

# LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES

ACTIVITY REPORT 2023

alda\*  
30 years LDAs in the Balkans  
European Association  
For Local Democracy

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# ABOUT ALDA

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**ALDA - The European Association for Local Democracy** is dedicated to the promotion of good governance and citizen participation at the local level. **The Association focuses on activities facilitating cooperation between local authorities and civil society.** ALDA was established in 1999 at the initiative of the Council of Europe **to coordinate and support the network of Local Democracy Agencies, which are self-sufficient, locally registered CSOs** (Civil Society Organisations) acting as **promoters of good governance and local self government.** Today, ALDA is a key stakeholder in the field of local democracy, active citizenship, and cooperation between local authorities and civil society. ALDA is a membership-based organisation gathering 300 members (including local authorities, associations of local authorities, and civil society organisations) from over 45 countries in the enlarged Europe. ALDA is funded through membership fees, as well as project funding from the European Commission, the Council of Europe, and other public and private donors.

## OUR UNIQUE FEATURES

Most of ALDA's work is based on the method of multilateral decentralised cooperation. This method involves a multi-stakeholder approach which focuses on strong partnerships between local authorities and non-governmental organisations. These partnerships create positive synergies and ensure that common goals are reached in a successful way.

## WHAT WE DO

In the framework of the promotion of good governance and citizen participation at the local level, ALDA focuses on various themes, such as European integration, decentralisation, civic initiatives and volunteering, human rights and sustainable economic development.

### **ALDA conducts its initiatives through different forms of action:**

- Conducting a myriad of **projects** in the field of good governance and citizen participation at the local level in Europe and beyond, with its members, its partners and Local Democracy Agencies;
- Coordinating and supporting the **15 Local Democracy Agencies** and **2 Operational Partners**;
- Managing and supporting its wide **network** of members, made of **over 300 stakeholders**, including local authorities, associations of local authorities, provinces, counties, civil society organisation, and academic institutions;

- Collaborating with European and worldwide **networks** on campaigns, statements and joint initiatives to let citizens be heard and contribute to the decision-making process of their communities. It cooperates as official partner of **the Council of Europe and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities** and it is a long term partner of **the programme Europe for Citizens** and other key policies and programmes of the European Commission;
- Supporting local stakeholders' initiatives by providing ALDA's unique expertise gained during its over 20 years of activity in the European Union and its Neighbourhood through the establishment of **partnerships** and the identification of relevant stakeholders to cooperate with, scouting funding opportunities to implement project ideas, and assuring dissemination and visibility of their initiatives;
- Leading **advocacy and lobbying activities**, raising the voice of its members and partners in order to orient local, national and European policies in our field of activities to make a stronger and more cohesive Europe, based on the principle of equality, democracy and human rights;

## WHERE WE WORK

**ALDA works throughout the enlarged Europe.** Activities in the European Union focus in particular on the promotion of **Active European Citizenship**. Activities in the Western Balkans and European Neighbourhood focus on good governance, citizen participation, European integration, and decentralisation.

Most of the Local Democracy Agencies (LDAs) are located in the Western Balkans, which gives the natural focus on that area. But ALDA is also becoming more and more active in the European Neighbourhood. During the years, 5 LDAs have been established in various Eastern Partnership countries, while in 2017 the first LDA of its type opened in the Southern Neighbourhood region, specifically in Kairouan (Tunisia). ALDA is also leading several other projects and developing partnerships in other European Neighbouring countries, such as Morocco, Algeria and Türkiye. 2023, in particular, has been an eventful year in terms of meetings and new partnerships among ALDA and local authorities, organisations and associations in Ukraine in order to establish nine new Local Democracy Agencies in the country.



# THE NETWORK OF LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES



## Supporting good governance and citizen participation on the field

**ALDA coordinates and supports the network of 15 Local Democracy Agencies (LDAs) 2 Operational Partners (OPs) in their activities.** ALDA works throughout the enlarged Europe with the majority of the Local Democracy Agencies located in the Western Balkans. During the last years ALDA has become more and more active in the European Neighborhood with 6 LDAs in various Eastern Partnership countries, and 2 LDAs in the Mediterranean area with the **newly established in Edremit (Türkiye) in 2023**. This year, ALDA also paid particular attention to Ukraine, aiming at establishing nine new Local Democracy Agencies in the country, **with the newly opened one in 2023 in Odesa (Ukraine)**. The LDAs and OPs are supported by more than 100 partners (local authorities and civil society organisations) all over Europe, providing financial and political support to fulfil their mandate and to accompany local democracy, civil society empowerment and participation in the decision-making process at the local level.

Most of ALDA's and the LDA's work is based on an innovative and successful method of multilateral decentralised cooperation, which involves a multi-stakeholder approach and focuses on partnerships between Local Authorities and Non-Governmental Organisations. These partnerships create synergy and ensure that common goals are reached in a successful way. It focuses on the mutual benefits of the cooperation, on a participative and long-term approach in order to strengthen the real effectiveness of the impact on both communities. The multilateral approach allows a better sustainability as well as a multicultural input to the initiatives. The LDAs partnerships by means of multilateral decentralised cooperation were developed on the basis of two main lines of action:

1. **Territorial based approach**, involving all the actors of the communities of interest on a geographic base;
2. **Thematic networking** focused on specific, commonly determined issues connecting different local communities

### **Objectives of the activity of Local Democracy Agencies and Operational Partners are:**

- Promoting good local governance and support initiatives aimed at improving citizen participation;
- Enhancing institution and capacity building at the local level through the exchange of knowhow and training of locally elected representatives and administrators;
- Developing a Europe-wide network of citizens committed to the respect for human and minority rights;
- Fostering the development of a civil society in which all sections of the community participate;
- Supporting intercultural dialogue and diversity management capacities in multicultural local communities;
- Promoting the respect for human/minority rights in local communities;

### **Financial sustainability of the LDAs**

The available funds are managed by the LDAs themselves or by the members of the 7 partnerships established for the implementation of a specific project. Following the implementation of projects and activities, financial reports are drawn up to ensure transparency and appropriate use of the funds.

