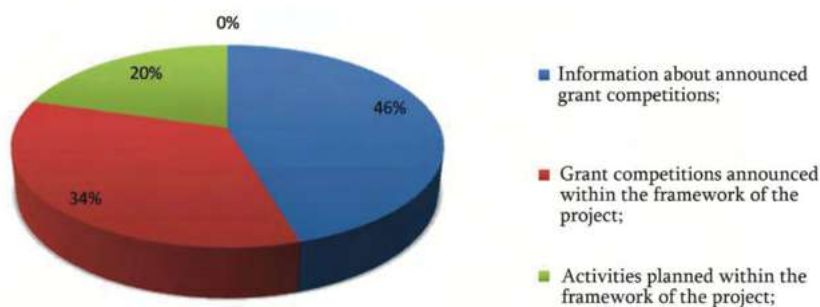
Civil society organizations (CSOs) in Georgia's regions are still a weak tool to mobilize society around democratic values. Despite the fact that civil society has learned to set appropriate priorities, better identify target groups, and they have more experience in project writing, CSO actors are still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

Because of these challenges, the HUB project, also called the “Civil Society Development Initiative”, was created in 11 regions in Georgia. The purpose of 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 the framework of the project “Civil Society Development Initiative” consultations were delivered to civil society / community organizations operating in the Imereti municipalities. 12 meetings were held to provide information and consultations about project activities. The purpose of the meetings was 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.

Within the project, the hotline provided legal assistance to representatives of NGOs and community organizations operating in the Imereti region. Any interested person from the Imereti region has the opportunity to receive information remotely on legal issues. The activation of the hotline service an additional mechanism for obtaining information effectively and a good opportunity has been set up, especially for civil society organizations working in high mountainous municipalities (Kharagauli, Sachkhere, Chiatura). In particular, 164 consultations were provided.



2020 activities

– 4 trainings were held about effective monitoring mechanisms, alongside specific trainings for CSOs representatives and youth on the topics of fundraising, social entrepreneurship, corporate social responsibility, regional development and Euro-association agreement;



– 12 informational meetings with young university students were held, alongside 4 meetings with NGOs and other public officials in municipalities;



- Public discussions were held in Kutaisi and Terjola municipalities about the topic “Decentralization Reform in Georgia, Strategy and Challenges”, discussing mechanisms of cooperation among different stakeholders;
- A regional forum of civil society was held, with the main purpose of attracting donors and potential sponsors, strengthening civil society in the Imereti region;
- In the framework of the project, an information pamphlet was created and disseminated, reflecting how CSOs operate in the Imereti region, serving as a base for a newsletter for CSOs active in the territory.



4) “Inclusive Dialogue – Effective Social policy”

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

Local Democracy Agency Georgia has implemented 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 inclusive cooperation and dialogue with the local self-government. The target groups of the project were representatives of Zestafoni and Baghdati municipalities in the Imereti region: Civil Advisory Councils, Gender Equality Councils, Council for Persons with Disabilities; Local people - active citizens and civil society. 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, (CSR) and volunteering in both 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. 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".



5) Raising Public Awareness on Juvenile Crime Prevention in Imereti and Racha-Lechkumi Lower Svaneti Region

Juvenile delinquency/crime prevention is an important component of juvenile justice. Local Democracy Agency Georgia believes that the population does not have adequate information about what is meant by juvenile justice reform and the juvenile delinquency prevention strategy.

In 2020, Local Democracy Agency Georgia implemented the project "Raising Public Awareness on Juvenile Crime Prevention in Imereti and Racha-Lechkumi Lower Svaneti Region". The aim of the project was to raise public awareness on juvenile justice reform and crime prevention in Imereti and Racha-Lechkumi Lower Svaneti.

The project included the following tasks:

- Raising public awareness (local government, civil society organizations, media, education sector) through the provision of intensive information campaigns and seminars on juvenile justice reform and crime prevention;
- Overcoming the stigma associated with adolescents in conflict with the law by providing advocacy at the local level.

The target regions of the project were the municipalities of Kutaisi, Zestaponi, Samtredia, Sachkhere in the region of Imereti and Racha-Lechkumi, Ambrolauri and Tsageri in the region of Racha-Lechkumi Lower Svaneti.

The project was funded by the European Union within the framework of the small grants programme "Supporting the Implementation of the Juvenile Justice System Reform (JJR)" and was implemented by Local Democracy Agency Georgia (LDA Georgia), the Civil Development Agency (CIDA) and the Georgian Center for Psychosocial and Medical Rehabilitation of Torture Victims.

2020 activities

- LDA Georgia held informational meetings in the project target regions, at the first stage of the implementation of the activities, discussing the goals and the objectives of the project, preventive measures for juveniles in conflict with the law, potential reform of the juvenile justice system, strategy and action plan and causes and consequences of antisocial behaviour of violence against children;
- Within the framework of the project both face-to-face meetings and online seminars (because of Covid -19) were held with school students in these municipalities. Face-to-face meetings and online seminars discussed the problems seen through the eyes of the participants, the basic rights and freedoms of the child, the psychological and legal aspects of violence against children, as well as the Code of the Child's Rights;



- Meetings with the representative of the municipalities were held, with the involvement of young people and youth programs, which shared their views and suggestions on the program;
- Information leaflets were disseminated among the local population, alongside an extensive media coverage by participation in TV and radio programs. In this context, a 50-second animated film was prepared and shared with the community.

6) JOURNEY – Joint Organization to Unite Rural Networks of Entrepreneurial Youth

Local Democracy Agency Georgia, along with its partners Kutaisi City Hall, the Regional Development Agency of Ukraine (Ukraine), the Association of Local Democracy Agencies (France), Ganja Municipality (Azerbaijan), Forma Azione (Italy), and the Lodze Marshall Office (Poland), are implementing an Erasmus + Project called "JOURNEY - Joint organization to Unite Rural Networks of Entrepreneurial Youth." The project is funded by the European Commission.

Within the framework of the project, LDA Georgia took part in the forum: "Conscious youth for communities' development" and presented youth projects implemented by LDA Georgia.' The aim of the forum was to establish cooperation and exchange of experience in the implementation of youth initiatives and projects connected with local community development. As a result of the online forum, the participants shared their experiences, presented their youth programs / projects related to the development of local communities. Representatives of Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Slovakia, Italy, Poland and France took part in the forum.

7) Inclusion NOW! Development of Inclusive Youth Work in the Eastern Partnership countries



Local Democracy Agency Georgia with European consortium of youth organizations- Armenian Progressive Youth NGO (Armenia) in cooperation with the Belarusian students' association (Belarus), the Foundation for Advancement (Moldova), the Youth organization "STAN" (Ukraine), IZ - Association for the Promotion of Diversity, Dialogue and Education (Austria), AEGEE-Europe (Belgium) and Fryshuset Foundation (Sweden) implements a project - "Inclusion NOW! Development of Inclusive Youth Work in the Eastern Partnership countries".

The project offers an opportunity for professional development to a group of youth professionals in the Eastern Partnership countries who work in the area of youth inclusion. Additionally, we are aiming at incorporating the issue of inclusion of young people to the advocacy goals of the Working Group 4 of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum and advocate for more youth inclusion both at the national and European levels.

The objectives of the project are the following:

- Sharing experiences and best practices on increasing inclusiveness of youth work provided to the disadvantaged young people in the Eastern Partnership countries;
- Equipping young professionals from the Eastern Partnership countries with practical tools and methods to use in their everyday work with disadvantaged young people;
- Creating a network of partners in the EU and the Eastern Partnership who jointly develops quality youth work measures to support inclusion of disadvantaged young people;
- Mapping good practices, training activities, tools and methodologies, which promote youth inclusion and disseminating them among the members of the Working Group 4 of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum and beyond;
- Incorporating the issue of inclusion of young people under the risk of marginalization in the advocacy goals of the Working Group 4 of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum;
- Disseminating and mainstreaming the results, recommendations and the position paper elaborated within the project among the relevant EU institutions and the national governments in the Eastern Partnership countries;

The project benefits from support through the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum Re-granting Scheme (FSTP) and is funded by the European Union as part of its support to civil society in the region.

8) Participatory Local Development

Due to the situation of Covid- 19 in the country, Regions of Georgia remotely continued to take care of the development of municipalities. LDA Georgia was actively involved in this process. Local Democracy Agency Georgia has organized online meetings with the representatives of Imereti, Guria, Racha-Lechkhumi lower Svaneti and Samegrelo Upper Svaneti regions. The aim of the meetings was to discuss medium-term development documents of municipalities.



Local Democracy Agency Georgia has organized online trainings with the representatives of Imereti, Guria, Racha-Lechkhumi Lower Svaneti and Samegrelo Upper Svaneti regions. The topic of the training was how to prepare project proposals.

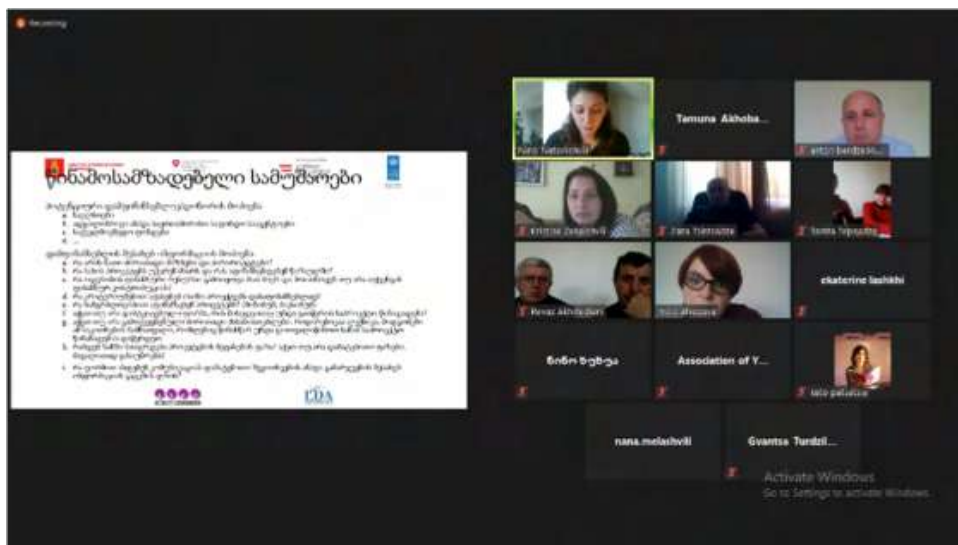
The training participants had the opportunity to get acquainted with the structure, goals and objectives, the activities to be carried out and the time plan as well as the types of results indicators, the preparatory work and budgeting of the project proposals.

Local Democracy Agency Georgia has conducted webinar with representatives of Mtskheta-Mtianeti, kvemo Kartli (Lower Kartli), Imereti, Guria, Racha-Lechkhumi Lower Svaneti and Samegrelo-Upper Svaneti regions. The topic of the webinar was: Fundraising and Advocacy Strategy.

Webinar participants had the opportunity to get acquainted with the funding stages and opportunities in developed countries and countries with transitional economy, strategy for funding, advocacy strategy and tactics, reporting issues, as well as small and large contributors, ways to work with them and analysis of the market of contributors.

The webinar and trainings were held in the framework of the project "participatory local development".

The above-mentioned activities were hold in the framework of the project "pnt Program (UNDP) "Fostering Regional and Local Development" project, with financial support from the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC) and Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC).





Legal Representative: Shpresa Sefaj Berisha
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 and activities

1) RYCE – Regional Youth Compact for Europe

This project aims at enhancing 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, regional and national levels.

2020 activities

– Local Youth Workshops at the Youth Center – Peja, 11th-12th March: 19 students from the University of Peja, Department of Justice, Human resources and economy took part in this two-day training on human and labour rights, the European Union, its history and its stance towards youth and youth-related issues. Participants had the occasion to attend lectures from expert but also engage in the topics with role-games and practical activities. During the event, the comparative study “Civil Society in the Western Balkans: Involvement in the EU Accession Negotiation and EU Integration Processes from Initiatives to a Structured Dialogue”, realised within the RYCE project, was presented. At the end of these two days, the students were involved in a symbolic street action in the city center on the importance of joining the EU for Kosovo.



2) EU facilitated dialogue between Belgrade and Prishtina

This project, financed by the Autonomous Province of Trento, aims at raising awareness on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, in particular those related to environmental sustainability. To reach such an objective, each partner involved in the project has to hold a workshop/training on the topics highlighted by the activity. At the end of the implementation period, a booklet containing the results of the workshops held within the project will be published and distributed, mainly to children at elementary schools. An online version will be also available.

2020 activities

– Workshop in Peja, 1st-3rd October: young participants took part in this two-days workshop on issues of environmental sustainability relevant for their communities.



3) Monumental 9

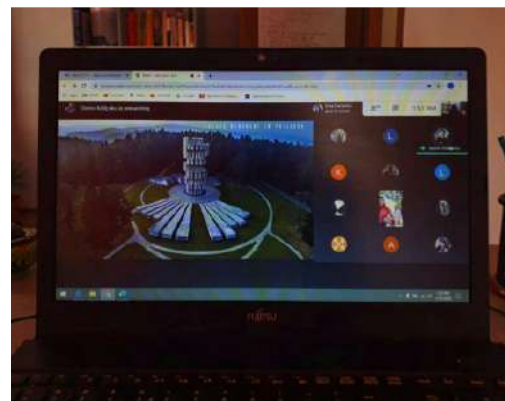
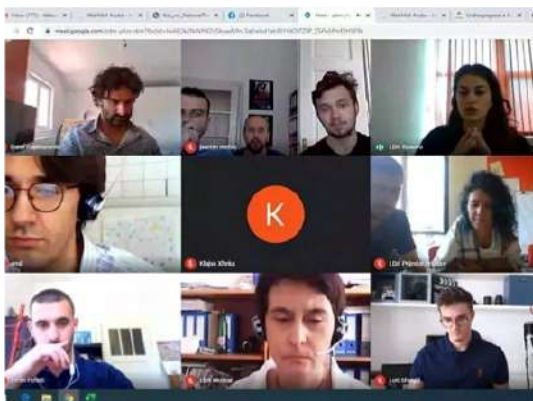
Monumental 9 is a nine-month project aims at creating the preconditions for new tourism product development, increasing youth employment and income generating activities through engaging micro localities, youth greeters and vloggers in regional cooperation programmes.

