

+Local Democracy Agency of Mostar

LDA Mostar Activity report 2008



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Introduction



Local Democracy Agency Mostar was established in 2004 within the Program of the Local Democracy Agencies of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe that aims to foster the democratic process and respect of human rights in the western Balkans.

LDA Mostar works to support the local democracy and respect of human rights in Mostar area using the method of decentralised multilateral cooperation.

The year 2008 has been extraordinary proficuous in strengthening our role in building up new capacities for local authorities, schooling system and CSOs in Mostar by supporting the democratic transition and the growth of a local community much more responsive to the needs of underprivileged social groups.

Our primary goal for 2008 has been the promotion of a series of local initiatives focusing on active civil society, transparent and capable public structures and exchange of best practices through several projects of development cooperation, good governance and sustainable local development.

The path done so far showed us how much work there is still to be done on the issues of democratic local authorities, governance, social inclusion, youth, education, multicultural policies and public service, but at the same time how positive is the response from the local institutions and citizens.

The bottom-up approach gave LDA Mostar the opportunity to act as gatherer of local requests, conveying them towards appropriate answers and instruments that can foster the quality of life at local level.

In particular, our actions have been focused on:

- enhancing the level of cooperation between local institutions, citizens and social stakeholders;
- raising people's awareness about their rights;
- promoting intercultural policies;
- stimulating an active citizenship;
- building capacities of local authorities and civil society organizations;
- exchange of knowledge and expertise.

Moreover, during this entire year we have been strengthening the cooperation with our partners and donors who once more listened to, trusted and helped us to achieve our goals.

I express my gratitude to them and all people who encourage us in our daily work.

Jlenia Destito
LDA Mostar's Delegate

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Partners:

- Region Puglia - Italy / Partner leader,
- City of Mostar - B&H / Host partner,
- City of Monfalcone - Italy,
- Province of Venice - Italy,
- City of Kragujevac - Serbia,
- Municipality of Vejle - Denmark,
- Metropolitan City of Kayseri - Turkey,
- Municipality of Orkdal - Norway,
- Municipality of Sund - Norway,
- NGO IPSIA - Italy

Mission:

To support the democratization process in the city of Mostar by strengthening the good governance and capacity building of local authorities and civil society and the participation of citizens in public life.

Vision:

LDA Mostar will be a resource centre for Cantonal government institutions, City administration and civil society for adjusting and harmonizing standards with EU democratic standards.

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City of Mostar
Host partner



Regione Puglia
Partner leader



Vision & Mission



Objectives:

LDA Mostar activities and projects aim at:

- promoting concrete initiatives to foster democracy at local level
- building the bridges between citizens and governments
- development of a pluralist civil society and active participation of all social groups;
- fostering the reconciliation process and the protection of human rights
- fostering the sustainable local development
- increasing the knowledge of local community about Stabilization and Accession Process

LDA Mostar is member of the following local councils and organisations:

- LDA Mostar belongs to the network of Local Democracy Agencies operating under the auspices of the Council of Europe in the territory of ex Yugoslavia, Georgia and Albania. The program of the LDAs was founded in 1993 by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe to support the democratic process and the respect for human rights. At the present, the LDAs network, coordinated by the Association of the Local Democracy Agencies based in Strasbourg, Bruxelles and Vicenza (Italy) gathers 200 partners from 21 European countries.
- Youth Council - Council of youth organizations from Mostar

1. Projects fundraised by LDA Mostar

1.1 Vocational Training and Career Guidance

Donor: City of Mostar, City of Vejle (Denmark), Federal Ministry of Culture and Sports

Project summary

LDA Mostar in cooperation with the City of Mostar, Municipality of Vejle, Federal Ministry for Culture and Sports, Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of the Herzegovina Neretva Canton, Pedagogical institute Mostar, Institute for education Mostar and elementary schools from Mostar has initiated a project called "Establishment of a vocational training and career guidance centre in Mostar".

The main goal of the project is to initiate the establishment and development of a sustainable centred educational system for career guidance, youth enrichment and empowerment and contribute the reduction of unemployment of youth through building capacities, exchange of experience and cooperation.

Objectives:

- To build up capacities of teaching staff to work as career guidance advisors
- To establish a promotional campaign to promote the concept of VTCG for the target group
- To provide the students with relevant orientation needed to find suitable secondary schools and job opportunities
- To create a broad network of co-ordination and co-operation between public institutions, training centres, companies and community organizations

Activities implemented in 2008:

- After the Training delivered to the local professors and pedagogical workers in November 2007 in Mostar, LDA Mostar, in cooperation with the Municipality of Vejle and the support of the Federal Ministry of Culture and Sport, organised a study visit to the Career guidance centres in Vejle. Participants were principals, pedagogues and psychologists of elementary schools of Mostar, experts from the Pedagogical institutes and Ministry of Education of HN Canton, together with two representatives of LDA Mostar. Participants were given the opportunity to study the Danish model of the Career and Vocational training centers in order to apply it to the local needs in the best way. The study visit was held from the 5th to 9th of May 2008.
- 11.09.2008. LDA Mostar organised a coordination meeting in order to discuss further steps in fundraising and project planning inviting all local stakeholders representing the Cantonal Ministry of Education Culture and Sport, Institute for education, Municipality of Mostar, association of pedagogues of HNK, schools, Entrepreneur's association, Employment Office and Business Service Center.