There are three different types of funding sources:

1. Funds resulting from the LDA's fundraising
2. Grants to support the LDAs
3. Fees of the LDAs' partners

ALDA pursues its coordination and supporting mission to the LDAs by providing them with adequate expertise at all stages of the implementation of projects (funding opportunities, establishment of new partnerships, project implementation, exchange and sharing of good practices, technical support, joint projects etc). ALDA has been involved in several projects and providing support of all kind to the Local Democracy Agencies in order to further the promotion of local democracy and citizens' participation at the local level.



# 1993 – 2023: 30 YEARS OF LOCAL DEMOCRACY IN THE BALKANS



The journey of local democracy in the Balkans from 1993 to 2023 has been remarkable, marked by significant milestones and transformative initiatives. It all began with **the establishment of the first Local Democracy Agency (LDA Subotica) in the region**, initiated by the Council of Europe in response to the conflicts in the states of former Yugoslavia. Over three decades, these LDAs have evolved into a network of **15 agencies and 2 Operational Partners**, spanning across the European Neighbourhood, with the **mission of supporting civil society and promoting peaceful coexistence**.

The 30th-anniversary celebrations in 2023 served as an opportunity to reflect on this journey and to set a course for the future. The ALDA Festival and General Assembly in June 2023 featured a special event titled "**30 Years Local Democracy Agencies in the Balkans**", which brought together key stakeholders to discuss the region's challenges and opportunities. Speakers emphasised **the importance of transparent institutions, participatory democracy, and the involvement of young people in building strong local democracies**.

One of the anniversary celebration highlights was the study visit organised by **LDA Mostar** in September 2023, which showcased the successful collaboration





between local authorities and the civic sector in promoting community engagement and rejuvenation. This event highlighted **the potential of participatory democracy to drive positive change** in the Western Balkans region.

In October 2023, an international conference hosted by ALDA in Skopje focused on the importance of local governance in the journey towards EU accession for the Western Balkans, Moldova, and Ukraine. Participants discussed the challenges of the rule of law, fundamental rights, and economic development, emphasising **the role of solid and transparent institutions and regional cooperation in fostering stability and growth.**

Throughout these events, the role of LDAs in empowering local communities and promoting inclusive democracy was underscored. Representatives from various LDAs shared their experiences and success stories, **highlighting the impact of collaborative efforts between organisations and local authorities.** The importance of youth engagement in peacebuilding and social cohesion was also emphasised, with **ALDA playing a pivotal role in supporting initiatives to empower young people and promote democratic participation.**

Looking ahead, there is a continued commitment to strengthening local democracy and promoting peace and reconciliation in the Balkans and beyond. As ALDA Secretary General Antonella Valmorbidia emphasised, **youth engagement remains a cornerstone of these efforts, with local democracy catalysing the building of sustainable, resilient communities.** Through collaborative initiatives and partnerships, the journey towards local democracy in the Balkans continues, driven by a shared vision of inclusive governance and peaceful coexistence.

In the last ten years, the Balkan LDAs and ALDA have had 15+ joint small- and big-scale projects, 120+ local and regional public events, 50+ training and workshops, and more than 80.000 direct and indirect beneficiaries.

This remarkable journey, through arduous work and engagement of Local Democracy Agencies (LDAs), was continuously highlighted during all these events in 2023. The Local Democracy Agencies (LDAs) will continue to work to shape a better future for all civil societies, institutions, and communities.



