



Local Democracy Agency Mostar

LDA Mostar

Activity Report



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Info about organisation

Local Democracy Agency Mostar

About Us

The Programme of Local Democracy Agencies (LDA) was established in 1993 as a citizen association, and upon an initiative of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, as a mean of encouragement of democratic processes and respect for human rights in the Western Balkans.



LDA Mostar has implemented many projects in the local community, aiming to support the development of the local community in the process of democratisation and accession to the European Union, with the inclusion of stakeholders, by responding to their needs and issues

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LDA network, made up of 10 Local Democracy Agencies in the area of former Yugoslavia, one in Kosovo, one in Albania, and one in Georgia, is co-ordinated by the Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA) based in Strasbourg, with sub-offices in Brussels and Vicenza, and it gathers over 200 partners from 21 European country.

Apart from the fact that each Agency has its own identity and specificity, they are all unified by the common methodology of international co-operation. The necessity of fundamental building of peace, development and stability in Europe is confirmed by the adopted methodology, and multilateral decentralised co-operation.

LDA Mostar was officially opened on 22nd November 2004. The Agency has been supported by numerous international partners – regions and cities, including the City of Mostar as the host partner, and the Italian Region of Puglia, as the LDA Mostar leader partner.

LDA Mostar, as a locally registered non-profit, non-governmental organisation, exists for more than 6 years now, and in that period it has implemented many projects in the local community, aiming to support the development of the local community in the process of democratisation and accession to the European Union, with the inclusion of stakeholders, by responding to their needs and issues. LDA Mostar has created good co-operation between different actors on various levels, which includes local and regional authorities, civil society organisations, non-governmental organisations, and European institutions.

Partners:

- Region of Puglia - Italy / leader partner,
- City of Mostar - BiH / host partner,
- City of Monfalcone - Italy,
- Province of Venice - Italy,
- Province of Brindisi - Italy,
- City of Kragujevac - Serbia,
- Municipality of Vejle - Denmark,
- Municipality of Sund - Norway,
- NGO IPSIA - Italy.

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Mission:

To support the process of democratisation in the City of Mostar by strengthening good governance and capacity building of local authorities and civil society, and citizen participation in public life.

Vision:

LDA Mostar will be a resource centre for institutions of cantonal authorities, city administration and civil society for harmonisation of democratic standards with those of the European Union.

Activities and projects of LDA Mostar aim to:

- Promote concrete initiatives of encouragement of democracy on local level;
- Build bridges between citizens and authorities;
- Develop plural civil society and active participation of all social groups;
- Encourage the process of reconciliation and protection of human rights;
- Encourage sustainable local development;
- Strengthen the knowledge of the local community on the processes of stabilisation and accession.

Network membership:

- ALDA- Association of Local Democracy Agencies

<http://www.alda-europe.eu>

- RRC- Regional Resource Centres Network – at CPCD BiH http://cpcd.ba/v2/bs/mreza/regionali_resursni_centar_-_cgs_livno.html

- "Sporazum plus" (Agreement Plus) Network

<http://www.sporazum.ba/#&pid=0>

- Peace building network

<http://www.mreza-mira.net/node/1>

- ALF Anna Lindh Foundation

<http://www.euromedalex.org/>

- E.F.L.S. European Federation of Local Solidarity

<http://www.european-neighbours-day.com/>



Projects in implementation

Project „Councillor-Citizen“



Open Society Fund Bosnia & Herzegovina  Fond otvoreno društvo Bosna i Hercegovina

RCD Resursni
Centar za
Demokratizaciju

- Donors: Region of Puglia (Italy) and Open Society Fund -- Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Duration: December 2009 - December 2010

One of the most important projects that entirely fulfils the mission and the vision of LDA Mostar is the Project of "Resource Centre for Democratisation (RCD) Mostar", whose importance and significance were recognised by Open Society Fund – Bosnia and Herzegovina and organisation's leader partner – Region of Puglia (Italy), while the City of Mostar indicated its importance and exigency by providing the organisation with the necessary support for undisturbed implementation of project activities and achievement of the planned Project objectives.

Objective:

Direct inclusion of citizens into the decision making process, which is an indispensable foundation for the development and stability of the local community.

Specific objectives:

- To increase the citizen participation by using the bottom up methodology / approach in the decision making process;
- To improve communication between the citizens and the Mostar City Council by increasing transparency, responsibility and councillor-citizen interaction;
- To strengthen the capacity of citizens in advocating their interests and rights;
- To strengthen the capacity of local officials – councillors in the Mostar City Council.

Short description of the Project

The RCD Project "Councillor-Citizen" is based on activities of improving communication of the Mostar City Council, as a legislative authority, with the citizens and private sector, which should be actively included into the decision making process on the local level.

In order to improve and make the work of Mostar City Council more transparent, but primarily enable the citizens of Mostar to actively participate in the development of the local community and improvement of their living environment, in accordance with the Law on Local Self-governance, LDA Mostar, together with the Mostar City Council, will initiate a series of actions in order to accomplish the set objective.

Activities realised in 2010:

- Informative meeting – Training for councillors of the City Council on implementation of the programme planned by this Project;
- Research – sensitivity of authorities to identify and meet the real citizen needs;
- Organisation of 7 public tribunes for 7 City Areas;
- Centre for free legal counselling;
- Promotional campaign – which follows all the mentioned activities and is implemented in co-operation with local Radio and TV stations.