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vejle
KOMMUNE





The Adriatic Seaways project aims to promote the creation of a model of integrated tourist development and to support the conservation of cultural patrimony of the interested territory



1.2 Adriatic Seaways

Donor: EU Adriatic New Neighbourhood Programme INTERREG III a / CARDS-PHARE

Partner leader: Municipality Monfalcone (Italy)

Partners in BiH: Municipality of Neum and LDA Mostar

General objective

The Adriatic Seaways project aims to promote the creation of a model of integrated tourist development and to support the conservation of cultural patrimony of the interested territory, by matching initiatives of animation and tourist promotion of involved municipalities, starting with the study and valorisation of the cultural patrimony in common, derived from the history of connecting seaways. The project is a systematic action, open to elements of great innovation and testing, in order to promote and support the tourist field by cooperation and valorisation of the offer and by elaboration of a local development model for innovative initiatives in the cross-Adriatic area, starting from the seaways which crossed this sea.

Part of the project implemented on BiH territory is focused on Neum Municipality. With the main objective to support tourism development at the cost area of B&H, the project:

- improves the infrastructural capacities of the City of Neum by the construction of the sea promenade
- includes preparation of a SWOT analysis for the Herzegovina Region
- creates integrated tourist packages between Italy and the Herzegovina Region
- includes training for tourism stakeholders of HN Canton in Mostar
- includes an exchange of best practices between Italian and Local tourist stakeholders in Mostar



Activities implemented in 2008:

- 22.01.2008. LDA Mostar, with the support of the City of Mostar and Cantonal Tourist Community, organized a Round table "Opportunities and threats for tourism development in HNC" involving all stakeholders in tourism from the region.
- 20.02.2008. LDA Mostar, with the support of Neum Municipality and Italian project partners, organized the Training "Tourism as resource and as market". The trainer, Mr. Alberto Pogorelc, Senior Expert of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs delivered the training to the representatives of the Cantonal Ministry of Tourism, Cantonal Tourist Community and Municipality of Mostar.
- 21.02.2008. LDA Mostar, with the support of Neum Municipality and Italian project partners, organized "Exchange of best practices in tourism between Italian and Bosnian Partners" The participants were the stakeholders in tourism sector: Cantonal ministry, Cantonal Tourist Community, Municipality of Mostar as well as representatives of tourist agencies, hotels and restaurant owners.

- 07.-08.05.2008. Bari, Italy, Conference on the promotion of the integrated tourist packages of Herzegovina and Puglia regions. LDA Mostar representative participated together with the representative of the Tourist Community of Herzegovina – Neretva Canton of BH
- 19.08.2008. Neum, Final conference organized by Neum Municipality in order to gather the project's results and launch a platform for future joint activities. The representatives of the Federal Ministry for Tourism and Environment, Tourist Community of HNC, Municipality Ploče, LDA Mostar as well as representatives of international partner organizations such as Italian Municipality San Benedetto del Tronto, INFORMEST, and representatives of Istria Universities were present at the Conference. Numerous useful information related to tourist capacity and potential of the Herzegovina were set up during the conference.



the promotion of concrete initiatives to consolidate democracy at local level is one of the basic goals and presents one of the main activities of LDA Mostar



1.3 Resource Centre for supporting the democratisation of Mostar - RCD

Donors: Regione Puglia (Italy) and Open Society Fund Bosnia Herzegovina

Duration: September 2007-March 2009

LDA Mostar, in cooperation with the City of Mostar, has initiated the establishment of the Resource Centre for supporting the process of Democratization of Mostar (RCD).

The project is co-funded by Region Puglia through its law on decentralised cooperation as well as by the Open Society Foundation in BH.

The RCD of the LDA Mostar includes an immobile and a mobile part.

Activities of the RCD immobile part:

- Establishment of a centre for free counselling on human rights

The Centre for free counselling on the human rights, called Small room for the democracy, has taken life inside the LDA Mostar office. An expert for human rights of LDA Mostar is available for citizens every Thursday from 12:00 to 15:00.

A massive informational campaign on the counselling centre has been launched by involving the following media providers: RTM, HTV, HTV Oscar C, Youth Radio X, Radio Mostar, Radio Station Mostar, as well as a few web portals that have on numerous occasions published information on the Counselling Centre. Posters and fliers were developed and distributed throughout the entire City, and as a part of a radio show organised by the RCD in co-operation with Youth Radio X on weekly basis, the listeners are informed on the work of the Counselling Centre.

- Establishment of Info Desk for Youth

As a part of RCD Project, an Info Desk for Youth has been established within LDA Mostar Office. Within the Info Desk, young people are able to use various written materials and books owned by LDA Mostar. They can also use Internet for their research for curriculum or extra-curriculum activities.