# WE STAND WITH UKRAINE

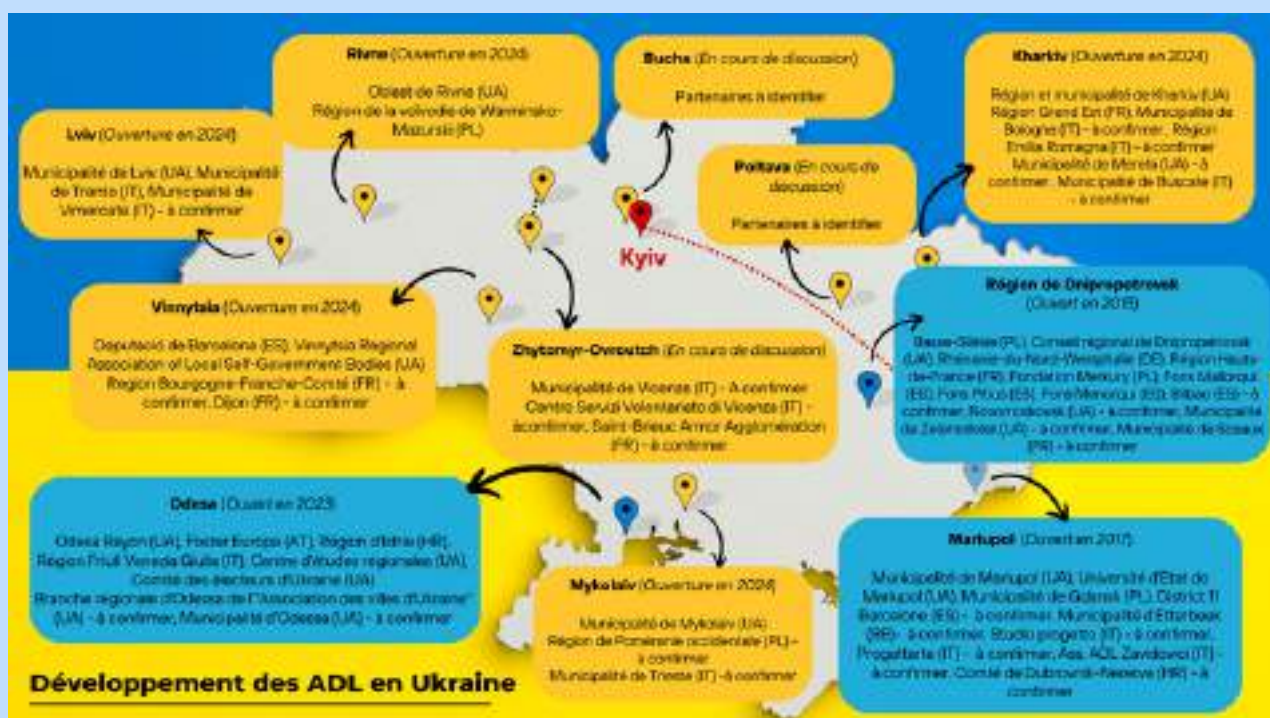


This Activity Report focuses and brings together the achievements, activities and hard work of our fifteen Local Democracy Agencies and our Operational Partners over the course of an entire year.

But 2023 represents also another one year of tremendous and brutal Russian aggression upon Ukraine, leaving scars etched into the hearts and lands of its resilient people.

As the conflict in Ukraine persists, we are reminded not only of the unspeakable pain and suffering endured by countless innocent lives, but also of the unwavering **spirit of resilience** that emerged from the depths of adversity. The echoes of anguish still resonate in the war-torn streets, where houses, once a symbol of hope, are now mere remains of a shattered reality. **Yet amidst the rubble and ruins, there is a flame of resilience, burning brightly in the eyes of those who refuse to surrender to tyranny.**

In this situations, organisations like the ALDA are stepping up efforts to support peace, resilience, and reconstruction in the country. In a significant development, the organisation aims to engage Ukrainian members in various projects, including **the establishment of new Local Democracy Agencies (LDAs) across the country**, next to the ones already existing: LDA Mariupol, LDA Dnipropetrovsk Region, and from the November of 2023, also **LDA Odesa**. In this regard, the Governing Board of ALDA is supporting the opening of **nine new Local Democracy Agencies**, in partnership with the District of Vinnytsia, Bucha, Rivne, Mykolaiv, Kharkiv and Lviv.



In order to achieve this, **ALDA has launched the Flagship Initiative in Ukraine**, which underscores its **commitment to expanding the network of LDAs as efficient instruments of peace and social cohesion**. This initiative builds on previous experience in post-war countries and accession countries to the EU like Western Balkans, also heavily affected by the movement of populations, refugees, and IDPs.

Also, through initiatives like the **“International Conference on Decentralised Support to Ukrainian Communities,”** ALDA brings together local authorities and civil society actors from Italy, Europe, and Ukraine to discuss concrete proposals for reconstruction and solidarity efforts.

The ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine has not only devastated critical infrastructure but also undermined fundamental structures of governance and society. ALDA’s efforts in this situation align with the Lugano Declaration, seeking to support the inclusive recovery of Ukraine and its communities through multilateral decentralised cooperation.

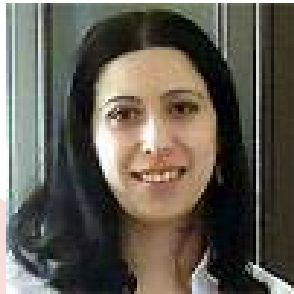
This Local Democracy Agencies Activity Report for 2023 is especially dedicated to our wonderful Ukrainian colleagues, who despite all difficulties, have never taken a step back and have never stopped fighting to defend those same values of equality, rule of law, peace, democracy and human rights on which they were previously founded.

The commitment of ALDA, the Local Democracy Agencies and the Association’s network to support Ukraine and its people will not end with 2023, but will continuously strengthen until the nation returns to gain be **free, democratic and marked by a long lasting peace**.





# REPORT OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES IN 2023



**Delegate: Lusine Aleksandryan**  
**Established: 2011**

## Key partner:

- City of Gyumri, host city
- Autonomous Region Friuli Venezia Giulia (Italy, lead partner)
- Urban Foundation for Sustainable Development (Armenia)
- Journalists' Club "Asparez" (Armenia)
- "Shirak Centre" NGO (Armenia)
- Community Finance Officers Association

## Main objectives:

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

"Local Democracy Agency" foundation was established in 2011 in Gyumri, Armenia. Among its main priorities are to promote the capacities of local authorities and civil society in citizens' participation, support participative practices in the development of local and sustainable tourism, reinforce regional cooperation, empower youth and women in environmental, democratic and

community development initiatives. Furthermore, the cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany, the Council of Europe, CSF of Eastern Partnership, Black Sea NGO Forum, Romanian FOND, UN and the European stakeholders promoted the implementation of many initiatives in the field of local democracy and participative decisionmaking.

## LDA ARMENIA IN THE FIELD

### Projects and activities

#### 1. “Career entry for young people in Armenia”

**Timespan:** From **June, 2023** to **September, 2023**

**Name of partners/Associated:** Empowerly gUG in Germany

**Total Budget:** All funds were covered in 2022

**Funded by:** Federal Foreign office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Germany

The first part of the project focused on 27 schoolchildren that were trained and gained knowledge on Democracy, Human Rights, CV writing/Self presentation and skills on video making. Three videos on the nature protection issues were prepared on behalf of schoolchildren that were divided in three groups as consulted with Gyumri municipality. The website ensured cultural and educational exchange between Armenian and German participants. One of three videos was acknowledged as the best and the participants received different awards. Two students from Germany exchanged their experience on career making and future study opportunities.