2020 activities

– On 12-13 of February, two of participants from Peja participated in a training in Prijedor, focusing on practical skills development, monuments’ narratives, cultural heritage, recreational/sports activities, traditional crafts/entrepreneurial products, souvenirs, traditional culinary specialties/recipes, venues.



– On the 15th of July, LDA Kosovo organized the “Monumental 9 Online Regional Training” for young local bloggers and vloggers. More than 30 young people from the region attended the online training. During the training, the attention was on topics like: how to be a blogger, vlogger, greeter? How to promote culture through vlogging and blogging? Meet the monuments of WW2 on the region! Tips to perfect your architectural photography!



– On the 28th of July, the second tour of Monumental 9 project started, including three different countries: Kosovo, Macedonia and Serbia. The tour involved visits to local cultural heritage sites and monuments as well as meetings with the local communities and tasting of local food products.

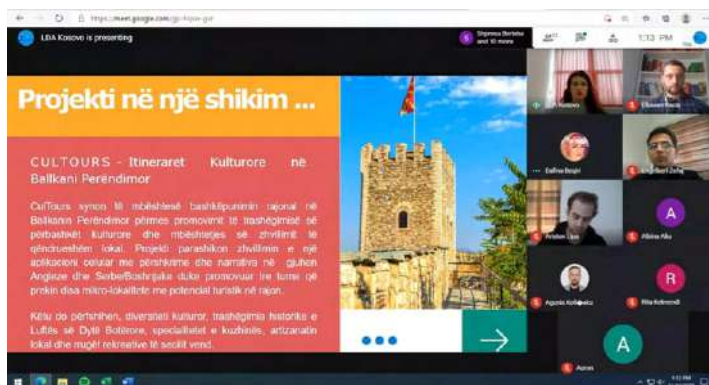


4) CulTours project

This project, funded by Western Balkans Fund and implemented by the Balkan Network for Local Democracy, aims at enhancing awareness, innovation and capacity-building in the cultural field.

2020 activities

– On the 10th of November, a webinar titled “Tourism in times of COVID-19 crisis: potential for local development” was organised, with the participation of 22 people. Keynote speakers featured: Dafina Beqiri from WBF, Linda Çavdarbasha, local project manager "CulTours", Engelbert Zefaj, vice Minister of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, Gramen Taraku, manager of the project Via Dinarica, Xhenet Syka, Director of the Department for Culture, Youth and Sport at the Municipality of Peja.



5) “European Towns – Enacting Common Values of Solidarity and Intercultural Dialogue – VALID”

The project 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 - through intercultural dialogue – and 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.

2020 activities

– LDA Kosovo and Municipality of Peja on the 10th of December signed the partnership agreement for the project “European Towns- Enhancing Common Values of Solidarity and Intercultural Dialogue- VALID”.

– On the 24th of December, the project partners meeting was held, discussing the possibility to organize local and international events online, due to the pandemic situation. It was agreed that all the activities will be held online.



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

Project and activities

1) IMPULSE – Innovative Modern Practices Upgrading Language Specialist Education

This project, financed by the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine and implemented by Mariupol city Council, Donetsk State University of Management, Mariupol City Lyceum and LDA Mariupol, aimed at promoting English language teaching in Mariupol schools, through practical trainings for young teachers (of English language) and the creation of programs engaging students in English learning processes, developing videos on how to make school lessons fun and creative.

Within the project, running from September 2019 to June 2020, a series of training courses for 20 English teachers from Mariupol were conducted, with the objective of strengthening teaching methods, disseminating best practices and supporting related social initiatives. The training topics were: promotion of 21st century skills; teachers' creativity and use of materials; teaching critical thinking in the language classroom; media literacy training at English lessons; teaching English for an inclusive class: development of digital literacy and digital tools for educators; English language for Generation Z. Such trainings were developed in accordance with the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) system of the British Council. This system is designed for teachers of all subjects, allowing understanding and professional development planning. General secondary school teachers will be able to use the obtained skills and knowledge in their classes, meeting the goals of the New Ukrainian School Program. Participants will also share this information with their colleagues and school administration through a series of online trainings, developed videos and presentation of best practices.



2) YOUTH-FRIENDLY MARIUPOL

This project, funded by the European Union and International Alert and led by Mariupol Youth Foundation in partnership with Thomson Media Foundation, LDA Mariupol and Mariupol City Council, aimed at contributing to the transformation of the youth policy of Mariupol towards greater inclusiveness, focusing on dialogue and responsibility, through the involvement of young people in the processes of developing strategies solutions at local level.

Within the framework of the project, 25 active participants had been selected among Mariupol students, two blocks of trainings were conducted in the occasion of the Summer School of Youth Activists. Trainings focused in particular on: communication as a basic skill; teamwork – benefits and cohesion tools; problem analysis tools; pitching ideas; ability to create media products; organization of events for youth; youth policy – definition and by whom it is formed, how it is possible to make an influence; how to make youth issues heard at local level (human rights approach, advocacy, participation tools); dialogue and partnership building.



2020 activities

- 25 representatives of the student community acquired the competencies of problem analysis, building dialogue and applying advocacy tools in order to become providers of positive changes in Mariupol;
- 250 representatives of the student community joined the project in order to identify the priority issues faced by the youth, developing recommendations to address them;

– First of recommendations on how to improve the youth policy of Mariupol was drafted by the project participants. The document was considered by the responsible representatives of the municipality, the deputy corps and the public in order to ensure inclusiveness in future strategic decisions.

3) “YOUTH FOR DEMOCRACY”- an internship program for youth in the LDA Mariupol



In the spring of 2020, in partnership with Donetsk State University of Management, a Youth4Democracy training program was organized, which 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, gaining experience with European partners, communicating online with ALDA Members, becoming a participant in the change in the area of participatory democracy with the involvement of members of local public authorities, while practicing business English. The overall objective of this initiative was to strengthen the potential of students of higher educational institutions in Mariupol, preparing them to enter the labor market and introducing the work perspective in the city civil sector.

2020 activities

- LDA Mariupol announced the recruitment of 3 senior students (3-4 years) with sufficient English skills to cover the internship vacancies. This internship included 3 months of work at the LDA Mariupol as Project Development Assistant (part-time job);
- 20 candidates were invited to take part in the 12 day Youth Democracy course. Based on the results, all participants successfully completing the training received certificates of completion, and three of them were offered an internship at LDA Mariupol.



4) Development of the “Strategy on Youth and Youth Bank” for BS NGO Forum

In the framework of the Black Sea NGO Forum, grouping NGOs from Azerbaijan, Georgia, Ukraine and Moldova, a comprehensive, five-years (2019-2024) strategy was designed, focusing on youth self-development and self-employment, to change mindset and improve business skills.

In 2020, objectives for the remaining years were fixed:

- To develop democratic, innovative and creative skillset and mindset of 150 young representatives (50 each year) coming from Black Sea countries in 2012-2024;
- By 2022 to create a platform for ideas generation and sharing best practices for over 300 young people annually coming from Black Sea countries;
- To promote collaboration between 30 youth workers coming from BS countries, to share experiences and best practices starting from 2021;
- To promote partnership between over 300 young representatives to support joint initiatives starting from 2021;
- By 2022, to increase competences on financial sustainability and access to funds;
- To increase members competences on effective ways to attract and involve young people;
- To develop coordination mechanism within the YE network;
- To promote volunteerism in YE working group members from BS countries.

2020 activities

- Online meetings regarding development of the Strategic Document;
- Interviews with active youth of Mariupol in questionnaire form, collecting answers and sharing them between group members;
- Development of a draft of a 3-years strategic plan in Excel and PPT Format.



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

Project and activities

1) Modernization of solid household waste management in town Cimislia, villages Bogdanovca Noua, Bogdanovca Veche and Dimitrovca

This project, funded by the European Union from August 2020 to June 2021 and implemented by LDA Moldova with 3 other partners, aims at improving the housing situation in the territories involved. The activities will draw upon elaboration of recommendations for LPA regarding the contract establishment for sanitation services and sanitation service tariff, development of recommendations for LAP on the location of household waste platforms, purchase of 109 containers with a volume of 1100 liters for waste collection, with the objective of raising the awareness of the population, especially young people, on the ecological impact of efficient solid waste management.

2020 activities

10 public debates on solid household waste with the participation of citizens, experts in the field and LPA representatives were held during the year.

- Opinion polls were conducted with the participation of citizens and local elected officials.
- Television debates were organised among experts, citizens and local elected officials.
- A practical demonstration of partially separate collection of waste (plastic and solid household waste) from a sector of the town was threw.
- 109 containers for waste collection were purchased
- Youngster and children participated in a contest (photo, video, drawings,) titled "The impact of waste"



2) Activating Governance Reform for Enhancing Development



Activating Governance Reform for Enhancing Development is a 24 month project implemented by ALDA – European Association for Local Democracies, LDA Moldova and Clinica Juridica Universitara. AGREED seeks to achieve cooperation between local authorities and civil society, namely by activating participatory processes which will engage and give a voice on key issues to citizens, associations, business community and the civil society as a whole. Local authorities will thus prove to be key actors in the governance and initiators of a participatory, multi-stakeholders and multi – level governance policy making process. By coordinating the participatory process foreseen by the action and by taking to the Central Government the recommendations expressed by the citizens, local authorities will be empowered towards their citizens. The project focuses to build a growingly concerted mechanism between civil society and local authorities in policy making.

The objectives embedded in this action comprise: increasing LAs' accountability towards their citizens and central governments, improving LAs' competencies in promoting concerted policy making processes with local stakeholders, enhancing LAs advocacy and endorsement of the decentralization process, and empowering multi-level governance.





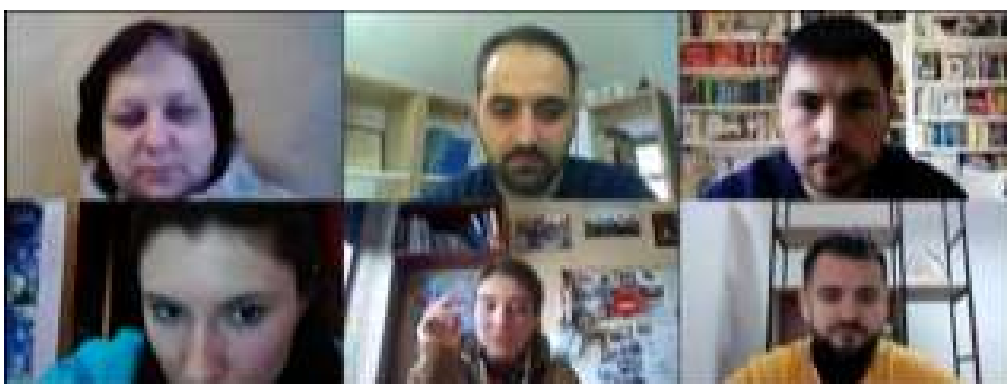
3) Local Democracy Network Development

The project “Local Democracy Network Development” aims at establishing a network of Local Democracy Agencies from Eastern Partnership (together with LDA Moldova, LDA Dnipro, Mariupol, Georgia and Local Democracy Foundation Armenia) countries working in the Black Sea region. As a first step in this direction, a mid-term development strategy will be developed, underpinning the way towards network’s development. As a result, LDAs will play a bigger bridging role between citizens and local governments, thus improving the former participation in their communities. This network will then act as a reliable source of information about ongoing evolutions at local level in Black Sea countries of EaP.

A specific project objective comprises increasing the fundraising skills, institutional capacities and resilience of the Black Sea LDAs, with a particular focus on resilience and sustainability.

2020 activities

- Training on fundraising, good governance and resilience for 5 LDAs representatives in Chisinau;
- Development and approval of the so-called LDAs Network Strategy;
- Elaboration of an action plan for strategy implementation.







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 economic 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

Project and activities

1) REGIONAL YOUTH COMPACT FOR EUROPE - RYCE



Ministarstvo javne uprave



The Project is funded by the European Union

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).

2020 activities

Workshops on EU Chapters 19, 23 and 24

The 2020 was year of online meetings, “zooming” and virtual space due to Covid 19 pandemic. LDA MNE organized successfully 3 workshops and 1 direct action with citizens. The first workshop, held in April 2020, was entitled “Public health and individual freedoms” in light of imposing suppression measures and several public affairs of breaching human rights by gvt. of Montenegro. The second and the third workshops, happened in December 2020, were focused on chapters 19, 23, 24 with very relevant interlocutors which managed to bring the content and relevance of these chapters to the young participants. LDA MNE hosted Chief in Charge of the Eu Integration Office of Montenegro, Milos Radonjic and Union of Free Unions of Montenegro representative Ivana Mihajlovic along with representatives of Youth Office, Youth Service, Culture Secretariat and Anti-addiction Office representatives in these occasions. Civil society organizations, minorities’ representatives and youth benefited from the aforementioned workshops.



In April 2020, LDA MNE, within the Regional Youth Compact framework, organized an online forum "Public Health and Individual Freedoms" in light of several affairs of potential breaching of human rights (privacy, movement) caused by imposing Covid19 suppression measures by Montenegrin Government, gathering relevant CSOs, international and national law professionals and youth. The forum was important also in order to present negotiation chapters 23 and 24.



2) 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 Andric'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.

2020 activities

– Accessibility capacities development: LDA gathered relevant stakeholders and held an online training "Accessibility in tourism", for local and national tourism actors. The concept of accessibility in tourism was presented within the Co.Co Tour project at an online training on 10th December 2020. The training was attended by representatives of businesses, civil society organizations, academia, local and national institutions in the field of tourism.

Along with a lecture by the Italian expert on accessibility in tourism, Ettore Ruggiero, representatives of CSOs advocating the rights of citizens with disabilities presented the existing legislative anti-discrimination framework in Montenegro.

