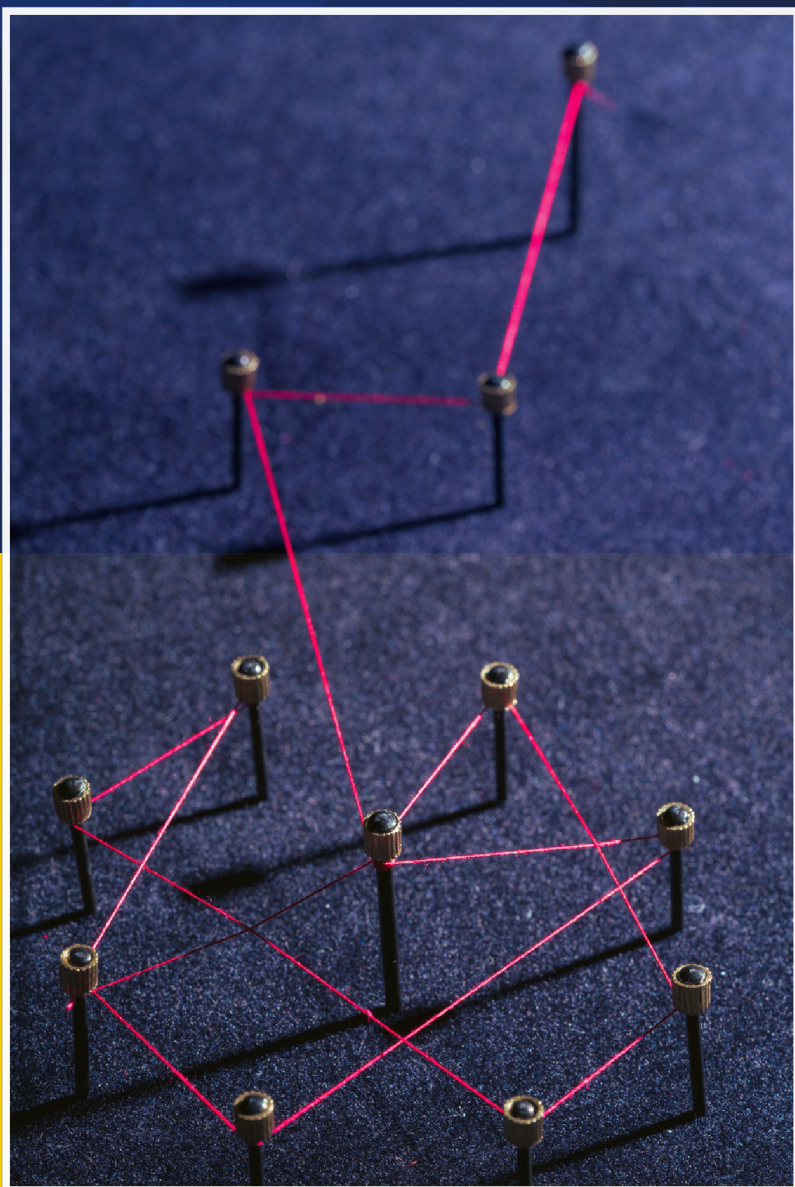


# ACTIVITY REPORT

2025



Local Democracy  
Agency Mostar



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# PREFACE

## **Dženana Dedić, Director of LDA Mostar**



During 2025, the Local Democracy Agency Mostar deliberately and strategically invested in strengthening the capacities of its team, based on the belief that people, knowledge, and tools are the foundation of any long-term and meaningful social engagement.

These investments represent an important step forward in preparing for the implementation of the new LDA Mostar Strategy for the period 2026–2028, as well as our continued commitment to providing high-quality, innovative, and sustainable support to local communities.

As a dedicated **resource center** for local democracy and civic participation, 2025 was a year of strategic internal growth. We focused on boosting our operational effectiveness to better serve our partners and community. Beyond just refining protocols, our primary investment remained in our greatest asset: our people - their knowledge, skills and motivation. By nurturing their skills and shared values, we have built a stronger foundation for sustainable impact.

We believe that a stronger team builds a stronger community. In 2025, we invested **over 300 hours** in specialized training to refine our skills and organizational resilience. This focus on internal growth has created a team unified by a shared vision and a commitment to excellence. For LDA Mostar, strengthening our own capacities is the most direct way to enhance the impact we have on the ground with our citizens and partners.

# PEOPLE, KNOWLEDGE, AND TOOLS IN SERVICE OF THE COMMUNITY

## PREFACE

Particular progress was achieved in the area of fundraising, including the application of modern tools as well as the *use of artificial intelligence in the preparation of project proposals for regional and EU funds*. At the same time, we further enhanced our *capacities in financial management through specialized trainings focused on responsible resource management, transparency, and compliance with the legislative framework*. This knowledge strengthens the organization's stability and enables more reliable and sustainable long-term support to our partners.

In the fields of good governance, public policy, and civic participation, the focus was on developing knowledge and skills related to youth policies, monitoring the work of local authorities, human rights, and anti-corruption initiatives. Particular importance was also placed on *further strengthening capacities in deliberative democracy and citizens' assemblies, through trainings conducted in cooperation with the Council of Europe*, positioning LDA Mostar as an organization that not only advocates for participation, but actively supports its implementation in practice.

Throughout 2025, LDA Mostar prioritized the optimization of internal Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation (PM&E) frameworks and communication protocols. These advancements significantly enhanced operational efficiency, organizational visibility, and coordination with external stakeholders. Parallel to these systemic improvements, the year was marked by the participatory development of the 2026–2028 Strategic Plan, a process that reinforced our organizational culture and fostered a deeper sense of collective accountability.

Everything we achieved during 2025 represents a solid foundation for the upcoming strategic period. LDA Mostar continues to operate as a strong resource center and hub for local democracy, dedicated to building spaces of trust, cooperation, and democratic action together with the communities we serve.

# ABOUT LDA MOSTAR

Since its establishment in November 2004, the Local Democracy Agency (LDA) Mostar has been contributing to the development of open, accountable and inclusive communities with the aim of creating an enabling environment in which citizens actively participate in decision-making processes.

Through dialogue, trust and cooperation between citizens and institutions, we are building the foundations for sustainable development and good governance.

We believe that society progresses when everyone has equal opportunities to contribute to change, which is why we strongly support the inclusion of young people and vulnerable groups.

## Mission

We are a resource centre for local democracy providing knowledge, tools and support to all actors, with the aim of developing a democratic and inclusive society.

## Vision

Establishing a recognisable and sustainable local democracy hub to actively support communities through cooperation, innovation and the development of new initiatives.

**140+**

PROJECTS  
IMPLEMENTED

**800+**

PARTNERS

**400 000+**

PROJECT  
BENEFICIARIES

**3+ million EUR**

ALLOCATED FOR  
COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT

## LDA MOSTAR

Year of Establishment: 2004

Headquarters: Mostar, Bosnia i Hercegovina

Status: locally registered, non-governmental, non-profit organization

 [www.ldamostar.org](http://www.ldamostar.org)



# ABOUT LDA MOSTAR

## AREAS OF WORK

### *Democratization*

Good Governance | Civic Participation | EU Integration

### *Human Rights & Reconciliation*

Social Inclusion & Equality | Active Youth

## TARGET GROUPS

Citizens | Local Governments | Civil Society Organizations

Youth | Women | Persons with disabilities

**200 000 +**

YOUNG PERSONS INVOLVED  
IN ACTIVITIES OF NON-  
FORMAL EDUCATION

**150 000 +**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
REPRESENTATIVES  
STRENGTHENED THEIR  
CAPACITIES

**140 +**

CIVIL SOCIETY  
ORGANIZATIONS  
SUPPORTED THROUGH  
SMALL SCALE GRANTS

## DONORS

European Union

Council of Europe

Government of United Kingdom

UNICEF

Embassy of Sweden in Sarajevo

Embassy of Germany in Sarajevo

French Development Agency (AFD)

Swiss Development Agency „Solidar Suisse“

## NETWORKS

European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA)

Balkan Network for Local Democracy (BNLD)

Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF)

Network for Building Peace

Border Towns and Islands Network (BTIN)

Transnational United Network in Europe

# 2025 IN NUMBERS

**15** Projects Implemented

**50+** Partnerships Accomplished

**200+** Young people acquired skills through non-formal education

**160+** Women received support as part of economic empowerment activities

**40+** Trainings and educational sessions held

**20+** Events organized

**10** Civil society organizations strengthened capacities of for project implementation

**120+** Local government representatives and institutions included in inter-sectoral dialogue

# PROJECTS & INITIATIVES 2025

In 2025, LDA Mostar continued to strategically strengthen its role as a key actor in the development of participatory democracy, empowering young people and building the capacity of civil society at the local, national and regional levels. Through a series of projects financed by the European Union and international donors, activities were aimed at improving civic participation, promoting social inclusion, developing skills of the youth, as well as strengthening cooperation between civil society, local authorities and public institutions.

A special focus is placed on working with young people, especially those with fewer opportunities, through innovative approaches to non-formal education, digital engagement and artistic expression. At the same time, the organization actively contributed to regional cooperation and knowledge exchange through international activities and networks, strengthening the capacities of civil society organizations and encouraging the development of sustainable and inclusive communities.

In addition, in 2025, LDA Mostar intensified activities in the areas of participatory management, gender equality and economic empowerment of women, as well as conservation and management of natural heritage. Through these initiatives, the organization continued to connect citizens, institutions and different social actors with the aim of creating a more open, responsible and fair society.

The following sections outline the flagship projects of 2025, providing a comprehensive overview of achieved results and the tangible benefits they delivered to our community and stakeholders.

