



ACTIVITY REPORT 2021

LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCY MOSTAR

WWW.LDAMOSTAR.ORG

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About Us

The Local Democracy Agencies have been established in the Western Balkans by the Congress of the Council of Europe since 1992, as a support program to strengthen local democracy, foster respect for human rights and further sustainable development. Today there are 15 active Local Democracy Agencies based in Western Balkans, South Caucasus and North Africa coordinated by ALDA, on top of 3 LDAs - Operational partners, based in Croatia

LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES



LDA
ALBANIA
(suspended)



LDA
ARMENIA



LDA
CENTRAL
AND
SOUTHERN
SERBIA



LDA
OF THE
DNIPROPETROVSK
REGION



LDA EDREMIT



LDA
GEORGIA



LDA
KOSOVO



LDA
MARIUPOL



LDA MOLDOVA IN
CIMISLIA



LDA
MONTENEGRO



LDA
NORTHERN
MOROCCO



LDA
MOSTAR



LDA
PRIJEDOR



LDA
SUBOTICA



LDA
TUNISIA



LDA
ZAVIDOVICI

OPERATIONAL PARTNERS



OP
OSIJEK



OP
SISAK



OP
VERTENEGLIO

The agencies function as self-sustaining, locally registered NGOs, but they are different from other local NGOs because of the international framework they operate in. Indeed, the LDAs develop partnerships with local authorities and NGOs from all over Europe giving to the whole network direct access to an international framework through the support of ALDA, the Council of Europe and the European Union.



The most important aspect of the LDAs is the process of partnership building. The cooperation and partnership between local and international partners, between local authorities and NGOs, give added values to the process of designing projects and implementing local activities. This process is in itself a learning process for everyone involved and serves as a practical example of how a democratic participatory planning process can create results. The international legal legitimacy of LDAs has been recognized through a number of official decisions of the Council of Europe.

LDA MOSTAR



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

Partners

- Region Puglia, Italy
(partner leader)
- City of Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina
(host partner)



Mission

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

Vision

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

LDA Mostar activities and projects aim to:

- Promote concrete initiatives of encouraging 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;
- Incite sustainable local development;
- Strengthen the knowledge of the local community on the processes of stabilization and accession.

Membership in Networks

- ALDA – European Association for Local Democracy (www.alda-europe.eu)
- BNLD – Balkan Network for Local Democracy (www.alda-balkan-youth.eu)
- Network for Building Peace (www.mreza-mira.net)
(The director of LDA Mostar is a member of the Governing Board)
- ALF – Anna Lindh Foundation (www.annalindhfoundation.org)
(Team member of LDA Mostar is a Governing Board member)

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED IN 2021

Snapshot from the Borders – Mali gradovi suočeni s globalnim izazovima Agende 2030



Project duration: 21/10/2017 – 21/10/2021

Donor: European Union (EuropeAid DEAR budget line)



This project is funded
by the European Union

Applicant: Municipality Lampedusa and Linosa (Italy)

Partners: Africa e Mediterraneo (Italy); Agios Athanasios Municipality (Cyprus / Greece); Amref Health Africa Onlus (Italy); Balkan Institute of Labour and Social Policy (Bulgaria); Autonomous Province of Bolzano – South Tyrol (Italy); Constanta Municipality (Hungary); Črnomelj Municipality (Slovenia); Croma Közhazsnú Alapítvány Foundation (Hungary); Insamlingsstiftelsen Harald Edelstam (Sweden); Eine Welt Netzwerk Thüringen e. V. (Germany); Fundacion Africana Para La Medicina Y La Investigacion Amref Flying Doctors (Spain); Ville de Grande-Synthe (France); ISCOMET Institute for Ethnic and Regional Studies (Austria); Kopin (Malta); LDA Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina); Maribor Municipality (Slovenia); Marsa Local Council (Malta); North Aegean Region (Greece); Novapolis Association – Center of Analysis and Initiatives for Development (Romania); Municipality of Pesaro (Italy); Municipality of Rhodes (Greece); Region Puglia (Italy); Municipality of Strass (Austria); Südwind Verein für Entwicklungspolitik und globale Gerechtigkeit (Austria); Cabildo De Tenerife (Spain); Stadtgemeinde Traiskirchen (Austria); Burgas Municipality (Bulgaria); ISCOMET Institute for Ethnic and Regional Studies (Slovenia); Siklósnagyfalu Municipality (Hungary).

Affiliated partners: Province of Barcelona (Barcelona / Spain); Mediterranean Migration Network (MMN) (Nicosia / Cyprus); European Volunteer Centre (CEV) (Brussel / Belgium); CSV Marche - Centro Servizi Volontariato Marche (Ancona / Italy); Comitato Permanente per il Partenariato Euro-Mediterraneo dei poteri locali e regionali – COPPEM (Palermo / Italy); Forum of Adriatic and Ionian Cities (FAIC) (Ancona / Italija); Step4 s.r.l. – impresa sociale (Milan / Italy); Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (Barcelona / Spain).

Overall Objective: Project aims to improve the critical understanding of European, national and local decision makers and of public opinion about global interdependencies determining migration flows towards European borders, in the perspective of reaching SDGs targets, especially SDG 1, 5, 10 11 and 16. Specifically, the project intends to strengthen a new horizontal, active network among cities directly

facing migration flows at EU borders, as a way to promote more effective policy coherence at all levels (European, national, local).

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

Target groups: 260 decision-makers/law-makers at the city, national and EU levels, 390 civil servants, 45,000 European citizens who have achieved transnational activities (especially those active in non-governmental organizations and CSOs), 2,000,000 citizens reached through web / social media campaigns.

LDA Mostar in the project: LDA Mostar is the only non-EU partner within the project Snapshots from the Borders funded by the EuropeAid DEAR budget line. According to the donor propositions, a non-EU partner is not allowed to implement any local activities within the project except if those activities are of exceptional importance for the EU. However, LDA Mostar as the project partner is obligated to share experiences, participate in the project's international events and to disseminate project activities and all project outputs. In regards to position within this project and in line with donor propositions, LDA Mostar was asked by the lead applicant to implement some local activities which were the crucial element missing to fulfil the higher project agenda.

ACTIVITIES IN 2021

The migrant crisis continued its presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2021. The European Union has announced additional funding to help migrants in Bosnia and Herzegovina. At the same time, the EU warned the government of Bosnia and Herzegovina that the lives of migrant were in danger and called on them to rebuild Camp Lipa, which was devastated by the fire on December 23rd after which migrants located in this camp were relocated to other locations. The EU, under pressure from the media and civil society, called on Sarajevo to act. Such a statement showed presence of deep hypocrisy in the EU institutions, seeing that the situation created by the EU on the country's borders is not something the government of Bosnia and Herzegovina can manage.

The President of the European Commission told the representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina that the burden of the migrant crisis must be evenly distributed throughout the country. They were referring to the fact that all of the six reception centers in Bosnia and Herzegovina were located in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, entity where Bosniaks and Croats predominantly live, while none of them were located in the Republic of Srpska, an entity predominantly populated by Serbs.

The main goal for most of the migrants is to cross into the European Union: Croatia, Slovenia, and Italy; a dangerous journey that migrants and refugees refer to as "a game." However, Croatian border patrol has been systematically repressing potential asylum seekers. The United Nations Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina has called for an urgent response to the violence against migrants and refugees along the Croatian border.

On the 27th of February, 2021, the online premiere of theater play “Game” was held. The play was performed by the Mostar Youth Theater (MTM) in cooperation with the Local Democracy Agency Mostar within the Erasmus+ IMPACT project and was co-financed through the project Snapshots from the Borders. A result of many months of dedication, “Game” was an artistic endeavor whose aim was to present life stories of migrants from Camp Salakovac, located near the city of Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

During the project’s implementation phase, we successfully organized workshops with migrants and their families. Our goal was to include migrants in the local community and promote cohesion and tolerance. Working with them was quite emotional and touching. MTM collected personal stories from migrants and presented them through a unique play that sends universal messages of peace, social inclusion, solidarity, and belonging. The play was directed by Sead Đulić. The actors in the play were: Sara Kljajić, Edina Delalić, Irma Lipovac, Ali Kamer Aksoy, Haris Habibija, and Haris Pašić.



On the 17th of June, ISCOMET – Institute for Ethnic and Regional Studies in cooperation with Local Democracy Agency Mostar organized an **online round table** focusing on problems migrants in Bosnia and Herzegovina face.



On the 24th of June, an **online workshop “Voices from the border”** was held. The goal of the workshop was to answer the following question: How much and in what sense has the narrative surrounding migrations, borders, and protagonists changed since the COVID-19 pandemic started, and what are the challenges media face when they try to talk about migrations within and outside of Europe?

An **online webinar** on the topic of “**Migration Issues, Politics, and Stories from Ethiopia**” was held in July.

Project partners worked for four years to strengthen new horizontal and active networks between cities directly facing migration flows at the EU borders. Keeping in mind the many aspects of a long and complex project was a great challenge. In October, we shared results of this long, but beautiful journey through an interactive tool that allows exploration of different points of view. What is an **interactive documentary**? It is a multimedia product intended for digital audiences. It does not have a form of traditional documentary films: from videos to infographics, stories and animations, the audience gets to decide how to use the content. The conversations regarding migrations are innovative, and actively involve users.

From the 9th to the 11th of September, we were finally able to – following the end of restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, conduct a field visit to the representatives of our project partners. It is important to note that field visits to Bosnia and Herzegovina were not originally planned, however due to the escalation of the migrant crisis in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the project and upon the initiative of the representatives of LDA Mostar these visits occurred.

The delegation of the project “Snapshots from the Borders” first participated in the initiative “Exchange of relevant information about Bosnia and Herzegovina with an emphasis on ways and means of solving problems related to migration,” organized and hosted by the Faculty of Political Sciences University of Sarajevo. The major of Lampedusa, Salvatore Martello, extended his regards through Pietro Pinto, the project coordinator. The major had to cancel his trip due to unforeseen circumstances related to the arrival of hundreds of migrants on the island of Lampedusa.



The delegation had the opportunity to visit the temporary migrant reception center Hadžići-Ušivak. The departure to Bosnia and Herzegovina was not accidental: based on the latest report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Bosnia and Herzegovina have registered 1,937 new migrants and asylum seekers in May of 2021, thus increasing the total number of arrivals in 2020 to 5,920, and the total number of arrivals since January 2018 to 75,333 migrants. These figures are significant. The delegation had also had an opportunity to meet members of the Migrant Council and evaluate the work of the center, which opened its doors in October 2018 and has the capacity of 800 beds. At the time of the visit there were 485 guests, all of which had the opportunity to talk about their personal experiences.



Most migrants, mainly families, came from Afghanistan (64%). The center, managed by IOM, guarantees, apart from food, accommodation, and sanitation facilities, medical and legal assistance, translation services, cultural mediation services, and psychological assistance. Special focus is placed on unaccompanied minors and women.



Part of the field visit was an **online round table on the topic of issues related to migrants in Bosnia and Herzegovina**, which the representatives of LDA Mostar were a part of. The organizers were ISCOMET – Institute for Ethnic and Regional Studies, Maribor, Slovenia in cooperation with Local Democracy Agency Mostar and the Faculty of Political Science University of Sarajevo.

Regional Youth Compact for Europe



Project duration: 20/04/2018 - 20/04/2021

Donor: European Commission (Consolidating Regional Thematic Networks of Civil Society Organizations)



This project is funded
by the European Union

Co-funded by: Balkan Trust for Democracy, a project of the German Marshall Fund of the United States



Co-funded by: City of Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina)



Applicant: Fondacija Centar za demokratiju (Beograd / Srbija)

Partners: The European Association for Local Democracy – ALDA (France); ALDA Skopje (North Macedonia); LDA Subotica (Serbia); LDA Mostar (Mostar / Bosnia and Herzegovina); LDA Montenegro (Nikšić / Montenegro); LDA Prijedor (Prijedor / Bosnia and Herzegovina); LDA Kosovo (Peć / *Kosovo); LDA Knjaževac (Knjaževac / Serbia); LDA Zavidovići (Zavidovići / Bosnia and Herzegovina); LDA Albania (Vlora / Albania); CRTA (Serbia); Youth Act (Albania); SODEM (Istanbul / Turkey).