- Informative meeting with the representatives of the City Council on implementation of the programme planned by this Project

On 30th December 2009 representatives of the Local Democracy Agency Mostar visited the Mostar City Council with the aim to present the "Councillor–Citizen" Project, implemented in 2010. The meeting was arranged with the President of the Mostar City Council Mr. Murat Čorićem, Secretary of the Council Mrs. Marija Soldo, and with Expert Advisor for communication, public relations and international co-operation Mr. Mustafa Alendar. Considering that the City Council approved this initiative even before the LDA Mostar developed the project proposal, the aim of this meeting was the detailed elaboration of each phase of the Project.

The Project was more than positively rated by the representatives of the Council, and was the first project to be adopted by the Mostar City Council in 2010.

It was agreed that the representatives of LDA Mostar will present the "Councillor–Citizen" Project at one of the upcoming sessions of the City Council, probably around mid March, depending on the work plan of the Council.

You can find information about this meeting on the website of the Mostar City Council.

http://www.vijece.mostar.ba/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=960&Itemid=1

- Research – sensitivity of authorities to identify and meet the real citizen needs

One of the starting activities of the "Councillor–Citizen" Project, implemented by LDA Mostar, is the research related to sensitivity of authorities to identify and meet the real citizen needs.

For the purpose of the research that the representatives of LDA Mostar are implementing in the total of 43 Local communities (LC) on the territory of the City of Mostar in order to collect the data on the needs and issues of the citizens and the Local Community (LC) Commissioners, a questionnaire has been developed.

Considering that the questionnaire was made for the needs of the research within the "Councillor–Citizen" Project, that is to say a precisely determined purpose, its development was relatively simple. In the formulation of the questions, the language used was plain and direct, while the questions were divided into a few thematic groups, and they are as follows:

- a) Simple identification, non-threatening questions at the very beginning of the questionnaire,
- b) Identification of problems and communication of citizens with LC,
- c) LC status,
- d) Communication of LC with the City of Mostar,
- e) Communication of citizens and LC with the councillors,
- f) Knowledge of competencies and obligations of certain departments and bodies of the Mostar City Council and City Administration.

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The main goal of the project is direct inclusion of citizens into the decision making process, which is an indispensable foundation for the development and stability of the local community

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Thanks to the excellent co-operation achieved with the Department for organisation, legal affairs and general administration and city areas of the City of Mostar, 100% rate of reply by the LC representatives in the research implemented was ensured. To that extent, one can speak of a fully representative sample on which the research was conducted about the sensitivity to identify and meet the real citizen needs.

Commissioners of the Mostar City 43 Local Communities (LC) in total took part in the research.

As expected, the first on the list of the problems identified that the citizens of Mostar face are the communal problems (water supply, power supply, road conditions, public lighting, uncontrolled waste disposal and garbage collection, insufficient parking space, etc), which was selected by 93% or over 40 respondents.

These problems are immediately followed by the existential problems (unemployment, destroyed infrastructure and similar) with 37 responses or 86% of the overall number of respondents. Lack of educational institutions (schools and kindergartens) is a problem for more than a quarter of LC Commissioners, precisely, 12 of them. And finally, for 9 LC representatives or 21% of respondents, the noise coming from the bars, delinquency and crime represent a significant problem in their local community.

Global economic crisis and its effects on BiH and Mostar, reflected in the decline in the industrial production, reduction in the gross domestic product (GDP), unemployment growth and significantly diminished inflow of funds into public budgets additionally complicate the already bleak picture in BiH and Mostar.

It is therefore not surprising that more than two thirds of the surveyed LC Commissioners, precisely, 29 of them, are not satisfied with the up to date communication and problem solving between LCs and the City of Mostar. Also, over 60% of respondents are not satisfied with the manner in which the councillors represent the area they were elected from and thus affect the solution of concrete problems in the City Council.

Poor financial condition of LCs is convincingly at the top of the list of dissatisfaction of the LC Commissioners with 34 responds or 79% of the total number of the surveyed. It is immediately followed by the unresolved legal status of LCs, selected by more than two thirds, precisely, 29 Commissioners, while more than a half of the surveyed is dissatisfied with the insufficient support of the higher authority instances (City and Canton). 38 LC Commissioners, or almost 90% of respondents, are dissatisfied with the current legal status of the LCs.

It is precisely this state of affairs that requires the City Council and City Administration to, within the existing legal framework, find a way that will ensure the functionality of Local Communities as a constituent part of the City Administration.

Formally and legally, the Local Community Commissioners are employees of the Mostar City Administration.



- Organisation of 7 public tribunes for 7 City Areas

During the implementation of the "Councillor-Citizen" Project, in accordance with the project activities, organisation of 7 public tribunes for 6 City Areas and one for the entire City (the City electoral list) has been planned. 6 public tribunes were conducted in 2010.

Public tribute held in Mostar South City Area:

On 16th June 2010, in the Elementary School "Marin Držić" in Buna, meeting between the citizens and City Councillors that represent this Area was arranged. Two Councillors presented the manners of specific functioning of the local authority in Mostar and division of competencies between the legislative and executive authority, as well as the role of the Mostar City Council Commissions.

Upon the presentation of problems and challenges of this City Area, it was pointed out that this rural part of the city, despite numerous resources and capacities, remains, unfortunately, one of the poorest City Areas, with an insufficient budget and absence of economic and other investments. The second part of tribute was dedicated to the questions of the citizens, who were mainly interested in solving problems related to infrastructure, uncontrolled waste disposal, and drinking water supply of some new settlements constructed in the South City Area. Also, the citizens were interested in the current condition of the Mostar Airport as well the neglected Recreation Centre Buna.

Public tribute held in Mostar North City Area:

Public tribute, which gathered the citizens of the North City Area and Councillors of the City Council elected from that City Area, took place on 21st June 2010 in the Cultural Centre "Mostar-Sjever-Potoci".