# BOOST - BALKANS FOR OPTIMISING OPPORTUNITIES, SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSFORMATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY

In partnership  
with



**Project duration:** April 2024 – April 2027

**Donor:** French Development Agency (AFD)

**Applicant:** ALDA – European Association for Local Democracy (France)

**Partners:** LDA Kosovo (\*Kosovo), LDA Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina), LDA Montenegro (Montenegro), LDA Zavidovići (Bosnia and Herzegovina), LDA Prijedor (Bosnia and Herzegovina), LDA Subotica (Serbia), Center for Local Democracy LDA (Serbia), Pulse GROUP (France), LEADER France (France), PULSE Balkans (France), Urban Research Institute (Albania)

## **ABOUT THE PROJECT:**

The project aims to strengthen the democratic, economic and social development of the Western Balkans through long-term support to civil society organizations. The focus is on capacity development in the areas of youth and entrepreneurship, rural development and environmental protection, as well as cultural heritage preservation and community development.

Special emphasis is placed on the promotion of active citizenship through participatory approaches, as well as on the integration of gender perspective in all activities. The program includes capacity building, financial support to organizations and encouragement of networking with other actors, including local authorities.

The activities are directed towards young people, with the aim of strengthening their active participation, improving cooperation between citizens and establishing a dialogue with decision-makers at the local and national level, which contributes to the development of transparent and responsible management.



# BOOST - BALKANS FOR OPTIMISING OPPORTUNITIES, SUSTAINABILITY AND TRANSFORMATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY

During 2025, the BOOST project focused on direct support to civil society organizations and strengthening regional cooperation in the Western Balkans countries.



## **MILESTONES IN 2025**

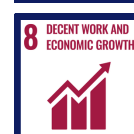
- Developed and improved platform for grant management and cooperation
- Launched and implemented grant scheme for civil society organizations in 6 countries of the region
- Designated and financed:
  - **6 regional projects**
  - **about 61 local initiatives**
- More than 2.2 million euros invested in the development of civil society
- Organized events and initiatives that connect civil society, institutions and communities

## **FOCUS AREAS OF SUPPORTED INITIATIVES**

- Youth and entrepreneurship
- Rural development and environmental protection
- Cultural heritage and community development
- Civic education and citizen participation
- Social entrepreneurship

## **BOOST IN 2025 - PLATFORM FOR CONCRETE CHANGES**

- Strengthening the capacities of civil society organizations
- Connecting stakeholders at the local and regional levels
- Encouraging active citizen participation in community development
- Contributing to the democratic and sustainable development of the region
- Integrating gender equality into the work of organizations



# VISION THROUGH...



## REGIONAL TRAINING FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS



**Belgrade, Serbia | March 25–27, 2025**

As part of the BOOST project, a three-day regional training was organized for civil society organizations from six Western Balkan countries that implement transnational projects. The activity aimed to strengthen capacity for the design and implementation of sustainable, citizen-oriented initiatives.

**50+ PARTICIPANTS**

**6 WESTERN BALKANS COUNTRIES**

**PARTNERS, GRANTEE ORGANIZATIONS & INSTITUTIONAL REPRESENTATIVES**

**3 DAY INTENSE TRAINING**

### RESULTS & IMPACT

This training has expanded knowledge, strengthened skills and strategic approach of civil society organizations, enabling them for more effective communication, greater inclusivity as well as long-term impact on local communities.



# ...VOICES



## NATIONAL TRAINING FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS



### Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina | October 27–29, 2025

In October and November 2025, after the announcement of the results of the grant scheme, national training sessions were organized in six countries of the Western Balkans, including Bosnia and Herzegovina. During this period, a total of 61 nationally approved projects were announced under the BOOST program in six countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia).

LDA Mostar organized a three-day training for civil society organizations implementing national projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The focus was on strengthening operational and management capacities for the successful implementation of projects.

**27 PARTICIPANTS**  
**10 GRANTEE ORGANIZATIONS**  
**TRAINER & PARTNERS (ALDA, LDA MOSTAR, LDA ZAVIDOVIĆI)**  
**3 - DAY TRAINING**



### RESULTS & IMPACT

The national trainings provided practical guidelines for the implementation of projects and at the same time enabled the exchange of experiences, networking and strengthening of cooperation among civil society organizations.

# NOT NEAT TO BE NEET - BUILDING CAPACITIES OF THE WESTERN BALKAN'S YOUTH ORGANISATIONS FOR MORE INCLUSIVE PROJECTS AND FULL PARTICIPATION OF YOUTH WITH FEWER OPPORTUNITIES



Co-funded by  
the European Union



**Project duration:** November 2024 – June 2025

**Donor:** European Union / ERASMUS+ Lump Sum Grants

**Applicant:** Udruženje Narodni parlament (Serbia)

**Partners:** Local Democracy Agency (LDA) Mostar (Bosnia & Herzegovina); NVO "Glas" (Montenegro); Center For Bridging Communities (Albania); Youth Center Drenas (Kosovo\*)

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

The project contributes to strengthening the capacity of youth organizations in order to improve the inclusion and participation of young people with fewer opportunities. The focus is on developing their competencies through active participation and volunteering, which increases their chances for employment and social integration. This represents a potential route for individuals to, for example, get out of poverty by increasing their own employability through volunteering in youth organizations.

The project targets key groups for strengthening youth participation:

- Youth workers and potential youth workers: about 100 participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania and Kosovo (50-70% young people, at least 25% with fewer opportunities - geographical, physical or health obstacles). It includes 20 direct participants in the "job shadowing" activity.
- Young people with fewer opportunities: up to 50 focus group participants, including young people who face social, economic, cultural or health barriers, as well as those with a migrant background, disabilities or educational difficulties, often without previous experience in non-formal education.
- Grass-root youth organizations: up to 100 organizations from smaller, rural and remote communities, with limited experience in cross-border cooperation and similar challenges as marginalized groups.



# NOT NEAT TO BE NEET - BUILDING CAPACITIES OF THE WESTERN BALKAN'S YOUTH ORGANISATIONS FOR MORE INCLUSIVE PROJECTS AND FULL PARTICIPATION OF YOUTH WITH FEWER OPPORTUNITIES

During the year 2025, through the project, we strongly focused on understanding the needs of NEET youth (not employed, not being educated or trained) and strengthening the capacity of youth workers for inclusive work in local communities.



## **MILESTONES OF 2025**

- Conducted mapping and analysis of the needs of young people in five countries of the Western Balkans, including Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Published national research in the form of a report on young people in NEET status
- Organized national trainings for youth workers and civil society organizations
- 100 young people and youth workers empowered for inclusive work throughout the Western Balkans
- The youth work sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina has been strengthened with the appointment of the first 20 Youth Coordinators for Inclusion.
- Initiated job shadowing activities for practical learning and competence development



## **FOCUS AREAS**

- Inclusion of youth with fewer opportunities
- Capacity development of youth workers and organizations
- Improvement of evidence-based policies and practices
- Peer-to-peer learning and regional cooperation
- Empowering youth for active participation and employability

## **PROJECT IN 2025 – PLATFORM FOR CONCRETE CHANGES**

- Strengthened capacities of youth organizations for inclusive work
- Established network of actors through regional cooperation and exchange of knowledge
- Encouraged processes and active participation of young people with fewer opportunities
- Contribution to the development of sustainable and inclusive youth policies and practices

# VISION THROUGH...



## MAPPING AND ANALYSIS OF THE NEEDS OF NEET YOUTH



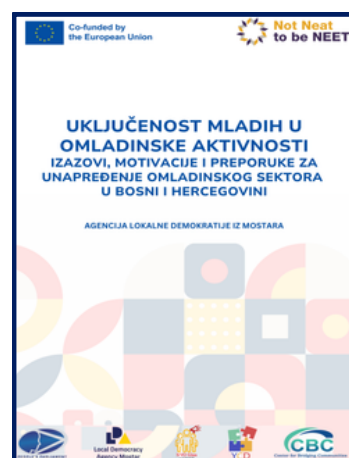
### Bosnia and Herzegovina | December 2024 – March 2025

Within the framework of the project, a comprehensive research was conducted with the aim of identifying the needs, challenges and obstacles faced by young people with fewer opportunities throughout the Western Balkans, including Bosnia and Herzegovina. Through a combination of surveys, focus groups and interviews, data were collected that provide a realistic insight into the situation on the ground. The research resulted in the publication "Youth involvement in youth activities: Challenges, motivations, recommendations for the improvement of the youth sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina", which is an important tool for the development of inclusive policies and programs. The findings were used as a basis for creating training programs and future activities, thus ensuring their relevance and real impact on the community.

RESEARCH CONDUCTED IN 7 MUNICIPALITIES IN B&H  
PARTICIPANTS: YOUNG PEOPLE, YOUTH WORKERS AND INSTITUTIONS  
FOCUS ON THE NEET POPULATION - SITUATION AND NEEDS

*„LDA Mostar, together with partner organizations from the Western Balkans, developed a unique methodological framework, which is being applied for the first time in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is based on research conducted in eight local communities across the country, which showed that more than half of the young respondents are not employed or involved in education, while the majority have never participated in exchanges, workshops or trainings. A special challenge is presented by young people from rural areas for whom, due to financial and time barriers, opportunities for education and employment are almost unavailable.’*

**MAJA VEJZOVIĆ - VOLODER, project coordinator**



# ...VOICES



## NATIONAL TRAINING FOR YOUTH WORKERS: LDA MOSTAR TRAINS 20 FIRST YOUTH COORDINATORS FOR INCLUSION



**Koćuša, Ljubuški, Bosnia and Herzegovina | May – September 2025**

Three training cycles were organized with the aim of strengthening the capacity for inclusive work with young people. The program included a theoretical and practical segment, including topics such as work with young people in NEET status, participatory methods and the development of local initiatives and action plans.

**LDA MOSTAR, WITH THE HELP OF EXPERTS, DEVELOPED A METHODOLOGY ADAPTED TO THE NEEDS, 20 YOUTH COORDINATORS WERE TRAINED FOR INCLUSION, YOUTH WORKERS, YOUTH, INCLUDING ORGANIZATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS**

### RESULTS AND IMPACT

The participants acquired concrete knowledge and tools for working with young people, developed action plans and became the first generation of Inclusion Coordinators in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The activity contributed to the strengthening of local networks and the launch of new initiatives in communities.