Affiliated Entity: Peja municipality (*Kosovo); Anibar (*Kosovo); City of Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina); Bijelo Polje municipality (Montenegro); The Center for political education (Montenegro); Faculty of Philosophy Nikšić (Montenegro); Kotor municipality (Montenegro); Association “Timok Club” (Serbia); Ulcinj municipality (Montenegro); Kosovar Youth Council (Kosovo); Zavidovići municipality (Bosnia and Herzegovina); City of Subotica (Serbia); Novaci municipality (Northern Macedonia); European Movement in Republic of Macedonia (Northern Macedonia); Knjaževac municipality (Serbia); Kumanovo municipality (Northern Macedonia); Coalition of youth organizations SEGA (Northern Macedonia); City of Prijedor (Bosnia and Herzegovina);

Center for Regionalism (Serbia); Vlora municipality (Albania).

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

Objectives:

- Enhance the regional cooperation and exchange platform by increasing the space for participation of local CSOs and youth in the political and economic reform process of the EU integration agenda of Western Balkan countries and Turkey;
- Strengthen CSOs and youth groups' capacities for structured civic dialogue and proactive engagement in evidence-based advocacy, watchdog and policy monitoring initiatives in areas of public administration reform, regional mobility in education, employment and cultural participation;
- Increase the capacities of regional CSOs cooperation platform for coalition building at regional and EU level for cooperating with local and national public authorities to widen the reform impact, advocacy initiatives and increase the level of inclusion of youth in relevant sector policy and decision-making processes;
- Help consolidate the Western Balkans Network for Local Democracy as a regional cooperation and consultation platform engaging CSOs, youth and local authorities in the Western Balkan countries and Turkey to contribute expertise and practice exchange on good governance, citizen participation and the role of CSOs and local authorities as relevant stakeholders with transformative role in the EU integration and accession negotiation process;
- Improve innovative youth friendly communication, outreach activities and capacity-building for grassroots and other types of non-governmental organizations working on bringing about positive change at the local level.

Target groups: governments, government agencies, independent institutions, CSOs, and private sector

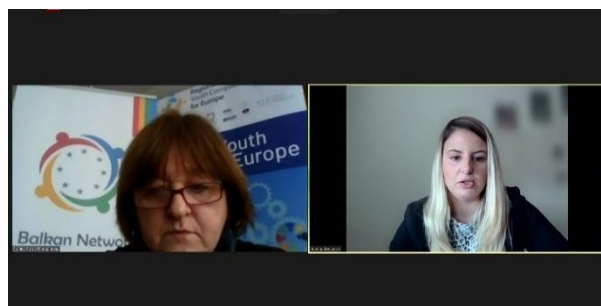
ACTIVITIES IN 2021

In January, the Balkan Network for Local Democracy (BNLD), as a part of „Regional Youth Compact for Europe“ published **a call for a consultant or team of consultants** to support organizational development and strategic planning.

In February, a newsletter honoring and remembering our colleague **Saša Marinkov**, delegate of LDA Central and Southern Serbia, member of ALDA, and the Balkan Network for Local Democracy, but most of all a great and true friend, was published.

A two-day Regional Thematic Forum of the Network, organized by LDA Subotica, was held on March 25th. It was organized as a forum for regional exchange involving regional networks of CSOs, experts, non-profit activists and youth groups, relevant policies and policy makers to discuss key challenges for advancing the European integration process in the Western Balkans. As mentioned by young participants, contributors to the RYCE project activities, from local communities across the region, structural, participatory political dialogue and evidence-based advocacy are needed at a regional, national, and local level to support democratic reforms in the areas of rule of law, education, and employment, as well as public administration reform, with an emphasis on decentralization and good governance at a local level. The overall goal of the conference was to enhance dialogue and promote development and effective implementation of participatory and transparent policies that take into account needs of

citizens in local communities across the Western Balkans.



On March 30th, LDA Mostar organized a workshop called „YOUth SWOT“ which allowed young people to get insight into basic economic and social rights, with a special emphasis on employment opportunities, in an interactive and casual way. Given that many young people are not aware of or informed about opportunities that affect their employability and growth, the primary goal of the workshop was to educate.



Adina Halilović, youth worker with an impressive experience of over 10 years, gladly accepted our invitation to be the workshop presenter. She gave young people an insight into all employment opportunities with special focus on national and European Union level. The second presenter was Amil Brković, who gave a short overview of laws related to right and obligations of young people in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. LDA Mostar presented all of the above mentioned content in an interactive way. We took this opportunity to officially inaugurate a recently renovated YOUth Hub Mostar. We envisioned this space as a generator of and a starting point for networking of young people.



In April, LDA Mostar representatives participated in a project management meeting. Past activities and future activities were a point of discussion.

In June, the National Democratic Institute of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Local Democracy Agency Mostar successfully organized an „**Current Class with Young Parliamentarians**“ in Mostar. In partnership with NDI, as a part of the project „Regional Youth Compact for Europe“ founded by the European Union, the Local Democracy Agency Mostar contributed to the organization of a series of events which included panelists from civil society organizations, who opened a dialogue on topics of great importance to young people in Mostar.

Regional Youth Compact for Europe aims to strengthen civil society organizations to participate more effectively in reforms related to the EU accession process, dialogues with respective governments and influencing politics through consolidations of platforms for regional cooperation, fostering participatory culture and promoting active citizenship, holding respective governments accountable, and fostering a common European identity. The first step on that path was the organization of a series of direct conversations called „Current Class With.“



"Current Class With" was an opportunity to ask questions and get answers outside of the parliamentary benches, discuss initiatives and open dialogues with various target groups including students, civil society representatives, media representatives, various professionals and other relevant actors. Event speakers were: Lana Prlić (SDP BiH), Member of the Parliament of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina; Mario Mikulić (HDZ BiH), Member of the Parliament of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina;

Adisa Kokić Hinović (SDA), Member of the Parliament of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina; Adina Halilović, PRONI Center for Youth Development; and Boris Čović, Mostar Rock School.

The event was an opportunity for participants, young people from the city of Mostar, to ask questions to young parliamentarians, as well as representatives of the civil sector and young activists. This was also an opportunity for participants to raise awareness and point out the importance of initiating proposals of great importance to participants in the Parliament of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

On July 1st, representatives of LDA Mostar participated in the **final conference of the "Regional Youth Compact for Europe"** held in Belgrade.



A **comparative study** titled „**Transformative potential of young people in the process of EU integration and its development after the COVID-19 pandemic in the Western Balkans**“ was conducted as a part of the project. This research study aimed to identify transformational potentials of young people from WBG in the EU integration process, with a special focus on where the potential lies in the light of the COVID-19 crisis. Specifically, the research study has tried to explore and analyze key drivers and motivators for youth participation in decision-making processes, and the relationship between their motivations and perspective in relation to the EU and its core values.

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



Project duration: 01/03/2019 – 01/10/2021

Donor: European Commission (Erasmus + KA2 – Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices, K205 – Strategic partnership for youth)



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Applicant: VidensCenter for Integration – VIFIN (Vejle / Denmark)

Partners: La Piccionaia i Carrara Soc. Coop. (Vicenza / Italy); LDA Nikšić (Nikšić / Montenegro); LDA Mostar (Mostar / Bosnia and Herzegovina); Association of Local Democracy Agencies - ALDA (Strasbourg / France); Coalition of youth organizations SEGA (Kavadarci / North Macedonia); Društvo za razvijanje prostovoljnega dela Novo Mesto (Novo Mesto / Slovenia); Udruženje Centar za urbani razvoj (Beograd / Serbia).

Description: The core idea of the project is to offer Western Balkans' refugees' amusement and social inclusion opportunities, by using theatre and art strategies. During phase 1, the project will promote collaboration and an exchange of best practices among European theatre companies with previous experience in working with refugees and Balkan arts groups. During this phase a social inclusion strategy will be developed. During phase 2 Balkan arts groups will implement the above-developed strategies through art workshops with Western Balkan's refugees and local communities, and eventually will implement final performances. Phase 3 is dedicated to a massive communication and dissemination campaign by publishing guidelines on how to use performing art strategies for social inclusion, a promotional video and surveys.

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

Specific Objectives:

- exchange best practices on how to use art strategies to integrate refugees and how to bring together refugees with local communities;
- develop a new social inclusion strategy and methodology;
- enable intercultural meetings by showing that diversity is an enrichment;
- prevent and fight against prejudices and stereotypes;
- foster personal development and social inclusion;
- show that theatre and other kind of performing arts can form a methodology to overcome the gap between refugees and local citizens and to bring them closer;
- provide formal and non-formal education on theatre, migration etc.;
- promote theatre as self-help-initiatives.

ACTIVITIES IN 2021

In February an online theater play called “GAME,” performed by the Mostar Youth Theatre (MTM) was held as a part of the IMPACT project. This play was a direct result of our work and friendship with migrants from the migrant reception center Salakovac. Inspired by the life stories of migrants from around the world, who found refuge in Mostar, we created a unique show that leaves no one indifferent. The project aims to bring migrants and refugees in the Balkans closer to local communities by promoting cohesion and tolerance.

The director of the theater play “GAME,” Sead Đulić is our long-term partner. Sead point out: “We were full of enthusiasm and we came up with interesting solutions, at the same time we heard shocking testimonies from those who fled their homes.” In addition to directing, Sead is also the author of the text inspired by the work with migrants in Mostar. The text can be read at the following [link](#).



Before the theater play was held, as a part of a small IMPACT campaign, a short text about migrants written by our volunteer Sara Kljajić was presented. Sara is an actor with the Mostar Youth Theater and was a part of the play „GAME“. She also participated in workshops within the IMPACT project. In her touching text about the her direct experience with migrants from the reception center Salakovac Sara emphasized: „In the end, no matter how small your country is, you can always make a BIG step towards creatin a better and safer world.“ Sara's short text can be read in full at the following [link](#).

“**The Story of ordinary People**” marked the continuation of our IMPACT campaign. In his story, Adnan Bratić, volunteer with the LDA Mostar, presented the real situation and difficulties that migrants in Mostar face. Adnan had the opportunity to make friends with Younes Lamnaouar and Nurudinom, who reached Bosnia and Herzegovina from Morocco via Egypt and Turkey. Adnan says: “Interviewees, mirrors of the soul, travelers from chains to freedom. They express their pure soul and peace through patched clothes and shoes, ready to once again relieve their best and worst moments, and finally get to their final destination, to feed themselves and their family. „Inshallah“, they say.

„If God permits“. Many of them are unsure and have no one to complain to about their difficulties. Despite all obstacles, they continue their fight for their children“. Adnan's story can be read in full at the following [link](#).

Additionally, a [melodious lullaby](#) was created as a part of the IMPACT project. „When

our emotions settled down and all the collected material was reviewed, we started working on the play. The only thing we were sure about is that the play should be called „GAME“ and that it must present raw emotions we experienced during the workshops. We were looking for a good way to articulate that on stage. Then came the song, their song, a lullaby with lyrics that opened all our senses. The play unwrapped itself from our hearts and emotions“ said Sead Đulić, director of the theater play “GAME.”

The Final Conference for the IMPACT Project was held on May 20th. All project partners shared their experience in implementing various activities. The representative of LDA Mostar presented the work of our organization that showcased organizations commitment to this two-and-half year long project. Representatives of LDA Mostar managed to organize 15 local workshops with migrants from the reception center Salakovac in partnership with the Mostar Youth Theater (MTM).



On May 26th, representatives of LDA Mostar participated in the **Final Meeting of IMPACT Project Partners**. Project partners discussed the conclusions of the Final Conference and future sustainability of the project.