Regione Puglia





the main goal of RCD Mostar is to introduce democratisation process to all the citizens to broaden their knowledge on rights and duties in democratic society



- RCD publications

In order to promote the concept and knowledge of human rights protection and democratic principles, the following publications were formed and printed out:

- A short guide through Human Rights for citizens
- Democratisation: Short guide for citizens

Those publications have been delivered to citizens and civil servants who could get a practical tool to broaden their knowledge on rights and duties in democratic society.

Activities of the RCD mobile part

- Radio programs

All through the year 2008, in cooperation with Radio X, the RCD organised two monthly radio broadcasts on a regular basis. Different contents and guests feature the RCD radio programs, aiming to better inform the citizens of Local Democracy Agency work itself (projects, activities), increase transparency of the City institutions and improve democratic processes in the City of Mostar. Each broadcast addressed a different issue and hosted different guests. Some of the topics were: Work of Mostar High School Student Councils, Volunteerism, Inclusion, European projects in implementation in Mostar, with special overview of the "Pearl.EU" Project, Citizen participation in the decision making process, Position of Minorities in the City of Mostar, Municipal Elections 2008. As a part of each show, the citizens were invited to visit the Human Rights Counselling Centre.

- TV programs

From October 2008 the RCD has started broadcasting a monthly TV program in cooperation with two local TV stations: RTM and HTV Oscar C.

The aim of the TV program is similar to the one of the radio: social inclusion, human rights protection and democratization process.

The RCD TV program is hosted during a popular Mostar's talk show and jointly broadcasted in both sides of the city by the two TV providers partners.

- Trainings, workshops and round tables

1. Workshop: "Volunteerism and European Civil Service"

On 30th January 2008, a Workshop on: "Volunteerism and European Civil Service" took place in the City Administration's Conference Room. 25 persons, representing the City of Mostar authorities, NGOs (SCV Ipsia, Sluh, Sunce, Los Rosales, Zene BiH, NDC), kindergartens and Mostar High School Student Councils participated in the work of the Workshop.

The aim of the Workshop was to inform the representatives of Student Councils, Student organisations, NGOs and representatives of local authorities on volunteerism and European Civil Service, as well as to explain possible ways of inclusion into volunteering at local and international level. Furthermore, the event tried to point out advantages of volunteerism through experiences of international volunteers.



2. Training on: "Importance and Techniques of Planning Process with Citizen Participation"

Training on: "Importance and Techniques of Planning Process with Citizen Participation" was organised on the premises of Nansen Dialog Centre on 14th and 15th February 2008. 15 persons representing HNC Government, HNC Ministries, Mostar City Council, City Administration and NGOs took part in the training.

The aim of the training was to draw the participants attention to the importance of the planning process as well as importance of citizen participation in the decision making process.

The first day of the training was based on action and strategic plans and manners in which those plans are developed.

The second day was dedicated to concrete models of citizen participation such as Public discussion or meeting, Meeting in the City Hall or Meeting with the City Council, Citizen opinion/stance research, Focus groups, Ad hoc and Advisory boards/Working groups, Regular bodies and commissions, Application of technology (Internet), Community associations/boards, Community office, Open doors (availability), Public informing, Educational programmes and national reporting, Media relations.

3. Workshop on: "Identity and Multiculturalism: the Canadian Context"

Workshop on: "Identity and Multi-Culture / Canadian Context" took place on 18th February 2008 in the Blue Saloon of Hotel "Ero" in Mostar.

The Workshop was organised for the representatives of Student organisations (from both Mostar Universities), Mostar High School Student Councils (16 persons).

The aim of the Workshop was to point out the identity and multi-culture in the Canadian context, and through a presentation of the Canadian guests, draw a parallel between the Bosnia and Herzegovina and Canadian societies.

4. Roundtable: "Inclusion – New Approach to Invalidity"

On 27 March, a Roundtable on: "Inclusion – New Approach to Invalidity" was organised in the White Salon of Hotel "Ero" in Mostar. Representatives of HNC Ministry of Education, Science and Sports, HNC Pedagogical Institute, City of Mostar, OSCE, NGOs as well as directors of kindergartens and primary schools took part in the work of the Roundtable. The aim of this event was primarily to analyse problems all the interested parties, who are active in this field, face, as well as develop requirement analyses. Based on the participants' presentations, it was concluded that kindergartens and schools i.e. persons who work with children, lack additional education. It was suggested that the Resource Centre should organise a few trainings for the staff of the aforementioned institutions in co-operation with a mobile team. Minutes from this Roundtable will be distributed to all the participants and further forwarded to the HNC Ministry of Education, Science and Sport.



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RCD Mostar will continue to organize workshops on the subjects of human rights, with special emphasis on women's rights and rights of children with special needs

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5. Roundtable: "Cross-Border Co-operation – Good Practice Examples"

A Roundtable on "Cross-Border Co-operation – Good Practice Examples" took place on 03rd April 2008 in "Centre for Culture", Mostar. 30 persons representing HNC Ministry of Justice, Governance and Local Self-Governance, HNC Ministry of Construction and Spatial Planning, HNC Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management, HNC Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Environmental Protection, representatives of Brindisi Province, Municipalities of Ravenna, Trieste, Bari, Sisak, Osijek, City of Mostar, and Association for Entrepreneurship and Labour LINK (30 persons) took part in the work of the Roundtable.