*'Young people are not lazy - they often lack support and the opportunity to take the first step.'*

**TRAINING PARTICIPANT**

# AQUATIK-EU: VALORISATION OF AQUATIC HERITAGES IN EUROPE



Co-funded by  
the European Union



**Project duration:** January 2025 - December 2026

**Donor:** European Union / Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV)

**Applicant:** ALDA – European Association for Local Democracy (France)

**Partners:** Local Democracy Agency Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina); City of Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina); Paese dell'Acqua (Italy); Comune di Sassinoro (Italy); Global Network of Water Museums (Italy); Municipality Souliou (Greece); Fons Mallorqui de Solidaritat i Cooperacio (Spain); Ajuntament d'Alaró (Spain); Geoclube – Associacao Juvenil de ciencia Natureza (Portugal); Municipio de Gondomar (Portugal)



## ABOUT THE PROJECT

The Aquatik-EU project focuses on the valorization and preservation of water heritage in Europe, with special emphasis on water resources in rural and remote areas that are often neglected in the context of accelerated urbanization. These areas, although rich in natural and cultural values, face the challenges of depopulation, climate change and insufficient visibility in water management policies.

The project starts from the fact that water ecosystems are interconnected between rural and urban environments, and that their preservation requires an integrated approach and the active involvement of all relevant actors.

Through strengthening cooperation, knowledge exchange and raising awareness, Aquatik-EU contributes to a better understanding of the importance of water resources as part of natural and cultural heritage. The aim of the project is to improve awareness and capacity in relation to the preservation of water ecosystems and their cultural, ecological, touristic and socio-economic importance, while strengthening the dialogue between local authorities, civil society, experts and citizens.

# AQUATIK-EU: VALORISATION OF AQUATIC HERITAGES IN EUROPE

During 2025, the Aquatik-EU project focused on capacity building and the improvement of participatory water heritage management, through connecting local authorities, civil society organizations and communities across Europe.



## **MILESTONES OF 2025**

- Training for trainers on valorization of water resources and initial project conference (Venice, Italy)
- Developed training module and toolkit for local authorities and CSOs on raising awareness of water heritage, sustainability and valorization of water resources
- Local activities for local authorities and CSOs with a focus on raising awareness and education on water resources
- Training for trainers on participatory processes and tools for water heritage management (Thiene, Italy)
- Developed toolkit for participatory management Local participatory workshop in Mostar with the involvement of all relevant actors
- Local conference to raise awareness and exchange experiences in the preservation and management of water heritage



## **FOCUS AREAS**

- Strengthening the capacity of local authorities and civil society
- Improving the knowledge and responsibility of communities about water resources
- Development of participatory management and intersectoral dialogue
- Promotion of water heritage as part of cultural identity

## **AQUATIK-EU IN 2025 – PLATFORM FOR TANGIBLE IMPACT**

- Connects actors through dialogue and joint action
- Encourages active participation of citizens in resource management
- Contributes to the sustainable preservation of water heritage

# VISION THROUGH...



## INTERNATIONAL TRAININGS: ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK FOR JOINT COOPERATION



Venice & Thiene, Italy | June / September 2025

Representatives of LDA Mostar and the City of Mostar participated in the first international activities of the Aquatik-EU project, including the initial conference and training sessions for trainers in Italy. The focus was on participatory management of water resources and active involvement of local communities.

Through the exchange of experiences and examples of good practice, the participants developed approaches for the preservation and valorization of water heritage as common European values that they will transfer to their local communities.

2 INTERNATIONAL TRAININGS FOR TRAINERS  
50+ PARTICIPANTS  
PAN-EUROPEAN PARTNERS

### RESULTS & IMPACT

The **educational modules and toolkits** are designed to facilitate knowledge transfer to the local level, empowering participants to serve as trainers and catalysts for change within their communities.



# ...VOICES



## LOCAL ACTIVITIES AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



### Mostar, Bosnia & Herzegovina | July – December 2025

In 2025, Mostar hosted a series of initiatives aimed at mobilizing local stakeholders to strengthen expertise and foster collaboration in water resource management. Through workshops, training sessions, and a public conference, a platform was established for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and the co-creation of solutions. A cornerstone of these activities was the use of participatory methodologies, ensuring that participants were actively integrated into decision-making processes.

**100+ PARTICIPANTS ENGAGED ACROSS 3 LOCAL EVENTS.  
DIVERSE STAKEHOLDERS: LOCAL AUTHORITIES, CIVIL SOCIETY, ACADEMIA, AND THE  
GENERAL PUBLIC  
STRATEGIC FOCUS: WATER HERITAGE AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT**

### RESULTS & IMPACT

These activities significantly bolstered local capacities, enhanced cross-sectoral cooperation between institutions and civil society, and deepened the collective understanding of water heritage as a catalyst for sustainable development. Furthermore, the groundwork was laid for future flagship initiatives, such as the "Water Museum"—envisioned as a dynamic hub for community learning, dialogue, and connectivity.



# LET'S DEBATE CHANGE 2025



**Project duration:** January – October 2025

**Donor:** Swiss Development Organization "Solidar Suisse"

**Co-founder:** City of Mostar

**Applicant:** Local Democracy Agency Mostar (Bosna i Hercegovina)

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

The project "Let's Debate Change" is designed for high school students with the aim of strengthening youth civic engagement and developing advocacy skills. It focuses on empowering students and members of youth councils to identify key issues in their local communities, conduct community-based research, and advocate for concrete changes through dialogue with local authorities.

The project was implemented in Mostar, Konjic, and Prijedor, targeting high school students and organized youth. Through its activities, participants enhanced their research, communication, leadership, and advocacy skills. Municipal and city authorities in all three locations provided institutional support and facilitated access to relevant resources.

As a result of the project, increased youth participation in decision-making processes is expected, along with youth-led initiatives based on research and strengthened cooperation between young people, schools, youth councils, and local institutions.

Target groups: High school students (a total of 100 students) in the selected cities, as well as community members who will benefit from local projects designed and led by the students.



# LET'S DEBATE CHANGE 2025

IN 2025, the 'Let's Debate Change' project focused on empowering young people for active participation in social processes through education, research, and advocacy within their local communities.

## MILESTONES OF 2025

- 10 Educational Sessions: Conducted 9 sessions in high schools and 1 specialized session within the Youth Council of Prijedor.
- 80 Empowered Youth: Including members of minority groups, trained and empowered to conduct research and advocate for social issues.
- 8 Research Processes: Student-led research focused on identifying and analyzing specific local challenges.
- Five-day Youth Camp in Prijedor: An intensive gathering focused on capacity building, networking, and strategy development.
- Youth Advocacy Initiative: A concrete initiative launched to address community needs through formal channels.
- International Youth Day Campaign: A public awareness campaign organized to mark and promote the role of youth in society.
- Institutional Cooperation: Successful collaboration with local government authorities in Mostar, Konjic, and Prijedor.

## FOCUS AREAS

- Civic Education and Youth Participation
- Development of Research and Advocacy Skills
- Strengthening Cooperation Between Youth and Institutions
- Promotion of Inclusion and Active Citizenship
- Raising Awareness of Local Challenges

## LET'S DEBATE CHANGE IN 2025 – PLATFORM FOR TANGIBLE IMPACT

- Empowering youth to identify and articulate issues within their communities
- Developing their skills for public advocacy and action
- Connecting youth, schools, and local authorities
- Contributing to the creation of spaces for active youth participation in decision-making
- Strengthening the culture of dialogue and responsible citizenship



# VISION THROUGH



## YOUTH AS AGENTS OF CHANGE THROUGH RESEARCH, DIALOGUE, AND ADVOCACY



**Mostar, Konjic & Prijedor | April – June 2025**

Within the framework of the project, educational sessions were organized in high schools and through the Youth Council of Prijedor, where young people learned how to identify community issues, conduct basic research, and analyze local needs.

Through practical work, youth explored topics such as healthcare services, public spaces, school hygiene, and the inclusion of children with developmental disabilities.

**3 MUNICIPALITIES IN B&H  
80 YOUNG PARTICIPANTS  
10 EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS**



### **Best Practice Example: Prijedor**

The Youth Council of Prijedor identified the lack of secure parking for bicycles and motorcycles as a local issue. Research was conducted among 60 young people, and the results were presented to local authorities and relevant stakeholders. Based on the findings, the establishment of secure and monitored parking spaces in public zones was proposed and subsequently received institutional support. This initiative demonstrates how young people, through research and dialogue, can contribute to the development of local policies and solutions.



# ...VOICES



## YOUTH CAMP & DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP



Prijedor | July 2025

The five-day summer camp brought together youth from Mostar, Konjic, and Prijedor in a safe and inclusive environment for learning and exchanging experiences. The program focused on developing leadership, communication, and advocacy skills through a combination of formal training and informal activities. Participants had the opportunity to further develop teamwork, public speaking, and civic engagement skills, while strengthening mutual trust and cooperation. The camp also included participation in the Youth Day celebrations in Prijedor, further connecting the project with local communities.

15 PARTICIPANTS FROM 3 CITIES  
5 DAYS OF INTENSIVE WORK  
INTERACTION, LEARNING & NETWORKING

### RESULTS & IMPACT

- Increased confidence and motivation among youth
- Developed leadership and communication skills
- Strengthened bonds between youth from different cities
- Greater involvement of youth in local initiatives and debates
- Recognized role of youth as active stakeholders in the community



*„Thank you for every moment, every lesson, and all the support. The camp helped us build confidence and faith in ourselves.“* - **Đana Čomor, participant from Mostar**

# VEBY - VIRTUAL EXCHANGE FOR BALKAN YOUTH



Co-funded by  
the European Union



**Project duration:** July 2023 – June 2026

**Donor:** European Union / ERASMUS+ Lump Sum Grants

**Applicant:** United Societies of Balkans (U.S.B) (Grčka)

**Partners:** Youth Alliance – Krusevo (North Macedonia), Local Democracy Agency Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Together for Life (TFLIdamostar.org/), (Albania)

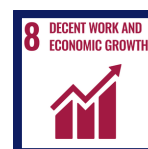
## ABOUT THE PROJECT

VEBY is a three-year project aimed at enhancing the participation of young people with fewer opportunities in virtual mobilities, while building the skills of youth workers and educators in the fields of media literacy, inclusion, and peacebuilding.