Youth Ambassadors of Non-Formal Learning



Project duration: 01/11/2019 – 31/10/2021

Donor: Erasmus+ (KA2 – Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices – Capacity Building in the field of Youth)



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Co-funded by: Institute for Youth Development KULT

Institut za
razvoj mladih KULT



Co-funded by: Ministry of Culture and Sports, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina



BOSNA I HERCEGOVINA
Federacija Bosne i Hercegovine
Federalno ministarstvo kulture i sporta

Applicant: Local Democracy Agency Mostar (LDA Mostar) (Mostar / Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Partners: Društvo za razvijanje prostovoljnega dela Novo mesto (Novo mesto / Slovenia); The Future Now Association (Sofia / Bulgaria); Kosovo Center of Diplomacy (Prishtina / Kosovo*); United Societies of Balkans (Thessaloniki / Greece); Youth 4 Society (Tirana / Albania); Center for Intercultural Dialogue (Kumanovo / North Macedonia); Asocijacija za demokratski prosperitet – ZID (ADP-ZID) (Podgorica / Montenegro); NGO IUVENTA (Šabac / Serbia); Turk Girsim ve Is Dunyasi Konfederasyonu (Istanbul / Turkey); TDM 2000 (Cagliari / Italy).

Description: The project is based upon Non-Formal Education and is working to develop the new methodology of the Youth Ambassadors of Non Formal Education, trained youngsters which can use peer-to-peer approach providing their experience to inspire other young people and relevant stakeholders in giving a higher credit and a better use to NFL experiences.

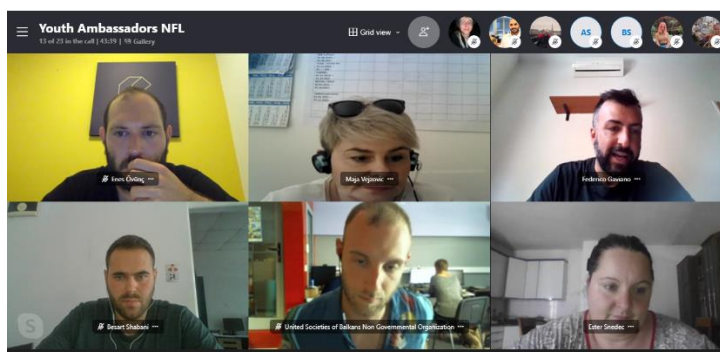
General Objective: The project aims at promoting participation in Non-Formal Education activities and the power of validation and recognition of competences acquired outside the formal education environment through an innovative methodology. Project wants to take into consideration what has been done so far within this area, research for best practices and successful stories, and get ready to go on the field to reinforce the importance of Non-Formal Learning.

Specific Objectives:

- To research, collect, analyze, and spread existing best practices and policies in the field of validation and recognition of NFL, as well as successful stories of young people, in the 11 countries participating in the project
- To train 22 “Young Ambassadors” to promote the role of NFL in the development of competences starting from real experiences on the field, successful stories and dedicated methods
- To create a network of Young Ambassadors of NFL to set up the base for sustainable work in the field of promotion of NFL, setting up a platform for sharing of stories, challenges, ideas and best practices
- To produce a complete methodology for the “Young Ambassadors of NFL” concept, including a dedicated manual, a catalogue of successful stories, online and offline tools, and methods for facilitation of dedicated workshops
- To develop a set of recommendations to facilitate the creation of new policies for the validation and recognition of competences acquired outside the formal education environment, involving public institutions, private sector and civil society

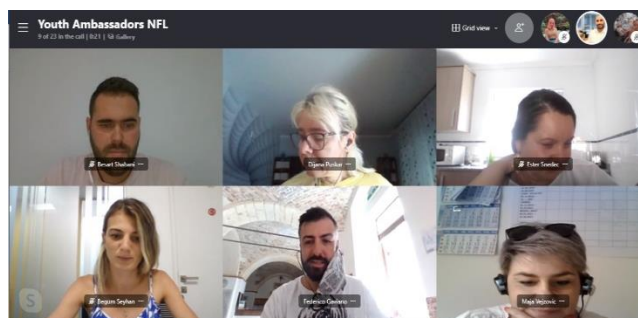
ACTIVITIES IN 2021

After four months of suspension of YAMNFL project activities due to COVID19, on July 7th an online meeting of the project consortium was held to discuss the preparation and implementation of the upcoming training on non-formal education and its recognition for youth ambassadors in Cagliari (Sardinia/Italy), organized by the project partner Associazione TDM 2000, as well as other upcoming activities.



A meeting of YOUTH Ambassadors of Non-Formal Learning **consortium** was held in July to exchange final information about the training scheduled from the 2nd to the 8th of August in Cagliari (Sardinia/Italy). The training is hosted by the partner organization Associazione TDM 2000. The aim of the training is to bring together 23 young people to educate them about non-formal education and learning, explore existing methods for recognizing and validating non-formal education in Europe, and discuss how to make

non-formal education more attractive to young people.



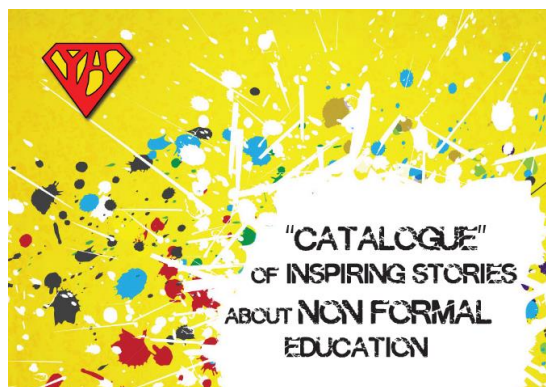
Training participants traveled to Caligari (Sardinia/Italy) in August. The training was organized by the project partner TDM 2000, and attended by more than 20 participants from the EU, the Western Balkans and Turkey.



On the second day of YAMNFL training, the emphasis was placed on recognition and validation of non-formal education in Europe. A survey on youth participation and activism was conducted and presented using a mentimeter. This was the basis of a brainstorming session about strategies for involving young people in non-formal education. On the third day, participants tried to find ideas on ways in which they can make people more aware of non-formal education. At the end of the event, a plan for further local activities was created for each partner organization.



In August, the [Catalog of Inspirational Stories about Non-Formal Education](#) was published. The catalog consisted of inspiring stories of young people who, with the help of non-formal education developed a personal or professional path by identifying their route to getting there and managing to make it important for their future.



In October, Local Democracy Agency Mostar hosted volunteer **Daniela Hočevár**, who joined the organization through the **Job Shadowing program**, as part of the "YOUth Ambassadors of Non-Formal Learning" project. Daniela, originally from Venezuela, now lives in Novo mesto, Slovenia. She is a professional oriental dancer, an extremely kind person open to new challenges. She is employed by the **Association for Developing Voluntary Work Novo mesto in Novo mesto, Slovenia**. During her stay in Mostar she was the ambassador for the promotion of non-formal learning.



While working with LDA Mostar, she learned and developed work and learning methods applied in the Local Democracy Agency Mostar. During her stay, the volunteer gained insight into the daily work of the organization, as well as provided support and helped with activities organized by LDA Mostar. She also shared stories, challenges, and ideas that inspire her with young people in the city of Mostar. During her visit, Daniela

collaborated with the Mostar Youth Theater (MTM), where she led dance classes for young actors and actresses.



At the same time, **Melissa Memić**, volunteer with the Local Democracy Agency Mostar, participated in the **Job Shadowing** program in **Thessaloniki (Greece)**, where the partner organization United Societies of the Balkans hosted her. Melissa is a full-time student at the Faculty of Information Technologies, University „Džemal Bijedić“ in Mostar, Vice President of the University Students' Union, representative of the Students' Union in the Youth Council of the City of Mostar, and a member of the Youth Bank Mostar. As an ambassador for the promotion of non-formal learning, during her stay in Thessaloniki, Melissa learned more about the host organization, adopted organization's methods of work and learning, and supported them in organizing regular activities. She also shared stories, challenges, and ideas that inspire her with other young people in Thessaloniki.



On October 14th, Local Democracy Agency Mostar hosted **35 young people** from 11 EU and Western Balkan countries for the **Seminar for Young Ambassadors** in Mostar, realized within the Erasmus + project "Ambassadors for Non-Formal Youth Education". The seminar was held from 14th to the 19th of October. During these five days, participants shared results of the Job Shadowing experience, research on existing policies, success stories and good practices, and worked together to design local project activities.

A **meeting with representatives of partner organizations**, during which the status and progress of the project in all partner countries was assessed and the obligations during the second half of the project were discussed, was held as a part of the seminar.



The second day of the seminar started with an adventurous and interesting tour of the city of Mostar with the **Free Walking Tour Mostar / Sheva Walking Tours** and continued with work meetings. Participants learned what the essence of non-formal learning is, what its benefits are, and how to use it, especially when it comes to working with young people.



On the third day of the seminar, participants had the opportunity to visit the Partisan Memorial Cemetery in Mostar. The final day began with an educational tourism tour of sites in the vicinity of Mostar - **Počitelj, Žitomislić, and Tekija in Blagaj**, after which the group finalized the concept and content of the **Manual for Ambassadors**. The seminar ended with an award ceremony where each participant who returned to their home country to further share their knowledge and experience on non-formal education in their local community received a **Youth Pass** certificate.



In December, a **workshop**, which included peer educators and workshop participants, was held in **Zavidovići**. Participants discussed various topics, such as non-formal education, activism, and opportunities for applying for and implementing youth projects. During the workshop participants understood the concept of non-formal education, its benefits, and ways to apply it. This was one of four workshops planned to take place in different communities across Bosnia and Herzegovina. The aim of the workshop was to gather different ideas and impressions on how to achieve better recognition of non-formal education.



After the workshop, five young people from Bosnia and Herzegovina traveled to **Istanbul (Turkey) for a youth exchange**, where they spent eight days with 50 young representatives from 10 organizations from the EU, the Western Balkans and Turkey. **Turkish Enterprise and Business Confederation (Turkonfed)**, one of the partner organizations, was the host of the youth exchange. The trip was filled with numerous activities. During the program information about non-formal education and its status in each of the participating countries was shared. Participants had the opportunity to present their culture at the **Intercultural Night**. During their stay in Istanbul, the participants also visited some of the tourist locations.



STAR – STreet Art



Timespan: 01/11/2019 – 31/10/2022

Donor: European Commission (Europe for Citizens - Network of Towns)



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

Applicant: Municipality of Arcugnano (Italy)

Partners: Town Council of Beato/Lisboa (Portugal); Directorate for Culture, Youth and Sport - Peja (*Kosovo); Stichting Street Art Museum Amsterdam (Netherlands); Municipality of Trebnje (Slovenia); Pargaujas novada pasvaldiba (Latvia); Municipality of Vlore (Albania); Municipality of Mioveni (Romania); AGENTURA PRO EVROPSKE PROJEKTY&MANAGEMENT SDRUZENI – Praha (Czech Republic); Municipality of Bydgoszcz (Poland); City of Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina); kitev - Kultur im Turm – Oberhausen (Germany); City of Zajecar (Serbia); Municipality of Reggio Emilia (Italy); ALDA (France)

Description: In recent years, rising migration flows have made Europe multicultural and multiethnic. As a result, cities have changed their urbanization and profile, and suburbs have increased the generation of fragmentation and marginalization. Additionally, the crisis of recent years (e.g., the 2008 financial crisis or the refugee crisis) exacerbated urban stratification and hostility between areas, producing stigma and socio-spatial exclusion. The goal of the project is to create a network of cities with a common strategy that will promote social inclusion and reduce marginalization by rehabilitating neglected and abandoned areas of European cities through street art. The project involves actors from 14 different countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czech Republic, France, Italy, *Kosovo, Latvia, Portugal, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Germany, and the Netherlands.