The representative of Ravenna presented an example of how the Office for EU Affairs within the municipality itself was formed. This was considered very useful and applicable in our region, having in mind that we still do not have such an office on City or Cantonal level.

The Roundtable addressed problems which local authorities face when implementing projects as well as how to overcome them. Through an exchange of experiences and good practices, representatives of local authorities received new knowledge on certain issues, while through the presentation of the Ravenna representative they found out in detail how to form an EU Affairs Office.

6. Workshop on: "Youth Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina"

Workshop on "Youth Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina" took place on 24th April 2008 in Mostar Nansen Dialog Centre.

The Workshop addressed the following subjects:

- Human Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with special overview of Youth Rights
- Youth in Bosnia and Herzegovina education system
- Youth participation in the community, with special overview of the City of Mostar

The target group of this Workshop were representatives of Mostar High School Student Councils.

Representatives of Student Councils which participated in the Workshop received new information on human rights, Bosnia and Herzegovina education system and participation of youth in the community.



7. Opening Ceremony of the Resource Centre for Democratisation

Opening ceremony of the Resource Centre for Democratisation (RCD) was organised on 19th May 2008 on the premises of Mostar "Centre for Culture". Around 70 invitees attended the Ceremony, representing Venice Region, HNC Ministries, City of Mostar, Kindergartens, Primary and High Schools, NGOs as well as other partners of the Local Democracy Agency (LDA). Ms. Jlenia Destito, LDA Delegate, Mr. Murat Ćorić, Mostar City Council Speaker, Ms. Rita Zamutel, Venice Region Chancellor for European Affairs and Mr. Igor Kajgana, RCD Project Manager addressed the gathered audience. Materials recently developed and printed by LDA (LDA 2007 Activity Report, LDA promo brochure, Democratisation and Human Rights brochure) were presented at the Opening Ceremony. After the address, guests were invited to a cocktail party. The following media establishments reported on the Ceremony: TVMO, HTV, FTV, Dnevni List, Fena, Bljesak.info and Studio 7.



8. Roundtable: "Position of Minorities in the City of Mostar – Good Practice Examples"

On 20th May 2008, Local Democracy Agency Mostar organised a Roundtable on "Position of Minorities in the City of Mostar – Good Practice Examples" in the Mostar Centre for Culture. Representatives of HNC Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Welfare, HNC Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports, City of Mostar, Centre for Social Work, OSCE, UNHCR, NDC, Centre "Los Rosales", Roma Association "Neretva", and Polish Association "Mieszko I" participated in the work of the Roundtable. A research implemented in the Venice Region and related to the Roma population existing in that Region was presented at the Roundtable. Problems and difficulties that representatives of minorities in the City of Mostar deal with were also addressed. All the participants agreed that the research implemented in Venice is easily applicable to the City of Mostar since the problems are the same. They are related to development of a database of Roma population, assistance in housing construction, health insurance and employment.



9. First steering committee of the RCD

The first meeting of the Board of Directors of Local Democracy Agency (LDA) Mostar Resource Centre for Democratisation (RCD) took place on 22nd July 2008 in the Meeting room of the Mostar City Administration.

Attendees at the meeting were the Representatives of Puglia Region (Ducret Reana and Fausto Savoia), City of Mostar (Sanela Kamberić and Jasna Velagić), as well as representatives of LDA Mostar.

Activities implemented by RCD in the last six months were presented in detail after the introduction by LDA Mostar Delegate Jlenia Destito.

LDA Mostar Delegate presented the RCD six-month Financial Report.

Furthermore, the attendees were introduced to a part of the public opinion poll, which is being implemented by LDA Mostar and which aims to assess the needs for trainings, scheduled for implementation in the period September 2008 – March 2009.

Representatives of Puglia Region and City of Mostar evaluated the activities implemented in the past six months, and came to the conclusion that methodology applied by LDA Mostar was more than positive.

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10. Training needs assessment based on the public opinion poll

Public opinion poll draft

The draft of the public opinion poll has been developed within the RCD LDA Mostar team. The main objective of the public opinion poll draft development is to analyse and establish the most effective direction in obtaining the overall and reliable data that LDA will use during the implementation of the RCD project.

Definition of sample

Using individual questionnaires, interviews were conducted directly with the representatives of the City Administration and the Mostar City Council and with representatives of Cantonal ministries and NGOs. In total, 90 representatives of the above-mentioned institutions were interviewed.





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Implementation of the public opinion poll and data elaboration

The surveys were conducted during August 2008. Out of all interviewees, 53 % were female, and 47% were male. Considering the gender, age and nationality of the interviewees, some significant deviation in the attitude was not noticed during the analyses. It can be noted that people believe that NGOs can contribute the improvement of living conditions in the City of Mostar, even though they are still not well informed about their work.