The project addresses challenges faced by Balkan communities, such as post-conflict issues and economic disparities. VEBY offers low-threshold virtual exchanges, promoting tolerance, soft skills, and critical thinking while combating misinformation and polarization. The project connects young people across borders, fosters intercultural dialogue, and strengthens relations between the EU and non-EU countries.

Main Target Groups:

- Youth and young people with fewer opportunities
- Youth workers and educators
- Youth organizations



# VEBY - VIRTUAL EXCHANGE FOR BALKAN YOUTH

Throughout 2025, project VEBY focused on strengthening the digital competences of young people, improving intercultural learning and developing participation through virtual exchanges and educational activities at the international level.



## **MILESTONES OF 2025**

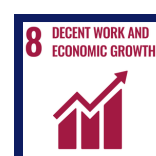
- Analysis of the youth needs through focus groups
- International training (VFC – Virtual Facilitation Competencies)
- 2 VEBY virtual exchanges (Identity and Cultural Awareness, and Media Literacy and Campaigning)
- 4 Peertual virtual exchanges (Social Inclusion, Intercultural Dialogue and EU Values, Peacebuilding, and Media Literacy)
- Developed manual for the inclusion of youth in virtual exchanges
- Final virtual conference

## **FOCUS AREAS**

- Development of digital and communication skills for youth
- Strengthening intercultural understanding and cooperation
- Enhancing youth inclusion, especially for those with fewer opportunities
- Building the capacity of youth workers for operating in virtual environments
- Connecting local and international learning through virtual formats

## **VEBY IN 2025 – PLATFORM FOR TANGIBLE IMPACT**

- Empowering youth through participation in international virtual exchanges
- Strengthening their digital, social, and intercultural competencies
- Connecting youth, youth workers, and partners from multiple countries
- Contributing to greater readiness for participation in transnational learning processes
- Creating a foundation for the long-term application of virtual exchanges as a tool for youth inclusion and education



# VISION THROUGH...



## VIRTUAL EXCHANGE: IDENTITY AND CULTURAL AWARENESS



**Online | B&H, Albania, Greece, N. Macedonia | February 2025**

The first virtual exchange brought together 40 young people from four Western Balkan countries with the aim of strengthening intercultural dialogue and understanding identity. Through interactive sessions and group work, participants explored themes of identity, stereotypes, discrimination, and cultural perceptions.

**5 INTERACTIVE SESSIONS**

**40 PARTICIPANTS**

**INCREASED UNDERSTANDING OF IDENTITY AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY**

**ENHANCED COMMUNICATION AND DIALOGUE SKILLS**



## VIRTUAL EXCHANGE: MEDIA LITERACY AND CAMPAIGNS



**Online | B&H, Albania, Greece, N. Macedonia | April 2025**

This exchange focused on media literacy, digital safety, and advocacy campaigns. Through workshops and practical exercises, participants developed the critical thinking and digital skills necessary for responsible action in the online space.

**5 DAYS OF INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS**

**TOPICS: FACT-CHECKING, CYBERBULLYING, ONLINE CAMPAIGNS**

**EXPERT SUPPORT FROM THE FIELDS OF COMMUNICATION AND PSYCHOLOGY**

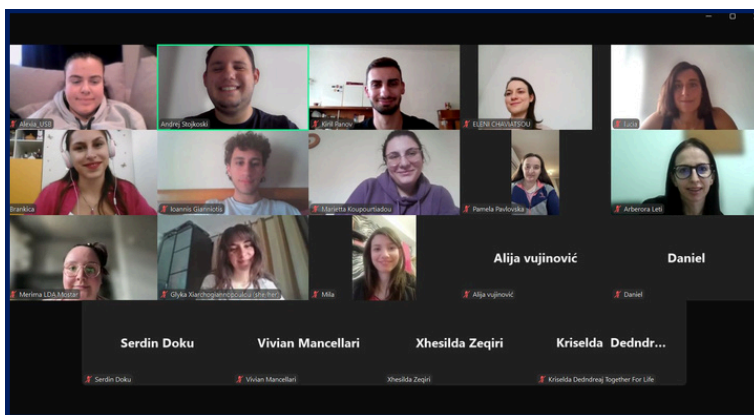
**DEVELOPED DIGITAL ADVOCACY SKILLS**

# ...VOICES

## PEERTUAL VIRTUAL EXCHANGE

 **Online | B&H, Albania, Greece, N. Macedonia | May-July 2025**

As part of the Peertual virtual exchange series, 80 young people participated in thematic activities covering the following topics: social inclusion, intercultural dialogue and EU values, peacebuilding, and media literacy. Through teamwork, discussions, and creative tasks, participants developed digital campaigns and addressed issues such as discrimination, tolerance, human rights, and digital responsibility.



## FINAL VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

 **Online | B&H, Albania, Greece, N. Macedonia | December 2025**

In the final phase of the project, a one-day online conference titled "Virtual Exchange as a Path to Peace, Inclusion, and Shared Values for Youth in the Balkans" was held. The conference brought together over 80 young people, youth workers, and educators from across the region to exchange experiences, present project results, and discuss opportunities for further regional cooperation. Through panel discussions and interactive sessions, participants explored the role of virtual exchanges in promoting inclusion, dialogue, and peacebuilding, while showcasing practical examples from the work of partner organizations.

# YAMNFL2- YOUTH AMBASSADORS OF NON FORMAL LEARNING PHASE 2



Co-funded by  
the European Union



**Project duration:** Decembar 2023 – Novembar 2025

**Donor:** European Union / ERASMUS+ Lump Sum Grants

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

**Partners:** United Societies of Balkans (U.S.B) (Greece); ZID Udruženje (Montenegro), TDM 2000 (Italy); NGO Iuventa (Serbia); YOUTH 4 SOCIETY (Albania).

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

The project “Youth Ambassadors for Non-Formal Learning – Phase 2” (YAMNFL2) is a continuation of the “Youth Ambassadors for Non-Formal Learning” project, which was successfully implemented between November 2020 and May 2022 and approved under the ERASMUS-YOUTH-2019-CB program. Phase 2 involves six partners from program countries and the Western Balkans, aiming to build youth capacity through participation in non-formal education activities and the ability to recognize competencies acquired outside formal educational settings to improve youth employability through innovative methodology.

Project beneficiaries will join a two-year journey to gain knowledge of best practices used in their local realities, the characteristics of non-formal education for increasing (self)employability, the collection of inspiring success stories, and the development of dedicated tools and methods while being trained for direct fieldwork.



# YAMNFL2- YOUTH AMBASSADORS OF NON FORMAL LEARNING PHASE 2

Throughout 2025, the YAMNFL2 project focused on enhancing youth employability, promoting non-formal learning, and improving cooperation between organizations from the Western Balkans and the EU through practical activities, mobility, and knowledge exchange.



## **MILESTONES OF 2025**

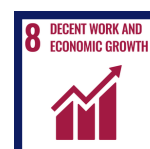
- International Study Visit of Youth Ambassadors to Thessaloniki, Greece
- Two cycles of local workshops on youth employability
- Youth Employment Fair in Sarajevo
- Final Evaluation Meeting and Closing Conference in Mostar
- Project Publications (Booklets No. 5–8) and project newsletters
- TEDx Shorts – short video clips as digital educational content

## **FOCUS AREAS**

- Strengthening employability and practical skills for youth
- Promotion and valorization of non-formal learning
- Capacity building for Youth Ambassadors and youth workers
- Enhancing regional cooperation and networking
- Connecting youth with institutions and the labor market

## **YAMNFL2 IN 2025 – PLATFORM FOR TANGIBLE IMPACT**

Through a combination of mobility, local activities, and digital content, the project contributed to empowering young people, improving stakeholder networking, and raising awareness of the importance of non-formal education. Young people had the opportunity to develop skills that directly contribute to their employability, while organizations improved their working methods and approaches to youth work. The project further strengthened cooperation between organizations and institutions, contributing to greater youth inclusion in social processes and reinforcing participatory mechanisms at both local and regional levels.



# VISION THROUGH...



## INTERNATIONAL STUDY VISIT

### Thessaloniki, Greece | May 2025

As part of the study visit to Thessaloniki, 20 participants had the opportunity to explore, through direct contact with organizations and practical examples, how non-formal learning (NFL) contributes to youth employability and the development of career opportunities.

During the activities, visits were organized to relevant NGOs applying non-formal learning, alongside networking events, team-building activities, and city exploration. Participants were introduced to concrete examples of implementing NFL methodologies in youth work.

**20 PARTICIPANTS FROM 6 COUNTRIES  
6 DAYS SPENT IN LEARNING, EXCHANGE, AND NETWORKING  
BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLES THROUGH VISITS TO 7 LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS**

### Results & Output:

- Improved understanding of non-formal learning and its application
- Strengthened competencies of Youth Ambassadors
- Increased motivation to apply NFL methods within local communities
- Reinforced regional network and future cooperation among participants



# ...VOICES



## THE FINAL DISSEMINATION CONFERENCE



### Mostar, Bosnia & Herzegovina | November 2025

The final conference brought together nearly 50 key stakeholders to present project results and discuss the role of non-formal education in youth development. The conference included panel discussions, the presentation of project outcomes, and interactive dialogue between participants and decision-makers. The event also marked a significant institutional milestone, with LDA Mostar assuming the role of the National Contact Point for the Erasmus+ Youth program in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

**20 PARTICIPANTS FROM 6 COUNTRIES**

**6 DAYS SPENT IN LEARNING, EXCHANGE, AND NETWORKING**

**BEST PRACTICE EXAMPLES THROUGH VISITS TO 7 LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS**

### RESULTS & IMPACT

- Increased understanding of the role of non-formal education in employability
- Strengthened connections between youth, institutions, and organizations
- Enhanced awareness of programs such as Erasmus+ Youth and the European Solidarity Corps
- Boosted motivation among participants to apply acquired knowledge within their communities
- Encouraged future cooperation between stakeholders at the local and regional levels



# PIROUETTE 2 – PERFORMATIVE ARTS FOR YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY REGENERATION – PHASE 2 – GLOBAL TO LOCAL



Co-funded by  
the European Union



**Project duration:** January 2025 – December 2026

**Donor:** European Union / ERASMUS+ Programme

**Applicant:** Local Democracy Agency Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

**Partners:** Redial Partnership (Ireland), Anibar (Kosovo\*), NGO NEST Berlin (Germany), Optimisti (Montenegro), Magnet House (Serbia)

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

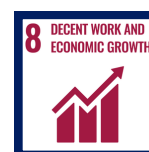
PIROUETTE 2 – Phase 2 continues the work of the previous project (2022–2023), utilizing performing arts as an innovative non-formal education methodology to enhance the social and civic engagement of young people.