Participants were given the opportunity to discuss their dilemmas and experiences, and the Agency presented the Tourism Accessibility Manual prepared by the project's partner organization, Magna Grecia Mare from Trikaze, whose eco-museum Portus Veneris is taken as a starting model for eco-museums and community museums. in Herceg Novi and Himara (Albania). A final version of a Guide for Accessibility in Tourism was published by LDA, first of its kind in Montenegro.



– Community museum/ Eco-museum presentation in Herceg Novi: May 2020 was an important month for the community of Herceg Novi, because it met for the first time the concept of community museum and eco/museum. LDA Montenegro and Municipality of Herceg Novi organized training for relevant stakeholders. The community representatives, tour operators, artist, NGOs, Craftspeople also chose the 25 most relevant points of interest to be part of the future eco/museum, community museum.



– Tourism package preparation: LDA Montenegro was the responsible partner for preparing and disseminating a tourism package that will promote community and eco museum. It was also responsible for producing promotional materials/ videos, postcards, project video etc. During 2020, LDA Montenegro defined and created narratives for the 25 points of interest that represent natural, cultural and historic material and immaterial cultural heritage of Herceg Novi



3) CLINK – Cultural heritage Linking Diversities in Europe



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

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.

2020 activities

– Final International Event ‘Regenerating heritage: New life for abandoned industrial, religious, military or public buildings’: more than 130 participants from Western Balkans and European Union as well as international participants gathered virtually on 28th of May to take part at the Final International Event ‘Regenerating heritage: New life for abandoned industrial, religious, military or public buildings’. The event was organized within the project CLINK – Cultural heritage linking diversities in Europe, by project leader Local Democracy Agency Mostar.



4) IMPACT – Inclusion matters: Using performance art towards Cohesion and Tolerance

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

Funded by the Erasmus+ programme of the European Union, it started on March 2019 and has been 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.

2020 activities

– Preparation for the multiplier events: it was decided that the national multiplier event will aim at awareness raising of the Montenegrin public on the topic of migrant people passing through the territory. The event will feature an exhibition of their works, created during the workshops touching upon themes like Home, Holidays, My Journey.

Photos from NGO Bona Fide, which provided shelter and rest for the people on the move, will be displayed, alongside artworks of Montenegrin artists willing to embrace the issue of migration in their production.

5) 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.

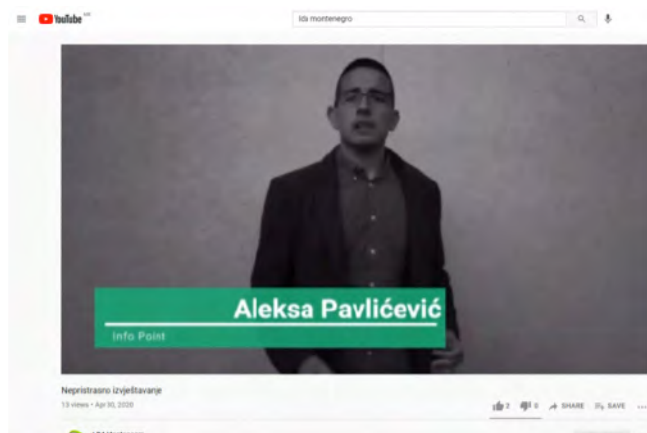
Its main objective is the promotion of media and information literacy using innovative tools and arts, through the development of online tools: workshops of creating video game and GIFs, Info-sessions in high schools, creation of short video on partial reporting dangers and public performance.

2020 activities

– Youth workshop Check, Choose, Analyze: LDA MNE realized 3 live workshops on media literacy in cooperation with High School Gymnasium "Stojan Cerovic " on 12th March 2020. The first graders participants were supposed to listen to the presentation of the InfoPoint Niksic volunteers on media literacy and then play online quiz on the previous result of the project.

– Campaign Check, Choose, Analyze!: Young volunteers of InfoPoint created two videos for the campaign against fake news and for the fact-checking. This was done in May 2020 during the first lockdowns in Montenegro when social media and some of media were flooded with misleading contents, click-baits and fake news related to SARS-Cov2 pandemic.

The videos warn spectators to check, choose and analyze media contents, especially if it is about Covid19. The volunteers had great time and were learning by doing while making the videos. They had the task to select fake-news, click-baits, biased reporting examples playing them in a satirical way in front of the camera. Prior to that, they needed to compile scripts for the videos and define main messages of the campaign.



6) MONUMENTAL 9



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.

2020 activities

– Trainings: in coordination with partners, LDA Montenegro organized two regional online trainings for young bloggers and greeters in order to raise their capacities, considering their in the development of Monumental 9 routes;

– Development of Monumental 9 Routes: Covid 19 affected the regional dimension of this project. Partners were supposed to jointly create 3 tourism routes, but due to suppression measures they did only the national part of the route, by organizing pilot tours and compiling them afterwards.

3 routes and 1 tourism package were created for the tourism market.

LDA Montenegro organized a pilot tour through Montenegro -from Bosnia to Montenegro. It involved relevant stakeholders such as tourism local organizations, tour agencies and guides, photographers and potential young greeters and bloggers/vloggers.

The tour touched upon more than 10 points of interest, creating narratives and promo material along with the campaign. The routes were successfully created, as for their narratives and storytelling, published on the website www.monumental9.org.



– In September 2020, the Final Conference of the project gathered more than 25 participants/project partners, national and local institutions, agencies, CSOs, guides, young people and media. The results of the project were disseminated to the public successfully with great acceptance.

It was a hybrid type of event - online and live- due to incapability of partners from the region to come to Montenegro because of covid19 suppression measures.

7) CulTours – Cultural Tours in Western Balkans

This project, led by the Balkan Network of Local Democracy and funded by the Western Balkan Fund, aimed at contributing to regional cooperation and regional cohesion in the territories through cultural cooperation and activities for sustainable growth, promoting shared cultural heritage in Western Balkan countries with the help of youth-friendly tools. It pointed at reinforcing cooperation and networking among different stakeholders at local and regional levels, supporting micro-localities sustainable development through income-generating activities and tourism.

The activities designed to reach such goals were mainly represented by the creation of a mobile application for promoting shared cultural heritage, the promotion of a touristic tool among local touristic promoters, the organization of webinars for exchanging ideas on tourism and local economic development, favoring regional networking.

2020 activities

– National Webinar: In November 2020, LDA Montenegro realized a national online webinar for tourism stakeholders, tackling the effects of covid19 on Montenegrin Tourism. Representatives of Ministry of Tourism and Sustainable Development, Employers 'Association of Montenegro, Chamber of Commerce, Tourism Faculty in Budva, Local Tourism Organization were the panelists while participants were represented by tourism actors;

– International Forum "Shared Cultural Heritage, Factor for Intercultural Dialogue in the Balkans": LDA Montenegro continued working on the project participating in International Cultours' Event Online Forum: Shared Cultural Heritage, Factor for Intercultural Dialogue in the Balkans. The event was in December 2020. More webinars, forums and additional research for the smart-phone application are expected in 2021



8) Erasmus for young entrepreneurs – EYE- SEE SMART SMEs project (SouthEastern European coalition to cultivate SMART SMEs in Europe)

This project, whose consortium is constituted by Confartigianato Servizi S.R.L. Italy, Shoqata Per Teknologji Te Informacionit Dhe Te Komunikimit Te Kosoves Kosovo * Un Resolu , Agencija Za Lokalnu Demokratiju Montenegro, Enterprise Development Agency Eda Banja Luka Bosnia And HerzegovINA, Zdruzenie Nacionalen Centar Za Razvoj Na Inovacii I Pretpriemacko Ucenje Skopje North Macedonia, Verein Initiative Fur Teaching Entrepreneurship - Unternehmerische Haltungen Wecken, Fordern, Starken Austria, Association of Turkish Construction Material Producers, funded by the European Commission, aims at addressing three main challenges that European SMEs need to face and overcome in order to keep being the backbone of EU economy, helping reaching the Europe 2020 Strategy.

2020 activities

– In October 2020, LDA Montenegro successfully presented the opportunities that the project has to offer to the youth in EU Centar in Podgorica.

9) Transparency index of local self-governments

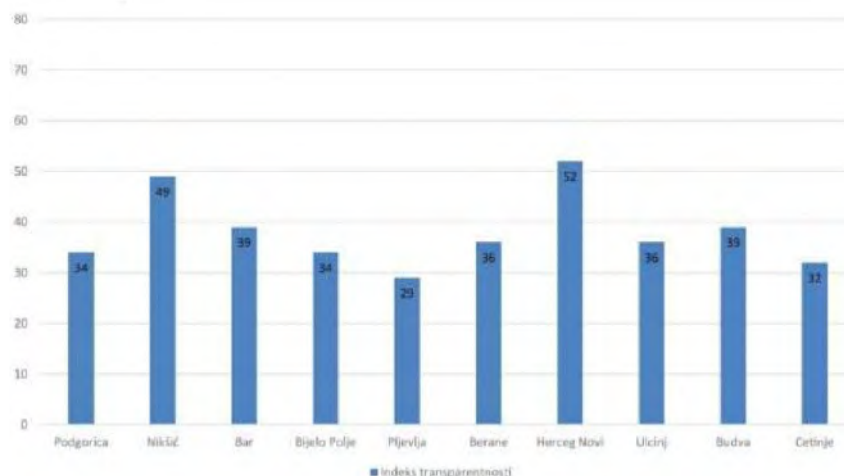
The Local Democracy Agency Montenegro, supported by the Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia, Government of Montenegro –Employment Bureau and Ministry of Economy, implemented this project to analyse the transparency of Local Authorities and thus encouraging citizens participation in decision making,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

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

2020 activities

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

LDAMNE conducted the research for third consecutive year measuring the transparency index of local self-governments. The first year covered 10 municipalities, while during the second year the research was extended to a 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.



10) European Solidarity Corps

On February 2020 LDA Montenegro was awarded with the ESC Quality label and has sent one volunteer via this program to Italy to contribute to the project "Solidarity and Volunteering to break the barriers" at the organization AICEM. She assists the project from November 2020 to August 2021.

10) INER – Intelligent Energy Management and Renewable Energy Sources Promotion

This project, led by the city of Ilok-Croatia with the partnership of LIR Evolution, Municipality of Laktaši, Local Democracy Agency Montenegro, NGO EU Centar and Old Royal Capital Cetinje with the support of IPA Interreg Croatia - Bosnia and Herzegovina – Montenegro, aims at increasing the energy efficiency (EE), the use of renewable energy (RES) and the intelligent energy management in Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro through promotion, awareness raising, knowledge improvement, competences transfer and sharing of best practices between project territories.

Specific objectives of the project:

1. Promote the use of renewable energy sources and improving energy efficiency in the program area, raising awareness on smart energy use and proper energy management as basics of sustainable development;
2. Increase the knowledge and competencies of public institutions in smart energy management and make a transfer experiences on EE and RES in interactive cross-border cooperation;
3. Increase the use of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency in buildings through realization of 6 demonstration actions and transfer of practical and professional experiences within the program.

The expected results of the project:

General results are the education of public authorities on energy management to support the delivery of EU 2020 goals and energy targets, by moving towards promotion and utilization of EE and RES use, low carbon economy, decreasing GHG emissions and sustainable energy management.

1. Preparation of local buildings typology and lists of recommended EE measures; elaboration of scenarios for EE improvement;
2. Implementation of 5 Energy audits in public buildings (these audits include: analysis of energy category of building, balances of energy use, measures for improvement of energy efficiency, calculation of possible savings and payback period for each measure, as well as potential financing sources);
3. Conducting a TNA; development of a training curricula; conducting energy management (EM) training, EM software training and training on profitability of EE measures;
4. Installation of energy management software; realization of coaching on practical measures, analyses of financing sources;
5. Creation of technical documentation for investments; and implementation of EE/RES demonstration action, development of transferability report.

2020 activities

– LDA Montenegro is the partner in charge of project communication. We created a Communication Strategy on behalf of all partners, accepted by the Managing Authority. Then, Local Communication Action Plans are created by all 6 partners upon the template created by LDA.



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

Project and activities

1) Snapshots from the Borders

Snapshots From the Borders is a 4-year long project coordinated by the Municipality of Lampedusa and Linosa and implemented with other 29 international partners and 8 affiliated partners. Started in October 2017 and funded by the European Union, the project aims at improving critical understanding of European, national and local decision and public opinion makers about global interdependencies determining migration flows towards European borders, in the perspective of reaching SDG targets, especially SDG 1, 5, 10, 11 and 16.

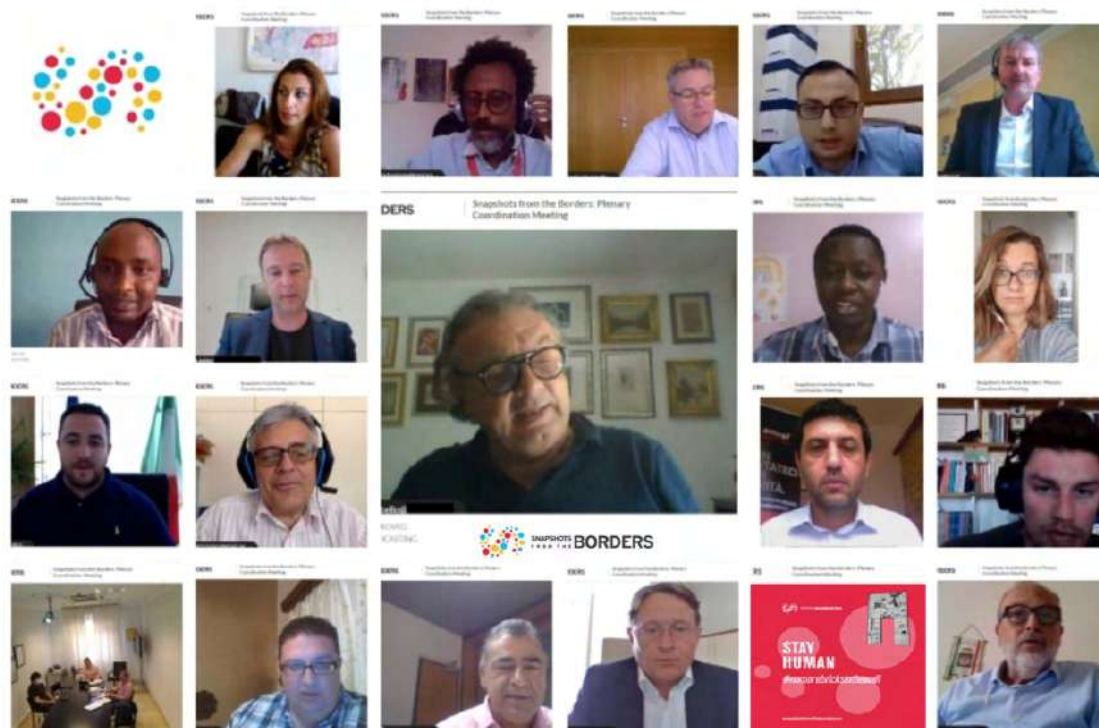
Specifically, it intends to strengthen a new horizontal, active network among cities directly facing migration flows at EU borders, as a way to promote more effective policy coherence at all levels (European, national, local).