The results of this public opinion poll assist LDA Mostar to overview and improve more precisely the upcoming activities of the organisation itself.

11. Training on: “EU Accession Funds for BiH 2007 – 2013” (for HNC Ministries)

On 08 – 09 September 2008, training on the subject of: “EU Accession Funds for BiH 2007 – 2013”, organised by LDA Mostar Resource Centre for Democratisation (RCD) was organised for the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton (HNC) employees.

The first day addressed issues related to IPA Funds, support of the transition and institutional development and cross-border cooperation. During on the second day participants could hear more about project proposal development, project life cycle and how to fill in an application form.

The representatives of the HNC Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Environmental protection, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports, Ministry of Traffic and Communication, Ministry of Construction, HNC Government and F BiH Ministry of Trade attended the training.

The aim of the training was to increase the knowledge of the participants about the EU Pre-accession Funds, so that they could adequately handle the challenges they will face during the period of transition of our institutions on the European path.

The training participants, civil servants, expressed great interest and actively participated in the discussions after the plenary, presenting ideas of high quality, which could be transfused into projects that will bring prosperity to HNC.

12. Training on: “EU Accession Funds for BiH 2007 – 2013” (for Media)

Training on: “EU Accession Funds for BiH 2007 – 2013”, on 12th September, was organised by the LDA Mostar Resource Centre for Democratisation for journalists and owners of media establishments from Mostar.

The following media establishments representatives participated in the training: HTV Mostar, HRHB, and Radio Good Vibrations. The aim of the training was to inform the media establishments about the EU Pre-accession Funds for BiH, support the transition and institutional development and cross-border cooperation, as well as point out the Funds that are intended for the media establishments.

The conclusion made at the training was that more should be done on informing the citizens about this subject as well as initialise certain informative – educational contents for the citizens. The following media establishments followed the training: HTV Mostar, Fena, HRHB, and web portal Bljesak.info

13. Training on: "EU Accession Funds for BiH 2007 – 2013" (for Mostar City Administration)

Training on the subject of:

"EU Accession Funds for BiH 2007 – 2013" took place on 22-23 September in the premises of the Mostar City Administration,.

The training was organised for the representatives of the Mostar City Administration. The first day of the training touched upon the issues of IPA Funds, support of the transition and institutional development, and cross-border co-operation, while on the second day, the participants could hear more about project proposal development, project life cycle, and how to fill in an application form.

Representatives of the following departments and their services of the City of Mostar took part in the training: Department for Organisation, Legal Affairs and General Administration, Finance and Real Estate Department, Social Affairs Department, Department for Urbanism and Construction, Department for Economy, Communal and Inspection Affairs.

The aim of the training was to increase the participants' knowledge about the EU Pre-accession Funds, so that they could adequately handle the challenges they will face during the period of transition of our institutions on the European path.

The training participants, civil servants, expressed a great interest and participated actively in the discussions after the plenary, presenting ideas of high quality, which could be transfused into projects that will bring prosperity to the City of Mostar and its citizens.



14. Training on: "EU Accession Funds for BiH 2007 – 2013" (Mostar Non-Governmental Organisations)

LDA Mostar Resource Centre for Democratisation organised a two-day training for the representatives of Non-Governmental Organisations from the City of Mostar on 25-26 September 2008 on the subject of "EU Accession Funds for BiH 2007 - 2013".

The first day of the training addressed issues related to IPA Funds, support of the transition and institutional development and cross-border cooperation. During second day the participants could hear more about project proposal development, project life cycle, and how to fill in an EU Project application form. Representatives of the following non-governmental organisations from Mostar participated in the training: HNC Association of Pedagogues, Association HVIDRA Mostar, Novi Val, EKO Association OAZA, Association "Sunce", Association of Roma "Neretva".

Taking into account that this was the last in a series of trainings organised on this subject, it is evident that the representatives of the non-governmental sector have a greater knowledge and capacities than the representatives of civil services.





15. Shooting of the Documentary Film

LDA Mostar Resource Centre for Democratisation, in co-operation with an independent production establishment "Studio 7" has been shooting a documentary film on the following subjects: Social Inclusion, Position of Minorities in the City of Mostar, Communication between the City of Mostar and the Citizens and a promotional film about LDA Mostar.

The above mentioned topics are linked to specific activities LDA Mostar is undertaking to improve the position of marginalized social groups as well as support the democratic processes in the City of Mostar.

RCD will have broadcasted the four documentary movies in cooperation with two local TV stations (Oscar C and RTM) by the end of 2008.

16. Fairy-tale "European bear or the toys shop"

LDA Mostar, within RCD project, started a pilot action on intercultural coexistence and democratic values targeting children in Mostar. This action consisted of two month workshops aiming at making children reflect upon the importance of mutual respect and brotherhood by taking inspiration from the Italian fairy-tale "The European bear or the toys shop".