Objectives:

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

Expected outcomes:

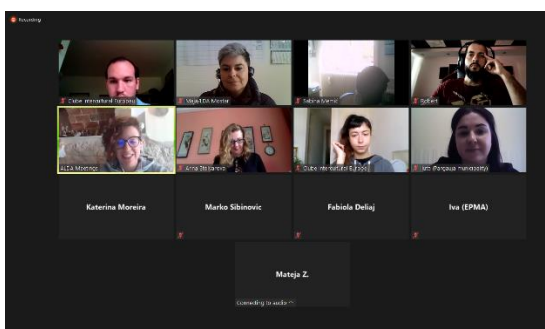
- networking among European towns that use community street art to maximize active citizenship and social inclusion is promoted;

- best practices among the partners for promoting active citizenship, social inclusion and urban regeneration in a sustainable way are exchanged;
- sense of belonging and local identity among citizens is increased;
- cohabitation and solidarity between citizens are improved;
- citizens' engagement in local and social issues is increased;
- citizens' awareness on European values is increased.

Note: As one of the project partners, City of Mostar decided to assign LDA Mostar as the project collaborator, assisting the City of Mostar in implementation and reporting project activities.

ACTIVITIES IN 2021

Due to the approval of the extension of the project implementation phase, an online meeting of project partners was held in April. During the meeting the rescheduling of project activities was planned.



The first international event of the STAR-Street ART project, co-financed through the EU program Europe for Citizens - Network of Cities, officially started in July in Arcugnano, Italy. At the event that lasted from 21.7.-23.7. representative of the city of Mostar, one of the project partners, and representative of LDA Mostar, organization that is an official associate of the city of Mostar in the project, were present. The first day of the international event was dedicated to the introduction of project partners and partner organizations, „in-person“ for the first time since the beginning of the project, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The event was inaugurated by the mayor of Arcugnano, Paolo Pellizzari.



The partners used this opportunity to share their experiences and get to know each other better. On the second day, a **technical meeting** was held, during which the partners discussed the participatory process that took place at the local level, within the STAR project, achieved goals, and future steps. On the third and last day of the event, partner organizations met to discuss administrative aspects of the project.



Despite difficulties and online participation of some organizations, due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, the event was successful for all organizations involved, which discussed various, important activities that will lead to active citizenship which will lead to a more inclusive and creative European communities.

The STAR-STReet Art project had its **Second International Event in Lisbon** in November. Numerous activities presented opportunities for learning, sharing experiences, and socializing to strengthen a common identity and cohesion. During three intense days, participants shared their experiences and progress reports on ongoing projects, participated in workshops, and toured the Panoramico de Monsanto, one of Lisbon's most famous urban spaces.



WB CulTours – Kulturne ture po Zapadnom Balkanu



Project duration: 01/06/2020 – 01/06/2021

Donor: Western Balkans Fund



Applicant: Balkan Network for Local Democracy (BNLD)

Partners: Local Democracy Agency Mostar (Mostar / Bosnia and Herzegovina); Local Democracy Agency Niksic (Niksic / Montenegro); Local Democracy Agency Knjazevac (Knjazevac / Serbia); Local Democracy Agency of Kosovo (Peja / Kosovo)

Overall objective: To contribute to regional cooperation and regional cohesion in WB6 through cultural cooperation and activities for sustainable growth.

Specific objective(s):

- to promote shared cultural heritage in Western Balkan countries related to common history through creation of youth friendly tool;
- to support local sustainable development of micro-localities through income generating activities and tourism;
- to reinforce the cooperation and networking among different stakeholders on local and regional level

Description: The project idea was developed as follow-up of the on-going project titled “Monumental 9” financed by the Regional Cooperation Council’s Programme: “Support to the implementation of the RCC Triple-P Tourism in SEE”. The project “Monumental 9” supports creation of an online platform to present and promote the narrative of nine monuments from World War 2 in Western Balkans. The project develops pilot youth intercultural exchange programmes including exploration, storytelling, digitalisation of the new cultural tourism product as well as capacity building programmes for young vloggers and greeters. “Monumental 9” is helping to increase attractiveness for tourist development and income generating activities and micro-localities.

Against this backdrop, the proposed Action will build upon the outcomes in the “Monumental 9”, notably the vast information created during the project and presented on the online platform, contributing thus to sustainability and added value of the social intervention as well as to the multiplication of the outcomes.

This project will contribute to the promotion of the touristic potentials of the region of Western Balkans through the perspective of the common cultural heritage and shared

history notably through involvement of youth. The project will promote networking at the local level of various stakeholders with an aim of increasing touristic potentials and opportunities for youth employment, better understanding and reconciliation in Western Balkans.

In this specific context of economic and social crises, it is even more important to tackle the question of tourism, support the sector and contribute to the local economic development of the local communities.

Main activities:

- Creation of mobile application for promotion of shared cultural heritage: 1.1. research and work with local stakeholders; 1.2. development of tool for promotion of cultural heritage,
- Local activities for touristic development 2.1. Identification of local economic stakeholders related to the touristic development; 2.2. promotion of touristic tools to local touristic promoters; 2.3. Webinars for exchange of ideas on tourism and local economic development.
- Regional Networking activities: 3.1. Online partner meetings; 3.2. Regional networking event; 3.3. Regional online webinars.

Expected results:

- Mobile application created to promote shared cultural heritage related to monuments from World War 2 in Western Balkan Countries
- Touristic products developed in cooperation with local stakeholders in order to promote sustainable economic growth
- Reinforced Balkan Network for local democracy to implement thematic project that include civil society organizations, local authorities and other economic and cultural stakeholders.

Target groups: Local democracy agencies in Western Balkans, local authorities, Local CSOs, CSO thematic network, young greeters and vloggers, local/national public authorities'/government bodies, media.

Final beneficiaries: Educational/cultural institutions, tourist associations, SMEs, 5 local communities, population in the communities involved

ACTIVITIES IN 2021

In January, the Balkan Network for Local Democracy (BNLD) issued a call for a developer who will create a mobile application. The purpose of the application is to promote common World War II cultural heritage, specifically monuments from this era, in the Western Balkans.

On the 5th of May, representatives of LDA Mostar attended the **CulTours steering committee meeting** to prepare two final events: Regional Networking and Final Local Events organized in Serbia, Kosovo, Northern Macedonia, Montenegro, and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Both events were dedicated to regional networking, whose main goal should be promotion of monuments created after the World War II, and presentation and promotion of three cross-border tourist tours created within the Monumental 9 project.



On May 17th, 2021 an **online webinar** on the topic of „**Mostar Tourism in the Spotlight**“ was held. The webinar, organized by the Local Democracy Agency Mostar, hosted renowned experts in the field of tourism and from the non-profit sector: doc.dr. Irma Dedić, Head of Tourism Studies Džemal Bijedić University of Mostar; Darel Kapetanović, historian and certified tour guide; Ibrahim Dizdar, advisor at the Museum of Herzegovina; Nataša Musa, Initiative Odmori in Bosnia and Herzegovina; Dženana Dedić, director of the Local Democracy Agency Mostar; and Amil Brković, project assistant at the Local Democracy Agency Mostar.



The **Regional Online Forum „Western Balkans Tourism in the Spotlight“** was held on May 19th, 2021 and brought together **50 key players** from the tourism sector in WB6. This forum was an opportunity for them to exchange best practices in the tourism sector in the region. The speakers talked about their countries and tourism from their perspective, explained what tourists are interested in, how closely the speakers cooperate with travel agencies, and how they will adjust their offerings to the current demand in the market. All participants agreed that the Balkans have a rich history that deserves to be shown to the world. The event was used to promote the newly developed app CulTours. The app aims to offer three significant touristic routes, including a visit to World War II monuments, so that tourists can learn more about this almost forgotten historical era.



Project partners of CulTours: Cultural tours in the Western Balkans organized five local online activities with the aim of raising awareness about local tourism and creating a safe place for sharing new ideas and networking. The events were organized in Peja (Kosovo), Skopje (Northern Macedonia), Knjaževac (Serbia), Nikšić (Montenegro) and Mostaru (Bosnia and Herzegovina). Participants from Mostar could hear information on cultural tourism from both a theoretical and practical point of view. Participants also focused on the current situation in the tourism

sector and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the supply and demand in the sector. Relationships created during the event will be used to create better offers for tourists and encourage local economic development.

Strengthening trust, a precondition for a better future for young people

Timespan: 25/08/2020- 25/08/2021

Donor: PRO – Budućnost / financed by USAID and CRS (Catholic Relief Services)

PRO-Budućnost
Povjerenje, razumijevanje, odgovornost za budućnost



Applicant: PRO – Budućnost work group for the city of Mostar. The project is implemented by the city of Mostar, as a formal project partner, with assistance from LDA Mostar

Objective: To improve institutional mechanisms for cooperation at the local level, with the aim of strengthening the position of young people in the community

ACTIVITIES IN 2021

In April members of the PRO – Budućnost work group for the city of Mostar met for a **work meeting** to plan activities for a project that deals with the relationship young people have with local governments, with an aim of creating formal youth structures that will ensure youth participation in planning and decision-making processes. Apart from the city of Mostar, two other cities/municipalities from the Herzegovina region, Trebinje and Ljubuški, were included in the planned activities. The meeting was held in the Youth HUB, a newly opened space by the Local Democracy Agency Mostar, and members present at the meeting were: Elvedina Gadara and Sabina Memić Habibija (City of Mostar, Department of Social Affairs), Ivica Čavar (CCI), and Dženana Dedić (LDA Mostar).

On May 26th, an **initial meeting** within the project „Strengthening trust, a precondition for a better future for young people“ within PRO- Budućnost, was organized in **Trebinje**. The meeting brought together young people and representatives of local communities of Trebinje, Mostar, and Ljubuški. The meeting was a beginning of a broad and sincere dialogue in the society, which leads to building trust, and consequently reconciliation in our country.





In June, representatives of the PRO – Budućnost work group for the City of Mostar were guests of the Ljubuški Library, as a part of a visit of young people and youth officers of Mostar and Trebinje to their colleagues in Ljubuški.



The second meeting of young people and youth officers of the cities of Trebinje, Ljubuški, and Mostar was held in the office of the mayor of Ljubuški. During the meeting, ideas and initiatives of young people in local communities, as well as cooperation between cities, was discussed. The meeting was organized by the representatives of the PRO – Budućnost work group for the City of Mostar, as a part of the project Strengthening trust, a precondition for a better future for young people, - Sabina Memić (City of Mostar), Ivica Čavar (CCI), and Dženana Dedić (Local Democracy Agency Mostar).

The meeting was preceded by a meeting in Trebinje, where participants discussed structures and institutional framework within which youth work happens, and the preparation of the conference in Mostar. As part of the visit to Ljubuški, the participants had the opportunity to visit the Ljubuški Music School.





In June, members of the PRO – Budućnost work group for the City of Mostar organized the **Final Conference for the „Strengthening trust, a perception for a better future for young people“ project**. The conference was held at the **City Hall City of Mostar**, and the topic of the final conference was „Implementation of the Law on Youth of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Law on Youth Organizing of the Republic of Srpska in local communities“ in order to highlight good practices and shortcomings in the implementation of these laws. Platform for Peace was also promoted at the Conference.



CSOs networking for better local democracy in the Balkans

Project duration: January – October 2021

Donor: Balkan Civil Society Development Network – Regional Civil Society Development HUB, program funded by SIDA, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency



Applicant: Balkan Network for Local Democracy (North Macedonia)

Partneri: LDA Mostar (Mostar / Bosnia and Herzegovina), LDA Zavidovići (Zavidovići / Bosnia and Herzegovina), LDA Prijedor (Prijedor / Bosnia and Herzegovina), LDA Subotica (Subotica / Bosnia and Herzegovina), LDA Knjaževac (Knjaževac / Serbia), LDA Nikšić (Nikšić / Montenegro), LDA Peja (Peja / Kosovo), LDA Vlora (Vlora / Albania)

Description:

The project action aims to create a regional civil society organization's cooperation and learning resource for advancing active citizenship at a local level. Moreover, the idea is to set local and regional capacity building, awareness raising and networking actions with the aim to address the main challenges of the civil society in our region. The activities will include research and comparative analysis of present state legal framework for citizens' participation in policy and decision making on local level in Western Balkan countries. Furthermore, there will be also Regional Best Practice Fair as well as social media campaign and e- newsletter.