In the frame of the project, the extensive and coherent "No more bricks in the wall" campaign has been developed both at local (town level), national (member state level) and EU level (Brussels and EU institutions) which aims to inform European citizens that migration is a complex and multidimensional phenomenon and a political issue which needs efforts and concrete actions taken by people and organizations/networks at all levels of society. The ultimate scope of the campaign is to attract citizens in Border Territories and all around Europe both already keen to solidarity towards migrants.

LDA Mostar is the only non-EU partner within the project, thus not allowed to implement any local activities, unless the ones of significant importance for the EU. However, LDA Mostar, acting as a project partner, is obligated to share experiences, participate at the project international events, disseminating results and outputs.

2020 activities

– Along with Snapshots From The Borders mayors, regions representatives and partner NGOs, on June 26th, LDA Mostar participated in the first Online Coordination Meeting of the project. Partner mayors reported on how the COVID-19 emergency was affecting their territories, including both locals and communities of migrant origin. In addition, all of them announced their willingness to join the Border Towns and Island Network - established in Marsa in December 2019 - shortly, marking another important milestone of the project. The participation of representatives of Amref Health Africa in Kenya, Amref Health Africa in Uganda and Amref Health Africa in Ethiopia has brought a closer look to the impact of the COVID-19 on African countries, in line with our aim of improving dialogue and mutual knowledge among countries of origin and destination of migration flows.



– As a long-awaited event, on September 10th, the Holy Father Pope Francis received in the Clementine Hall of the Vatican Apostolic Palace the mayor of Lampedusa Totò Martello, together with the delegation of "mayors of the borders" adhering to the project "Snapshots from the Borders". Pope Francis reminded how *"frontiers, which have always been considered as barriers of separation, can instead become "windows", spaces of mutual knowledge, of mutual enrichment, of communion in diversity; they can become places where models are experimented to overcome the difficulties that new arrivals entail for native communities."*



– One of the project advocacy activities was to create a series of articles dedicated to migrations by touching the topics of interculturality, multiculturalism and empathy, people and places which connect and unite. This series of articles called “Border Stories” written by the Italian journalist Christian Elia, described ordinary people and common places in all the project territories which are in some way connected with the migrations and relatable to everyone. LDA Mostar assisted in connecting the author with the potential interlocutors and the places in the City of Mostar related to the topics. Two stories were derived from the City of Mostar: “The bridge of culture. The OKC Abrašević Centre in Mostar” and “Dario, beyond the borders of Mostar”. Stories from all the other project territories can be found on the project's official webpage.

2) Regional Youth Compact for Europe – RYCE

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 of enhancing 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.

2020 activities

– The first activity was the implementation of an internship program aiming at providing a framework for young people in the region to gain firsthand 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 civil initiatives, policy design and structured dialogue. Within the internship program LDA Mostar was pleased to host a student from Serbia, Ms Jasmina Krajočan, who was recommended to our organization by our project partner CRTA from Belgrade. As this was the exchange internship program, LDA Mostar also recommended student Ms Daria Knežević from Mostar for the internship in CRTA.

– On March 5th, LDA Mostar organized a local workshop “Regional Youth Compact for Europe - We are the Europeans”, gathering professionals from local companies and NGOs and young people. The aim of the event was to provide general insight into the policies and topics of EU Chapter 19 – social policy and employment – helping youngsters developing new skills highly desirable and attractive for the job market. The keynote speakers featured Mr. Goran Dodig, CFO at Intera Technology Park and Ms Daniela Marić, Legal Advisor at SPARK.



– On April 6th, the project team held an Online Coordination Meeting in the final stages of the second year of implementation. The meeting covered the ongoing and future activities, as well as administrative procedures that followed in the transition from the second to the third year of the project.

– On January 16th Youth Fund “We have a say” call for proposal was officially launched in the framework of RYCE project. A total of 64 applications were received, and the evaluation team selected 14 best projects. The overall objective of the Youth Fund “We Have a Say” was the improvement and development of the participatory policies and enhancement of local democracy in communities of the Western Balkans through support to local youth organisations fostering active citizenship and participation of young people at the local level.



– During the COVID-19 world pandemic lockdown, young people from all around the region shared their experiences and feelings on the RYCE blog within the projects webpage. Their blogs were the mirror to the young people's thoughts and struggles during the pandemic and gave us all the insight to the ways of coping with it. LDA Mostar volunteer Amil Brković also shared his thoughts and observations in his blog titled “You are not alone”.

– On July 10th, an online webinar “Western Balkans' local authorities: EU accession & Berlin Process” took place as one of the project’s international events. The webinar was officially opened by ALDA’s President Mr. Oriano Otočan, and Secretary General Mrs. Antonella Valmorbida and moderated by ALDA’s Director of Skopje office & SEE Regional Programmes Coordinator Ivana Petrovska. Keynote speeches and presentations were delivered by Mr. Andrej Zernovski, the Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of North Macedonia Mr. Colin Wolfe, Head of Unit Western Balkans Regional Cooperation and Programmes (DG NEAR), Mrs. Nataša Vučković, director of the Center for Democracy Foundation and Mr. Nikola Dobroslavić, President of the Croatian Delegation to the European Committee of the Regions and member of the CIVEX and COTER commissions and Prefect of the Dubrovnik-Neretva County. The talk addressed relevant questions regarding the Western Balkans EU integration process, underlining the importance of involving local and regional authorities when drafting policies and tackling good governance. All the participants agreed on the need for political reforms to map the road ahead, opening new perspectives to motivate young people stay in the Balkans.

– The Second Annual Conference and Regional Thematic Network Forum scheduled to be held in the period 17-19 of March 2020 in Novi Sad, Serbia, was postponed considering the Covid-19 outbreak and health risks. The Regional Forum entitled “Remembrance and Intercultural dialogue” took place virtually on December 21st and 22nd and it was organised in collaboration with the Balkan Network for Local Democracy – BNLD, and financially supported by the Central European Initiative, the Normandy for Peace program, the Western Balkans Fund and the EU Commission. The two-day program played a vital role engaging regional and international experts representing civil society organisation, academia, researchers, cultural and educational institutions and business community. The goal of the Regional Forum was to examine regional cooperation with a special focus on the question of remembrance and intercultural dialogue in the Western Balkans by approaching the dominant narratives and giving it a new perspective on the narrative legacy. Inspiring stories were shared by the 40 speakers invited, drawing on topics such as EU integration as vector of peace and reconciliation, the multicultural dialogue and the “Balkan route” of migrations, the role of the new digital world, dealing with the past through storytelling, cultural heritage and memorial tourism as potential for local development and cultural understanding, linguistic diversity and combating disinformation.

3) BRIDGE (Part 3) – 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 runs in September 2019 in partnership with the Street Art Festival of Mostar.

Bridge (Part 3) is the extension of the 2018 and 2019 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 9th Street Arts Festival Mostar.

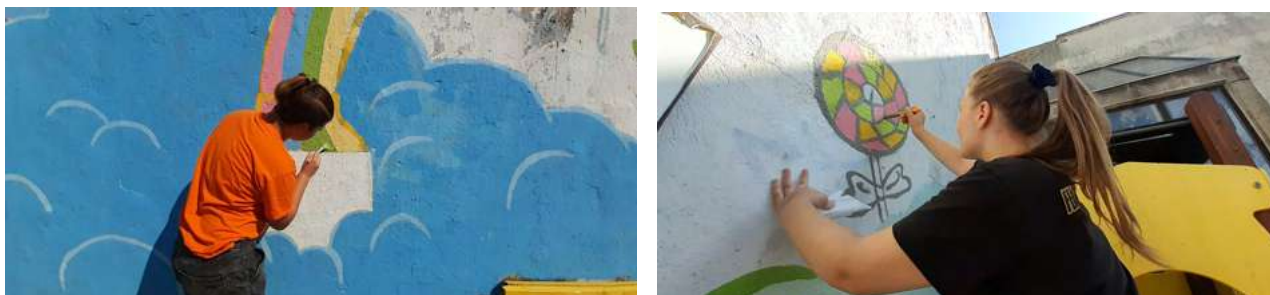
Objectives of the project

- 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

2020 activities

– The first 2020 activity was the graffiti exhibition of the artist Stefano Paggani aka Sub0 from Berlin titled “Everything will be ok”. Within the Bridge part 3 we exhibited his prints at the Youth center Abrašević. The event was followed by the Music Program of the Bass Collective Jah Forcefield from Sarajevo and the Fire Show Performance of Aleksandra – Zlex Dom.

- The second activity within the project was mural painting by the high school students from Mostar. The mural, inspired by urban artists from Berlin, ended up painting a big wall of the “Ciciban” kindergarten, with the help from Mostar artist Sabina Maslo.
- Stefano Paggani aka Sub0 performed several art interventions with characters and graffiti in the city, which showcased large prints of his artworks.



4) CLINK – Cultural heritage linking diversities in Europe

The project CLINK, started in January 2019 and ended in June 2020, was funded by the Europe for Citizens programme of the European Union and led by the LDA Mostar in cooperation with 8 partners. CLINK project aimed at deepening 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, raising awareness on connections and placing their own cultural heritage in the tapestry of Europe’s rich and diverse cultural framework.

2020 activities

- Just before the start of the pandemic in Bosnia and Herzegovina LDA Mostar managed to organize the last local activity. A Community Forum “Our Cultural Heritage” took place in Code Hub Mostar on March 12. Representatives of the relevant public institutions, educational institutions, the private and non-governmental sectors, as well as individuals contributing to the preservation of cultural heritage, participated in the work of Forum. The panelists of the Forum were: architect Ms Senada Demirović Habibija, representative of the City of Mostar, who spoke about the importance of UNESCO World Heritage in the local community, Mr Boris Trapara from CHwB BiH – Cultural Heritage without Borders, who spoke about the importance of non-formal education for cultural heritage, Ms Aida Bičakčić, a representative of the Commission to Preserve National Monuments of Bosnia and Herzegovina spoke about the heritage of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Mr Edin Pandur, owner of Art Studio Pandur, who spoke to forum participants about the importance of old crafts as promoters of cultural heritage. The facilitator of the event was Ms Amra Šarančić Logo from the Commission to Preserve National Monuments of Bosnia and Herzegovina.



– The next activity in 2020 was the research in the communities – mapping potential cultural heritage sites with potential for adaptive re-use. As the adaptive re-use of heritage buildings is an important factor in creating sustainable communities, project partners had the opportunity to detect some of the heritage sites which could be potentially re-used in order to become a potent driver for community action. LDA Mostar had the task to detect several heritage sites in the City of Mostar which could potentially become beneficial or even crucial to the community development. Our findings on this subject are summed up in the following document.

– Following the international event in Knjaževac which took place in September 2019, our project partner, LDA Knaževac, issued a Collection of best practices of sustainable use of cultural heritage for urban regeneration and economic development titled “Cultural heritage as a source of urban regeneration”. This document summed up some of the best practices presented during the Best Practice Fair within this international event. Within this document, LDA Mostar presented its educational-touristic program that combines the traditional tourism offer with the all encompassing experience of the history, tradition, architecture and culture of the City of Mostar.

– As the COVID-19 world pandemic progressed, the final conference of the project was re-organized as an online meeting on May 28th, with the title “Regenerating heritage: new life for abandoned industrial, religious, military or public buildings”. The event successfully brought together cultural actors from partner countries and opened a dialogue on innovative practices aimed at raising awareness of the general public – especially young people - on cultural heritage. It was an excellent opportunity for local actors and international participants to enrich their knowledge and share their experience in the field of cultural heritage preservation and awareness. The event was concluded with a common statement coming from the project participants acknowledging that cultural heritage is a potent driver for community action.



5) IMPACT – Inclusion Matters! Using Performance 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.

The project foresees three distinct phases with different objectives to reach: the first phase promotes collaboration and exchange of best practices among European theatre companies with previous experience in working with refugees and Balkan arts groups. A social inclusion strategy will be developed, further implemented by Balkan arts groups in the second stage, involving Western Balkans refugees and local communities. The third phase is dedicated to the communication and dissemination of such guidelines on how to use performing art strategies for social inclusion.

2020 activities

– 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. In 2020 these local workshops continued. LDA Mostar have implemented 5 weeks of workshops for the three groups of participants. More than 100 refugees and local citizens in Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina were participating in the activities during December 2019 and January 2020. The motive that guided us through this whole process was the ideal of equality.

– Due to COVID-19 world pandemic two partner meetings were held online. The first meeting took place on March 3rd and was the opportunity for partners to update each other on the implementation of the local workshops as well on the dissemination plan update. The second meeting held on October 28th was dedicated to the project adjustments due to the pandemic crisis.

6) 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.

2020 activities

– During the period from January 27th-29th, LDA Mostar representatives held a series of meetings with representatives of governmental and non-governmental institutions/organizations in the City of Mostar, in order to collect necessary data for the development of SWOT analysis which will show the state and needs of Mostar territories when it comes to micro and small businesses. The mentioned analysis was further carried by the higher expert in micro and small businesses from Trento (Italy), Mr Dario Caccamisi: during his mission, to gain better perspective on the overall situation, we held meetings with representatives of the City of Mostar Department of Economy, utilities and inspection/Economy Service, representatives of the City of Mostar, Department of social affairs/Education, Youth and Sports Service, with the director of the REDAH - Regional Development Agency of Hercegovina, president of the City of Mostar Youth Council and with the representatives of the INTERA - Technology Park Mostar.