The fairy-tale "European bear or the toys shop" was written by Gianfranco Draghi in the 50's in order to prevent the risk of a further world-wide conflict after the tragedy of the Second World War. Nowadays the story is used in several Italian schools to address the theme of tolerance and intercultural dialogue.

The preparatory work of LDA Mostar in 2008 consisted of two study visits to Ravenna (Italy) where the City Administration promoted many projects in the local schooling systems using "The Bear or the toys shops" as a starting point and tool to initiate pedagogical itineraries which involve Italian and foreign children attending the same schools.

The fairytale had been translated from Italian to Local language and printed out for local schools and kindergartens.

The workshops were realized in the kindergarten "Kuća od kamena" and the IV Elementary School in Mostar.



1.4 Projects implemented in partnership with LDA Mostar Italian partner IPSIA

1.4.1 Theatre for Peace. The Tree at the centre of the world

Donor: Municipality of S. Giuliano Milanese (Italy)

Duration: March - June 2008

Partners: IPSIA, LDA Mostar, OKC Abrasević, Pozorište Lutaka Mostar, VI Osnovna Škola, Osnovna Škola Ilije Jakovljevića

Project summary:

The aim is to bring together children from different schooling systems in Mostar using the theatre and the valorisation of their local culture through artistic workshops.

Activities implemented in 2008:

- workshops on Puppet Animation for children from both sides of Mostar
- creation of a brand new Puppet Show based on a traditional tale, promoting dialogue values
- video shoot and DVD of all children with pictures and backstage for all the children participating



1.4.2 Time for peace

Donor: Municipality of Paderno Dugnano

Duration: June - October 2008

Partners: IPSIA, LDA Mostar, Porodični Centar (Family Centre), Sunce, Srednja Elektrotehnička škola, VI Osnovna Škola, Coop. Soc Etabetta di Milano

Summary of the project:

The project aims to promote the value of volunteerism among youngsters including 8 secondary school students from Mostar in the team of volunteers who animated a summer camp for children organized by IPSIA in August 2008 in Mostar

Activities implemented in 2008:

- Training for young volunteers with field visits to Porodicni Centar (Family Centre), LDA Mostar Resource Centre for Democratization and Sunce association.
- Support in equipment for the VI primary school in sport activities and Elektrotehnička škola for the library
- Realization of summer camp in august 2008 with the participation of youth trainee-volunteers
- Final exchange trip in Italy in October 2008 in order to share experience about volunteering and associations in the area of Milan.



1.4.3 Italian language course

Period of implementation: February-June 2008

LDA Mostar, in cooperation with ARCS and IPSIA cooperated to offer four different Italian language courses (60 hours lessons) for a wide range of students in Mostar. The courses were held by four Italian civilian service volunteers who spent 10 months in Mostar.

"Džemal Bijedić" University and "University in Croatian language" in Mostar collaborated in promoting two different Italian courses (basic and advanced) to the students that took place at the IUC-Mostar, a hall managed by the University of Granada along the Bulevar shared by the two universities.

The enrolment was open to all the students and was free of charge.

1.5 Balkan tour Sunshine bus

Donor: European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe and Youth In Action programme of the European Commission

Partner Leader: Youth Express Network "From Exclusion to Integration", which is a network that gathers 30 youth and social organizations from 15 countries in Europe.

Period of implementation: May 2008

Project summary:

This project consisted of a 12-day route through Croatia, Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina for social and cultural cooperation in the Balkans.

The itinerant "sunshine bus" was realised in May 2008, involved 25 international local teachers, trainers and social workers.

The sunshine bus organised mobile seminars, exhibitions, debates, concerts and shows.

The European group also prepared contents related to intercultural dialogue and cultural bridges.

The Sunshine bus stopped in Mostar where LDA Mostar, Partner of the project, organised 2-day activities for the group introducing them to the Resource centre for democratization and the other youth activities. They also organised a workshop with the representatives of the student councils of Mostar Universities.



2. Projects fundraised by ALDA

2.1 CBM II – Confidence Building Measures, to foster interethnic dialogue in the secondary schools of Mostar and its region - second part

Donor: Permanent Representation of Luxembourg at the Council of Europe

The main objective of entire CBM project is strengthening interethnic and inter-religious dialogue between students and teachers from different ethnic groups, exchange of best practices on education issues between teachers and experts from HN Canton and teachers and experts from cities and regional partners of LDA, promoting the values of respect of human rights, democracy and respect of minority groups, contributing to the process of school reunification.