The **main target groups** of the project are BNLD members and its network partners in all Western Balkan countries, other regional CSO networks and CSOs promoting democratic governance and inclusive participation at local level. Directly involved target groups will be the members of Balkan Network for Local Democracy.

Overall objective: CSOs contributed to a conducive environment for civil society development that enables them to be influential actors in society.

Specific objectives:

- Strengthen the BNLD capacities to contribute more effectively to regional civic space;
- Improve regional exchange of experience and skills of BNLD network members on evidence-based advocacy and monitoring EU integration and reform agenda in WB countries;
- Create a regional CSOs co-operation and learning resource for advancing active citizenship at local level.

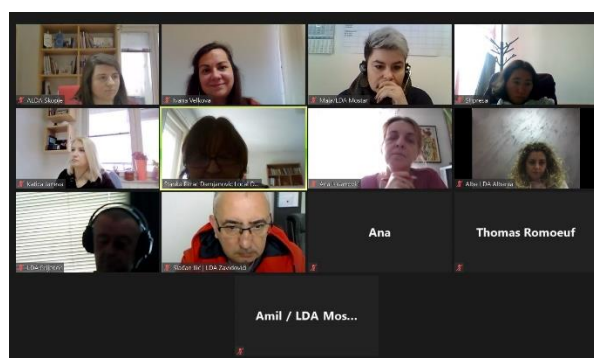
This project "CSOs networking for better local democracy in the Balkans" is implemented within the Project "Protecting Civic Space – Regional Civil Society Development Hub" financed by SIDA and implemented by BCSDN.

ACTIVITIES IN 2021

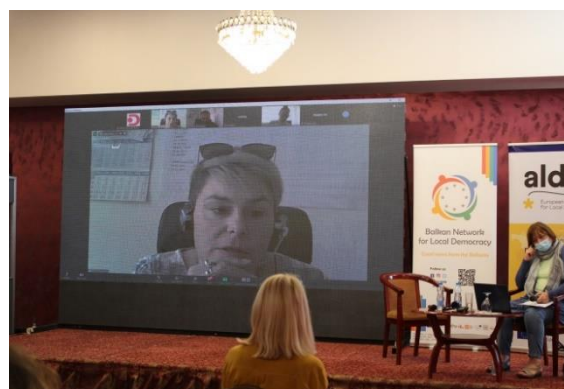
The **first meeting of the research team** on this project was held on April 29th.



The **first online meeting of the Steering Committee** of this project was held in April to discuss key commitments and activities to be implemented.



A two-day Balkan Local Democracy Network (BNLD) Regional Event was held in Skopje on September 2nd, as part of the „CSO Networking for Better Local Democracy in the Balkans“ project. Partners from the region presented their good practices of involving citizens in decision-making processes at the local level, as well as mechanisms for cooperation between local authorities and civil society.





On September 22, a case study - City of Mostar and its budget procedure, which involves citizens and NGOs in the creation of the local budget, was presented. The allocation of funds, payment of public revenues, and the overall financial policy of the city/municipality should be transparent and participatory. Fortunately, the legislative and executive bodies of Bosnia and Herzegovina recognize the importance of the participatory concept and integrate it into the financial framework of the legislation.

Publication "Participation in Politics / Decision-Making Processes in the Western Balkans - Challenges and Perspectives" was presented in October. This publication focuses on participatory tools for local democracies in the Western Balkans.

Strengthening local participation and cooperation through partnership of Public Authorities and CSOs in Bosnia and Herzegovina – Link 4 Cooperation



Project duration: January 2021 – December 2023

Donor: The European Union



Finansira Evropska unija

Applicant: Local Democracy Agency Mostar (LDA Mostar)

Partners: Local Democracy Agency Zavidovići, Local Democracy Agency Prijedor, Center for Development of Herzegovina Trebinje, ALDA – European Association for Local Democracy

Affiliated entity: ALDA Skopje – Association of agencies for local democracy

Project Description: The project promotes principles of good governance with a view to effective and responsive performance of the local government units in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The project will empower the capacities of local authorities (elected leaders and civil servants) and civil society in implementing participative processes. Together they will identify concrete problems of the community that will find their solutions thanks to the participative approach. The project will therefore build capacities and solve problems, by consolidating the approach in the years to come.

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

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

Specific objectives:

- Create stronger links to citizens by engaging in public policy process, reaching out to society as a whole including marginalized groups and grass root communities and encouraging civic activism and public participation in policy-making;
- Capable, transparent and accountable LAs;
- Effective CSOs;
- LAs have enabling policies and rules for grass root organizations and civic initiatives;
- CSOs create network for coalition-building for increased impact in campaigning

and advocacy.

The whole process will involve:

- about 20 local communities benefiting from improved public services in each municipality;
- 12 LAs which will have strengthened capacities to implement inclusive solutions for local problems (Mostar, Jablanica, Nevesinje, Zavidovici, Zepce, Maglaj, Prijedor, Novi grad, Kostajnica, Trebinje, Ravno and Berkovici);
- more than 40 CSOs which will have improved skills and capacities for bringing positive local changes in their communities.

Main project activities:

- Training for trainers (ToT) on the application of the Council of Europe methodology – European Label of Governance Excellence (ELoGE)
- Needs assessment in accordance with the ELoGE methodology in the area of 12 local governments
- Training to strengthen the capacity to assess and monitor the local level of good governance using participatory methods for representatives of 12 local governments and local CSOs (Council of Europe's LAP – Leadership Academy Program)
- Participatory process training related to local issues for representatives from 12 local governments
- Support to local CSOs from BiH through the award of small grants
- Forums for presenting best practices of cooperation / cooperation between local CSOs and local authorities and forming an informal network in the project area
- Implementation of digital democracy / democracy through the installation of 12 smart benches in 12 local communities from the project area
- Final project conference

ACTIVITIES IN 2021

First online project team meeting, during which the Project Management Committee was appointed and a preliminary action plan, with a special focus on organizational aspects of future work, was held in January. In April, the official social media pages, Facebook and Instagram, were launched, through which the project was promoted by informing the public about project activities and goals. Additionally, partner organization, as well as cities/municipalities participating in the project were presented.

The initial conference of the project "Strengthening Local Participation and Cooperation through Partnerships between Public Authorities and Civil Society Organizations in Bosnia and Herzegovina - LINK for Cooperation / Cooperation" was held in Mostar on June 18, 2021, with the support of the European Union. Mayors and political representatives of Berković, Jablanica, Kostajnica, Maglaj, Mostar, Nevesinje, Novi Grad, Prijedor, Ravno, Trebinje, Zavidovići and Žepče, all of whom expressed their readiness to participate in the implementation of participatory processes to jointly identify concrete community problems and find optimal solutions, attended the conference.



In the first half of 2021, the project team organized introductory meetings with representatives of 12 local governments, in order to establish closer cooperation at the local level, a prerequisite for further successful actions, and create a favorable environment for citizens interested in community development processes.



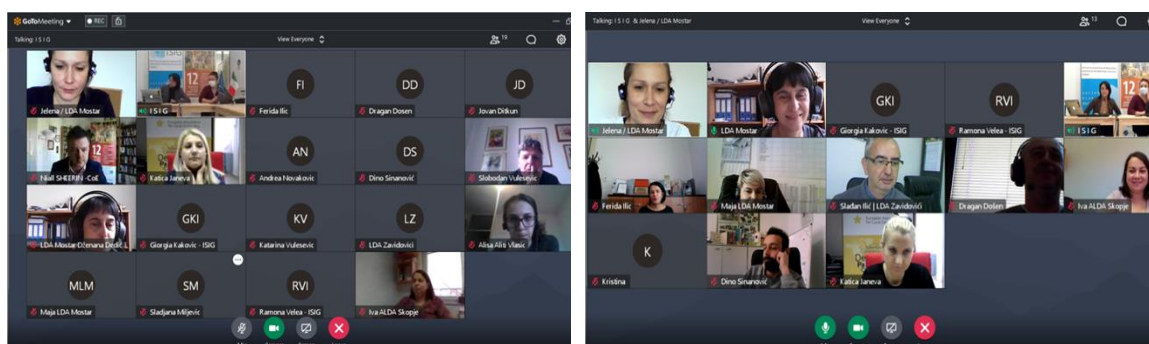
In August, as a precursor to the presentation of the official project website, a project leaflet, with basic information about the project, was published.



On the International Day of Democracy, September 15th, web platform of the project, whose content promotes the essence of democracy at the local level, a place where all changes are meant to begin, was premiered at www.link4cooperation.ba.

Mid-September, representatives of LDA Mostar, the lead project partner, held a **preparatory meeting with the trainers of the ELOGE program of the Council of Europe** (European Label of Excellence in Management).

The training for trainers, based on the ELoGE methodology and held by external experts delegated by the Council of Europe, is divided into four online sessions with each participant in the training being presented with a Certificate of Trainers for the EloGE program. The twelve principles of good democratic governance cover issues such as participation, advocacy, and fair elections, reactivity - timely and adequate response, efficiency and effectiveness, openness and transparency, rule of law, ethical behavior, competence and capacity, innovation and openness to change, sustainability and long-term orientation, sound financial management, human rights, cultural diversity, and social cohesion and responsibility. For each principle, there is an elaborate method, with specific benchmarks and indicators, that allows an impact assessment in an objective and participatory way.



In periods between online sessions with educators of the Council of Europe, participants held a total of 7 online workshops as an integral part of the training with the aim of preparing and improving the necessary skills and tools.

External Project Promotion

The representatives of the Local Democracy Agency Mostar, on October 11th, at the invitation of the European Union in Bosnia and Herzegovina and within the project Global Exchange on Religion in Society (GERIS), had the opportunity to present their organization and projects, with a special emphasis on „LINK 4 Cooperation.“ The meeting was attended by representatives of numerous partner organizations/institutions cooperating on the GERIS project, which aims to contribute to social inclusion and social resilience by setting up a global community-based exchange initiative, an ideal opportunity to promote „LINK 4 Cooperation“.



Council of Europe Academy on Civil Participation in Sarajevo

The Academy on Civil Participation, held on November 17th in Sarajevo, was an ideal opportunity to promote the project "LINK 4 Cooperation" to representatives of the Council of Europe, with the participation of representatives of partner organizations, LDA Mostar and LDA Zavidovići, and local governments of Prijedor, Novi Grad, Kostajnica, and Maglaj, all covered by the project. The goal of the Academy was to raise awareness of the need for a dialogue between citizens and decision makers, with specific suggestions and guidance on how to achieve more effective civic commitment during the political decision-making process.



First newsletter published

The first semi-annual newsletter of the project „LINK 4 Cooperation“ was published on October 26th and was sent out to 250 addresses. The goal was to inform the public, in detail, about the project and project activities undertaken in the previous period. On November 2nd, the newsletter was also published in English, which was also sent to 250 addresses.



Official meetings with representatives of local governments

As part of the project, a series of meetings with representatives of 12 local governments has been scheduled. The meetings were informative and primarily referred to the education on the Council of Europe's ELoGE program, the Academy for Leaders (LAP), and concrete activities that will follow during the next year, which will intensively include representatives of local governments. Other important segments of the project, such as involving civil society using a web platform, „grant“ schemes for the civil sector, ways of improving cooperation between all project participants, and joint promotion on social networks and project website were discussed. Additionally, next steps and concrete activities to be implemented by local communities within the project „LINK 4 Cooperation“ were discussed.