– On February 3rd, His Excellency, Ambassador of the Republic of Italy in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Nicola Minasi, welcomed representatives of LDA Mostar in Sarajevo, as well as representatives of LDA Zavidovići, LDA Prijedor and Associazione Trentino Con and Balcani. Among other things, the traditional cooperation between Italian organizations and the organizations from Bosnia and Herzegovina was discussed, alongside the possibility of extending cooperation in the Balkans region through programs funded by Italian autonomous region of Trento.



– From February 17th to 20th, waste management expert Ms Francesca Villa held a mission in the City of Mostar, meeting relevant local stakeholders and providing trainings on the matter, to gather data for detecting the biggest challenges within the area and to develop potential pilot projects. During this period Ms Villa along with LDA Mostar representatives met representatives of the e Department of Public Utilities and the Environment Protection of the City of Mostar, director of the Public Company “Komos” Mostar, manager of the private recycling company Alba BH, president of the Citizens Association "Sinovi Mahale" and executive director deputy of the CSO "Nešto Više". Within Ms Villa Mission, on February 20th, LDA Mostar organized a training titled "Waste management" which was conducted by Ms Villa. Training was the great opportunity for relevant stakeholders to gain much needed knowledge on this crucial subject concerning the wellbeing of the local community.

– On March 4th, just before the pandemic crisis hit Bosnia and Herzegovina, LDA Mostar managed to organize a training for young people titled "Writing a business plan - start your own business". The training was organized in youth friendly premises of the American Corner Mostar and was held via Skype by a senior expert with extensive experience in the field of micro and small enterprises, Mr Dario Caccamisi. The event was organized also by LDA Prijedor and LDA Zavidovići in their local communities. Upon completion of the training, participants were then divided into three groups in each of the cities, and each group had a time intended to develop a business plan under the mentorship of Mr. Caccamisi and the assistance of the Local Democracy Agency in their city. The best business plans/business ideas in each city had the chance to be co-financed within the project. The selected participants attended an online follow up of this training on June 10th, deepening and sharpening their project ideas, whose implementation is set to be finalised at the beginning of 2021.

- Taking into consideration the recent development on the adoption of Web technologies for the provision of government services, in October 2020 a questionnaire for the citizens of Mostar was developed, investigating E-government, E-governance and transformation of public administrations in BiH. The aim of this study was to better understand the development of e-government at the local level, analysing the current framework in the field for the three municipalities involved (Mostar, Prijedor and Zavidovići).
- On October 29th the technical seminar titled “Flood risk management - the local framework and EU-based perspective” was organized online within the framework of the project. The seminar was conducted by Ms Giovanna Caramuta and discussed the general principles and the goals as well as the EU-centred overview and risk and hazard assessment within the flood risk management. Relevant stakeholders from three local communities (Mostar, Prijedor and Zavidovići) participated in the seminar discussions. Four other seminars followed this discussion: the first one held on November 23rd on flood risk management and forest management in BiH, the second one on November 26th on waste management and environmental protection, the third one on November 30th on the role of small and micro-enterprises for local development, the fourth and final one on December 4th on E-government and e-governance, practices and application in BiH and Trentino.

7) YAMNFL – 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, training 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 aim of the project is to promote participation in Non-Formal Education activities, validating and recognising competences acquired outside the formal education environment through an innovative methodology.

2020 activities

- The first activity in 2020 was the Kick-off meeting which took place in Kumanovo, North Macedonia from 15th -17th of January. The first international activity, hosted by the Center for Intercultural Dialogue, gathered the representatives of all project partners. The meeting was coordinated by project leader - LDA Mostar. It was an opportunity for the partners to meet and exchange ideas and to discuss expectations and overall and individual project responsibilities.

Unfortunately, later on in the 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it became more than obvious that some of the project activities agreed in Kumanovo needed to be adjusted to the newly formed circumstances. Therefore, partners began an extensive and coordinated online promotion of the project through social media and web pages, of the project itself and of all the partners involved.

- In July 2020, during the regular Project team Skype meeting, the consortium has decided to try to organize promotional conferences/events, all in accordance with the health measures implemented in each partner's country, online or offline, as circumstances permit. Accordingly, LDA Mostar organized three promotional events in Mostar, respecting all COVID 19 measures.

- One of the key activities within the project was researching existing policies on recognition and validation of non formal learning (NFL), gathering successful stories of young people that have built their path thanks to NFL competences. A further research project focused on the collection of inspiring stories of young people that have built a personal or professional path thanks to NFL.

- LDA Mostar, in cooperation with partner organization Asocijacija za demokratski prosperitet – ZID developed the research methodology that was adopted by all partners. On April 22nd, the national research and data collection on NFL began: a questionnaire was disseminated among young people aged 15-30, with the aim of investigating their knowledge on NFL methods. A total of 990 young people within 11 project partner countries participated in this research. Within this latter, project partners managed to organize interviews with the relevant stakeholders in their communities, gathering information on the current national political NFL and youth mobility framework. At the end, 36 interviews were conducted and published online between May and July. The final step towards research completion was the implementation of focus groups with young people, understanding their perceptions, opinions, beliefs and attitudes towards youth mobility and NFL. Twenty six focus groups have been organized (online or offline) in the period from May to September, and more than 250 individuals participated in it. LDA Mostar organized two focus groups in Mostar. The first one was organized on Jun 26th as a part of a hiking experience gathering young people aged 24 to 28 and the second one on July 10th gathering young activists, representatives of youth organizations and young people who had already some relevant experience with NFL.



– As an additional contribution to the research, reviewing existing strategies about NFL in partner’s organizations and a description of current status of NFL was delivered by all partner organizations, and was added. After the finalisation, the “Research on recognition and validation of non-formal learning in European Union, Western Balkans and Turkey” was published in December 2020.

– In December 2020 “Catalogue of Inspiring Stories about Non Formal Education” was issued online in English. The catalogue brings the collection of inspiring stories of young people that built a personal or professional path thanks to NLF. By collecting these stories, a small tool will be created by the Youth Ambassadors to promote Non Formal Learning. The Catalogue was also translated to Bosnian language which was fundraised by LDA Mostar and funded by Institute for Youth Development KULT.

8) 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 promoting social inclusion and decreasing marginalization, by rehabilitating depressed and abandoned areas of European cities through street art.

2020 activities

– The first official activity in 2020 was the Kick-off meeting which took place online on April 15th: it was the occasion for partners to meet each other, discussing the project methodology, activities and finances.





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



4 TH JUNE 2020
10.00 AM

STREET ART AGAINST SOCIAL AND URBAN MARGINALIZATION

- 10:00 | Welcoming greetings and STAR project presentation.**
Paolo Pellizzaro, Arcugnano Municipality
Nadia Di Iulio, ALDA
- 10.15 | Street art Movement: definition, perception, acceptance and resistance,**
Anna Stolyarova, Founder of the Street Art Museum Amsterdam
- 10.30 | The value of the Street Art for combating social exclusion and marginalization**
Mattia Campo Dall'Orto, Urban Artist
- 10.45 | Reflection on Street Art and its role in the regeneration of urban areas.**
2501, Street Artist
- 11.00 | Involving citizens in street art initiatives**
Cristi Stefan, City of Mioveni
- 11.15 | A Journey across Europe through street art**
STAR project partners

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– Representatives of LDA Mostar, the City of Mostar and Street Arts Festival Mostar were part of the First International Event of the STAR project titled “Street art against urban and social marginalization” held through online on June 4th: this event brought together more than 100 participants interested in street art and the impacts it has on society in general with a focus on local communities. On such an occasion, LDA Mostar director, Ms Dženana Dedić, had the honour to present on behalf the City of Mostar the variety of art projects implemented during the years by LDA Mostar, Street Art Mostar and the City of Mostar.

– The first local activity - meeting the local stakeholders took place on June 11th. During the meeting, the representatives of the LDA Mostar along with the representative of the City of Mostar, Ms Sabina Memić, presented the project and the local path to the representatives of the Street Arts Festival Mostar. The expected outcome of this first local phase is the execution of a mural painting, whose location will be chosen on the basis of the answers collected by a questionnaire disseminated to the local population.

– On October 5th, representatives of LDA Mostar and the City of Mostar took part in the event titled “ALDA TALK 2.2 - Street art for re-building communities”. The webinar started with an introduction of the street art movement and its evolution by Street Art Museum Amsterdam representative, the discussion followed with a presentation of the CAPUS project, through the description of participatory actions for street artworks conservation. Finally, the Borgo Universo Festival was presented as an innovative and successful case study for building effective public-private and civil society partnerships and enhancing inclusive and sustainable urbanization, civic engagement and participatory processes. The intention of the webinar was to explain the role of Street Art as a process for social and urban regeneration of communities, specifically as a tool to support economic, social and environmental links between urban, per-urban and rural areas. The project intercepts SDGs 10.2, 11.3, 11.A, 17.17 and the talk was broadcast within the European Sustainable Development Week.



9) Monumental 9

Monumental 9 is a project funded by the Regional Cooperation Council and led by the LDA Montenegro. It will help create the preconditions for the development of new tourism product, increasing youth employment and income-generating activities through engaging micro-localities, youth greeters and vloggers in regional co-operation programme.

2020 activities

– The first project activity in 2020 was the Regional capacity building programme titled “Each monument tells its own story” which gathered 30 young greeters and bloggers from partner organizations in Prijedor in a period from February, 13th to 15th in the locality of Kozara Monument. Interactive workshops combining desk research and field visits were designed to help develop greeters’ skills, creative writing skills as well as research work to create a quality tourist promotional narrative. Senior trainers, Mr Dario Terzić and Mr Darel Kapetanović, introduced the young participants to effective communication styles, creative writing approaches, while the practical work included the use of innovative and digital/video tools to present sites and locations and provide either orientation or informational content on heritage, adventure, tourism and other services, as well as mobility aspect of the product.

– On July 14th and 15th, online trainings for young greeters, vloggers and bloggers were held, with the aim of improving their knowledge and skills on presentations of cultural heritage. The activity that followed was the first field tour to Konjic, Jablanica, Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and Nikšić (Montenegro) within the frame of the project from July 27th to 31st. The second tour within the Monumental 9 project focused on discovering monumental landscapes of Brezovica (Kosovo*), Kruševo (North Macedonia) and Niš (Serbia). The excursion was organised from July 28th to August 1st. Regional Pilot tour 3 was jointly organized in August 10th-15th by LDA Subotica and LDA Prijedor team members. The adventure started with the Kozara Monumental Park and the surrounding area near Prijedor (Bosnia and Herzegovina), continued to Sremski front memorial park near Fruska Gora in Vojvodina, while the last stop was at Kadinjača memorial complex in western Serbia near the City of Užice.



10) WB CulTours – Cultural Tours in Western Balkans

The project idea was developed as follow-up of the on-going project titled “Monumental 9”. Against this backdrop, the proposed Action will build upon the outcomes of “Monumental 9”, contributing to the promotion of the touristic potential of the Western Balkans, involving young people and investing on the common cultural heritage and shared history of the region.

Its main expected objectives are:

- 1) Creation of mobile application for promotion of shared cultural heritage: 1.1. research and work with local stakeholders; 1.2. development of a tool for promoting cultural heritage
- 2) Local activities for touristic development: 2.1. identification of local economic stakeholders related to touristic development; 2.2. promotion of touristic tools to local touristic promoters; 2.3. webinars for exchange of ideas on tourism and local economic development.
- 3) Regional Networking activities: 3.1. online partner meetings; 3.2. regional networking event; 3.3. regional online webinars

2020 activities

– On November 6th LDA Mostar organized an open webinar titled “Tourism in time of Covid-19: Potential for local development” with the aim to discuss the impact that COVID-19 has on the situation in tourism in the City of Mostar and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The webinar hosted renowned experts in the field of tourism: Mr Ramiz Bašić, Senior Expert Associate of Touristic Community of Herzegovina-Neretva Canton, Dr.sc.Irma Dedić, Professor and Head of Faculty of Tourism at Džemal Bijedic University, Ms Stanislava Borovac, Professional Tourist Guide and Interpreter of local heritage, specialized in the field of avanturistic routes and on behalf of LDA Mostar, director Ms Dženana Dedić represented the project.



WBF Western Balkans Fund

Ballian Network for Local Democracy

LDA Mostar

CULTOURS
cultural tours in the western balkans

VIRTUELNI PANEL

**TURIZAM U VRIJEME
KRIZE COVID-19**

**POTENCIJAL ZA LOKALNI
RAZVOJ**

06.11.2020
11-12:30

Ramiz Bašić
viši stručni saradnik
Turističke zajednice
Hercegovačko-neretvanskog
kantona

Dženana Dedić
direktorica Agencije lokalne
demokratije Mostar

doc.dr. Irma Dedić
Voditeljica Studija
turizma na mostarskom
Univerzitetu "Džemal
Bijedić"

Stanislava Borovac
turistički vodič i
interpretator kulturne
baštine specijalizirana za
avanturističke tematske
rute

OTHER ACTIVITIES IN 2020

STEP – Systematic Transparency in Election Process

The STEP project, funded by the EU, the Government of the USA and OCSE, is implemented by the Coalition for Free and Fair Elections “Pod lupom”. The Coalition consists of five NGOs from all over Bosnia and Herzegovina. The STEP Project will directly increase the strength and visibility of civil society organizations (CSOs) in civic election observation and support the development of civil society in the democratization process in Bosnia and Herzegovina, covering two election cycles: Local Elections 2020 and General Elections 2022.

The LDA Mostar team has decided to support the work of the Coalition for the BiH Local Elections 2020 signing the "Letter of Intent of CSOs to participate in the STEP project" and in early 2020 made an assessment of its own capacities. LDA Mostar was engaged as a long-term observer (LTO). We've monitored the election process for a period of about two and a half months prior to elections and on the Election Day.