Specific objectives of CBM II:

- To have overview of level and quality of teaching about values such as democracy, human rights, dialogue, respect of human rights in high schools of Mostar.
- To inform all high schools and relevant institutions in Mostar about CBM project
- To engage schools and relevant institutions in process of planning of CBM project
- To conduct research on teaching about values such as democracy, human rights, dialogue, respect of human rights in high schools of Mostar and to publish it in the form of report

Activities implemented in 2008:

- Preparation of the final manual including the results of the research about teaching values such as democracy, human rights, dialogue, respect of human rights in high schools of Mostar

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ALDA uses its expertise gained with the Local Democracy Agencies in the Balkans and the Southern Caucasus to support local democracy and participation in other European countries

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2.2 Local Economic Development in Balkans

Donor: French Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The first stage of the project implemented in 2004 was aimed to assess different economic sectors in the Herzegovina Region in order to analyse impediments and opportunities for economic development and employment opportunities with the SWOT analysis (SWOT stands for strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats). That is the first stage of planning and addresses marketers to focus on key issues. As the result of the SWOT analysis, a project proposal on local economic development was prepared and additional funds provided in 2007, by the same donor, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The project called "Creation of a package of tourist offer for Herzegovina that aims to improve tourist potential of the Region", is aimed to tourist development in Herzegovina Region, focused on the valorisation and preservation of traditional types of cheeses.

The project has been implementing in collaboration with the Italian NGO UCODEP.

Activities implemented in 2007 / 2008:

- First recognition mission in BiH of the University of Udine, the "Institute for animal husbandry" (ISZ) of Potenza and ANFOSC, from Italy.
- Organization of technical roundtables in Livno and Nevesinje for local authorities and cheese producers from Herzegovina Region
- Visits to the laboratories of "Sir iz mjeha" (traditional cheese preserved in sheep's skin) producers, Nevesinje
- Mission of one expert on cheese sector from the University of Udine (Italy) has been organized in Livno and Nevesinje
- 2nd level training in Municipality of Livno and Municipality of Nevesinje
- Visit to factories' laboratories of producers of traditional Livanjski Sir, Livno
- Production of promo material:
 - Brochure presenting the traditional sorts of cheese of Herzegovina region
 - Promo Calendar material with logos of the project and project partners
 - Billboards for new reconstructed factories of the cheese and milk products in Herzegovina region.
- Opening of six repaired laboratories in Nevesinje in October 2008
- Participation in training on local economic development in cooperation with ALDA and all LDAs involved in the project to highlight difficulties and challenges met in the project's implementation and shape the possible follow up of the project.



2.3 Micro credit Scheme

Donor: Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Partner: Banca Intesa San Paolo and Bank of the Council of Europe

Duration: January 2007- December 2009

Summary of the project

The Association of the Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA) and the network of the LDAs have been cooperating with the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 2004 to strengthen the skills and opportunities of young entrepreneurs in South East Europe.

As result an innovative micro-credit scheme has been designed for young entrepreneurs usually left behind the credit market. That project is realized thanks to the support of Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and through a specific credit line that the Council of Europe Bank offers within that project, in cooperation with Banca Intesa San Paolo.

The preparatory phase consisted in strengthening the Local Democracy Agencies for being logistics centres of the micro-credit activities. 22 staff members of the LDAs were trained for 260 hours in order to become professional reference for the project in their areas.

The LDAs' main task is the selection of the business plans and the training potential young businessmen who could receive the credit.

The programme focuses on start-up activities of young professionals aiming at initiate innovative business activities in South East Europe.

Objectives

Promoting a long-lasting and sustainable local economic development in South East Europe fostered by young entrepreneurs.

Specific objectives

- Prepared and well-structured Local Democracy Agencies for supporting the Micro-credit scheme and assisting the clients
- Innovative and sustainable business plans for the micro-credit, consequently, activation of 100 successful businesses of young people
- Return of the full credit in the medium term

Activities implemented in 2008

The overall 2008 activities of LDA Mostar aimed at preserving the main goal and social mission of the project in the procedure of involvement of Banca Intesa San Paolo's subsidiaries in BiH.

In particular:

- 25th of January 2008, Zagreb, Croatia, preparatory meeting organized for the representatives of all LDAs involved in the project as well as representatives of subsidiary banks of Banca Intesa San Paolo in South East Europe, the Executive President and the Director of ALDA.
- 8th of April 2008, Prijedor, BiH technical meeting among the LDAs, ALDA and Banca Intesa San Paolo to define the promotional material at disposal of potential beneficiaries.



2.4 Pearl.EU – Platform Enhancing Adriatic Regions Links in Europe

Financed by: EU Adriatic New Neighbourhood Programme INTERREG/CARDS-PHARE

Lead partner of the project: Municipality of Lecce, Italia

Partners of the project: Italy (City of Bari, Province of Bari, Province of Brindisi, City of Gorizia, City of Lecce, City of Ravenna, City of Tavagnacco, City of Udine, City of Venezia, City of Trieste, City of Monfalcone, Regione Puglia), Bosnia and Herzegovina, (City of Prijedor, City of Mostar, City of Zavidovici, LDA Prijedor, LDA Mostar, LDA Zavidovici) and Croatia (County of Baranja Osijek, City of Sisak, City of Verteneglio, LDA Osijek, LDA Sisak, LDA Verteneglio).

Summary of the project

The strategic objectives of the project Pearl.EU - "Platform Enhancing Adriatic Regions Links in Europe" are the constitution of permanent working groups among Italian and Balkan local authorities and the Local Democracy Agencies in order to implement concrete actions of European territorial co-operation.