Welcome to Electionville (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

Project duration: May – October 2021

Donor: Embassy of Sweden in Bosnia and Herzegovina



Applicant: Local Democracy Agency Mostar (LDA Mostar)

Partner: Insititute for Youth Development KULT

General Objective: To educate about and provide insights into how democracy works

Specific Objectives:

- to increase awareness about democratic processes and its value
- to encourage citizens participation
- to encourage better communication between the citizens and local authorities

Description:

Electionville is a fictional city in the shape of an educational floor game, where the participants take on the challenging roles of county council members. Equally fun and engaging, the main objective of the Electionville toolkit is to educate about and provide insights into how democracy works.

Originally designed as a board game by the Swedish content bureau Fabel and commissioned by the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions, Electionville has been produced in over 13,000 copies, reaching more than half of the primary and upper secondary schools in Sweden.

Primarily intended for people aged 15-24, the floor game version of Electionville can be played either individually or in groups. However, due to its versatility, the Electionville toolkit is suitable for people of all ages and regardless of political affiliation. This makes Electionville the perfect tool for practicing core democratic values such as inclusiveness, participation, and gender equality. In fact, to engage in a game of Electionville is to engage in democracy.

Moderated group talks or seminars on related themes are held in conjunction with the game event with target group and specially invited representatives from the local community

Activity plan:

- to organize and implement Welcome to Electionville live event in Mostar / Bosnia and Herzegovina
- to organize and implement Welcome to Electionville live event in Sarajevo / Bosnia and Herzegovina
- to organize and implement Welcome to Electionville live event in Banja Luka / Bosnia and Herzegovina

ACTIVITIES IN 2021

The first Welcome to Electionville event in Bosnia and Herzegovina, organized by Local Democracy Agency Mostar (LDA Mostar), was held in Mostar on September 30, with the support of the Swedish Embassy in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Through a game, led by Game Master (Dario Marić) and Game Assistants (Azra and Ivona), young „councilors“ skillfully presented their political programs, allocated the city budget based on their priorities, and made important decisions for the city through dialogue and compromise.

The above-mentioned activities took place in the presence of real councilors with the City Council of the City of Mostar, who at the end of the game had the opportunity to talk to young players. The event was opened by the Vice President of the City Council of the City of Mostar, Ivan Zelenika, the Director of the Local Democracy Agency Mostar, Dženana Dedić, and Her Excellency the Ambassador of Sweden, Johanna Strömquist.



The second Welcome to Electionville event, organized in partnership with Local Democracy Agency Mostar and Institute for Youth Development KULT, with the support of the Swedish Embassy in Sarajevo, was organized on October 20th in Sarajevo. By participating in the event, fifteen young people between the ages of 15 and 24 took upon themselves the responsibility of deliberation and decision making at the City

Council level. During the game, democratic processes were simplified, the importance of negotiations was emphasized, and ways of achieving compromise necessary in everyday work was emphasized.

The representatives of the Swedish Embassy in Bosnia and Herzegovina pointed out:

During the game, we were amazed by the knowledge of our young" councilors. But the most impressive thing was how they combined their passionate arguments with efforts to actually listen to each other, were ready to change their opinions, found creative compromises, and showed all the qualities of true democratic leadership.



The third Welcome to Electionville, organized by LDA Mostar and Institute for Youth Development KULT, with the support of the Swedish Embassy in Sarajevo, was held in Banja Luka on October 22nd in Banja Luka. Through the leadership of Game Master Nina Popović and Game Assistant Azra Dedić, the players learned about democracy and democratic processes in their local community and took responsibility for

deliberation and decision making through a fictional City Council.



Project Mostar – Spaces to Activate and Rejuvenate



Project Duration: August 2021 – July 2024

Donor: Government of the United Kingdom



Applicant: People in Need (PIN)

Partners: Everyday Peace Indicators (EPI), Youth Cultural Center (OKC Abrašević), Local Democracy Agency Mostar (LDA Mostar) i Nešto Više (NV).

Description:

Mostar – Spaces to Activate and Rejuvenate is a three-year project, which seeks to improve public space and its use in Mostar through activating citizens and supporting citizen-led initiatives that contribute to shared civic, cultural, and economic life in Mostar. The project aims to support citizens and local authorities to effectively use new skills, tools and mechanisms to address priorities in an inclusive, gender sensitive, participatory and systematic manner.

The preparatory phase of the project, which will define the involvement and activation of citizens, as well as other relevant participants with the goal of their direct involvement in creation of positive changes in Mostar, is currently underway.

An intense and challenging period will start in spring 2022, when everything we planned in the preparation phase, after taking the pulse of the city and its citizens, will be realized.

Mostar-base project partners will implement a series of innovative activities to activate and involve citizens with a goal of establishing dialogue between communities, on common priorities with, in the overall framework of the project's spheres of activity.

In addition, the Project will directly allocate funds for financing of infrastructure investments in public spaces, as well as initiatives to be led and designed by citizens, which relate to common public space.

The project lead is People in Need (PIN), a Czech non-profit, non-governmental organization that provides humanitarian and development aid in more than 30 countries around the world. Four other organizations are equal partners in the consortium: Everyday Peace Indicators (EPI), Youth Cultural Center Abrašević (OKC Abrašević), Local Democracy Agency Mostar (LDA Mostar) and Nešto Više (NV).

The Project is funded by the Government of the United Kingdom.

ACTIVITIES IN 2021

In July, representatives of LDA Mostar attended a meeting initiated by the British Minister for Europe and Americas at the Foreign, Commonwealths, and Development Office (FCDO) Wendy Morton, who visited Mostar accompanied by the British Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Matt Field. She used this occasion to announce a new project, aimed at young people from the Mostar area, worth 3 million pounds. Minister Morton spoke with human rights activists, environmental activists, and journalists from the Herzegovina area about how the UK can support their fight for a higher level of democracy and respect for human rights and freedoms in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



On August 10th, a contract was signed with People in Need Bosnia and Herzegovina for a new three-year project whose aim is organizing development projects in the city of Mostar. The project encompasses renovation of public spaces and building connections between people, especially young people, through activities in the field of culture and environment. This project is another sign of Great Britain's commitment to long-term development of Bosnia and Herzegovina.



The British delegation, consisting of the UK Desk Officer for Bosnia and Herzegovina and the First Secretary, Political to the British Embassy in Sarajevo, visited LDA Mostar on September 9th regarding the beginning of a new project. LDA Mostar is a partner on a three-year project, led by People in Need Bosnia and Herzegovina, together with other project partners Nešto Više and OKC Abrašević. On this occasion, the project partners presented their organizations and discussed the complexity of political challenges in Mostar. The upcoming project will focus on what unites the citizens of Mostar - socio-economic, ethnic, and gender divisions, the desire for a better life, cleaner environment, opportunities to socialize with peers, and a need for a learning space.



First online meeting with project partner teams was held on September 15th.



OTHER ACTIVITIES

Balkan Network for Local Democracy (BNLD)

It has been more than two years since the launch of the Balkan Network for Local Democracy (BNLD), which was founded by seven Local Democracy Agencies from the Balkans together with European association for Local Democracy (ALDA). The goals of the BNLD are the promotion of active citizenship, democratic principles of governance, local development, and cooperation between civil society organizations and local public authorities in the Western Balkans region.

An **online meeting of members of the Balkan Network for Local Democracy** was held in January. The meeting was attended by representatives of DG NEAR, the BNLD and ALDA. The real state of democracy in the Western Balkans was discussed at the meeting. In this crucial period of social, economic and political instability in the Western Balkans, the Balkan Network for Local Democracy and its members are working hard to promote European integration as the only path to growth and prosperity. In anticipation of the European Commission's next progress reports, BNLD members proposed sharing experiences with DG NEAR staff working in the WB region to exchange experiences of their work at the local level and reflections on the EU accession process at the local level.

In March, the Balkan Network for Civil Society Development (BCSDN) announced the winners of the grants, including the Balkan Network for Local Democracy. Also, the BNLD has launched a new project - **"CSOs Networking for Better Local Democracy in the Balkans"**. It is part of the project "Protection of Civic Space - Regional Center for Civil Society Development" funded by SIDA and implemented by BCSDN. A **second online meeting** was also held. As part of the platform, Balkan Network for Local Democracy members, seek to improve our Network and activities from day one. Specifically, this meeting was scheduled to discuss the next steps of the BNLD in the implementation of the three projects.

A call for experts to conduct a comparative analysis of national legal frameworks in Northern Macedonia, Albania, Kosovo, Serbia, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina has also been published. Additionally, a video which wanted to point out the importance of peaceful living together in a multicultural world, and developing a sense of belonging and community was published.

On March 25th, the Balkan Network for Local Democracy, within the frame of RYCE project, organized a **two-day Regional Thematic Forum of the Network and the Annual Conference of the Network**. The event was hosted by LDA Subotica. The event was organized as a thematic regional exchange involving regional networks of CSOs, experts, NGO activists and youth groups, relevant policy makers and policy makers to discuss some of the key challenges for advancing the European integration process in the Western Balkans.



Members of the LDA Mostar team attended a **two-day workshop on capacity building of the Balkan Network for Local Democracy** in March. The topic of conversation was the possibilities of achieving organizational excellence and development strategy.

Dialogue Platform of the City of Mostar

On October 11th, in the City Hall of Mostar, representative of LDA Mostar participated on the local Dialogue Platform of the City of Mostar meeting entitled "Cooperation between NGOs and government sector of Mostar - presenting the scope of work and identifying key priorities ". The local dialogue platform aims to strengthen communication between citizens and local authorities, as a joint mechanism for identifying key priorities and addressing them, which are important for social cohesion in the city of Mostar. In addition to representatives of non-governmental organizations and UNDP representatives, the meeting was contributed by councilors / members of the Commission of the City Council of Mostar, who in their scope of work have cooperation with NGOs to communicate directly with the civil sector in order to support in their further work. During the meeting, several possible initiatives / activities were identified in order to orient and work in the coming period. The Dialogue Platform was created and implemented within the MARKERS project (Activism, Engagement and Responsible Solutions) which the City of Mostar is implementing in cooperation with the UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina office.

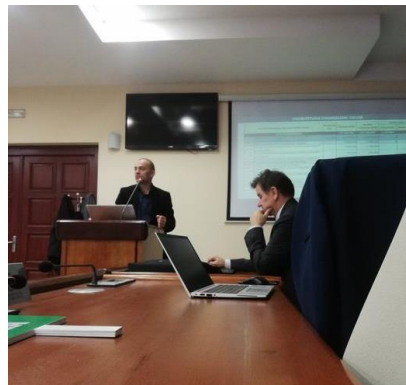


City of Mostar Strategy

On October 22nd, the director of LDA Mostar and a member of the Development Committee, Dženana Dedić, participated in the first meeting of the Committee for Development Strategy of the City of Mostar 2022 - 2027, where the Guidelines for drafting the Strategy of the City of Mostar were discussed and adopted and in accordance with which the Action Plan for the development of the Strategy was prepared and adopted.



On December 27th, the Committee for Development of the City of Mostar adopted the draft Strategy of the City of Mostar for the period 2022-2027, which will be sent for open consultations with a duration of 30 days. A team of experts is expected to work on the final adoption of the Strategy by mid-February. Given that the Strategy envisages strategic goals and measures for their implementation, specific projects will be included in the Action Plan for the implementation of the Strategy, which should receive its concrete form by the end of March 2022. The first Action Plan will cover the period 2023-2025 with elaborated annual plans that include implementation, monitoring, reporting and evaluation. In this regard, a team will be formed to implement the Strategy and develop an Action Plan within the City Administration.

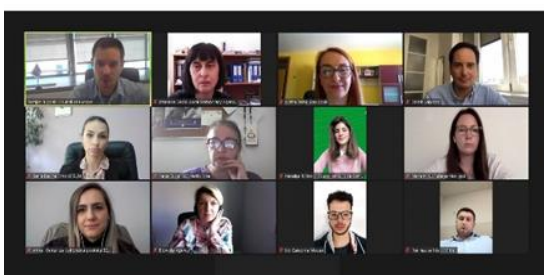


Citizens' Assembly in Mostar

As a precursor to the project "Development of Democratic Participation in the City of Mostar", a meeting was held between the representatives of the action "Elect Mostar" and the Reflection Group for Mostar of the Council of Europe and the European Union. The whole process ultimately resulted in the aforementioned Council of Europe project, which provides an opportunity for the citizens of the city of Mostar to participate in democratic processes.