The project targets youth, youth workers, young artists (including those with fewer opportunities), and trainers from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ireland, Kosovo, Germany, Montenegro, and Serbia, encouraging them to connect global challenges with local action.

Activities include training sessions, study visits, local and international exchanges, and artistic performances addressing global themes.

Expected Results:

- Enhanced capacities of young people
- Greater inclusion of "underrepresented artists"
- Strengthened community engagement
- Promotion of performing arts as a tool for active citizenship



# PIROUETTE 2 – PERFORMATIVE ARTS FOR YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY REGENERATION – PHASE 2 – GLOBAL TO LOCAL

Throughout 2025, the Pirouette 2 project bridged the gap between art and global education through creative youth work methodologies, strengthening participants' capacities and their understanding of global themes. A special focus was placed on empowering young people, including those with fewer opportunities, by developing their social, civic, and artistic competencies. Through international cooperation, the connection between partner organizations was reinforced, and the visibility of young artists was increased, while the developed tools and methodologies now serve as a sustainable resource for future work.



## **MILESTONES OF 2025**

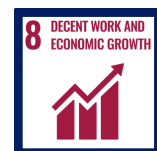
- International Training on integrating artistic practices into global education (Veliki Gaj, Serbia)
- Development of a [training format and guidelines for applying artistic methods in global education](#)
- Local training sessions on global education
- International Study Visit (Dublin, Ireland)

## **FOCUS AREAS**

- Strengthening social, civic, and artistic competencies of youth
- Connecting art and global education
- Raising awareness of global and local challenges
- Empowering young artists and promoting inclusion
- Strengthening international cooperation
- Developing sustainable educational and artistic practices

## **PIROUETTE 2 IN 2025 - PLATFORM FOR TANGIBLE IMPACT**

- Building youth capacity through art and global education
- Connecting artists, youth workers, and organizations
- Using creative expression to understand social and global issues
- Promoting inclusion and visibility of young artists
- Developing sustainable methods and tools for youth work



# VISION THROUGH...

## **phase II** **PiROUETTE** GLOBAL EDUCATION FOR SOCIAL ENAGAGEMENT

### **Serbia, Veliki Gaj | May 2025**

A seven-day international training brought together 27 youth workers, focusing on the connection between performing arts, non-formal education, and social engagement. Through practical methods, participants explored how art can serve as a tool for global education, activism, and inclusion. Through group work, creative exercises, and the exchange of experiences, ideas were developed for local artistic initiatives addressing community challenges

**27 PARTICIPANTS FROM 6 COUNTRIES**  
**7 DAYS SPENT IN LEARNING, EXCHANGE, AND NETWORKING**

### **RESULTS & IMPACT**

- Exchange of experiences among participants from multiple countries strengthened cooperation
- Developed competencies for using art in social engagement
- Increased awareness of the role of art in inclusion and global themes
- Established foundations for local artistic initiatives



# ...VOICES

## LOCAL TRAININGS

### **Mostar, Bosnia & Herzegovina | August 2025**

The local training in Mostar focused on applying performing arts—such as photography, movement, poetry, and theater—to connect global themes with local challenges. Through the creative process, participants developed their own artistic works and concluded with a joint performance to share their messages with the community.

10 YOUNG ARTISTS AND ACTIVISTS  
GROUP WORK AND EXCHANGE OF IDEAS  
DISCUSSIONS ON THE ROLE OF ART IN  
THE COMMUNITY

27 PARTICIPANTS FROM 6 COUNTRIES  
7 DAYS SPENT IN LEARNING,  
EXCHANGE, AND NETWORKING

## STUDY VISIT - ORGANIZATIONS IN IRELAND

### **Dublin, Ireland | September 2025**

During the study visit to Dublin, participants explored the intersection of art, activism, and civic engagement through visits to organizations, cultural spaces, and youth initiatives.

The program included meetings with local organizations, visits to galleries and youth centers, and insights into the practices of organizations using art for social change.



# ECONOMIC INCLUSION AND JUSTICE FOR WOMEN IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

With funding from  
 Austrian  
Development  
Cooperation



  
LINK  
PODUZETNIČKI CENTAR



**Project duration:** July 2025 - June 2027

**Donor:** CARE BALKANS

**Applicant:** Local Democracy Agency Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

**Partner:** LINK Entrepreneurship center (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

“Economic Inclusion and Justice for Women in the Western Balkans (EWI) is funded by the Austrian Development Agency and implemented by CARE Austria and CARE Balkans in cooperation with four regional partner organizations (ENECA, LINK, SDC, and TEHNOPOLIS). LDA Mostar, in collaboration with CARE Balkans and the Association for Entrepreneurship and Business LINK, participates as a sub-grant beneficiary on the project, which aims to empower and improve the economic rights of women in the Western Balkans.

The role of LDA Mostar in the project includes:

- Advocacy and engagement in the field of women's economic activation at the local community level.
- Conducting field activities aimed at strengthening gender-sensitive communities.
- Connecting key stakeholders and beneficiaries, and mediating between project participants and local institutions, including employment services and social work centers.
- Supporting the integration of gender-sensitive mechanisms into employment and entrepreneurship programs.
- Supporting women entrepreneurs and female job seekers (advisory support, networking, participation in training).
- Raising awareness and transforming social norms through participation in local initiatives, as well as promotional and informative campaigns.



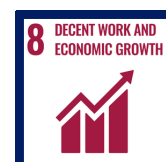
# ECONOMIC INCLUSION AND JUSTICE FOR WOMEN IN THE WESTERN BALKANS

During 2025, the activities of the CARE EWI project were focused on informing and including women in the grant scheme, while strengthening the organization's capacity to work with the target group. Through info days organized in cooperation with the partner LINK, 165 women were mobilized, improving access to information and support opportunities.



## **MILESTONES OF 2025**

- Organization of info days in cooperation with the LINK Center
- Mobilization of 165 women for participation in the grant scheme
- Expansion of the contact database for women and women's organizations
- Strengthening cooperation and networking with local stakeholders
- Application of procedures for gender equality and anti-discrimination
- Internal capacity building of the team through training and additional activities



## **FOCUS AREAS**

- Economic empowerment of women through access to information and support programs
- Strengthening the inclusion of women from rural and marginalized communities
- Advancing gender equality and applying anti-discrimination principles
- Development and expansion of the network of women and women's organizations
- Strengthening organizational capacities and internal procedures
- Support for the participatory inclusion of women in local processes

## **EWI IN 2025 – PLATFORM FOR TANGIBLE IMPACT**

The project directly contributed to the implementation of the City of Mostar Gender Action Plan by increasing women's economic empowerment and their access to information, resources, and support programs—particularly for women from rural and marginalized communities. By applying gender-sensitive and anti-discrimination practices, LDA Mostar strengthened its role as an organization that actively protects the rights of its beneficiaries.

# VISION THROUGH...

During 2025, as part of the CARE EWI project, LDA Mostar, in cooperation with the LINK Entrepreneurship Center, organized a series of info days to inform women about opportunities to participate in the grant scheme program for female entrepreneurship. The activities were designed to bring available opportunities closer to the target group, enhance access to information, and motivate women to engage in support programs. Details regarding the public call were presented to women from Stolac, Mostar, Široki Brijeg, Drežnica, Čapljina, Posušje, Grude, and other local communities.

Through direct fieldwork and partnership cooperation, the organization successfully mobilized and informed 165 women, including those from rural and marginalized communities. This significantly improved the accessibility of information and support for developing business ideas and enhancing existing businesses.

The info days provided a space for open communication, the exchange of experiences, and further clarification regarding application requirements, criteria, and the possibilities for financial and technical support within the program.



# ...VOICES

The program resulted in a high number of applications, leading to 33 women receiving support to start their own businesses and 36 women receiving support to improve their existing businesses. This confirms the significance of high-quality information sharing and a field-based approach in reaching target groups.

In addition to these direct results, the activities contributed to strengthening the network of women and women's organizations, enhancing cooperation with local stakeholders, and expanding the contact database for future initiatives focused on women's economic empowerment.

## SIGNIFICANCE OF ACTIVITIES

- Directly informing and motivating women to participate.
- Increasing the visibility of support programs.
- Including women from less accessible and marginalized environments.
- Strengthening trust between organizations and target groups.
- Creating a foundation for long-term cooperation and future support programs.



# EMPOWERING YOUTH/ADOLESCENTS THROUGH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND VOLUNTEERING – COMMUNITY OF VOLUNTEERS



**Project duration:** August, 2025. - December, 2026.

**Donor:** UNICEF

**Applicant:** Local Democracy Agency Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

## **ABOUT THE PROJECT**

As a part of a broader initiative "A more Equitable Society: Promoting Social Cohesion and Diversity in Bosnia and Herzegovina" – [Dialogue for the Future 3 \(DF3\)](#), implemented by UNDP, UNESCO, and UNICEF, LDA Mostar is executing the "Volunteer Community" program. The project aims to strengthen youth civic engagement across 10 diverse municipalities: Bosanska Krupa, Doboј, Glamoč, Gornji Vakuf–Uskoplje, Milići, Mostar, Stolac, Teslić, Tuzla, and Zvornik.