All three Councillors attended the tribute. President of the Mostar City Council, who managed this part of the city for years, as an excellent connoisseur of affairs in the North City Area, joined the Councillors wanting to provide the citizens with as precise as possible answers to their questions. The first part of the tribute passed in explaining the complicated and imposed by OHR City Statute, which regulates all political and issues of public interest in Mostar.

The second part of the tribute was dedicated to the questions of the citizens, who wanted to know how the city authorities intend to solve the problem of the communal garbage dump "Uborak", as well as other communal problems (water and power supply of certain parts of the North City Area) and insufficient activity of the city inspection services in this part of the city.

Representatives of the North City Area' Local Communities also raised a number of questions in relation to the legal status of LCs, distribution of funds collected from utility charges, distribution of funds intended for the North City Area and manners of improvement of communication between the Commission for the North City Area and the City Area Office.





Public tribune held in Mostar Southeast City Area:

Public tribune between the citizens and City Councillors elected to the Mostar City Council from the Southeast City Area was held on 14th July 2010 in the Cultural Centre in Blagaj. All three Councillors attended the tribune. After introduction and short presentation on the work of the Mostar City Council and the Commission for this City Area, citizens had an opportunity to ask their Councillors questions. Topics that predominated the tribune were water supply and suspicious quality of water in LC Blagaj, poor co-ordination between the Southeast City Area Commission, precisely the three Councillors present at the tribune and the LC Commissioner, public lighting, the quality of main roads, local roads and oversized speed bumps in Blagaj, a place that is becoming an important tourist destination in the region, the issue of infirmary and Elementary School in LC Gnojnice, garbage dump and absence of presence of communal inspectors in this City Area.



The Councillors pointed out that some of the problems are not within their competencies and that for their solution, the citizens should contact the competent City Departments. As for the problems which are within the Councillors' competencies, it was underlined that many of them can be resolved but that poor communication between the LC Commissioner and the Southeast City Area Commission are not in favour of the citizens and their problems. One of the Councillors proposed establishment of LC Boards, which would create a hierarchy of needs per LC and with that, alleviate the work of the Commission. Also, an important conclusion of the meeting was an agreement to arrange a meeting between the citizens and associations from the Southeast City Area and their Councillors every three month in order to establish positive communication dynamics.

Public tribune held in Mostar Southwest City Area:

Public tribune between the citizens and the Councillors of the Mostar City Council elected from that City Area was held in the evening hours on 22nd November 2010 in the Gallery "Kraljica Katarina" of the "Herceg-Stjepan Kosača" Croat Centre. The first part of the meeting was used for explanations related to the work of the City Council, competencies of the City Area Commissions as well as the manner of election of councillors, duration of mandate, powers, etc. It was mentioned that the current City Statute was "imposed" by the High Representative and OHR in 2004 and it would be wise to start thinking about amending and changing this Statute.



The President of the Southwest City Area emphasised that he communicates with the citizens indirectly through respective LCs as the most prominent points of local self-governance. The second part of the tribune was dedicated to the questions of the citizens. The most frequent questions of the citizens of this densely populated City Area concerned uncontrolled waste disposal and poor road solutions in Rodoč, large-scale communal and other problems in LC Podhum in the city centre, division of dumpsters and fear of epidemic because of inefficient communal services, issues of sewage collectors, lack of playgrounds and sports fields for youth in general, etc. The Commission has committed to consider all these problems and do everything in its power to solve them.

Public tribune held in Mostar West City Area:

Public tribune between the Councillors of the Mostar City Council elected from the West City Area and the citizens of that City Area was held in the Crystal Hall of the Hotel "Ero" on 26th November 2010. As with the previous tribunes, the Councillors explained to the citizens the principles on which the City departments and bodies operate, how the Commission for this City Area functions, how it is funded, and how the Commission creates a list of priorities trying to solve the problems of the citizens.

Questions the Councillors were asked expectedly concerned communal problems, lack of playgrounds and infrastructure for children and youth, dilapidated and neglected premises in privatised residential buildings, lack of school departments in some of the Mostar West Area schools as well as regulation plans for construction and/or renewal of the part of the city, which partially covers the territory of this City Area. The Commission of the Mostar City Council promised that it will, just like up to date, regularly make field visits and meet with the LC Commissioners in order to efficiently resolve the problems of the citizens and improve communication.

Public tribune held in Mostar Old Town City Area:

Public tribune between the Councillors of the Mostar City Council elected from the Old Town City Area and the citizens of the Area took place in the Grand Hall of the Mostar National Theatre on 14th December 2010.

One of the present Councillors, who is also the President of the Commission for the Old Town City Area, emphasised the importance of such meetings and appealed for the change of the role and higher inclusion of citizens in the life of local community. After explanation regarding the work of the Mostar City Council, the Commission for this City Area, manner of funding, etc., the members of the Commission, that is the Councillors, harshly criticised the work of the Mostar City Administration, which, as the executive authority, does not do its job and which is, according to the Councillors' opinion, the main culprit for the current state in Mostar. Huge outstanding claims of the City of Mostar were also mentioned; those funds would be more than welcome for improvement of infrastructure of the City.

The second part of the tribune was open for the citizen questions to Councillors. The questions asked concerned the ruins and the danger they represent in the city centre, communal problems and problems concerning rainwater drainage, legal status of the former Mostar District, whose citizens do not belong to any of the City Areas, unenviable condition of the culture in the City (city festivals, manifestations, sports competitions, etc), condition of facilities and premises owned by the City, etc. The Commission promised to do everything in its power to improve the situation and proposed to invite the executive authority to attend future similar meetings between the authorities and the citizens.