On May 4th, director of LDA Mostar and a member of the Supervisory Board, Dženana Dedić, participated in a meeting organized by the Council of Europe in BiH within the project "Development of Democratic Participation in the City of Mostar". The results of the survey of the citizens of Mostar on the occasion of the Assembly of Citizens scheduled for the summer of 2021 were presented at the meeting. Several thematic areas in which the citizens of Mostar are interested were singled out: ecology; infrastructure; healthy living, sports and culture; economy and tourism; support for the youth of the city of Mostar; social issues; arrangement of the city and city areas; security of citizens and police; law, policy and administrative topics.



On June 25th, the director of LDA Mostar, Dženana Dedić, participated in the first meeting of the Supervisory Team of the project "Development of Democratic Participation in the City of Mostar" implemented by the Council of Europe - Office in Sarajevo. The oversight team is one of the governing bodies and consists of 20 members representing the Mostar city authorities, the CoE Congress of Local and Regional Authorities as well as civil society and representatives of the Mostar academic community. Its role is to monitor the deliberative process and to check that the standards and rules of the Assembly are respected during the deliberation of citizens on the selected topic. The director of LDA Mostar, Dženana Dedić, is a member of the supervisory team and participates in the whole process.



On July 16, Marite Moras, Head of the Cooperation and External Relations Department of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, together with Damjan Jugović, Project Officer of the Project "Building Democratic Participation in the City of Mostar" and associates visited the Local Democracy Agency Mostar. The meeting touched upon the establishment of government in the City of Mostar, as well as the implementation of the aforementioned Council of Europe project, and the importance of the newly established Citizens' Assembly in Mostar as a mechanism for their participation in decision-making. Representatives of LDA Mostar expressed satisfaction with the final launch of the process of involving citizens in decision-making processes, and expressed their support for the realization and revitalization of the entire process.



In July, the first Citizens' Assembly in Mostar was held in accordance with the standards of deliberative democracy, on the topic "How the City of Mostar can improve the cleanliness of public space and make it more pleasant". Representatives of LDA Mostar were proud to be part of the first process of deliberative democracy in the City of Mostar. Director of LDA Mostar, Dženana Dedić is a member of the Supervisory Board of the Citizens' Assembly organized within the CoE project "Building Democracy in the City of Mostar", which was initiated by the action "Elect Mostar" launched in 2016. At the Mostar Citizens' Assembly, Ileana Toscano, a representative of the partner organization Calipolis from Italy, presented the joint project Mo.StarT-V as a good practice of involving citizens in decision-making processes. Within the frame of this project a group of young people were trained and they produced the documetay film "Shadows of the City of Light".



Citizens' Assembly in Mostar presented its preliminary recommendations to the councilors of the City Council of the City of Mostar at the last session of the deliberative process. Director of LDA Mostar, Dženana Dedić, in her capacity as a member of the Supervisory Board, monitored the entire process.



Citizens' Assembly in Mostar presented to the Mayor recommendations for a tidy and clean Mostar. On that occasion, Mayor KordiĆ handed them letters of thanks and promised that their recommendations would be considered in the City Council of the City of Mostar. At one of the next sessions of the City Council, the Commission of the Citizens' Assembly was supposed to officially hand over these recommendations to the councilors. The Director of LDA Mostar, Dženana Dedić, in the role of a member of the Supervisory Team of the Citizens' Assembly, had the opportunity to present the projects of the LDA Mostar that will make a concrete contribution to the implementation of the recommendations of the Citizens' Assembly.



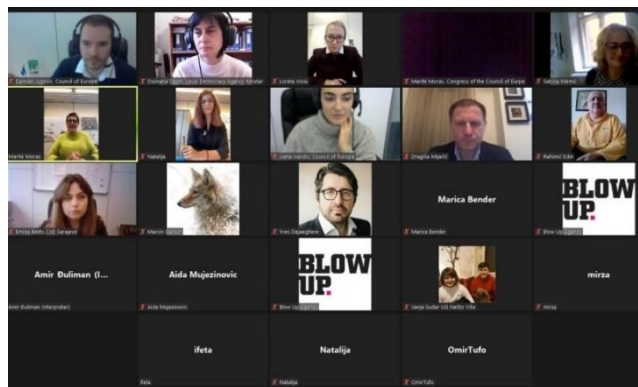
The second hybrid meeting of the Supervisory Team of the Citizens' Assembly in Mostar, formed through the project "Building Democratic Participation in the City of Mostar" was opened by Andreas Kiefer, Secretary General of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe and Marité Moras, Head of Cooperation Activities Unit - Congress of Local and Regional Authorities. The entire process that led to the formation and implementation of the Citizens' Assembly, the continuation of its activities, and the evaluation of the deliberative process and the results of the online survey on citizens' perceptions were presented at the meeting.



"Recommendations of the Citizens' Assembly will soon be presented at the session of the City Council of the City of Mostar", was the conclusion of the meeting held on November 10 by members of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe Marité Moras, Bernd Vöhringer and Thomas Andersson held with City of Mostar representatives. The next activities for the implementation of the recommendations of the Citizens' Assembly were also discussed, followed by meetings with the Supervisory Board of the Citizens' Assembly and representatives of the Citizens' Assembly. The Supervisory Board, which also included the director of LDA Mostar, Dženana Dedić, presented her vision of the entire process and the possibility of continuing it. The whole process was assessed very positively, especially the engagement of citizens and their willingness to participate in democratic processes.

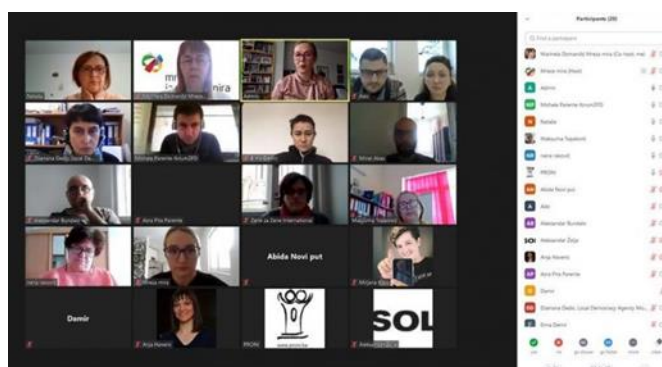


On December 14, the Director of LDA Mostar and a member of the Supervisory Board, Dženana Dedić, participated in the presentation of the evaluation of the Citizens' Assembly as the main result of the project "Building Democratic Participation in the City of Mostar". This was the last event of the mentioned project, the continuation of which has already been announced, as well as the international conference that will be held in Mostar soon. The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe through the project "Building Democratic Participation in the City of Mostar" supports the aspiration of Bosnia and Herzegovina to improve the work of government at all levels, and within the Council of Europe Action Plan for Bosnia and Herzegovina for 2018-2021.



Peacebuilding Network

On the 13th of January, the Assembly of the Network for Building Peace was held and elected a new Steering Board and President of the Assembly. Members of the Assembly have appointed a representative of the Mostar Local Democracy Agency - Dženana Dedić, to the position of a member of the Steering Board of the Network. It is an exceptional privilege and honor for our organization to participate in the management of the Network that builds peace in our country and has a great impact on building peace in the region.



On May 20th, the Director of LDA Mostar and a member of the Steering Board of the Network for Building Peace, Dženana Dedić, participated in the Conference "Synergy of Civil Society in BiH - Strengthening Cooperation between Associations, Foundations, Media and Trade Unions" organized by the Network.

Director of LDA Mostar and member of the Steering Board of the Network, Dženana Dedić, participated in one in a series of focus groups dedicated to individual development. Practices, experiences and thoughts were exchanged, thus helping to design programs through which the Network for Building Peace will work to strengthen the development of individuals from civil society.

On November 30th, the Director of LDA Mostar and a member of the Steering Board, Dženana Dedić, participated in the work of the Assembly of the Network, which was held in Sarajevo in a hybrid form. The agenda of the Assembly referred to the consideration of the adoption of the Rulebook, Strategic Documents, adoption of decisions on amendments to the Statute and decisions on the appointment and dismissal of the Association, and work on Action Plans.



On December 10th, in Sarajevo, a unique event was held - the Peace Prize "Goran Bubalo" of the Network for Building Peace. The award was given to activists Nihad Suljić and Indira Bajramović, as well as to the Center for Peace Education and the BH Pride Parade. The award, established in 2013 and awarded to individuals, schools and organizations that contribute to peacebuilding and the promotion of human rights, has been named after Goran Bubalo since 2020 in memory of the late founder and president of the Network.

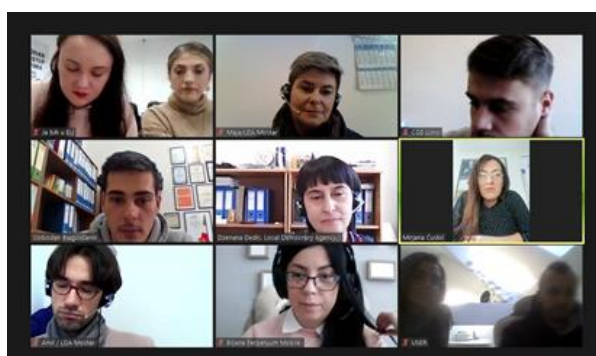
As one of the largest coalitions of organizations and schools in BiH, "Peace Network" with this award seeks to draw attention to the efforts and successes of people, organizations and schools that serve as role models and motivate others to act in the field of tolerance and peacebuilding.





In addition to the activities planned within the active projects, the organization LDA Mostar also held numerous other activities in the field of its activities.

In February, a meeting was held with representatives of #jabihueu, Youth Resource Center Tuzla - ORC Tuzla, #perpetuummobile, Helsinki Committee for Human Rights, CGS Llivno and Naša djeca Zenica. The project, which will be implemented soon, was discussed. The project refers to young people and their education on the rule of law, the rule of law and the judicial system of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

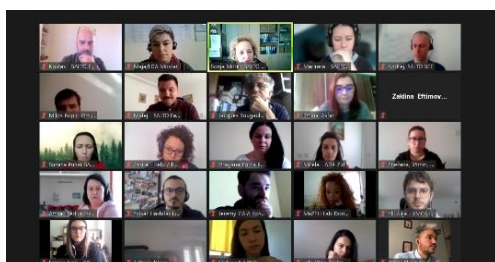


An online peacebuilding workshop with students from the American University of Washington D.C. was successfully organized and held in March. The topics of the workshop were peacebuilding and reconciliation in a post-conflict society. One of the participants, Alexandra Kaiss, was so inspired by what we do as an NGO that she even created an infographic design for our projects related to social inclusion and migration.



In April, ALDA's March bulletin was published, which presented Local Democracy Agency Mostar activities.

Also in April, representatives of LDA Mostar participated and will participate in future Salto Workshops on the occasion of the new European Youth Programs related to the Western Balkans region. The year 2021 marks the beginning of a new seven-year cycle of EU youth programs, namely the Erasmusplus Program and the European Solidarity Corps. The new programs are based on past achievements and good practices, but also introduce new opportunities for young people and organizations that work with them, for the development of youth work and European cooperation. Both programs emphasize the international dimension, providing opportunities for both youth and youth care actors in Program Partner countries.



Dženana Dedić, director of LDA Mostar, was a panelist during the second day of the Kick Off meeting of the VALID-European Towns project - Enacting Common Values of Solidarity and Dialogue. She spoke about civic engagement in the community and local organization.



On May 6th, a pleasant meeting was held with the Ambassador of France to BiH, HE Christine Toudic and Counselor for Cooperation and Cultural Activities of the French Embassy in BiH and Director of the French Institute in BiH Mr. Jean-Christophe Thiabaud. The work of the LDA Mostar organization and the projects it implements were presented at the meeting. The meeting was an ideal opportunity for networking and potential future cooperation.