In divided or historically sensitive areas such as Mostar, Stolac, Gornji Vakuf–Uskoplje, and Zvornik, this program plays a crucial role in creating neutral and collaborative spaces for young people. In more rural and less developed regions like Glamoč, Milići, and Bosanska Krupa, it contributes to reducing structural exclusion through targeted information, education, and mentoring for youth with limited access to opportunities.

By integrating young people into Local Dialogue Platforms (LDP), providing inclusive training, and building local partnerships, the program empowers adolescents to act as drivers of change, particularly in divided and neglected environments. By ensuring at least 50% participation of girls and including marginalized groups, the initiative strengthens gender-sensitive and intercultural cooperation. Through storytelling and increased community visibility, the program challenges divisions and the narratives that sustain them, while building shared, positive identities. Ultimately, the initiative empowers youth to co-create inclusive and peaceful communities, directly contributing to long-term social cohesion in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



# EMPOWERING YOUTH/ADOLESCENTS THROUGH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND VOLUNTEERING – “COMMUNITY OF VOLUNTEERS

Throughout 2025, the project focused on strengthening youth capacities through participatory approaches and Participatory Action Research (PAR) methodology. These frameworks enabled participants to gain a deeper understanding of local challenges and take an active role in addressing them. The initiative successfully fostered research, analytical, and communication skills, while simultaneously boosting participants' self-confidence and their awareness of the pivotal role youth play within the community.

Furthermore, the project facilitated cross-contextual networking among young people, enhancing collaboration and dialogue. This process culminated in the development of participatory, evidence-based initiatives tailored to local needs.



## **MILESTONES OF 2025**

- Mobilization and Youth Engagement
- Training and capacity building of 105 youth from 6 communities through PAR methodology
- Development and implementation of training modules
- Mentoring support and peer leadership
- Inclusion in Local Dialogue Platforms (LDP)
- Storytelling and communication activities
- Application of PSEA standards and continuous monitoring

## **FOCUS AREAS**

- Strengthening youth capacities for participatory research and local issue analysis
- Development of practical skills for community work and decision-making
- Encouraging active youth participation in local processes
- Strengthening peer cooperation, mentorship, and exchange of experiences
- Connecting youth with local stakeholders and the community
- Development of initiatives based on evidence and participatory methods

# VISION THROUGH...

## TRAINING ON PAR METHODOLOGY AND ITS APPLICATION

 **Mostar, Stolac, Glamoč, Gornji Vakuf-Uskoplje, Tuzla | December 2025**

During the final quarter of 2025, LDA Mostar, with the support of UNICEF, implemented activities in five municipalities across Bosnia and Herzegovina, including Mostar, Stolac, Glamoč, Gornji Vakuf-Uskoplje, and Tuzla. Within the project framework, 105 young people were mobilized and engaged in the process of learning and applying the Participatory Action Research (PAR) methodology.

Through a series of workshops and training modules, participants were introduced to the basics of the PAR approach, research methods, and practical tools for identifying and analyzing local issues. Activities combined theoretical and practical work, with a focus on teamwork and the initial definition of themes that will be the subject of further community research.

**105 PARTICIPANTS FROM 5 MUNICIPALITIES IN BIH  
BASICS OF PAR METHODOLOGY AND ITS APPLICATION**



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## RESULTS & IMPACT

- Two PAR training modules in Mostar; sessions on research tools
- Two sessions in Stolac; intro to PAR and initiative identification
- Introductory workshop in Glamoč; research activities planned
- Introductory session and identification of local challenges in GVU
- First module in Tuzla; intro to PAR methodology and tools
- Youth began identifying local issues and research topics
- High participant motivation and readiness for active engagement
- Foundations established for further work on local research and initiatives based on the PAR approach



# GENDER-RESPONSIVE BUDGETING: FROM PAPER TO PRACTICE



Co-funded by  
the European Union



**Project duration:** November 2025 - September 2026

**Donor:** European Union

**Grant Contracting Authority:** CIN - Center for Investigative Journalism

**Applicant and Grant User:** Local Democracy Agency (LDA) Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

The project "Gender Responsive Budgeting: From Paper to Practice" aims to enhance transparency, accountability, and inclusivity in the City of Mostar's budgetary process. It focuses on integrating a gender perspective into the municipal budget and supporting the implementation of the Gender Action Plan (GAP) 2024–2027.

Through a combination of budget analysis, roundtables, policy briefs, financial literacy workshops, media campaigns, and a final conference, the project targets city officials, civil society actors, media, and citizens.

Expected results include:

- Improved understanding of gender-responsive budgeting concepts
- Strengthened citizen capacity for active participation in budget processes
- Concrete recommendations for integrating gender equality into municipal budget planning and decision-making



# GENDER-RESPONSIVE BUDGETING: FROM PAPER TO PRACTICE



Co-funded by  
the European Union



In 2025, the project focused on establishing foundations for successful implementation through detailed activity planning, methodology development, and establishing cooperation with key stakeholders, while the majority of activities are scheduled for the upcoming period.

## PLANNED ACTIVITIES:

- Analysis of the City of Mostar's 2025 budget, assessing transparency, gender equality, and Gender Action Plan (GAP) implementation
- Roundtable with councilors, administration, civil society, and media to discuss findings and recommendations
- Development of a policy brief with concrete proposals for improving the gender perspective in the budget process
- Financial literacy workshops to strengthen skills for participating in budget processes and advocacy
- Media campaign to bring the concept of gender-responsive budgeting closer to citizens
- Final conference to present results, findings, and recommendations



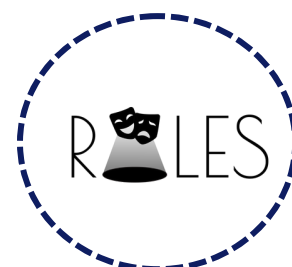
## FOCUS AREAS

- Strengthening inclusive and participatory governance and increasing citizen involvement
- Improving transparency and accountability in the local budget process
- Strengthening gender equality through gender perspective integration and GAP 2024–2027 support
- Capacity building for institutions, civil society, and citizens regarding public finance understanding and advocacy

# ROLES – ART-DRIVEN CAPACITY BUILDING FOR MENTAL HEALTH DE-STIGMATIZATION



Co-funded by  
the European Union



**Project duration:** December 2025 - November 2027

**Donator:** European Union / ERASMUS+ Lump Sum Grants

**Applicant:** United Societies of Balkans (U.S.B) (Greece);

**Partners:** LDA Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina); Fundacja Sempre A Frente (Poland); Teatro Metaphora (Portugal); HODINA H (Czech Republic); Act Center (Albania); YIHR (Montenegro)

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

Mental health stigma stems from misinformation, fear, and negative social attitudes, leading to discrimination and social exclusion. The project aims to empower youth workers, trainers, facilitators, and non-formal education experts through the use of artistic and creative methods to overcome stigma and strengthen youth resilience.

Through the integration of expressive techniques—such as theater, role-play, and somatic approaches—participants acquire practical tools to challenge stereotypes and enhance inclusive, empathetic youth work. This capacity-building program combines theory and practice, enabling the use of art as a medium for engagement, advocacy, and the destigmatization of mental health.

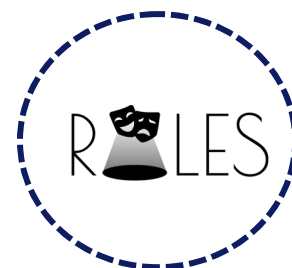
The project connects partners from the EU and Western Balkans for the exchange of knowledge and experiences, contributing to competency development and the creation of a network of trained professionals. These experts continue to apply these methods beyond the project's duration, aiming for long-term improvement in mental health awareness and attitudes among young people.



# ROLES – ART-DRIVEN CAPACITY BUILDING FOR MENTAL HEALTH DE-STIGMATIZATION

## EXPECTED RESULTS/OUTPUTS

- Increased capacity of youth work professionals to address mental health stigma using artistic and expressive methods in their daily work.
- Improved resilience, self-confidence, and well-being of youth workers, enabling better management of sensitive mental health topics.
- Greater awareness and openness among youth to discuss mental health through creative and participatory activities.
- Reduction of stigma, stereotypes, and discriminatory attitudes related to mental health within work environments and local communities.
- Development and implementation of sustainable artistic tools, methods, and practices replicable beyond the project's duration.
- Strengthening cross-border networks and cooperation between youth organizations in the EU and Western Balkans, contributing to long-term impact and policy alignment with European values.
- Promotion of performing arts as an innovative non-formal education method to foster social and civic engagement through global educational practices, supporting underprivileged artists and the sustainability of their work.



# „RECI KAKO JESTE“ (SAY IT LIKE IT IS) CAMPAIGN

**Activity Title:** „Reci kako jeste“ (SAY IT LIKE IT IS) - 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence Campaign - online&social media

**Activity duration - time span:** November – December 2025

As part of the global "16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence" campaign, LDA Mostar led the "Say It Like It Is" (Reci kako jeste) campaign, mobilizing men to recognize and take responsibility for cultural patterns that perpetuate violence. Activists, actors, musicians, TV hosts, doctors, and journalists joined forces to speak out publicly, demonstrating that change begins when men challenge normalized behaviors and social "jokes" that justify abuse. The campaign achieved significant reach and engagement on social media, reflecting the urgent need for public dialogue on gender-based violence and strengthening LDA Mostar's role in delivering transformative community actions.

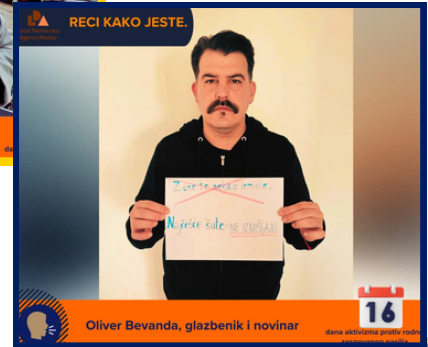
- 11 activists, artists, musicians, doctors, and journalists participated as public voices.
- Public campaign content was produced and distributed across social media platforms.