The second part of the project focused on the video elaboration from the winner group on waste management and work of cleaning service in cooperation with Gyumri municipality to make citizens understand the difficulties of keeping the city clean and that everybody is responsible for not polluting the nature and surroundings.



“

“The video on waste management was of educational character and very useful for the citizens to deeply realise the nature damage and valorize the employees’ hard job” - **Arthur Melikyan, the expert on video design of the project.**

## 2."Local authorities-interactive theatre"

**Timespan:** From **March, 2023** to **December, 2023**

**Name of partners/Associated:** Gyumri Youth Palace

**Total Budget:** In-kind

**Funded by:** Gyumri Youth Palace

The format of the project was innovative and easy for the children to gain knowledge on rather difficult issues. More than 70 children gained knowledge on community obligations of community leader and council, elections, procedures, and their participation in decision-making processes.



This initiative builds on the success of its previous formats, aiming to impart

knowledge on local governance, laws, and citizen participation in a uniquely interactive and motivating way. Young kids actively engaged in elections simulation and petitions, discovering firsthand the power of their voices being heard.

Education about local governance and citizen participation can be not just informative, but truly engaging!



“

**The teacher from school 7, stated** - "The format and content were well-elaborated, enabling the children to grasp essential concepts without enduring long, boring, and traditional lessons. They feel an integral part of the community, embracing their roles as active citizens."

### 3."Creation of a playground in Gantsaqar"

**Timespan:** From **September, 2023** to **November, 2023**

**Name of partners/Associated:** Local Authorities of Gantsaqar

**Total Budget:** 14.143,00 €

**Funded by:** A local philanthropist

The goal of the project was to reinforce the creation of a healthy environment, promote local development, and provide alternative engagement opportunities.

The playground was attractive, relevant to all international standards, changed the daily life and environment of the kids and as a unique entertainment zone served the inhabitants from 5 neighbouring settlements.



# LDA CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN SERBIA



**Delegate: Ana Jovanović**  
**Established: 2001**

## Key partners:

- Associazione Trentino con i Balcani, Italy; provides program partnership
- Municipality Knjaževac, Serbia; provides in kind contribution (rent-free office space), programme partnership and financial support through open call for CSOs' project proposals

## Main objectives:

- Fostering democratic governance and citizen participation at the local level
- Youth empowerment
- Supporting the process of Serbia's EU integration

The LDA Central and Southern Serbia was established in 2001 in the City of Niš, Serbia. With the aim of spreading its program further onto the territories in need, in 2014 the LDA has moved its headquarter to Knjaževac, a city in South-Eastern Serbia. The LDA carries on activities in Niš, Knjaževac, Kraljevo and Kragujevac and it contributes to the development of local democracy in the communities of Eastern, Southern and Central Serbia through capacity building programs based on the principles of active citizenship and establishment of concrete mechanisms of citizens' participation in development of their communities.

# LDA CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN SERBIA IN THE FIELD



## Projects and activities

### 1. From the Youth Corner to the Youth Center

**Timespan:** From **March, 2022** to **February, 2023**

**Number of partners/Associated:** /

**Total Budget:** 9.250,00 €

**Funded by:** The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), (ACT project by Helvetas Serbia and Citizen Initiative Serbia)

In 12 month period, LDA CSS organised an advocacy campaign to influence the Municipal Council of Knjaževac to adopt a Decision on the establishment of a Youth Center that would be managed by local OGD working with young people, which would be used by the young people of Knjaževac for their activities.

During the campaign, 15 young people were involved in the planning and organisation of the project activities, four public events were held with 200 participants and more than 350 citizens signed their support for the initiative. The LDA CSS had the support of local cultural institutions and schools, as well as other CSOs active in the municipality of the LDA. During the monitoring visit from the SDC and ACT project representatives in November 2022, the previous deputy mayor Branislav Josifovic presented the two possible locations for the youth center, but to this point, local authorities have not released any additional statements regarding the matter. During the final meeting of the youth representatives with the new deputy mayor Marija Jelenkovic, the latter mentioned the problem of the management of the Youth Centre as the main issue for the establishment of such an institution. Since the initiative had significant support from citizens and other local stakeholders, LDA CSS is continuing this advocacy campaign and, at the same time, preparing the proposal for the management model of the future Knjazevac Youth Centre.

# LDA DNIPROPETROVSK REGION



**Delegate: Anzhelika Pylypenko**  
**Established: 2015**

## Key partner:

- ALDA - European Association for Local Democracy
- Lower Silesia Region- Lower Silesian Voivodship
- NGO All-Ukrainian public organisation “Association for the Promotion of Self-Organisation of the Population”
- NGO Campus Creative Club
- NGO Public Chamber of Ukraine
- NGO Gender club Dnipro
- Ukrainian Women’s Fund
- NGO Merkury Foundation
- UNESCO branch in Dnipro
- University of Customs and Finance

## Main objectives:

- Promoting the development of local democracy
- Assistance in psychological and social rehabilitation of IDPs, military personnel and their families
- Support of youth initiatives
- Promoting gender equality in all spheres of life

Local Democracy Agency of Dnipropetrovsk Region was established in 2015. It became the first LDA in Ukraine, and stands as a platform of cooperation, dialogue and exchange of experience and best practices across several aspects of regional development (cultural, social and economic) between local authorities and civil society in the EU and in Ukraine.

LDA fosters citizen participation at the local level, and mobilises civil society organisations, local and regional authorities to develop joint initiatives.