On the 11th of May, LDA Mostar staff was visited by the Ambassador of Sweden to Bosnia and Herzegovina, HE Johanna Strömquist (Embassy of Sweden in Sarajevo). Pleasant socializing and positive energy was the introduction to the story of concrete future cooperation between LDA Mostar and Sweden.



The meeting of the working group of the PRO-Budućnost project was held on June 1 at the City Hall of the City of Mostar. After mapping and selection of facilities requiring rehabilitation and reconstruction in the City of Mostar, which will be used as a common good of all citizens, the next step is the official application of the City of Mostar for the grant for Infrastructure provided by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) . It was also agreed that the City Council of the City of Mostar will consider the adoption of the "Platform for Peace", which is one of the preconditions for applying for grant funds. The "Platform for Peace" is a framework and declarative document, which emphasizes peace as one of the fundamental and greatest values of Bosnia and Herzegovina, its peoples and citizens. Dženana Dedić, Director of LDA Mostar, is a member of the PRO-Budućnost project working group.



The 13th Assembly of the Local Democracy Agency Mostar was held in June. The members were presented with the activities from the previous year as well as the plan for the next year, changes were adopted within the governing bodies of the Association, and new members joined. Thus, the existing Statute was amended.



A member of the LDA Mostar team, Amil Brković, participated in the first seminar within the School of Political Studies organized in June by the Council of Europe - Office in Sarajevo.



In June, representatives of the LDA Mostar participated in Online Talks - Participation of Civil Society Organizations in Electoral Reform Organized by the Coalition "Pod lupom". The aim of the talks was to give civil society in BiH a space in which it can openly and without any influence express their views, thoughts and views related to the current electoral reform in BiH. These talks were a continuation of activities to improve the election process and election legislation in BiH. The conclusions from the online interviews should, above all, serve the decision-makers in making changes and

amendments to the Election Law of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

A meeting was also held with Bojana Urumova, Head of the Council of Europe Office in BiH, and Damjana Jugović, Project Officer of the Council of Europe. The current projects implemented with the support of the Council of Europe were presented at the meeting, especially the LINK 4 Cooperation project. They also discussed the project "Building Democratic Participation in the City of Mostar", which was initiated by the action "Elect Mostar" led by the Local Democracy Agency Mostar.

On June 15th, meetings were held with four Commissions of the City Council of Mostar - the Commission for Relations with Religious Communities and Non-Governmental Organizations, the Commission for Cooperation and Association of Local Authorities, the Commission for Youth and the Commission for Gender Equality. The meetings were attended by officials of the City of Mostar and the NGO sector. The Director of LDA Mostar, Dženana Dedić, congratulated the Councilors on their mandate and briefly presented the long-term cooperation between the LDA Mostar, the City Council and the City Administration. In addition, they discussed the adoption of relevant Strategies in the creation of LDA Mostar, the potential involvement of external associates in the work of City Council Commissions in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the CE, creating a new platform to network the NGO sector in Mostar, signing Platform for Peace, which is one of the preconditions for the potential approval of funds for infrastructure through the PRO-Future project, and the introduction of "Open Days" for young people and other topics.



On September 21st, LDA Mostar representative held a meeting with the Ambassador of the Netherlands to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Jan Waltmans. Together with other representatives of civil society, situation in the city of Mostar was discussed. Furthermore representatives of the civil sector shared their activities, the engagement of young people and the possibilities of the Dutch Embassy support.



As part of the visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina and talks with representatives of the non-governmental and governmental sector, on October 14th, the Local Democracy Agency Mostar was visited by Ms. Agnes Picod, Senior Human Rights Adviser in the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Mr. Mark Baskin, director of the Center for Humanitarian Dialogue. The focus of the meeting was on the suppression of hate speech in the political sphere, as well as in the context of the elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



On November 12th, in Sarajevo, representatives of the LDA Mostar attended a reception on the occasion of the Italian chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe inaugurated by the Italian Embassy and the Council of Europe Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Ambassador of Italy to BiH, Marco di Ruzza, stated on that occasion that his country is preparing to take over this position for the eighth time, and that they are doing so with pride, sense of responsibility, spirit of service and full knowledge of all opportunities and challenges. Di Ruzza added that they wanted their presidency to be inclusive and participatory, while ensuring that the credibility and importance of the Council of Europe are not jeopardized. In addition to Ambassador Di Ruzza, the participants were also addressed by the Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs of BiH, Šejla Đurbuzović, and the Head of the Council of Europe Office, Bojana Urumova.

Visibility of activities implemented by LDA Mostar

Through its official channels of communication, LDA Mostar, regularly and without exception, disseminates and promotes information on the activities within the projects it implements as well as information on the activities in which it participates. Local and regional media are timely informed about the key project activities and events LDA Mostar organizes, regularly resulting in media coverage. Through its social media profiles ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#)), as well as through its [website](#), LDA Mostar publishes information regarding the activities implemented by its partners as well as news relevant to the wider context of its projects and the local community, which are in line with the LDA Mostar priority areas.

LDA Mostar Facebook page [“Info Point Mostar”](#) is dedicated to young people, bringing new and relevant content on education, scholarships, EU programs, youth mobility programs, volunteering and activism, courses, workshops, student accommodation, vacancies, as well as all other information of local and regional character, which are relevant to youth. Info Point Mostar was created within the framework of the EU project “Balkan Regional Platform for Youth Participation and Dialogue”, which was implemented from 2015 to 2018 on the territory of the eight local communities of the Western Balkans. LDA Mostar implemented project activities in the local community as one of the project’s partners. From the beginning of 2019, “Info Point Mostar” continued its activities beyond the boundaries of the project, still within the scope of the LDA Mostar work.

LDA Mostar is one of the administrators of Facebook page “Elect Mostar” within the young people’s initiative “Elect Mostar” during the Local Elections in BiH in 2016, when citizens of the City of Mostar were denied the right to vote in local elections. Facebook page [“Elect Mostar”](#) provides information on the activities of the initiative which is conducted by the “Elect Mostar” coalition formed by three NGOs: LDA Mostar, Youth Council of the City of Mostar and OKC Abrašević. This FB page also brings positive news in relation to young people as well as the information of political character related to the City of Mostar. The idea for the establishment of the initiative “Elect Mostar” was a result of the meeting of the Local Youth Advisory Group in Mostar, created as a mechanism for youth participation within the EU project ‘Balkan Regional Platform for Youth Participation and Dialogue’.

As part of its ongoing projects, the Local Democracy Agency Mostar also administers the following websites and pages on social media:

[Project “LINK4Cooperation” web platform](#)

[Project “LINK4Cooperation” FB page](#)

[Project “LINK4Cooperation” Instagram account](#)

[Project “Youth Ambassadors of Non Formal Learning” web page](#)

[Project “Youth Ambassadors of Non Formal Learning” FB page](#)

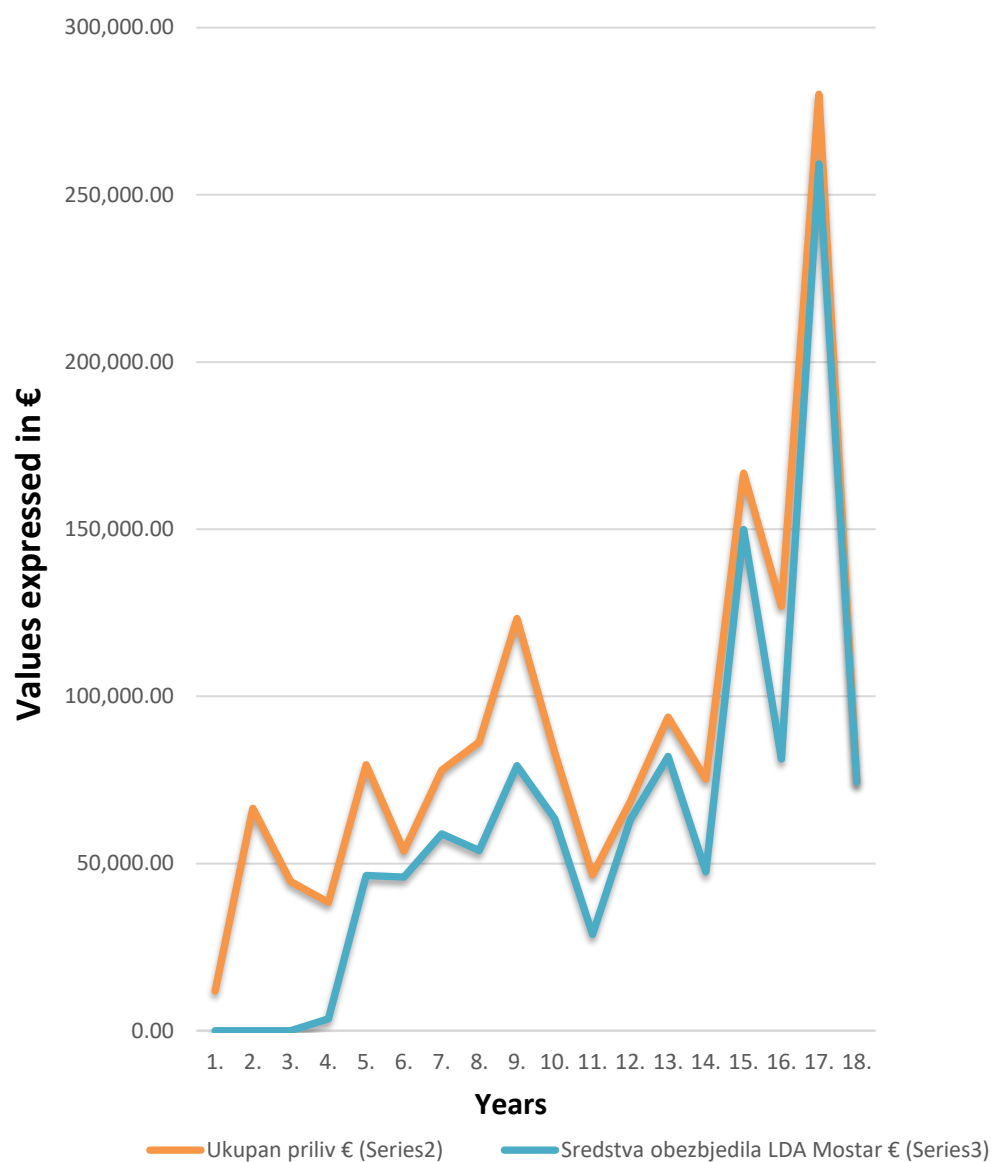
[Project “Youth Ambassadors of Non Formal Learning” Instagram account](#)

Financial Overview

Total funds for the period 2004-2021

No	Year	€ TOTAL CASH FLOW (Series2)	€ FUNDS PROVIDED BY LDA Mostar (Series3)	% LDA Mostar
1.	2004	11,870.00	0.00	0.00%
2.	2005	66,489.14	0.00	0.00%
3.	2006	44,636.99	0.00	0.00%
4.	2007	38,370.31	3,579.10	9.33%
5.	2008	79,519.11	46,467.72	58.44%
6.	2009	53,655.05	45,898.29	85.54%
7.	2010	77,920.97	58,859.66	75.54%
8.	2011	86,336.20	53,873.00	62.40%
9.	2012	123,312.92	79,236.92	64.26%
10.	2013	83,171.09	63,323.09	76.14%
11.	2014	46,658.10	28,851.97	61.84%
12.	2015	68,549.76	63,049.76	91.98%
13.	2016	93,818.41	82,041.26	87.45%
14.	2017	75,212.66	47,474.66	63.12%
15.	2018	166,701.10	149,889.87	89.92%
16.	2019	126,920.97	81,261.74	64.03%
17.	2020	280,073.97	259,246.06	92.56%
18.	2021	74,341.47	74,341.47	100%
TOTAL		1.597,558.22	1.137,486.52	

Graphic view of fundraising for the period 2004-2021



LDA MOSTAR



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