In this way, the project, even if financed with funds of the old programming period, will contribute to put into action the European Commission's new objective 3 "co-operation" of the reform proposal of the economic and social cohesion politics for 2007-2013. In particular, the project aims at overcoming specific, legal, administrative, linguistic and cultural barriers by contributing to the development of common standards; creating and developing cross-border networks between Italian and Balkan local authorities as well as Local Democracy Agencies.

In addition, it seeks to improve the flow of information through frequent exchanges of information between structures involved in preparing and executing the projects and to support local democracy through the reinforcement of the network of the Local Democracy Agencies.

Activities implemented in 2008:

- 21.01.-21.02.2008, Civil Servant from Mostar Municipality worked at the Bureau for EU Policies of the Province of Brindisi. This internship allowed the exchange of best practice and transfer of experience.
- 10.-11.03.2008, Ravenna Italy. LDA Mostar Delegate participated at the activities organized by the City of Ravenna within the project Pearl.EU and related to the promotion of democratic values to the children through the fairytale "The European Bear or the Toys shop", by Gianfranco Draghi.
- 12.-14.03.2008, Venice Italy. LDA Mostar Delegate participated at the training course on EU planning organized by the City of Venice within the project Pearl.EU.
- 01.-03.04.2008, Mostar. LDA Mostar, in cooperation with the City of Mostar, organized the three-day international conference "Interethnic coexistence and cross border cooperation" within the Project Pearl.EU. The conference was organized with the cooperation of project's partners, local authorities and civil society organizations from Mostar.



- 17.-18.04.2008, Verteneglio - Umag Croatia. Representative of LDA Mostar participated at the Pearl.EU conference "Urban planning and quality of environment: new challenges, experiences from the past, examples from the present, opportunities for the future". The conference was organized by LDA Verteneglio.
- 10.-13.06.2008, Osijek Croatia, LDA Mostar representative participated at the Pearl.EU conference "Social Economy and Local Development".
- 22.-23.05.2008, Ravenna Italy. Final conference of the Pearl.EU project. Representatives of LDA Mostar participated together with two representatives of the City of Mostar, Mrs. Radmila Komadina - Mayor's advisor and Ms. Sanela Kameric - International cooperation expert.
- 03.-05.12.2008, LDA Mostar participation at the seminar on the Instrument of Pre-Accession (IPA) within the European funds and planning 2007-2013, organized by LDA Prijedor in Prijedor, BiH.



2.5 Youth the Right Direction

Financed by the Program Youth in Action of the European Commission

Summary of the project

The project promotes the Youth programme in South Eastern Europe (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia) and Caucasus (Georgia).

The overall objective of the project is to allow young people to acquire knowledge, skills and competencies, focusing on training of multipliers and on the development of networks and partnerships.

The project foresees a wide-ranged variety of activities involving youth from all the Countries partner of the project like information seminars, setting-up of specialized info-points, website and newsletters, youth ambassadors groups, trainings of peer educators (multipliers), job shadowing, trainings on EVS (European Volunteers Service) and one itinerant crossing youth fair in SEE.



Activities implemented in 2008:

- 23.01.2008. Presentation of the program "Youth in action" within the Resource center for democratization of LDA Mostar, initiated by Mostar Universities
- 07.-11.04.2008. Prijedor BiH, LDA Mostar Delegate participated in the evaluation committee of the project Youth the right direction
- 29.-30.07.2008 Mostar, LDA Mostar organized a 2-day workshops in Mostar for the youngsters participating at an itinerant crossing youth fair from Croatia to Albania. The beneficiaries of that international crossing youth fair were 26 young people from different European Countries who had been involved in youth activities for 10 days in all countries visited. LDA Mostar organized workshops and games in cooperation with local institutions dealing with the cure for children with special needs.



3. Other activities

- 21.-24.01.2008, Sund, Norway, LDA Mostar Delegate together with the representatives of Konjic Municipality (BH) visited LDA Mostar's partner City of Sund. The aim of the mission was visiting the Norwegian schooling system and its youth entrepreneurship activities.
- 06.03.2008, Mostar, LDA Mostar, together with Mr. Alberto Pogorelz, Senior expert of Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, organized a round table for the representatives of the local authorities dealing with tourism and education, the tourist schools and the Cantonal Tourist Community. The main objective was to gather the information regarding the tourist sector in the region of Mostar and HN Canton, for the preparation of a project proposal aiming at establishing the Regional center for the education in the tourist sector.
- 07.-11.04.2008, Prijedor BiH, Financial management training for all LDA delegates.
- Since April 2008, participation at the coordination meetings between the NGOs and the City of Mostar administration, organized in order to define Agreement regulating the relations between City of Mostar and NGO sector. One of the important reasons to make this agreement is the eligibility of the City of Mostar to reach the EU funds available for NGO sector.
- 15.05.2008, General Annual Assembly of ALDA, organized in Vienna Austria
- 12.11.2008, Vejle Denmark, LDA Mostar partners' meeting

vision of the Local Democracy Agency but also our mission is to actively support the local and regional activities which are identical with the objectives of the permanent mission