# LDA DNIPROPETROVSK REGION ON THE FIELD

## Projects and activities

### 1. "3 shelters for the Sokil residential complex"

**Timespan:** From **April, 2023** to **June, 2023**

**Name of partners/Associated:** ALDA

**Total Budget:** 12.000,00 €

**Funded by:** ALDA

The goal was to equip three shelters for IDPs and vulnerable populations in one residential area to create a "safety zone" for 45-75 people:

1. Joint equipment of shelters with the heads of condominiums and residents of apartment buildings
2. Instructing beneficiaries on the use of shelters

The strength of the project is its mega-relevance due to the catastrophic lack of equipped shelters in the city of Dnipro. It has taken into account all the necessary aspects for the most vulnerable populations of a separate residential area.

In addition, the heads of condominiums, who are responsible and well-organised individuals with authority in their mini-community living in their apartment buildings, joined the project. We managed to create a "security zone" for 45-75 people, which solved the issue of shelters for the "Sokil" housing estate.

“

“When the enemies who waged war against us are bombing our cities, it is very important to have a place of refuge where you can hide, stay with your child during this time to save his or her life and yours. That is why the equipment of a shelter in a neighboring house is a very important help for the residents of our residential area, which is located on the outskirts of the city, where there was only one bomb shelter for more than 5,000 residents” - **Svitlana, 35 years old.**



## Main achievements for 2023:

- the delegate represented the interests of all LDA's organisations in the GB during 2023;
- as an expert from civil society, the delegate was included in the group of drafters of the draft law "On Self-Organisation Bodies" to work closely with the members of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine to prepare the text of the draft law for the second reading;
- a delegate spoke at the World Forum for Democracy in Strasbourg and presented the results of the activities of the Dnipro Oblast State Administration during the war;
- the delegate spoke in a panel discussion at the Conference of Mayors "Unbreakable Spirit: Empowering Local Democratic Governance for Ukraine's Recovery"; (ACT NOW 2023) on achievements in cooperation between local authorities;
- the delegate improved her skills at a number of trainings on the peculiarities of working with people suffering from PTSD as a result of the war in Ukraine, as well as on psychological assistance to military personnel and their families;
- the delegate took part as an expert in the training block for the first group of veterans' assistants in the Dnipropetrovsk region;
- the project "Shelters for the Sokil residential complex" was implemented to shelter residents of a remote residential area during the bombing. The strength of the project is its mega-relevance due to the catastrophic lack of equipped shelters in the city of Dnipro. It has taken into account all the necessary aspects for the most vulnerable populations of a separate residential area. In addition, the heads of condominiums, who are responsible and well-organised individuals with authority in their mini-community living in their apartment buildings, joined the project. We managed to create a "security zone" for 45-75 people, which solved the issue of shelters for the "Sokil" housing estate;
- a UNESCO Club was established at the LDA of Dnipropetrovsk region for promote common values and goals in Ukraine;
- the University of Customs and Finance was initiated as a member of the ALDA and a new member was presented at the ALDA General Assembly;
- LDA of Dnipropetrovsk region organised a videoconference with the Head of the Dnipropetrovsk Regional Council to strengthen partnerships and find ways of cooperation;
- support for cooperation with condominiums with the condominiums of the city of Dnipro, providing them with legal and psychological consultations as needed;
- reached an agreement with the UCF administration on the arrangement and opening of the ALDA Center in the premises of the University of Customs and Finance.



## Key partner:

- Edremit Municipality and Edremit City Council (Türkiye);
- ALDA – European Association for Local Democracy;
- Budva Municipality (Montenegro);
- Lushnje Municipality (Albania) ;
- Ahmetbey Municipality (Türkiye)
- CSOs representatives.

## Main objectives:

- Supporting the participatory approach in decision-making processes at the local level, helping local governments operate openly and encouraging local governments to prioritise the needs of citizens;
- To expand the scope and possibilities, to develop the skills and capacities of civil society to establish dialogue, to encourage communication with local governments while working on the capacity of civil society to defend the areas it supports and its own interests;
- Involving citizens in decision-making mechanisms by strengthening dialogue and cooperation links between local governments and local non-governmental organisations;
- To strengthen the existing relations of the local government with sister cities and to encourage the creation of new relations between municipalities in Europe and local governments in Turkey
- To facilitate information exchange between actors and LDA partners in Türkiye and actors in other countries, especially in Europe, and the LDA Edremit Network.

Established in October 2021, the LDA Edremit is a Local Democracy Agency based in the Municipality of Edremit (Türkiye). Thanks to a participative approach in the decision making process and multilateral decentralised cooperation, it will design its actions and activities in tackling several topics and issues, such as:

- Cultural heritage and tourism
- Relationship between local authorities and citizens stressing the importance of accountability
- Migration
- Gender
- Disability

# LDA EDERMIT IN THE FIELD



## Projects and activities

### 1. “Strengthening the LDA Edremit establishment process”

**Timespan:** From **October, 2022** to **May, 2023**

**Name of partners/Associated:** Municipality of Edremit (Türkiye), ALDA

**Total Budget:** 5.000,00 €

**Funded by:** AB Sivil Düşün

The project “Strengthening the LDA Edremit establishment process” was applied by ALDA as lead applicant in order to strengthen the establishing process of LDA Edremit.

The objectives of the project was:

- Improving the capacities and skills of subjects involved in the establishment of LDA Edremit
- Supporting the internationalisation of LDA Edremit establishing new relations
- Providing LDA Edremit with communication and visibility tools
- Improving the knowledge about the local civil societies of Edremit with an in-depth analysis of the local CSOs throughout an online survey;
- A job shadowing visit to the LDA Mostar in order to exchange good practices and acquire critical knowledge about LDA management
- Design of LDA web page;
- Organisation of a Strategic Planning Meeting in Edremit with participation of ALDA
- Preparation of a Needs Assessment concerning the profile of the local civil society organisations in Edremit



The Job Shadowing Visit to LDA Mostar organised in the frame of this project and sustained by ALDA turned out in a great bond of friendship. After our visit, the delegate of LDA Mostar Ms. Dzenana Dedic participated in the LDA Edremit General Assembly organised in Edremit in October 2023 and we spent a great time together in Edremit sharing our cultural heritage, stories and ideas for new joint projects. It was a wonderful experience and a great fortune to have the opportunity to get in touch with such a kind and nice person.