## CAMPAIGN IMPACT

- Increased local community awareness that gender-based violence is a societal, rather than a private, issue.
- Demonstrated importance of men taking responsibility in challenging and changing the cultural norms that perpetuate violence.
- Enhanced social media engagement, reflecting public interest in discussing gender-based violence and supporting cultural change.
- Strengthened reputation of LDA Mostar as a leading actor in promoting gender equality and civic activism.
- Initiated broader community dialogue and reflection on normalized behaviors, contributing to long-term shifts in attitudes toward gender-based violence.



# “RECI KAKO JESTE” (SAY IT LIKE IT IS) - 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM CAMPAIGN



*Gender-based violence is not a 'private matter'—it is a cultural pattern. Culture only changes when men take responsibility. During these 16 days (and every day after!), we called things by their proper names.*



# LDA MOSTAR - NATIONAL CONTACT POINT (NCP) FOR THE ERASMUS+ YOUTH PROGRAM



Co-funded by  
the European Union

**Erasmus+**  
Enriching lives, opening minds.



**Project duration:** 2025–2026

**Donor:** European Union / Erasmus+ Youth Program via SALTO South East Europe Resource Centre

**Applicant:** Local Democracy Agency Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

**Partners:** Erasmus+ ESC Contact Point Bosnia and Herzegovina, SALTO South East Europe Resource Centre, Erasmus+ Youth Contact Point Network (Western Balkans), youth organizations, NGOs and public youth institutions across BiH, EU and regional partner organizations (project-based)

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

The project establishes LDA Mostar as the official National Contact Point (NCP) for the Erasmus+ Youth Program in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It aims to increase awareness, accessibility, and the participation of BiH organizations in Erasmus+ youth initiatives. The project addresses structural gaps resulting from the absence of a national Erasmus+ agency in BiH by providing decentralized information, capacity building, mentoring support, and partner-finding assistance.

**Geographic Scope:** The entire territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with a special focus on smaller towns, rural areas, and organizations working with youth with fewer opportunities.

## Target groups:

- Youth NGOs and civil society (particularly newcomers/smaller organizations)
- Public youth institutions and local authorities
- Youth networks and umbrella organizations
- Organizations working with marginalized and underrepresented youth populations



# LDA MOSTAR - NATIONAL CONTACT POINT (NCP) FOR THE ERASMUS+ YOUTH PROGRAM

## Planned Activities

- Information sessions on Erasmus+ Youth and ESC programs (national and local levels)
- Capacity building trainings (project writing, management, partnerships)
- Individual consultations and mentoring support for applicant organizations
- Facilitated partner search with EU and regional organizations
- Thematic workshops focused on inclusion and newcomers
- Promotion of best practices and successful Erasmus+ stories
- Distribution and promotion of materials and the CP network website
- Media activities and public awareness campaigns

## Expected Results/Outputs

- Increased participation of BiH organizations in Erasmus+ Youth and ESC programs
- Strengthened capacities of youth NGOs for designing and managing EU-funded projects
- Enhanced inclusion of organizations working with vulnerable and underrepresented youth
- Improved international cooperation between youth sector actors in BiH and the EU
- Increased visibility and understanding of Erasmus+ Youth opportunities nationwide
- Structured national support for youth organizations in the absence of a National Agency

Overall, the project contributes to a stronger, more inclusive, and better-connected youth sector in BiH, enabling long-term and sustainable participation in European youth programs.



# VISION THROUGH...

## NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NON-FORMAL EDUCATION & OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF THE ERASMUS+ YOUTH CONTACT POINT FOR BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

 **Mostar, Bosnia & Herzegovina | November, 2025.**

The conference gathered over 50 participants, including youth organizations, NGOs, public institutions, local authorities, education and youth work experts, media, and national and international specialists. The event focused on promoting the role of non-formal education in enhancing youth employability and participation, alongside the official presentation of LDA Mostar as the National Contact Point (NCP) for the Erasmus+ Youth program in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The event combined expert discussions, a policy-oriented approach, and the promotion of Erasmus+ Youth and European Solidarity Corps (ESC) opportunities, linking youth learning with European cooperation.

**50+ PARTICIPANTS FROM ACROSS BIH  
NON-FORMAL EDUCATION AS A FOUNDATION FOR INCREASING EMPLOYABILITY  
PRESENTATION OF ERASMUS+ YOUTH PROGRAM OPPORTUNITIES**

### KEY MESSAGES

- Non-formal education complements formal education and develops practical skills.
- Youth employability requires diverse learning opportunities.
- Cross-sectoral cooperation is essential for youth development.



# ...VOICES

## IMPACT

- Increased awareness of the Erasmus+ Youth program among organizations and institutions
- Enhanced understanding of non-formal education as a tool for policy and practice
- Strengthened visibility and credibility of LDA Mostar as the National Contact Point
- Increased interest and number of inquiries from youth organizations
- Foundations established for future info sessions, trainings, and partnerships in 2026



*“LDA Mostar continuously provides opportunities for young people to develop skills and build a better future through non-formal education. Participating in these programs allowed me to connect experiences, meet people, and develop skills that have shaped my personal and professional development.”*

**TARIK KRESO, participant of the Erasmus+ Youth Programme**



# THE TUNE NETWORK – TRANSNATIONAL UNITED NETWORK IN EUROPE



Co-funded by  
the European Union

Erasmus+  
Enriching lives, opening minds.



**Project duration:** January 2025. – December, 2025.

**Donor:** European Union / EACEA - ERASMUS+ program

**Applicant:** United Societies of Balkans (USB) (Greece)

**Partners:** Localne Democracy Agency Mostar i 20 partner organizations from 18 European countries

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

The project is designed to strengthen youth participation, civic engagement, and mental health and well-being through inclusive, safe, and supportive environments, while simultaneously enhancing the capacity of youth organizations and youth workers across Europe. The project is transnational in nature, implemented in 18 European countries at the local, national, and European levels.



## Target groups:

- Youth (16–30 years old), particularly those with fewer opportunities
- Youth workers and educators
- Youth organizations and civil society organizations (CSOs)
- Local and regional stakeholders

## Expected Results/Outputs

Enhanced youth well-being and resilience, strengthened organizational capacities, increased youth participation in democratic processes, and improved cooperation among youth organizations in Europe.

# THE TUNE NETWORK – TRANSNATIONAL UNITED NETWORK IN EUROPE



Co-funded by  
the European Union

Erasmus+  
Enriching lives, opening minds.



Throughout 2025, the project was marked by the intensive implementation of activities focused on capacity building for youth and youth workers, as well as the development of international cooperation.

## MILESTONES OF 2025

- Conducted trainings for youth workers and young people to strengthen their participation in democratic processes and social life.
- Organized thematic workshops and transnational meetings enabling knowledge exchange, peer learning, and cooperation at the European level.
- Implemented youth initiatives and local actions focused on community development and civic engagement.
- Launched awareness-raising and advocacy campaigns, including topics of mental health and well-being.
- Developed tools, guidelines, and methodological resources to improve the quality and inclusivity of youth work.
- Held networking and knowledge-sharing events, strengthening partnerships and visibility at the European level.



## FOCUS AREAS

- Strengthening the capacities of youth workers for inclusion, well-being, and active citizenship
- Raising youth awareness regarding mental health and participation in social processes
- Developing cross-border cooperation and sustainable partnerships
- Increasing the inclusion of youth with fewer opportunities
- Enhancing inclusive and safe practices within organizations
- Strengthening the visibility and communication of LDA Mostar with relevant stakeholders

# VISION THROUGH...



## TUNE INTERNATIONAL TRAINING - FROM IDEAS TO ACTION



**Kruševo, North Macedonia | September 2025**

The international training brought together young people and youth workers from several European countries within the TUNE network, with the aim of strengthening youth participation, democratic dialogue, and the understanding of e-democracy through non-formal education and transnational exchange.

Through workshops, discussions, and intercultural activities, participants exchanged experiences and best practices while strengthening cooperation at the European level. The representative of LDA Mostar participated as an integral part of the TUNE network.

**25 PARTICIPANTS FROM ACROSS EUROPE**

**THE TUNE NETWORK DEVELOPS A EUROPEAN DIMENSION OF COOPERATION IN YOUTH WORK  
CONNECTING EUROPEAN AND LOCAL LEVELS THROUGH DIALOGUE AND LEARNING**

### KEY MESSAGES

International training and transnational exchange represent a vital tool for strengthening the capacities of youth and youth workers, enhancing the understanding of democratic processes and e-democracy, and developing long-term partnerships and active youth participation at the European level.



# ...VOICES



## LOCAL DEBATE: SHOULD MOBILE PHONES BE BANNED IN SCHOOLS?



**Mostar, Bosnia & Herzegovina | October 2025**

LDA Mostar organized a local debate as part of the TUNE network activities, aiming to foster youth participation, critical thinking, and democratic dialogue on topics related to education.

During the structured debate, through research and evidence-based discussion, young people analyzed the impact of mobile phones on learning, concentration, and communication, while considering balanced and responsible solutions within the educational system.

**15+ PARTICIPANTS AGED 16–18**

**DEVELOPED SKILLS IN CRITICAL THINKING, ARGUMENTATION, AND PUBLIC SPEAKING  
ENCOURAGED YOUTH DIALOGUE AND UNDERSTANDING OF HOW EDUCATIONAL POLICIES IMPACT STUDENTS**

### KEY MESSAGES

Local debates contribute to the development of critical thinking, communication skills, and a democratic culture among youth, while simultaneously empowering them to actively participate in discussions on issues that directly affect their educational and social lives.



# PRESIDENCY OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA WITHIN THE DANUBE PROGRAM



**foster**europa  
Foundation for strong  
European Regions

**Project duration:** January - December 2025

**Donor:** Foster Europe Foundation for strong European Regions (Austria)

**Applicant:** Local Democracy Agency Mostar (Bosna i Hercegovina)

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

LDA Mostar WAS a partner in the organization of events important for the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina within the Danube Program during 2025. National Participation Day and Danube Participation Day are two important events of the DANUBE program within the implementation of the [Danube Region Strategy](#).