GATE – Granting Accessible Tourism for Everyone

This project, funded by the European Regional Development Fund and Interreg VA Italy Austria 2014-2020, aims at affirming the concept of inclusive tourism in world heritage areas – Alpine and Pre-Alpin – through the use of new technologies. This is a cross-border cooperation project carried out by the UNESCO Dolomites Foundation (lead partner), the independent L. Social Cooperative, the Municipality of Santorso, CAI Alpage, the University of Innsbruck, and Salzburg Research with the support of ALDA.

In 2020 LDA Mostar became the representative of the GATE's Community of Interest after signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on March 23rd. Within the Memorandum, LDA Mostar committed to disseminate and provide visibility to the project and its outputs, to participate in the “Inclusive Tourism Help Desk” that will be developed by the project and discuss its contents with the aim to replicate the project activities and the technological tools on offer and to attend some of the project events.

PRO-Budućnost: Strengthening trust, a precondition for a better future for young people

This project, funded by USAID and CRS, in which LDA Mostar acts as a sub-contractor of the project leader in the City of Mostar, aims at improving the institutional mechanisms for cooperation at the local level while strengthening the position of young people in the community.



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

Project and activities

1) EGAL Project

In 2019, EGAL 1 project has set up a training-action cycle on the mechanism of participatory democracy in local action and on the mechanism of gender integration in public policies. The final stage of the project ended in January 2020, with the launch of 5 gender-inclusive participatory activities (APIG – Activités participatives inclusives du Genre) in the municipalities receiving the grants from our partner Fonds Mallorqui.

EGAL 2 represents the development of EGAL 1, equally funded by Fonds Menorqui. This project envisages a series of formative actions and interactive debates to stimulate gender inclusive local public policies. These activities are addressed at 25 local actors from 5 rural municipalities of Tétouan province already involved in EGAL 1.

2020 activities

- On February 2020, the seminar capitilasing on the results of EGAL 1 titled “échange des expériences des APIG EGAL1” and launching EGAL 2;
- In February 2020, a meeting on the theme of gender sensitive budget as a tool of local egalitarian policies;
- Training (online and in presence) on female leadership;
- Seminar (online and in presence) on exchanging best practices at national level on gender in local action and viewing of the film EGAL.





2) “Citizens participation e COVID- 19” webinar

For the associations involved in the EGAL project, a general session on citizens’ participation in local association during the COVID-19 crisis was held, alongside a Mediterranean session titled “Citizens’ participation in the times of COVID-19: How can we organize our future together?”, organizes in partnership with ALDA and featuring ALDA Secretary General, Antonella Valmorbida.



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3) “Youth and COVID-19” webinar

LDA Northern Morocco took part in the OECD survey on the consequences of COVID-19 crisis on youth organizations in the world, focusing on the initiatives undertaken in order to mitigate the crisis impact. LDA Northern Morocco represented Morocco in the OECD international webinar on the topic of “Youth and COVID-19: Response, Resilience and Recovery” on May, 7th. Following these activities, in September, a Mediterranean webinar in partnership with ALDA and the OECD was organized, featuring the participation of Moroccan and Mediterranean youth.

LDA Northern Morocco has launched a series of weekly talks with 15 young people, “Youth and smart lockdown”, on 5 topics: psychology and well-being, citizens’ participation, digitalisation, art, economy and entrepreneurship. These sessions encompassed the participation of Moroccan youth, Moroccan residents in the EU and in Tunisia and sub-saharaina youth in Moroc. After these 5 sessions, a survey was disseminated among the participants, whose results have been utilized to develop the second series of “Youth and smart lockdown” webinars launched in June.



LDA Northern Morocco took part in the preparatory activities of the AJCM forum “Young Med Voices” on the issue of gender equality in the Mediterranean in partnership with ALDA on May, 27th.



4) “Youth In Gov” project

LDA Northern Morocco took part in the preparatory activities organized by UNOPS for its partners in the framework of the “moucharaka mowatina” program on financial management on 7th May.

On May 21st, LDA Northern Morocco was invited to present its “Youth In Gov” project in the UNOPS meeting on youth and civic participation, considering its launch in June.



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

Project and activities

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 report we highlight the most important ones.

1) Youth and School Exchange

- 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 four 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;
- Due to the impossibility of organizing physical exchange between primary and secondary schools from Prijedor and Trento, we have organized various online meetings in order to maintain contacts and cooperation during the year of Covid 19;
- Project to strengthen the safety of students during the pandemic period, donation of contactless thermometers to all primary and secondary schools in cooperation with the local administration of the City of Prijedor;
- Project for improving conditions in preschool institutions - procurement of a motor vehicle for the needs of transporting food for a kindergarten in Prijedor;

2) Social Area

- **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 2020 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.

- **Distance adoption:** Since 1997 the Project “Distance Adoptions” (entrusts) that involved up to now 811 families in Prijedor and as many from Trentino (for most) began. This activity goes beyond economic aid: among many families has created a stable relationship, made of meetings in Prijedor and exchanges in Trentino. This activity continued also in 2020;
- On several occasions, organizing the procurement and distribution of hygiene and food packages, as well as protective masks for the needs of socially vulnerable families affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.





3) Local Development

- **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;
- **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:** also in this second year of implementation, the project focused on promoting the exchange of experiences and good practices, strengthening participation and dialogue between civil society organizations and local authorities and discussing opportunities for young people in their local communities;
- Support to youth entrepreneurship.

Activities supported by ALDA

1) RYCE – Regional Youth Compact for Europe

This project 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 and funded by the European Union and the Balkan Trust for Democracy, within the German Marshall Fund of the United States.

2020 activities

- The Internship programme of Regional Youth Compact for Europe has officially started in Prijedor on March 2020 when LDA Prijedor welcomed intern from Montenegro, Jovana Bigovic. She spent 1 month in Prijedor fully integrated in the LDA's team. The internship program aimed at providing a framework for young people in the region to gain firsthand experience about the functioning of CSOs and the work they do, but also at assisting in finding out and establishing innovative, youth friendly forms and content of communication, leading to increased youth participation in civil initiatives, policy design and structured dialogue. LDA Prijedor within this project encouraged young people from Prijedor to write several blogs on life and work in a pandemic, as well as the rights of persons belonging to vulnerable groups.





2) MONUMENTAL 9

Local Democracy Agency of Prijedor together with LDA Nikšić, LDA Mostar, LDA Zavidovići, LDA Kosovo, LDA Knjaževac, LDA Subotica and ALDA Skopje developed new tourism products, using the greeter concept and modern approaches in order to increase the interest of young people in activities aimed at generating income through engagement and animation of micro localities.

2020 activities

- Realization of public Invitation for participants and trainers to participate in the training "Every monument has its own story" - January 2020;
- Realization a four-day training "Every monument has its own story" which was held on Kozara National Park - February 2020;
- Realization of online training for greeters - July 2020;
- Participation in the tour with the aim of discovering the stories behind the monuments dedicated to the Second World War in the countries of the Western Balkans. As part of this tour, we visited Jablanica, Konjic and Mostar in BiH - July 2020;
- Realization of the tour on Kozara National Park and Prijedor, tour which aim is to discover and register of the monumental symbols of the territory of Prijedor - August 2020;
- Realization of video material - September-October 2020.



3) CLINK – Cultural heritage as a link diversity of Europe

The project aimed at deepening 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, raising their awareness on connections and placing their own cultural heritage in the tapestry of Europe's rich and diverse cultural framework.

Through planned activities, it gathered and engaged 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.



4) “CSOs networking for better local democracy in the Balkans”

CSOs contribution to the development of civil society is essential. Specific objectives of the project are: SO1: strengthening the BNLD capacities to contribute more effectively to regional civic space; SO2: improving regional exchange of experience and skills of BNLD network members on evidence-based advocacy and monitoring EU integration and reform agenda in WB countries; SO3: creating a regional CSOs co-operation and learning resource for advancing active citizenship at local level.



Activities realized by LDA Prijedor support

1) Know your past, Improve your future: Tolerance through shared history

This project, started in December 2020 and financed by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), aims at supporting young people in conducting fieldwork to map – online and offline – BiH monuments and architectural symbols from WWII and the SFRY, transforming these sites into public murals and conducting public presentations. The overall objective is the engagement and the connection of youth from different ethnic backgrounds, for the development of a common understanding and the dissemination of a unifying narrative of a shared history.





Delegate: Silvija Patarcic
Established:1993

Key partner

- Wolverhampton City Council, UK (Lead Partner)

Main objectives

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

Local Democracy Agency LDA Subotica was founded in 1993 under the auspices of the Council of Europe and by an agreement with the local government of Subotica as a local NGO whose main mission was to promote local democracy and human rights in local multicultural community in the then war torn former Yugoslavia.

Today LDA Subotica is registered as a local NGO, member of the European Association for Local Democracy – ALDA, consistently advocating democratic governance and participation and getting the accession negotiation process with the EU closer to citizens in local communities in Serbia and in multicultural Autonomous Province of Vojvodina in particular. Our main programmes are focused on capacity building, awareness raising and advocacy actions intended for three main target groups – policy and decision makers at local level, civil society organisations, youth and women’s groups in particular.

Educating for democratic citizenship, promoting intercultural dialogue, regional cooperation, cross-sectoral partnership building for local sustainable development are the main types of our activities including also networking at regional and European level.

LDA SUBOTICA IN THE FIELD

Project and activities

1) RYCE – Regional Youth Compact for Europe



The project RYCE – Consolidating Regional Thematic Networks of Civil Society Organisations, funded by the European Commission, aims at empowering CSOs, in particular youth organizations in Western Balkans and Turkey, to effectively increase their participation in policy design and monitoring of 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.

Main project work packages are implemented at local and regional level including Capacity building, Monitoring and Advocacy, Regional Networking and Exchange, Public Campaign and Sub-granting Programme.

2020 activities

– Organization of the online campaign, jointly with LDA CSS, on the essential workers' rights during the pandemic. The campaign has been based on the Regulation of the Government of Serbia on the organization of work during the emergency state and the broader framework of the legislative acquis in EU negotiation, Chapter 19 – Social policy and employment.

2) CLINK- Cultural Heritage Linking Diversity in Europe

This project, financed by Europe for Citizens, aimed at deepening 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, while raising their awareness on cultural heritage, placing it in the rich and diverse cultural framework of Europe.

Through planned activities, it gathered and engaged a diverse group of participants in discussions, forums, exchange of practices, study visits and art events. 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 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-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).

Expected outcomes were 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.

In Subotica the main outcome of the project street was an Art Nouveau mural on Open University building depicting famous Subotica landmarks and their architects as an homage to rich local cultural heritage and intercultural spirit of the city.



3) 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 Balkan Network for Local Democracy (BNLD with its main office in Skopje) with the aim of developing and promoting a new cultural tourism product – Monumental 9 – together with the training and engagement of young people in the tour operation and promotion.

Activities resulted in the development of a new cultural tourism product, showing the rich cultural heritage of the WWII monuments in the Western Balkans economies. The tour around nine selected locations encompasses invitations to explore cultural diversity, natural beauty, historical narratives, colossal architectural designs, traditional and fine artistry, recreational routes and local food specialties.

Specific objectives were the development of youth-friendly innovative promotional actions to provide orientation and publicize the narrative of the nine magnificent monuments of the WWII; the creation of a youth friendly online platform to present sites, locations and heritage; the development of a regional pilot youth intercultural exchange program including exploration, storytelling and digitalization of the new cultural tourism product 'Monumental 9'; helping increasing the attractiveness of these micro-localities through tourism development and income-generating activities.

2020 activities

– LDA Subotica together with LDA Prijedor was in charge of organizing and piloting the Tour 3, around the monuments Kadiniaca – Sremski front (Serbia) and Kozara (Bosnia and Herzegovina).



4) 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 two-year project, gathering local authorities and civil society organizations from Italy, France, Slovenia, Germany, Greece and Serbia, aimed at deepening citizens' understanding of EU policies, encouraging democratic and civic participation among European citizens and promoting intercultural dialogue, social engagement and the fight against the stigmatisation of migrants.

2020 activities

- The publication of Townlab MEET position paper, a document of intent containing proposals, guidelines and good practices on integration, a preparatory draft for the signing of agreements between local authorities, universities and NGOs, and for the continuation of economic, cultural and social relations at the end of the project;
- the publication of a short video containing the most significant moments of all international Townlab MEETINGing.



5) United by diversity

This project, funded by the Civil Society Facility Serbia and the EU Delegation to Serbia, is led by the European Movement Serbia, in partnership with LDA Subotica, Timok Club, European Movement in Serbia – Leskovac, Forum of Civil Action (FORCA).

In its two years of activities, from January 2020 to January 2022, the projects aims at increasing the capacities of the Serbian CSOs to address cultural diversity within reform process and EU integration process, creating institutional support for the promotion of intercultural dialogue and cultural diversity by establishing the network 'United by Diversity' of youth CSOs and CSOs dealing with youth in Serbia. Moreover, the project activities are designed to empower youth in Serbia on such topics, enhancing common consciousness of being part of the same society.

2020 activities

- Establishment of the 'United by diversity' network;
- Capacity-building workshops for network members;
- Development of innovative methodology for intercultural exchanges;
- Conducting the competition 'My community in intercultural Europe' in selected high schools;
- 20 three-day exchanges for high school students, including 20 intercultural European classes;
- Creation of quiz 'United in Diversity' and board game 'Let's unite in diversity';
- Organizing the competition for high school students 'The cultural puzzle of Serbia'.



6) 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, using a bottom-up approach and through promotion of cultural participation. Cultural participation is seen as a tool for improving social inclusion, active citizenship and intercultural dialogue, as well as fostering solidarity and respect for cultural diversity. The partnership involves Kosovo*, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, North Macedonia, Italy, Montenegro, France, Greece and Slovenia.

VALID pinpoints cultural participation as an effective tool for establishing and upholding this process, generating counter narratives and providing a more inclusive pathway for citizen's participation in policy making while raising awareness on key social issues.

The project promotes the principles of interculturalism as inclusion tools for local development, models for policy making and fostering continuous culture of dialogue and open space for public cross-cultural discourse.