## 2. General Assembly of LDA Edremit

**Timespan:** From **October 2023** to **October 2023**

**Name of partners/Associated:** Municipality of Edremit (Türkiye), ALDA

**Total Budget:** 8.000,00 €

**Funded by:** La Région Grand' EST

In the frame of the Contract Triennale supported by the city of Strasbourg and financed by the French Government, La Région Grand Est, European Collectivity of Alsace, Municipality of Strasbourg and Metropolitan City of Strasbourg, ALDA applied and awarded a grant of 8.000€ to be used for the organisation of the first General Assembly of LDA Edremit.

The objective of the project was to gather together in person all the foreign partners and supporter organisations of LDA Edremit and create a fruitful dialogue with the local associations which became the founder members of LDA Edremit. The project gave to us the opportunity to disseminate also the principles



of local democracy and participatory citizenship according to the model implemented by the city of Strasbourg as an example for our city and other communities in Türkiye.

The General Assembly of LDA Edremit was joined by ALDA Secretary General Ms. Antonella Valmordiba, the team of Middle East & Africa Department Ms. Giulia Sostero and Ms. Apolline Bonnefils, representative of Region Grand Est and member of the Council Mr. Christian DEBEVE, representative of Lujniye Municipality (Albania), delegate of LDA Mostar, representative of Elbarlament Association (Germany) and President of Dokuz8Haber, Mayor of Edremit and Director of Human Resources and Education of Edremit Municipality.

Together they inaugurated the newly opened office of LDA Edremit and then proceeded to a meeting and round table with representatives of LDA Edremit governing board.





**Delegate: Nino Khukhua**  
**Established: 2007**

## Key partner:

- City of Strasbourg, France (Lead Partner)
- City of Kutaisi, Georgia (Host City)
- Municipality of Monfalcone, Italy
- Kujawsko-Pomorskie Region, Poland
- City of Tbilisi, Georgia
- National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia (NALAG), Georgia
- Georgian Young Lawyers' Association (GYLA), Georgia
- Partners-Georgia, Georgia

## Main objectives:

Local Democracy Agency Georgia (LDA Georgia) was set up in 2007 in Kutaisi, as part of ALDA's strategy in the South Caucasus. LDA Georgia is dedicated to the promotion of good governance and citizen participation at the local level. LDA focuses on activities facilitating cooperation between local authorities and civil society.

The mission of LDA Georgia is to strengthen local democracy and civil society, support democratic reforms in Georgia, and to develop new and innovative approaches to local and national challenges, by cooperating with local and international stakeholders through:

- Capacity building programs for local authorities and NGOs
- Promoting active citizenship and good governance
- Promoting women's and youth rights
- Supporting and initiating cross-border and regional cooperation
- Promoting EU integration and European values at the local level

# LDA GEORGIA IN THE FIELD

## Projects and activities

### 1. Civil Society STAR Initiative Imereti Regional Hub

**Timespan:** From **April, 2021** to **November, 2024**

**Name of partners/Associated:** Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS), Center for Strategic Research Development of Georgia (CSRDG), Civil Society Initiative (CSI), Consultation and Training Center (CTC), Education Development Employment Center (EDEC), Institute for European Politics (IEP)

**Total Budget:** 60.000,00 €

**Funded by:** KAS/EU

The aim of Imereti Regional HUB is to strengthen civil society at the regional level, which will be achieved by maintaining the sustainability of civil society organisations, ensuring transparency and increasing the degree of accountability. Beyond supporting main activities under the “Civil Society STAR Initiative“, the Hub implemented several activities among which, the project presentation, study visits, the creation of an SMS platform and more!

The regional hub of Imereti within the framework of the project created an SMS platform, the purpose of which is to provide information to the CSO's and CBO's representatives of the region about various events planned at the regional or national level. The platform is located in the organization's web page. The activity supports sectoral cooperation and the opportunity to engage in various networks.

Within the framework of the project, Imereti regional hub formed a youth club, which was given seminars on the importance and role of civil society. The aim of the seminars was to change the attitudes of young people/students towards civil society and community organisations; promoting volunteering among young people and increasing their interest in the activities of civil society and



community organisations. As a result of the activity, public attitudes, as well as the interest of students and youth in general towards the civil sector has increased.

Imereti regional hub held meetings with persons responsible for relations with non-governmental organisations in municipalities. At the meetings, the main focus was on the needs of civil society organisations in the municipalities. The aim of the activity was to promote the growth of the role of civil society in public policy. The result of the activity was that the municipalities became more aware of the positive role of civil society organisations in public policy, which was clearly demonstrated by the municipalities' active involvement in the activities carried out within the framework of the regional hub.

Within the framework of the project, Imereti Regional Hub held 4 public meetings and gave public consultations at the regional level. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss important issues with the involvement of relevant actors at the regional level. Imereti Regional Hub organized study visits/job shadowing for CSO's/CBO's representatives in Zugdidi and Guria municipalities. The purpose of this activity was to gain experience and share successful examples, as well as to share the possibility of cooperation between CSOs/CBOs in the bordering regions. A total of 6 meetings have been held.

## 2. More Transparency and Accountability for Effective Self-Government

**Timespan:** From **November, 2023** to **June, 2024**

**Name of partners/Associated:** /

**Total Budget:** 18.303,00 €

**Funded by:** GIZ

The goal of the project is to ensure the implementation of effective self-government in the municipalities of Terjoli, Tkibuli and Baghdati on the Imereti region and to promote the involvement of civil society in the decision-making process.