By handing over the bell, as a symbol of jurisdiction over the Program, as part of the 11th Day of Participation on the Danube (DPD) held in Vienna (Austria) on June 19, 2024, LDA Mostar announced the presidency of our country in the DANUBE program.

Within the framework of Bosnia and Herzegovina's Presidency of the Danube Program, LDA Mostar played a key role in strengthening participatory governance and connecting local stakeholders with European processes. Through the organization and co-organization of significant events, the LDA Mostar contributed to creating space for dialogue between civil society, institutions, and international partners, with the aim of enhancing citizen participation in the creation of public policies. The focus of these activities was on empowering local communities, knowledge exchange, and the promotion of sustainable and inclusive development within the context of European integration. The following sections outline the objectives of the activities carried out during two events under the Foster Europe Foundation for strong European Regions project.



# PRESIDENCY OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA WITHIN THE DANUBE PROGRAM

## **National Participation Day (NPD)**

The National Participation Day was held on May 13, 2025, in Sarajevo, organized by the Directorate for European Integration (DEI) and LDA Mostar. The event brought together approximately 55 representatives from institutions, civil society, international organizations, and stakeholders involved in the EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR).

The focus of the event was on the EU enlargement process and the role of the EUSDR in supporting the European integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with an emphasis on empowering local actors. The program included plenary sessions and thematic workshops covering environmental protection, cultural heritage, and models of local participation.



Through the discussions, key challenges were identified, including insufficient cooperation between institutions and civil society, low levels of civic engagement, and limited capacities for initiative implementation. Consequently, recommendations were formulated to improve cooperation, raise public awareness, develop integrated strategies, and promote participatory governance.

The event contributed to strengthening participant capacities, establishing new partnerships, and raising awareness of the role of local actors in the EU integration process, further positioning LDA Mostar as a facilitator of dialogue and the development of democratic practices.



# PRESIDENCY OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA WITHIN THE DANUBE PROGRAM

## 12th Danube Participation Day

The 12th Danube Participation Day was held on November 4, 2025, in Sarajevo, bringing together approximately 130 representatives from civil society, institutions, and local communities. The event was organized by EUSDR Priority Area 10 and the Danube Civil Society Forum, in cooperation with LDA Mostar and with the support of the Directorate for European Integration.



Under the theme "Local Voices, European Future," the event focused on the role of communities in EU policies and the enlargement process. The program included panel discussions, interactive workshops, and the presentation of local initiatives and best practices. Through the exchange of experiences, participants analyzed regional challenges and opportunities, emphasizing the strengthening of the role of citizens and civil society in decision-making.

The event contributed to the networking of stakeholders and resulted in recommendations for improving participatory governance and supporting sustainable local initiatives.

*'Civil society organizations must ensure financial sustainability through the diversification of income sources, capacity building, partnerships, and transparency, in order to remain relevant and reliable partners in the development of the Danube Region and the creation of European policies.'* - **Dženana Dedić, Director of LDA Mostar**

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT: LDA MOSTAR RESOURCE CENTER

As a resource center, LDA Mostar served throughout 2025 as a space for encounters, dialogue, and educational international exchange, hosting more than 150 students, academic staff, and experts from various parts of the world in its HUB. Among them were groups from universities in the United States and Europe, as well as participants in international education and fellowship programmes, including groups from Utah State University, Clemson University, and the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, as well as participants of the Humanity in Action BiH programme and representatives of organisations from Germany.



Through interactive presentations and open discussions, we presented the work of LDA Mostar in strengthening democratic culture, active citizenship, social inclusion, and peacebuilding in a post-conflict society. A particular focus was placed on the role of young people as drivers of positive change, as well as on concrete initiatives that contribute to the development of local communities.

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT: LDA MOSTAR RESOURCE CENTER

These visits provided a valuable space for exchanging perspectives on contemporary social challenges, including the legacy of war, reconciliation processes, and the role of civil society in building sustainable peace. Through dialogue with our guests, we further enriched our own practices, while also contributing to the education of new generations of professionals in the fields of social development and peacebuilding.

The highly positive feedback received confirms the quality and relevance of our work, while announcements of return visits further strengthen our position as a relevant resource center and a place of international cooperation, learning, and exchange.



# IN THE SPOTLIGHT: LDA MOSTAR RESOURCE CENTER

On the occasion of Europe Day, LDA Mostar, in its HUB and in cooperation with the Centre for Civil Society Promotion (CPCD), hosted representatives of civil society organisations from Mostar within the event “Coffee with CSOs”. The meeting was organised as a space for networking, exchange of experiences, and discussion on the role of civil society in the European integration process of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Through an open dialogue, the importance of a strong, connected, and independent civil sector was highlighted as one of the key pillars of democratic values, transparency, equality, and the rule of law. Participants exchanged experiences on the challenges organisations face in their daily work, as well as on opportunities for joint action and mutual support within the local community.



Such meetings further confirm the role of LDA Mostar as a space for cooperation, dialogue, and capacity building of civil society organisations. Through continuously providing space for connecting different actors, LDA Mostar continues to contribute to the development of active citizenship and the strengthening of civil society as an important partner in building a democratic and European Bosnia and Herzegovina.

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT: LDA MOSTAR RESOURCE CENTER

Continuing to act as a space for dialogue and encounters among relevant social actors, LDA Mostar also hosted in 2025 a high-level delegation of rapporteurs on the state of democracy in Bosnia and Herzegovina, composed of the Ambassadors of Ireland, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Norway, and Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Council of Europe, a representative of the Committee of Ministers, the Director of Programme Coordination, and the Head of the Council of Europe Office in Sarajevo.



The visit was carried out within the framework of preparations for the new Action Plan for Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the aim of assessing the state of democratisation processes and engaging in discussions with representatives of institutions, authorities, and civil society on key challenges and future priorities.

During the meeting, particular emphasis was placed on mechanisms for citizen participation in decision-making, especially the Citizens' Assemblies model as an innovative deliberative democratic tool, whose implementation in Bosnia and Herzegovina has been continuously supported by LDA Mostar from the very beginning. Director Dženana Dedić presented the organisation's activities focused on strengthening active citizenship, participatory decision-making, and the development of open and inclusive local communities.

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT: LDA MOSTAR RESOURCE CENTER

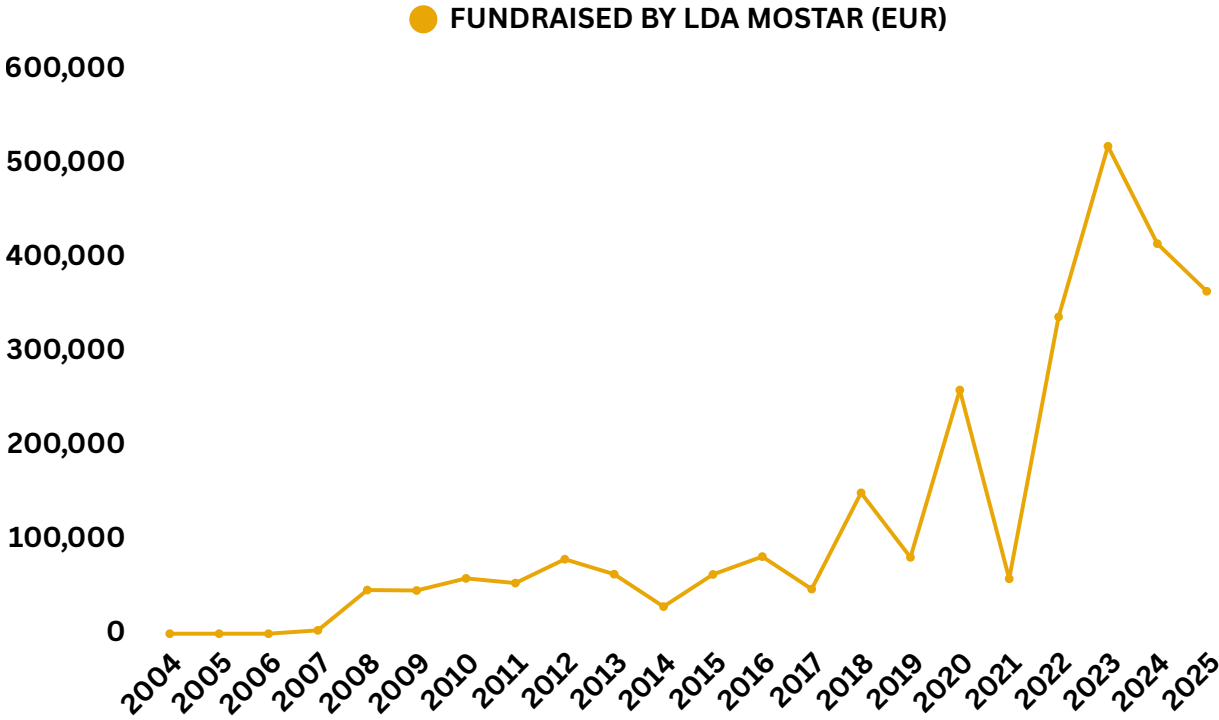
A particular added value to the meeting was provided by the participants of the second Citizens' Assembly held in Mostar, who shared their personal experiences on the importance of deliberative processes for building trust, mutual understanding, and reaching consensus on issues important to the local community.

During the discussion, the importance of the consistent implementation of Citizens' Assembly recommendations was highlighted, as well as the key role of civil society organisations in processes of democratisation, strengthening citizen participation, and developing cooperation between citizens and institutions.

The visit of this delegation further confirmed LDA Mostar's recognition as a relevant and reliable partner in the field of deliberative democracy and the development of participatory decision-making models in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW





## CONTACT



+387 (0)36 333-830 +387 (0)36 333-831



[ldamostar@aldaintranet.org](mailto:ldamostar@aldaintranet.org)



Fra Ambre Miletića 30,  
88000 Mostar, BiH



[www.ldamostar.org](http://www.ldamostar.org)