The remaining 7th public tribune, planned for the entire City of Mostar, will be held in the first quarter of 2011.



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Seekers of legal aid turn to the Centre for free legal counselling especially in regards to the judicial and administrative procedures, exercising rights under the employment law, and pension, social and health insurance, right to disability, custody, receipt of social welfare, access to information, appeals procedure, filing a complaint and responding to a complaint, proposition for execution, and instruction on the actions of (the highest) court instances.

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- Centre for free legal counselling

The data of the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton (HNC) Ministry of Judiciary, Governance and Self-governance point that in HNC 30% of the population in the state of need for free legal aid (socially endangered categories of population and vulnerable groups), while the Law that regulates the provision of free legal aid in HNC (more precisely, the Law on Cantonal Institute for Legal Aid) in the process of adoption. According to the opinion of relevant actors from the judiciary sector, amending the legal text would be a desirable way to legally regulate and establish institutional forms of co-operation of judiciary with, in accordance with the given criteria, selected citizen associations for provision of free legal aid.

In the Resource Centre for Democratisation of the Local Democracy Agency Mostar, Centre for free legal counselling on human rights was established and operational in the period from 01st January to 31st December 2010. A Legal adviser was engaged every Tuesday and Thursday from 14:30 to 17:30 hours to work with clients – socially endangered, discriminated against and citizens of lower economic status.

The work on preparation and resolution of cases runs continuously. The clients are interested in both abstract and concrete legal aid, and activities of the Centre for free legal counselling – nature and methodology of work. Up to date, over 300 cases were the subject of legal aid. On an average, 5-7 clients approach the LDA Mostar Centre for free legal counselling on weekly basis.

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- Promotional campaign – which follows all the mentioned activities and is implemented in co-operation with local Radio and TV stations

During all the activities implemented so far within the "Councillor-Citizen" Project, the promotional campaign was used in parallel so that the public would be timely informed. In the first 12 months of the Project, 9 Radio shows were broadcasted aiming to promote project activities, but also other actions and projects of LDA Mostar and other organisations and institutions, while special emphasis was placed on the citizen initiatives. Also, one TV show was broadcasted in co-operation with HTV Oscar C and RTVMO. Mr. Mustafa Alendar, the Mostar City Council Spokesperson and "Councillor-Citizen" Project Manager were the guests of the show.

Project Manager explained the objectives of the Project, as well as the most important activities, which will be implemented during the Project. Mr. Alendar pointed out an exceptional co-operation between the Mostar City Council and LDA Mostar, and added that the Council fully supports this Project. All other activities were followed by the media through newspapers, Internet portals, Radio and TV shows.

Activities which will be realised in 2011:

- Publications – final handbook for the councillors;
- Training "Participatory planning process" intended for the Councillors of the Mostar City Council;
- Exchange of good practices – a Study visit will be organised for partners from Italy, Region of Puglia;
- Promotion of PARLANET – communication system of the Mostar City Council and improvement of work and its functioning in accordance with its original purpose;
- Final conference.

Regional partnership for inter-cultural cities

Donor: European Commission – Directorate for Enlargement
Project leader partner: Subotica City Assembly (Serbia)
Project partner: Local Democracy Agencies Subotica (Serbia), Osijek (Croatia) and Mostar (BiH), "Light House" Wolverhampton (UK)

Project duration: May 2009 – May 2011

Short description of Project

Regional partnership for inter-cultural cities is one of eight international co-operation projects, approved within the "People 2 People" Programme of the European Commission General Directorate for Enlargement, as per the following Call "Support to the civil society dialogue – 'People 2 People' - activities: consolidation of partnerships amongst civil society organisations and authorities, aiming to strengthen the rights of minorities in the region" funded within the CARDS Regional Action Programme 2006 (EuropeAid/126361/C/ACT/Multi).

Activities realised in 2009:

- 06th – 07th July 2009 initial Conference held in Brussels;
- 06th – 09th August 2009 first Roundtable held in Subotica, Study visit and the first meeting of the Project Steering Board, with participation of all partners;
- 22nd – 25th August 2009 Seminar "Inter-cultural cities" held in Subotica;
- Project website www.regionalicc.net developed and regularly updated;
- Promotional Project brochure developed;
- Materials recorded for the documentary film about the City of Subotica.

Activities realised in 2010:

- February 2010 – Call for written features published with the aim to collect materials for publication which will be published within the Project;
- 08th April 2010, Osijek – second Project Steering Board;
- 07th – 10th October 2010, Mostar – filming of a documentary film; team of cameramen of the "Light-House" Wolverhampton from Great Britain visited Mostar and, in accordance with programme planned in advance, conducted a series of interviews and recordings with the aim to collect audio and video materials for the "Mostar Inter-cultural City" documentary film;
- September - December 2010 – preparation of a brochure. In co-operation with the Office for upbringing, education and sports of the City of Mostar Department for social services,

The screenshot shows the ParlaNet website. At the top, it says "ParlaNet komunikacija sa Gradskim Vijećem Grada Mostara". Below that is a logo for "LDA Mostar" featuring a star and the letters "LDA". To the right is a logo for "Grad Mostar" with a shield. A woman is smiling at a desk with multiple computer monitors. On the left, there's a vertical text "www.vijece.mostar.ba". On the right, there's a list of features: "e-mail i sms servis", "dostupnost radnih materijala za svaku sjednicu", "direktni video i audio prenos sjednica putem interneta", and "pregled sjednica u ...". At the bottom, there are logos for "Open Society Institute Bosnia & Herzegovina", "Fond za razvojne studije Bosna i Hercegovina", and "Region Puglia". To the right, it says "Internet Portal Gradskog Vijeća Grada Mostara".





representatives of national communities, cultural institutions and NGOs, materials collected for development of a brochure on cultural events in the City of Mostar, which will be published within the Project.