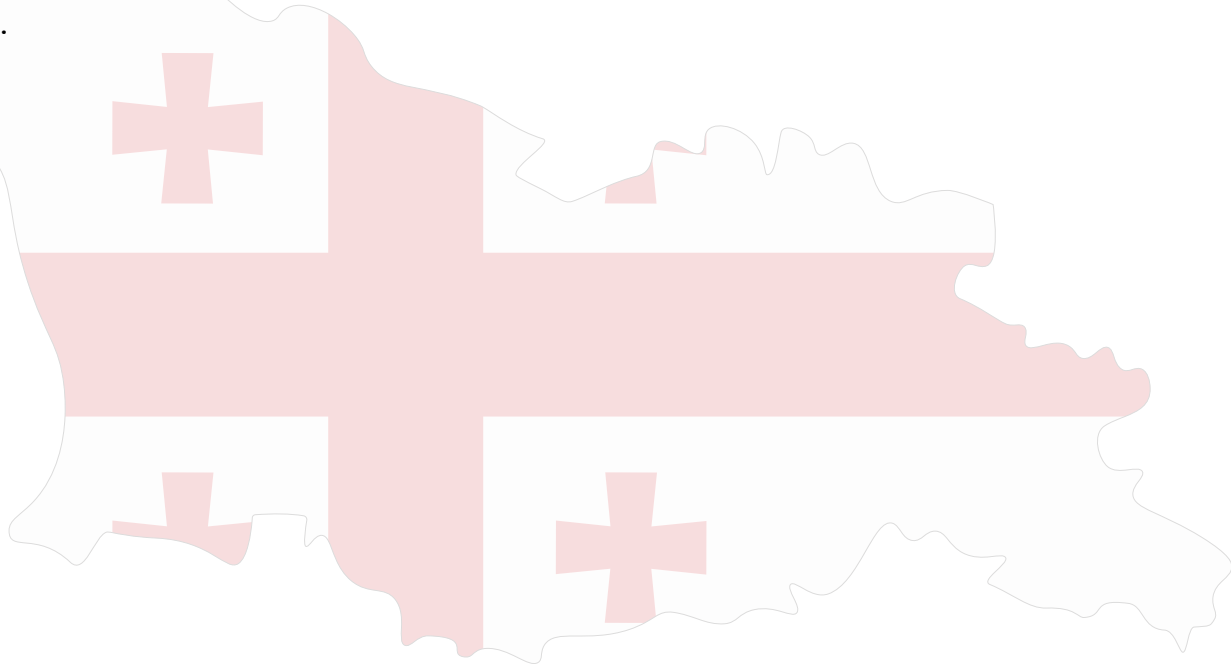
1. Increasing transparency and accountability of the local self-government bodies in target municipalities
2. Good governance and civil society participation in the decision-making process
3. Arrangement of regional conferences

The purpose of project is to ensure the implementation of effective self-government in the municipalities of Terjola, Tkibuli and Baghdati and to promote

involvement of civil society in the decision-making process. Within the framework of the project, a memorandum of understanding was signed between Local Democracy Agency Georgia, Tkibuli District Development Fund and target municipalities of the project (Baghdati, Terjola, Tkibuli).



The memorandum of understanding was signed by the heads of the organisations and the mayors of the mentioned municipalities. The meetings were also attended by the deputy mayors of the municipalities, the heads of the council, the municipal affairs of education, culture and sports, the department of human resources management and organisational affairs, representatives of the public relations affairs and the economic development department of the municipality, relations with local and international donor organisations, members of the gender equality council, the civic advisory council and the youth council of Baghdati municipality.



## Main achievements for 2023:

- **Peace Corps Volunteer** - Local Democracy Agency Georgia will host Peace Corps Individual and Organizational Development Program volunteer Freddy Tsao for two years (2023-2024). As a multimedia designer, Freddie has years of experience in human-centered design, which at its core is the concept of creating and inventing products and services that improve human well-being, user experience, and promote social change. Freddy's expertise lies in developing human-centered research practices and communicating user needs effectively, with a focus on fostering social change. Prior to joining us, Freddy worked as a design researcher and strategist in Chicago, Illinois, and has also worked as a program communications strategist and designer for a variety of non-profit organizations in the United States. He is a graduate of the University of Chicago with a degree in Public Policy and Cinema and Media Studies. In his new role, Freddy will support our mission by supporting our organisation and community groups in areas such as employability skills, digital literacy, entrepreneurship, and project design and management, will work with youth to develop leadership, employability, and English language skills.
- **Meeting with ALDA representatives** - The Executive Director Local Democracy Agency Georgia, Nino Khuhua, hosted the representatives of the "European Association for Local Democracy" (ALDA). The meeting was attended by Marco Boaria - head of ALDA 's programs and development department and Andrea Rilievo - member of ALDA 's board. The executive director spoke about the organisation's activities and achieved results, as well as its goals and objectives. Also, meetings were held with representatives of Kutaisi and Zugdidi municipalities, who are members of ALDA and often have to implement joint projects through cooperation. At the meeting, the conversation touched on new opportunities for cooperation and ALDA's activities in Eastern Partnership countries.
- **„Europe Day” 2023** - Local Democracy Agency participated in the information meeting dedicated to “Europe Day”, which took place at Kutaisi University. LDA Georgia was presented with a stand, which included small souvenirs and informational brochures about the organization's projects. Representatives of the organization had an opportunity to inform interested people about the organization's activities and future plans. At the end of the event, LDA Georgia carried out a quiz game about the European Union and EU-Georgia relationship. Winners were awarded with branded T- shirts with the LDA logo. The information meeting was organized by Information Center on NATO and EU. “Europe Day” takes place every year to inform Georgian people about Georgia's european integration process and to increase citizens' involvement in this process.