Four International event will be followed by local paths dealing with the same topic for the local communities to be actively engaged and mobilized. More specifically, local paths will be implemented in the local communities of partners' countries from the Western Balkans and 3 EU MS.

7) Interculturalism and antidiscrimination in Subotica

This project, led by the City of Subotica in partnership with LDA Subotica and Roma Education Center, aimed at encouraging the support to inclusion of Roma population through capacity building and improvement of the competences of public sector employees, intercultural activities and youngster education.

The project was designed as a set of comprehensive and mutually interrelated awareness raising and capacity building activities targeting teachers in elementary schools, pupils and young people aged 10-15, local policy and decision makers, local public at large.

Main outcomes achieved by the project at the end of its implementation period – December 2020 – were: improvements in elementary teachers training programmes for strengthening intercultural skills and competencies; enhancing public sector capacities on recognizing and preventing discrimination; development of the necessary conditions to improve the position of Roma children in the community; improved visibility and awareness on the importance of antidiscrimination.



8) WB Cultural Heritage in 24 hours

This project was implemented by the Balkan Network for Local Democracy and the Children' Center Zajecar, within the programme 'Tandem Western Balkans'. The overall objective of the project was to raise young people awareness o the importance of cultural heritage in smaller local communities, while promoting the protection of cultural heritage sites employing online tools.

2020 activities

Training seminar for high school students from Zajecar and Knjazevac on vlogging and cultural heritage in Zajecar, October 2020.



9) 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.





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

Project and activities

1) Ricomincio Da Te (I am starting again by you)

Co-financed by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) and implemented by the Italian association COPE – leading the partnership together with the Ministry of Social Affairs (MAS), the Municipality of Kairouan and the LDA Tunisia – this project aims at promoting the rights of young people with disabilities while reinforcing their associations' capacities.

Specifically, the project activities are designed to strengthen the role of Tunisian CSOs promoting rights and services for people with disabilities and establish a multi-sectorial dialogue at regional level to improve the training and employment possibilities of young people with disabilities, focusing on themes like social and economic inclusion, city and transport mobility and accessibility.

2020 activities

- Development of a community-based rehabilitation program aimed at the socio-educational inclusion of young people with disabilities;
- Establishment of a public-private organizational structure to promote vocational education and employment for young people with disabilities;
- Organization of three social theatre workshops in specialized centers for people with different disabilities: children participated in the workshops on a weekly basis to arrange three different theatrical pieces;
- Empowerment of specialized rehabilitation care centers through financial and logistic grants, as well as capacity-building training for the staff;
- Organization of several meetings with families of people with disabilities, to discuss and sensitize about core issues, such as mental health, employment, access to health, social inclusion.



2) Inclusive City – in City Project

Funded by Cities Alliance and implemented by the National Union of Tunisian Women of Kairouan, leading the partnership together with the Municipality of Kairouan, LDA Tunisia, Association AIKA and Tunisia Ecotourism, this project aims at contributing to the inclusive and sustainable development of the city of Kairouan through alternative tourism, the promotion of the development of local capacities and the social and economic integration of youth and women, particularly from rural areas.

Through the project activities, the city has now a responsible tourism offer, based on an inclusive and sustainable approach, with local authorities displaying a higher level of capacity and knowledge in promoting inclusive and sustainable development (with a specific focus on economic, social and cultural inclusion of rural migrants through tourism). A multi-stakeholder migration dialogue – Pacte globale de la Migration – has been developed, ensuring the awareness and the engagement of local authorities in Kairouan.

2020 activities

- Creation of a stand prototype as a model, that gained unanimous approval of the municipal council, to better integrate vulnerable migrants, enhancing their employability and livelihood;
- Using online platforms to display the attractiveness of the city to the youth.

3) Appui des Femme Artisanes Quayrawen (AFAQ)

The project AFAQ – Appui des Femme Artisanes Quayrawen mainly aimed at improving the marketing of products of the female artisans of the craft village ‘Barouta’ Kairouan, strengthening their resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic. More specifically, this project worked on capacity building in design and improving the marketing and selling of such products during the pandemic.

2020 activities

- Training sessions in product design for the benefit of female artisans of the ‘Barrouta village’;
- Individual coaching in consumer trends, production process, sales and promotions;
- Providing small grants to support female artisans;
- Organization of a promotion day for artisans’ products;
- Creation of a facebook page dedicated to the promotion of products of the beneficiaries (<https://www.facebook.com/Art.Barrouta>).





4) ZOOMERS

The “ZOOMERS” project is a 6-month project aimed at promoting socio-cultural activity and civic engagement of young people in Sbikha, Kairouan to ensure consistency in social relations and prevent their marginalization and risky behavior.

The project activities are designed to establish a synergy between the various stakeholders in youth structures at local level, thus involving and engaging youth in Sbikha. The municipality, therefore, will be more aware of the importance of youth participation in local life, empowering the youth commission within the city council.

2020 activities

- Capacity-building trainings of stakeholders, improving their cooperation with new approaches to cultural activities benefitting local youth;
- 11 representatives of local youth structures (Municipality of Sbikha, Municipality of Dar Jamaïya, Youth House, House of Culture, The public library) participated in trainings focused on the relevance of socio-cultural inclusion of young people, social innovation and participatory approach;
- Trainings and engagement activities for a group of 20 young people;
- Filming of a short documentary in which young people expressed their opinions about social issues, political topics, culture and general perspectives of today’s youth.



5) Assessment of local performance in terms of the location of Sustainable Development Objectives (SDs) in the Municipality of Kairouan

This study has been designed to analyze the performance of the Kairouan municipality when locating and adapting the UN SDGs and their objectives in the local context.

This research, a pilot experience at local and national levels, enabled the municipality to create a roadmap facilitating assessment and follow-up projects of specific SDGs, strengthening its monitoring capacity and raising its awareness over directly applicable SDGs.

2020 activities

- Conducting and disseminating the study and its result with local authors;
- Proposed recommendation for the municipality of Kairouan: creation of a SDG unit within the municipality, in partnership with the local civil society, to develop a data collection and processing tool monitoring SDGs-related indicators.



Delegate: Slađan Ilić

Established: 1997

Key partners

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

Main objectives

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

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

LDA ZAVIDOVICI IN THE FIELD

Project and activities

1) RYCE – Regional Youth Compact for Europe

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.

2020 activities

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

- 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.
- 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

- Establishment and engagement in Community multi stakeholders` platforms for dialogue among CSOs and youth organisations with local government, public and private sector on local level.
- Local Youth Workshops “Regional Youth Compact for Europe – We are Europeans” will be organized locally in 11 communities where co-applicants work.
- Regional Forum: Youth Regional Compact for Europe Network will gather youth organisations in the Western Balkans focused on rule of law, good governance, employment and social cohesion and those involved in policy making, advocacy, reform monitoring.
- Annual Conferences on thematic issues with aim to multiply effects of the accomplished outcomes and outputs.
- Internship Youth Program aims to provide new experience, intercultural exchange among diverse youth groups in the region and to learn about functioning of CSOs, assist in innovative, youth friendly, forms and content of communication, leading to increased youth participation.

5. Sub-granting Programme fund for Local Youth initiatives

- Main objective of sub-granting is improvement and development of 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

- Through 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.



2) CLINK – Cultural Heritage Linking Diversities in Europe

This project aims at deepening 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 at raising their awareness on connections, placing their own cultural heritage in the tapestry of Europe's rich and diverse cultural framework.

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.

2020 activities

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 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).



3) 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.



2020 activities

- Improving 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;
- Strengthening 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.

4) MONUMENTAL 9

This project, led by LDA Montenegro with other 7 partners, aims at helping creating the preconditions for new tourism product development increasing youth employment and income-generating activities through the engagement of micro-localities, youth greeters and vloggers in regional co-operation programmes.

2020 activities

The core activities of the proposed action are aimed to help create 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.



5) Sigurno Mjesto: Services and Activities for Women

For many years now the activities of the Association have been supported by the Local Democracy Agency 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 and sex.

2020 activities

- Workshops for pregnant women;
- Workshops on domestic violence with high school students;
- Workshops on domestic violence with women in rural area;
- Public debates on domestic violence;
- Meeting and support groups for economical empowering of women;
- Support desk, reception and tutoring;
- Promotional activities and marking of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

6) Strani Vari – summer centers for children

This project, aimed at supporting creative expression and imagination of children, raises awareness of children on different themes, indirectly involving family and citizens, supporting the joint efforts of Bosnian and Italian animators, expanding CSOs participation, promoting the Association and voluntarism, thus creating useful relations between the actors involved.

2020 activities

This year, regular edition of Strani Vari Project had to be cancelled because of Covid19. However some activities with children have been realized in cooperation with the Association Ceker, in the park in front of „Dom kulture“ during summer period. Association „Strani Vari“ from Alba realized video message that included many previous participants.



7) Ludobus – Activities for children in rural areas

Ludobus, funded by Ass. ADL Zavidovici 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” can easily be involved in various programs (school and extracurricular) and events in the city and beyond. LDA Zavidovici 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 Zavidovici and the activities involved a large number of children.

2020 activities

Unfortunately because of lockdown caused by Covid19, restrictions and limited public gathering for activities that involve many participants, we had to adapt activities due to current situation. Our volunteers realized several events for children in the city parks.



8) Development of family gardens in the Municipality of Zavidovići

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.

2020 activities

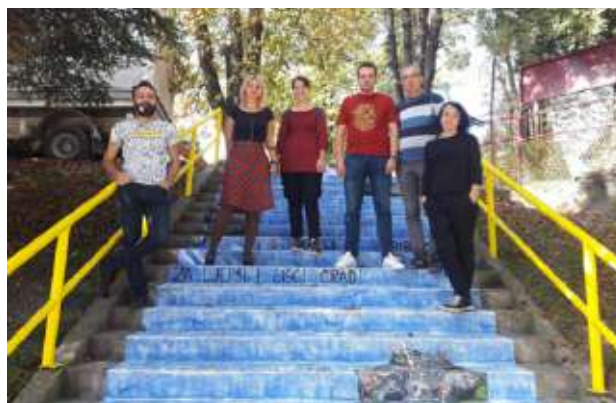
- Training – educational lectures with agronomist:
 - a) meetings on specific themes organized in four sessions:
 - Cultivation and conservation of red fruits;
 - Fruit tree cultivation;
 - Cultivation of seasonal vegetables;
 - Wheat and cultivation of corn for self-consumption
 - b) visits of the participant's gardens for a shared "fieldwork"
- Creation of information materials related to the work of the gardens to be undertaken during the year.
- Purchase of seeds, small tools, fertilizers, according to the specific needs of each participant

9) Waterfall on the stairs

LDA Zavidovići volunteers successfully realized the action of arranging one of the busiest city stairs in Zavidovići. We applied to the project "Waterfall on the Stairs" by the Eco Hub Maglaj, led by Association „Fojničani“. The project idea has obtained the highest marks. Our volunteers cleaned and creatively painted and beautified the staircase. In addition to the stairs, volunteers will plant a few fruit trees in the park in front of the building of the old kindergarten.

This activity represents an aspect of urban ecology. Volunteers refreshed this part of the street and sent a message to the citizens about the protection of our environment with the slogan "Think Nature", that also represents the name of the project in which Eco Hub Maglaj takes part.

The activities of the project "Think Nature" are implemented with the support of the Center for the Promotion of Civil Society, the Swedish Government and the Municipalities of Maglaj, Žepče, Zavidovići and Usora.



10) Observations of local elections 2020

LDA Zavidovici took part in the activities of the project STEP of the Coalition for Free and Fair Elections – Pod lupom. This coalition was founded in May 2014 with the aim of implementing the civic, non-partisan observation of General election.

In 2020, LDA Zavidovici was involved in observation of local elections in Zavidovici and Zepce. We had some 50 observers on 25 locations and in two Local electoral commissions.



11) Equipment for online teaching! #darujzanastavu

Due to the restrictions imposed by the pandemic and the moving online of most of the activities, including school lessons, the need for technological equipment has been more urgent than ever. For this reason, the Institute for Youth Development KULT from Sarajevo launched the initiative "Donate equipment for online teaching!" which aimed at collecting equipment from donors and people of good will and donating it to schoolchildren, so that as many children and young people as possible would have adequate equipment for online teaching.

One of such local points for the territory of the Municipality of Zavidovići was the Local Democracy Agency Zavidovići. Thanks to donors and donations provided by the Institute for Youth Development KULT, the Local Democracy Agency Zavidovići, handed over 7 devices for online classes, 4 tablets and 3 laptops to children and youth who did not have adequate equipment for monitoring online classes.

The initiative "Donate equipment for online teaching!" included over 650 children and young people in need and some of the donors for the initiative were: the Embassy of Sweden in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the German Society for International Cooperation GIZ, the Open Society Fund BiH and many other individuals and legal entities.



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

Project and activities

1) Peacebuilding School Award Programme

This project, funded by the Ministry for Demography, Family, Youth and Social Policy of Croatia and the City of Osijek, aimed at promoting the idea of peacebuilding into society, recognising and supporting schools that contribute to society development through non-violent methods of enhancing progress towards solidarity, fairness and peace. Young generations will be thus aware of the importance of peacebuilding activities, values and skills.

2020 activities

- Promotion of the Forum of Peacebuilding Schools among primary and secondary schools in Croatia;
- Preparation, organisation and implementation of a study visit programmes to Osijek and Vukovar region for two schools awarded in 2019 (Primary school “Antun and Stjepan Radic” from Gunja and Commercial and Trade school Bjevolar);
- Preparation of the alternative programme of a study visit due to COVID-19 measures;
- Selection process of the school nominees and election of the Peacebuilding Schools for 2020
- Preparation of the Peacebuilding School 2020 Award Ceremony;
- Peacebuilding School 2020 Award Ceremony, organised as a part of the Krunoslav Sukuc Award Ceremony for Peacebuilding, Non-violence and Human Rights;
- Training course on New European Curriculum for Nonviolent Conflict Transformation for teachers and educators, at national level;
- Evaluation and reporting.





2) Dignity World and Beyond

Funded by the Erasmus + Programme of the European Union, the project “Dignity World and Beyond” has the main following objectives: promoting active citizenship among young people; encouraging participants and young people to make changes in the life of their communities; through playful tools making young people more curious and eager to learn about human rights; stimulating European cooperation between NGOs.