- 22nd – 26th November 2010, Osijek – regional Youth Camp "School of local democracy". Organised by LDA Mostar, 7 young representatives of BiH have, together with the representatives of Subotica and Osijek, worked in the Youth Camp in Osijek. The objective of the Camp as well as of the entire Project was to contribute to understanding of regional differences in this part of Europe, with special emphasis on inter-cultural dialogue, tolerance and identification of elements important for re-establishment of co-operation and trust.

The Camp was organised on two levels – theoretical – which provided an important contribution to understanding of concept of local democracy, tolerance and inter-culturing, and practical level – which elaborated the same concepts through dramatic expression. The dramatic part of the Camp was led by Mr. Sead Đulić, Director of Mostar Youth Theatre and Centre for drama education in Mostar, while the theoretical part was managed by a few renowned trainers and lecturers from Croatia, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

- 01st – 02nd December 2010, Osijek – Study visit and Roundtable "With Co-operation of Cities to Europe". The aim of the Roundtable as well as of the overall Project was to contribute to understanding of regional differences in this part of Europe, with special emphasis on the possibilities of development of co-operation between multi-ethnic local communities in the field of good local governance, local development, promotion of the role of local self-governments in the integration process of the region into EU, and the field of inter-cultural dialogue, tolerance as well as identification of elements important for re-establishment of co-operation and trust and improvement of economic relations. Representatives of local authorities, non-governmental organisations and different national communities from Croatia, Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina took part in the gathering. Apart from the Roundtable, special Study visit programme was organised and took place during the marking of the City of Osijek Day.

- 03rd December 2010, Osijek – third Project Steering Board;
- Website of the Project is regularly updated with new information.

Activities which will be realised in 2011:

- Publication of the brochure – Inter-cultural Guide for the City of Mostar;
- Development of a documentary film on the subject of inter-culturing and minority rights in the Cities of Osijek, Subotica and Mostar;
- Final Project conference, hosted by LDA Mostar.

Reconciliation for the Future – European Perspective for the Western Balkans

Donor: European Commission Programme entitled Instrument for Stability – Crisis Preparedness component

Project leader partner: ALDA

Project partners: LDA Niš and Centre for Regionalism Novi Sad (Serbia), LDA Osijek (Croatia), Centre for Peace, Non-violence

and Human Rights, Osijek (Croatia) and LDA Mostar (BiH)

Project duration: September 2009 – September 2010

Short description of the Project:

"Reconciliation for the Future – European Perspective for the Western Balkans" is a Project that addresses issues of reconciliation in the region as one of the preconditions of further process of European integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Croatia.

General objective of the Project is the contribution to perceiving key aspects of regional dialogue on reconciliation of political, social and economic challenges in realisation of cross-border and regional co-operation of competent institutions with the aim of reconciliation on one side and their improved co-ordination on the other side.

The Project is realised through a series of three roundtables and one regional conference with the aim to gather representatives of state authorities, civil society, experts and media for the purpose of improvement of dialogue on reconciliation on the regional level as one of the key preconditions for the future of the European integration process.

Activities realised in 2009:

- 04th December 2009, first Roundtable organised in Niš (Serbia);

Activities realised in 2010:

- 26th March 2010, second Roundtable organised in Mostar (BiH); the event covered two large panel topics:

- Panel I: How to, as efficiently as possible, network BiH civil society actors for reconciliation and inter-ethnic co-operation at inter-state and regional levels? How to influence the creation of common vision on causes and consequences of recent conflicts in the former Yugoslavia (results achieved and next steps)?

- Panel II: How to improve the co-operation of Bosnia and Herzegovina with the states in the region and the political dialogue on a different level of authority, including local self-governments as well as the civil sector, for the process of reconciliation and long-term stability in the region? How to influence the strengthening of public awareness on inter-ethnic dialogue and reconciliation, as one of the preconditions for stability in the region and integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina into EU (results achieved and next steps)?

The Roundtable was chaired by prominent keynote speakers from Bosnia and Herzegovina, with participation of representatives of authorities, international institutions, experts, researchers, analysts, representatives of non-governmental organisations and media from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Croatia.

- 08th April 2010, Osijek (Croatia) – third Roundtable, covering two large panel topics:

- Panel I: Regional co-operation and reconciliation as the precondition of stability: 15 years later (civil society, local-self-government).

- Panel II: Regional co-operation as a precondition of integration into EU: How to instigate more efficient regional co-operation - (economy, development projects, media)?

The Roundtable was chaired by prominent keynote speakers from Croatia, with participation of guests from Novi Sad, Subotica, Mostar, Niš, Sisak, Pakrac, Drniš, Osijek, Vukovar, Zagreb, representatives of local self-government, civil society, economy, academic institutions, agencies for regional development and co-operation, politics and media.

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General objective of the Project is the contribution to perceiving key aspects of regional dialogue on reconciliation of political, social and economic challenges in realisation of cross-border and regional co-operation

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- 29th June 2010, Zagreb (Croatia) – Final Project conference, covering two large panel topics:

- Panel I: Instigation of regional co-operation of governmental actors from different levels of authority and non-governmental actors with the aim of efficient reconciliation in the region. Raise common awareness on causes and consequences of recent conflict in the Western Balkans (results achieved and challenges ahead of us).
- Panel II: Networking of civil society actors with the aim of trust and reconciliation building on the regional level. Raising awareness on inter-ethnic trust and reconciliation building as one of the preconditions of the future integration of the three countries into EU (results achieved and challenges ahead of us).

The Roundtable was chaired by prominent keynote speakers from Croatia, with participation of guests from Novi Sad, Subotica, Mostar, Niš, Sisak, Pakrac, Drniš, Osijek, Vukovar, Zagreb, representatives of local self-government, civil society, economy, academic institutions, agencies for development and co-operation, politics and media.

Project partners fully utilised the significant experience of starting initiatives of cross-border and regional co-operation. At the end of the Project, as a result of all realised activities, recommendations were given to representatives of governments and civil society organisations of the region.

MO.START-V/Mostar: Strategies and Activities for Realisation of Training in Video-journalism



Donor: Regione Friuli Venezia Giulia in accordance with the Regional Law 19/2000, on regional and local levels for promotion of activities of co-operation and international partnership.

Project managed by: Province Gorizia

Project partners:

- Kallipolis – non-profit organisation for sustainable urban development - Trieste
- Luchetta Ota D'Angelo Hrovatin Onlus Foundation - Trieste
- Local Democracy Agency (LDA) Mostar
- LINK Mostar

Duration: August 2009 - March 2011

General objective of the Project is to improve economic development of Mostar through increasing employment opportunities for young people.

Aside from the general Project objective, one of the specific objectives is the promotion of dialogue between different cultures and inclusion of citizens into creation of possible future scenarios of development of the City of Mostar.

Currently, citizens of Mostar as one of the Central European cities, have a small or insignificant role in the decision making process and in the process of participation of the city planning, and this is especially true of young people.



Short description of the Project:

Italian Province of Gorizia, in co-operation with Italian partners Kallipolis – non-profit association for sustainable urban development, Foundation Luchetta Ota D'Angelo Hrovatin (O.N.L.U.S. = non-profit social benefit organisation), under the patronage of the Journalist Association of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region, FVG Film Commission and regional RAI Television, and BiH partners, Local Democracy Agency (LDA) Mostar and Association for Entrepreneurship and Business LINK Mostar, implements in the City of Mostar a year-long Project MO.Star T-V (Mostar: Strategies and Activities to Realize Training in Video-journalism), financially assisted by the Autonomous Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia.

This Project, aside from the professional education part, wants to stimulate young people and general citizenry to participate in the public life of Mostar. The research subject of the Project is "public city spaces".

Considering the importance of communication of this sector in the global context and its development, the Project intends to professionally enable a group of young people in the field of independent video-journalism, which should serve them as a tool for comparison, learning, stimulation of dialogue and inter-cultural exchanges. By using the means of communication and through the research of public spaces, young people can understand social and cultural connections the city hides, and in that manner become active participants in civil society.

The Video-journalism Workshop is led by the Italian freelancer, documentary film expert, Mr. Gianpaolo Rampini. The final result of this Workshop will be a documentary film on contemporary Mostar, created in an independent manner by the workshop participants. In parallel to that, the Project envisages realisation of a two-day Participatory Projection Workshop, intended to all citizens of the City of Mostar, City authorities, during which the issue of management of public spaces will be discussed, and possible perspectives of future City development will be "planned" jointly.

At the end, the Project envisages another phase of education for young people in the form of "Starting a Business" Workshop, which is intended for participants, students of the Video-journalism School, during which a year-long business plan will be developed. This Workshop will also be useful in the event of registration of a possible entrepreneurial action, since this Project assumes opening of a Centre for independent video-production, which would be managed by the workshop participants and which would have the support of the Youth Cultural Centre Abrašević (OKC Abrašević), whose premises currently host the Video-journalism School.

This would enable a group of video-journalism enthusiasts to continue with their work and thus create their own working positions. The Project aims to professionally capacitate young people in the field of independent video-journalism as a tool for comparison, learning, stimulation of dialogue and inter-cultural exchanges.





Activities realised in 2010:

- Professional training in independent video-journalism;
- Participatory Workshop planning.

Activities that will be realised in 2011:

- Professional course in starting a business;
- Initiation of the Centre for independent video-production;
- Final conference and presentation of a documentary film, hosted by LDA Mostar;
- Final conference and presentation of a documentary film in the Region of Friuli -Venezia Giulia.

Activities and actions implemented in 2010



European Neighbours' Day

Today we are witnessing a paradox in which it is easier to communicate from one side of the world to another than with your first neighbours.

Given the frequent detachment and individualism in the cities, the "Neighbours' Day" is an excellent opportunity for inter-neighbour mingling and strengthening of the community spirit. This Day is an occasion to meet your neighbours with the aim of a more comfortable living and in that way fight against anonymity and isolation that prevail around us.

Neighbours' Day is traditionally marked at the end of May each year. Cities and local communities have enough time and an opportunity to animate their citizens by creating a space for pleasant mingling and meeting.

"European Federation of Local Solidarity" (E.F.L.S.), based in Paris, Co-ordinates the ceremonies of marking the "European Neighbours' Day" in 32 countries, in over 1200 cities, and with more than 10 million participants.

The City of Mostar, upon LDA Mostar initiative, became a member of the E.F.L.S. network in 2009, as the first BiH city, while LDA Mostar joined that network in 2010.