2020 activities

- Training course in Lorca, Spain from 27-02 to 02-03 2020;
- Evaluation and reporting.



3) Creative Intercultural Club

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

Although the programme has been re-structured several times to meet all required preventive measures of the Republic of Croatia, related to the prevention of COVID-19 transmission, due to very small premises of the association, it was not possible to implement programme activities in 2020. All the activities are therefore to be continued in 2021.

4) LET'S WALK TOGETHER – White Cane Day 2020

This event has been organized in our local community already for many years by the Sports Association of the Blind, Svjetlost and the Tenja Volunteer Centre. The aim of this event was to raise awareness about the challenges that the visually impaired people face every day. Our volunteers participated in this year's project.



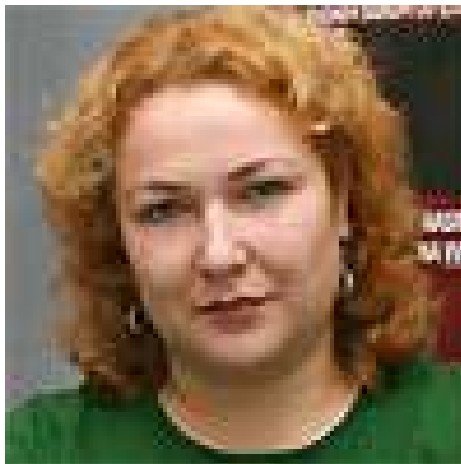
5) Webinars

In the second part of 2020, LDA Osijek members and volunteers participated in ALDA projects and webinars which were held online. In this way, they built their capacities in the field of sustainable and inclusive tourism, gender equality and empowerment.

2020 activities

- GATE: Granting Accessible Tourism for Everyone
- ALDAtalks: Gender Equality and Empowerment





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 Dvor, Croatia
- NGO “Going to Europe”, Modena, Italy
- International School for Peace Studies, Northern Ireland

Main objectives

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

OPERATIONAL PARTNER SISAK IN THE FIELD

Project and activities



1) Volunteer Centre Sisak

The Volunteers' Centre Sisak (VCS) is a social infrastructure available to all community stakeholders, providing free-of-charge to citizens willing to volunteer and legal entities needing volunteers, in accordance to legal framework and voluntary programs standards.

The objective is to contribute to the strengthening of the democracy within the society through development of local partnerships and active involvement of citizens, children and youth in public community life by building resources of potential and existing volunteering organisations and promoting positive impact of volunteering in Sisak area.

2020 activities

- 5th annual photo exhibitions of voluntary programs opened with photos of 20 organisations all over the Sisak-Moslavina County;
- 14 individuals and schools awarded with the Sisak Volunteer Awards 2020;
- 12th Annual Sisak Fair of NGOs and Institutions gathering 40 organisations.



2) Sisak Volunteer Network

The purpose of this project, ended in December 2020, was to contribute to the increasing of the number of citizens, mostly youngster, involved in different types of volunteering program in Sisak, contributing to the development of the local community and the individuals by strengthening the resources of potential and existing volunteer organizations while promoting a positive narrative on volunteering.

2020 activities

- 12 new organizations educated in volunteer management;
- 12 employers experienced the advantages of hiring volunteers for development of their businesses;
- 121 elementary school pupils organized and implemented 4 voluntary actions in their schools;
- Creation of new inclusive voluntary programs for volunteers with intellectual disabilities and a new voluntary program in culture.

3) CLINK – Cultural heritage linking diversity in Europe



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

This project aimed at deepening the connection between people from 10 communities from 3 EU Member States (Croatia, France and Greece) and 4 non-EU countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and Albania) and the cultural heritage that surrounds them, raising awareness on such relations, placing them in the rich and diverse European cultural framework.

The project activities were divided into international events bringing together all the partners, and local events in 9 communities. All the initiatives were designed to have a strong European dimension, addressing three of the four themes of the European Year of Cultural Heritage (engagement, sustainability and innovation).

2020 activities

- The publication “Life with industrial heritage”, a compilation of youth works on the industrial heritage of Sisak and Sisak-Moslavina County, was published;
- Community forum “Cultural Heritage and Youth of Sisak – How much do we know about each other?” on young people encouragement to participate in the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage.

4) Follow my Steps! – Youth for a Sustainable community



Supported by the Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs and Swiss-Croatian Cooperation Program, this project contributes to the promotion of partnerships between civil society organizations and educational institutions in the field of voluntarism, which increases the social and economic cohesion and the sustainable development of the Sisak-Moslavina County.

The expected results by the end of the implementation (May 2021) are the development of a sustainable development education program through volunteering, by establishing 2 high schools volunteer clubs in Sisak and Hrvatska Kostajnica: the activities of these latter will focus on the goals of sustainable development and deepened 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/administrations. 40 volunteer students will develop new competencies, building capacity for active involvement in the lives of their local community.

2020 activities

- Development of 2 high schools' voluntary programs incorporated in the school curriculums;
- Opening of 2 high school volunteers' clubs focused on Global Sustainable Development Goals (one in Gymnasium Sisak and one in High School "Ivana Trnškoga" in Hrvatska Kostajnica);
- School volunteers' clubs implemented voluntary actions and peer workshops on sustainable development topics.



5) Future: for us and for you!



As part of the project “Future: for us and for you!”, co-financed by the Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs and Swiss-Croatian Cooperation Program, elementary school students from 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 Međimurje, Krapina-Zagorje and Sisak-Moslavina counties.

In addition to this main project objective, one of the goals is to strengthen the competencies of children in the field of sustainable development, enhancing children and parents' active participation in the sustainable development of the community.

2020 activities

– 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, providing professional support in its implementation.

6) WalkOn: Walking the path of reconciliation – empowering communities for a peaceful society

This project, led by the Albanian organization ‘Beyond Barriers’ and funded by the Erasmus+ program, aims at building 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. For reaching such objectives, the project proposes a thorough approach, involving different stakeholders and equipping them with skills and expertise to fight these phenomena in their environment. The project activities are designed to establish a successful practice and a network of associations in the WB and EU committed to promoting reconciliation, sharing know how and fighting hate speech at different levels.

By the combination of the working packages and the educational approaches, this proposal not only makes a direct change at personal level for the participants, but also promotes a reconciliation discourse at grassroots level, making it more sensible for the communities and reaching out to the youngsters as direct change makers.

2020 activities

- Status Quo on Reconciliation and No Hate Speech! Tools and Resources Available – research on policies, practices and available methods for education of youth and youth workers on the issues on peace and no-hate speech;
- State of play – Reconciliation and no Hate Speech in Western Balkan Region – compilation of researches done in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Northern Macedonia and Serbia on policies, practices and available methods for education of youth and youth workers on the issues of peace and no-hate speech;
- Policy brief New Age of Reconciliation – Generation Z as the Engine;
- Youth postcard competition “UnitedWeStand” conducted in 6 countries: selection of 6 winning postcards, which were printed and sent to decision makers regarding peace and no-hate speech.



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

This project, funded by the Erasmus+ Program, focused on giving opportunities to youth workers, especially youth with fewer opportunities, to gain skills, knowledge, connections and experiences in inclusive social enterprises as a development opportunity for themselves and their peers. It addressed the need for opportunities of self-development, integrity and inclusion in society without discrimination on the basis of economic or social status.

In accordance with the European Youth strategy, the project consortium was engaged in information, education and training of youth with fewer possibilities, providing entrepreneurship skills and knowledge in order to become active citizens fully prepared to build a future in the European society. The project activities blended together capacity building, youth exchange, network building, good practices and non-formal learning, to empower youth with fewer possibilities in overcoming social barrier and initiating inclusive social initiatives.

2020 activities

- International Youth Training on social entrepreneurship.



8) Build your knowledge, be the change – improving the quality of life in Pounje through active participation of young people

This project, funded by the Croatian Ministry of Labor, Pension System, Family and Social Policy, aimed at improving the social inclusion of disadvantaged youth, increasing their level of knowledge and information on development needs, potential and development plans of the local community, and increasing the active participation of young people in meeting their own needs and the ones of the local community by planning, organizing and participating in project activities.

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of young people living in local communities with fewer opportunities, by encouraging active participation in community social life and decision-making processes.

2020 activities

– 2 peer voluntary actions on gender equality, conducted by the high school students for elementary school pupils.





Delegate: Umberto Ademollo

Established: 1996

Key partners

- Municipality of Bellinzona, Switzerland (Lead partner)
- Municipality of Vertenglio/Brtonigla (Host City)
- Istria Region, Croatia
- Friulia-Venezia Giulia Region, Italy
- Province of Florence, Italy
- Municipality of Portogruaro, Italy
- Municipality of Ravenna, Italy
- Municipality of Greve in Chianti, Italy
- Municipality of Russi, Italy
- Municipality of Duino-Aurisina, Italy
- Province of Florence, Italy
- Association “Marevivo”, Italy
- Association Circle of Culture Istria, Italy
- Association Causes Communes Switzerland

Main objectives

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



OPERATIONAL PARTNER VERTENEGLIO IN THE FIELD

Project and activities

1) 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 aims at strengthening and enlarging the impact of the European values, principles, and policies among the youth in the small rural communities of Istrian region and increasing the knowledge, awareness and participation in the EU youth programmes, as a way to reinforce the common sense of belonging to the European community.

2020 activities

- working on a daily basis with the agency’s team – job shadowing;
- collaboration with the local kindergarten “Kalimero” in Brtonigla;
- collaboration with the Centre of Inclusion in Buje;
- collaboration with the local youth: meetings with people in local institutions and youth organization, schools, together with other volunteers or on special thematic events, where the youth could interact directly and ask questions which raised their understanding on volunteering and various EU topics, and specially how they could use them to further and gain necessary and desired experience and training;
- creation of a thematic volunteering blog: writing and maintaining her/his own blog, following the experience and reflecting on the life and work during the EVS, its meaning for the future perspective
- collaboration with the Touristic office.





2) R.E.A.L.M.S. – “Recruit Engage Author in Local Models of Solidarity”

This project, funded by the ESC Programme and active from September 2020 to July 2021, will impact young people in five different countries, Croatia, Spain, Poland, Germany and Italy.

2020 activities

- working on a daily basis with the agency’s team – job shadowing;
- collaboration with the Private kindergarten in Nova Vas;
- collaboration with the Centre of Inclusion in Buje;
- collaboration with the local youth: meetings with young people in local schools, youth centres, cultural centres, together with other volunteers from Croatia, on specific dates celebrating European policies and values, involving young local people in direct conversations, sharing their experience, answering questions, expressing opinions and demonstrating the meaning of the ESC for their lives and plans for the future;
- project writing: an activity that will allow the volunteers to develop their original idea into a youth project, learning how to write a draft, how the process of application works, how an idea can become a tool for activities, which will positively influence an existing social challenge or problem;
- collaboration with the Touristic office;
- creation of solidarity project or activity, as a group or each one volunteer with the support of LDA and the local institutions.





3) European Training in agriculture sector

This project, funded by Erasmus+ and active from August 2021 to September 2021, will facilitate the transition towards the job market of students leaving higher education, strengthening the European School Development Plan and the policy recognising competences acquired in an informal learning context through the ECVET protocol.

4) EUROPE FOR CITIZENS “FROM M.E. TO E.U. – From Migrants’ Engagement TO Europe Upgrade”

The project aims at providing spaces and opportunities for European citizens and migrant communities, to work together to build and share a new idea of a multicultural Europe. The concept we believe in is that, in addition to formal citizenship, there are different ways and methods to involve people in the growth of a community. Refugee communities are actually part of our population and will contribute, together with us, to the shaping of our future. For this reason, every migrant should be considered as a citizen and every citizen could bring ideas, innovative approaches, methods of participation to the community in which they live. The goal, as an NGO, is to overturn the idea of a society in which refugees are outsiders to manage, a problem to be solved, a crisis to be addressed. Our will is to move away from the idea that migrants are to blame, giving them back the responsibility of being part of the growing of our society.

One of the greatest challenges of the new century could therefore be faced with a new approach, sharing experiences and collaboration. The project will consist in a path of inclusion between citizens and refugees and migrants, promoting 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.

2020 activities

- Creation of an online platform helping exchange between migrants and local population, increasing knowledge and sensibilization on the migration processes and problems;
- On February 16, the LDA team organized the dissemination event concerning the Europe for Citizens project FROMME2EU. The event was organized in conjunction with the Choco and Wine fest organized by the Tourist Board of Brtonigla, to ensure greater involvement. The LDA team used this occasion to promote the LDA work on the territory and the opportunities for the youth provided by EU;
- Thanks to the partnership with the Association of Red Cross, the LDA team had the chance to enter the Reception Center for Asylum Seekers, which is situated within the space of the Hotel Porin in Zagreb, which repurposed its function. The main goals of the activities were focused on acquiring new knowledge directly from the migrants, in order to develop further the activities of the EU for citizens project FromMe2EU;





4) Promotion and presentation of the EUROPEAN SOLIDARITY CORPS and ERASMUS+ in the spaces of Dante Alighieri Italian High School in Pola

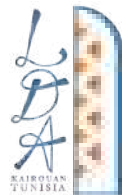
The ADL volunteers visited the Italian high school "Dante Alighieri" in Pula to promote the opportunities for youth mobility offered by the European Commission through the Erasmus + program. The main topics covered the meanings of the objectives of the European Solidarity Corps and ERASMUS+ programmes, for which students have shown a high degree of interest. In addition, the volunteers shared their current professional and life experiences, background and future goals. Overall, the presentation attracted the attention of the students as they were engaged by the volunteers in a dynamic "Questions and Answers" session, providing further information and suggestions on how to participate in a program sponsored by the European Commission.



5) Language course: German, Spanish and English

2020 activities

– the English, German and Spanish language courses started, organized by our volunteers. The courses are aimed at people who would like to start learning a new language or want to improve and practice. The lessons are held on a weekly basis in the spaces of LDA and of the Italian Community in Brtonigla Verteneglio.



LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES ACTIVITY REPORT 2020