Organiser: LDA Mostar

Partners: City of Mostar, Mostar City Council, ALDA

European Neighbours' Day is a holiday of local solidarity and mingling, which gathers more and more participants around the continent every year. Local Democracy Agency (LDA) Mostar has already in 2009 recognised the value of such a manifestation in the city like Mostar, in which, before the war and economic transition, local solidarity among the population was at an enviable level. This year as well, on 25th May, in co-operation with the Mostar City Council and City Administration, LDA Mostar organised the celebration of the "European Neighbours' Day".

Encouraged by the last year's experience, when the organisation of the "European Neighbours' Day" in Mostar was proclaimed the best practice for 2009, this time around we again tried to bring the citizens and the City of Mostar closer to hundreds of other European cities, which mark this day as the day of local solidarity and promotion of European values.



With the appropriate cultural-musical programme, prepared by four Mostar schools, refreshments and delicacies kindly donated by local producers and merchants, and attendance of distinguished guests, the Neighbours' Day passed in a pleasant atmosphere. This year as well, the celebration took place on two city locations. As a mark of solidarity and confirmation that local community did not forget its eldest members, the celebration of the Neighbour's Day was symbolically placed in the courtyard of the "Centre for Elderly and Bedridden Persons" as well as in front of the building of the Mostar National Theatre, which was actively engaged in the preparations of the celebration this year. The celebration was also attended by the local officials, who were available to citizens for direct and informal contact. Special guest of this year's celebration of the Neighbours' Day was the President of Association of Local Democracy Agencies Mr. Per Vinter, who addressed the audience and emphasised the values of neighbouring solidarity as a precondition for the more tolerant and democratic society. Just as last year, volunteers of the City of Mostar significantly contributed to the organisation of this year's marking of the Neighbours' Day. You can find out more about the European Neighbours' Day on the official site of the European Federation of Local Solidarity: <http://www.european-neighbours-day.com/fr>

EVS – European Volunteering Service

"Youth – the Right Direction" Projects for promotion of the "Youth in Action" Programme.

European Volunteering Service, known as EVS, is a part of the European Commission Programme for youth entitled "Youth in Action".

This Programme allows a young person to discover new culture and new language through volunteering activities outside of his/hers country of origin. EVS is an experience of educational character. It develops an attitude of a general active citizenry by allowing a foreign national in one country to participate in its everyday life, working and sharing responsibilities of its citizens. EVS enables a young person to acquire new knowledge, to get to know one, to him or her, foreign country, but also to get to know his/her own self.

Basically, EVS Programme exists to encourage the mobility of youth.

LDA Mostar joined the EVS Programme and has been accredited as an organisation for sending, accommodation and co-ordination of volunteers since April 2009.

Activities realised in 2010:

- March - April: In this period, LDA Mostar dedicated itself to the promotion of the European Volunteering Services through meetings with relevant student population in Mostar (Presidents of Student Associations of the two Mostar Universities, as well as persons at the Universities who are in charge of international co-operation of University);

- April: Radio show focused on the "Youth in Action" Programme, and especially on EVS; LDA Mostar Youth Officer explained what the European Volunteering Service is, its advantages and conditions for participation. The Officer specified that all those interested in this Programme can obtain additional explanations in the LDA Mostar Office.



EVS is an experience of educational character. It develops an attitude of a general active citizenry by allowing a foreign national in one country to participate in its everyday life, working and sharing responsibilities of its citizens

- May: LDA Mostar creates partnership contacts with organisations from the domain of culture (Youth Cultural Centre (OKC) Abrašević, Mostar Youth Theatre, Pavarotti Musical Centre) and organisations and institutions which care for children and youth with special needs (Public institution Los Rosales, Associations Sunce and SOS Kinderdorf) with the aim to promote EVS and possibility of arrival of European volunteers to, within the EVS Programme, voluntarily work in these organisations;
- June: LDA Mostar officially requested new accreditation from SALTO SEE in order to include the above-mentioned organisations into its EVS offer. A SALTO SEE employee in charge of accreditations visited LDA Mostar;
- August: Despite SALTO SEE's praises for the new EVS Project, the new accreditation was not adopted out of administrative reasons; namely, European Commission requires one accreditation for each organisation, which would be included into our new Project. LDA Mostar decided to dedicate itself to the activities of sending native volunteers to European countries until the end of the year;
- October: Two volunteers from Mostar, through LDA Mostar, departed to Italy and Germany respectively, to volunteer for one year;
- November: LDA Mostar Youth Officer, accompanied by two young volunteers, participated in realisation of a project activity of the "Youth in Action" Programme entitled "Let's EVS now", implemented by LDA Subotica in partnership with LDA Mostar and another few youth partner organisations from the region (Monte Negro, Macedonia, Serbia and BiH) and Europe (Finland, France, Norway, Hungary). In a pleasant six-day stay in Subotica, experiences were exchanged between the representatives of EVS accredited organisations with an everyday training for the participants of the Seminar, which aimed at renewal and acquiring the new knowledge from the EVS Programme as well as emphasising cultural, climatic, lingual, legal and other differences between the volunteers and the country in which they voluntarily work, which can be influenced by these differences.

Trainings delivered by LDA Mostar

- Within the "Addressing Social Exclusion of Mine Affected Population in BiH: Development and Mine Action" Project, implemented by Handicap International for South East Europe – "Development of a project idea – learning by doing";
- Training for the members of Association "Volunteers in the City of Mostar" – "Preparation of a project proposal";
- A number of internal trainings organised by LDA Mostar – IPA Funds and preparation of project proposals.

Trainings attended by the LDA Mostar staff in 2010:

- 02nd – 04th August 2010 – training "Human Resources – human side of entrepreneurship", organised by the NGO "Nešto više";
- 17th May 2010 - Seminar for youth organised by the Association of Entrepreneurs LINK Mostar, which aimed at emphasising the importance of inclusion of youth into economic development of a local community, while the accent was on the young entrepreneurs;

- 07th – 09th July 2010 – three-day training "How to prepare a project proposal" in the sense of cross-border co-operation and pre-accession instruments of EU assistance, organised by CBIB;
- 18th – 19th August 2010 – training on proactive teaching methods: "How to cope with prejudices of personal and group identities";
- 26th August 2010 – training for cross-border co-operation of BiH and Monte Negro, organised by the European Union Delegation in BiH.

Other activities implemented in 2010:

- 22nd January 2010 - 6th General Assembly of LDA Mostar held;
- 10th March 2010 – visit of students from Trento, organised by Viageri di Balkani.

Since 2009, guests from Trento visit, within the eco-tourism programme of the organisation Viaggeri di Balkani, Mostar and LDA Mostar, as a result of co-operation between LDA and Viaggeri di Balkani;

- 19th May 2010 – Study visit of Belfast University representatives, within the five-year long research Project "Conflicts in the Cities and Disputable Countries";
- 26th May 2010 – official visit of ALDA to the City of Mostar took place. Director of ALDA Ms. Antonella Valmorbida and President of ALDA Mr. Per Vinther met Mostar City Mayor Mr. Ljubo Bešlić and on that occasion agreed the membership of the City of Mostar in the ALDA network.



Other activities in which LDA Mostar participated:

- 15th January 2010 – meeting of partners, Bari, Italy;
- 08th – 12th February 2010 – Memorial "Jasenovac" (Croatia) – Learning to remember – Programme Europe for Citizens. Two LDA Mostar volunteers from the partner NGO IPSIA from Italy participated in the Seminar organised by LDA Sisak (Croatia);
- 10th – 12th March 2010 - Intercultural navigator, organised within the Programme "Human in Action" (HiA), Hotel "Feri", Igman. LDA Mostar Youth Officer, together with another young person from Mostar attended an educational training for young leaders, whose activities and co-operation with their own kind will lead to significant changes in their surroundings;
- 19th – 21st March 2010, Sarajevo, BiH – second Seminar "Capacity Building and Best Practices of Local Governance". Representative of the City of Mostar, the Head of Department for Organisation, Legal Affairs and General Administration, attended the Seminar organised by the Council of Europe Political School – School of Local Democracy in the Western Balkans.
- 15th March 2010 – Platform of Justice ADI (Association for Democracy in Action); two representatives of LDA Mostar, as members of the Platform, participated in the activities directed towards the establishment of judicial sector reform strategy in BiH;
- 14th – 16th April 2010 – participation of LDA Mostar representatives in the Forum of Civil Society;
- 29th April 2010 - Roundtable: "Advocating for the Campaign for protection of health of persons with special needs older than 18 in Herzegovina-Neretva Canton",



Considering that the role of a partner in the process of development and strengthening of not only the Agency but also the local community is very important, LDA Mostar invests great efforts to retain the existing partners, and win over the new ones, and all that by implementing projects that have a significant influence on both local and international level

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- organised by the non-governmental organisation for the support to children with special needs "Ružičnjak";
- 11th May 2010 – Roundtable "Place and Role of Others in the Constitution of BiH and Future Constitutional Solutions for BiH" organised by the NGO Nansen Dialogue Centre (NDC) Mostar;
 - 15th -16th May 2010 – 13th Children's Theatre Festival, Gračanica; theatre play "European Bear" won a prize for the "First Theatre Step".
 - 17th May 2010 – theatre play "European Bear", prepared by the pupils of the 4th Elementary School Mostar, under the professional guidance of the LDA Mostar staff, played within the celebration of the School Day. The realisation of the play was financially supported by the Municipality of RAVENA;
 - 25th May 2010 – Peral.Eu meeting in RAVENA – presentation of the working process with children "European Bear";
 - 22nd – 29th May 2010 - Programme East to East: Partnership beyond Borders, Forum for Cities in Transition: Annual conference, Kosovska Mitrovica (attended by the City of Mostar and Mostar NGOs' representatives);
 - 24th June 2010 - Debate "BiH on its way towards the EU integration", organised by OCD, in co-operation with the local authorities and High Representative of the International Community;
 - 27th May 2010 – meeting of the ALDA Steering Board, Skopje, Macedonia;
 - 08th October 2010 – LDA Mostar hosted a student of Mostar General Gymnasium for a one-day volunteering arrangement, within the "Volunteering Crediting" Project, implemented in co-operation with the NGO "Infohouse" and the City of Mostar;
 - 08-09. November 2010 LDA Delegates meeting , Vicenza Italia
 - 08th December 2010 – Roundtable "Roma – Resolution of the issue of housing, health insurance and the problem of begging", organised by the Association of Roma "Neretva", Mostar.

Fundraising



Local Democracy Agency (LDA) Mostar finances its activities and projects with the assistance of various funds and donors. The majority of financial means, which is utilised for the implementation of activities, is fundraised through the Agency's own efforts. In 2010, just like in the past few years, LDA Mostar invested a lot of time and resources into fundraising by writing its own projects, developing new ideas and activities, all that in accordance with the needs of the local community and citizens, and partly through the participation in projects as a partner.

Also, LDA Mostar is partly funded through the partners' membership, which is paid on annual basis. Considering that the role of a partner in the process of development and strengthening of not only the Agency but also the local community is very important, LDA Mostar invests great efforts to retain the existing partners, and win over the new ones, and all that by implementing projects that have a significant influence on both local and international level.