- **The Executive Director of LDA Georgia participated in the general assembly of ALDA** - The General Assembly of ALDA (European Association for Local Democracy) held in Brussels in June 2023 was attended by the Executive Director of the organization Local Democracy Agency Georgia, Nino Khukhua. Nino Khukhua was one of the speakers of the event panel, “Local Democracy in the context of a renewed geopolitical framework in the Eastern Partnership Countries” , where the executive director of LDA Georgia gave a speech to the audience. After the valuable insights shared by the panelists, interesting discussions took place.
- **Youth exchange project in Italy** - Five young people selected by LDA Georgia were in Italy within the framework of Erasmus+ project "S.H.O.W. RESPECT". The project "S.H.O.W RESPECT" aimed to raise awareness on the issue of gender-based violence, using theatrical techniques. Participants from six countries (Italy, Spain, Portugal, Armenia, Jordan and Georgia) were involved in the exchange program.
- **ALDA General Secretary, Antonella Valmorbida, visit to Georgia** - The Executive Director Local Democracy Agency Georgia, Nino Khuhua, hosted the general secretary of ALDA - European Association for Local Democracy, Antonella Valmorbida. The executive director spoke about the organisation's activities and achieved results, as well as its goals and objectives. Also, meetings were held with the Deputy Mayor of Kutaisi Municipality, Tamar Dakhundaridze and the Head of Foreign Relations Department, Shorena Khukhua, the Mayor of Batumi Municipality, Archil Chikovani, the Mayor of Poti Municipality, Beka Vcharadze, the rector of Akaki Tsereteli State University, Shalva Kirtadze, and the head of the Foreign Affairs and Development Office, David Gegechkori. At the meeting, the conversation touched on new opportunities for cooperation and ALDA's activities in Eastern Partnership countries.
- **Conference - The role of municipalities in the implementation of the European neighborhood policy (CORLEAP)** - The executive director of Local Democracy Agency Georgia (LDA Georgia), Nino Khukhua, together with the general secretary of ALDA - European Association for Local Democracy, Antonella Valmorbida, participated in the conference - "The role of municipalities in the implementation of the European Neighborhood Policy". The first session was dedicated to discussing the role of municipalities in good governance and sharing the experiences of the "CORLEAP" member countries in this direction. In the second part of the meeting, attention was focused on the role of municipalities in territorial development. The integrated regional development program was also presented at the conference. The conference was held with the support of the National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia and Batumi Municipality City Hall.

- **Open day at Akaki Tsereteli State and Kutaisi University** - We were delighted to host an informational meeting for students and youth at Akaki Tsereteli State University. The meeting covered a range of topics: Participants learned about the work of the Local Democracy Agency Georgia, along with available youth exchange programs. Information was provided regarding internship opportunities at our organization. Attendees listened to stories from former exchange program participants. Participants had the chance to complete the application form for the youth club based within our organization, allowing them to become club members. A survey assessing the needs of young people, as well as a program aimed at increasing youth involvement, were also presented during the meeting.
- **European Solidarity Corps coordinators' meeting** - Tamuna Akhobadze represented LDA Georgia at the European Solidarity Corps coordinators' meeting held on 24-26 November in Bakuriani. The purpose of the meeting was to share experiences, challenges and plans for the future within the framework of the program, which gives young people the opportunity to engage in international projects to develop skills, gain knowledge, new experiences and improve professional competencies. The meeting also covered topics such as finding trusted partners for international exchange programs and strengthening relationships with them. Representatives of the organization summarised and jointly discussed plans for the near future, aimed at attracting more young people to the European Solidarity Corps projects.
- **Student Festival 2023** - Local Democracy Agency Georgia participated in the student festival held at Akaki Tsereteli State University. Youth programs implemented by the organization and student proposals were presented at the festival.
- **Youth Festival 2023** - LDA Georgia was excited to be a part of the Kutaisi Youth Festival yesterday, where we connected with Kutaisi youth about our organisation's youth initiatives.
- **Impressions of the participants of the internship program** - Meet Our Internship Alumni: Maia, Shota, and Lana! Join us in celebrating the achievements of our incredible former interns: Maia Giorgadze, Shota Kvaratskhelia, and Lana Chanturidze! Each has left a unique mark on our organization, embodying our mission to engage youth in active problem-solving and inclusive decision-making. Through our internship program, they not only enhanced their skills but also contributed significantly to our large-scale projects, international exchanges, seminars, and specialized trainings. They've raised their voices, worked with global minds in international exchange programs, and empowered their peers in our youth club.





**Delegate: Shpresa Sefaj Berisha**  
**Established: 2011**

## Key partner:

- Association Trentino con i Balcani, Italy (Lead partner)
- Municipality of Peja/Pec, Kosovo (Host city)
- Amici dei bambini, Italy and Kosovo
- RTM Region Third World, Italy and Kosovo
- Only Equal Rights Association S.U.D, Italy
- ALFA Formation, France
- Municipality of Yalova, Turkey
- Association of Municipalities of Kosovo AKM

## Main objectives:

- Promotion of the Local Democracy Agency of Kosovo
- Promotion of the local democracy and European integration
- Promotion of culture, youth and equal opportunities
- Promotion of dialogue among communities
- Promotion of local economic development
- Support logistics for the LDA's partners

The LDA Kosovo was officially opened in 2011 in Peja/Pec, to promote local democracy in the country. The LDA implements its mission through activities in the fields of democracy, justice, human rights, youth and equal opportunities, dialogue among minority communities in Kosovo, economic development, and social and cultural development. LDA Kosovo implements capacity building programmes aimed at fostering active citizenship and at establishing concrete mechanisms of citizens' participation, thus empowering citizens to improve their communities, as well as their society.



# LDA KOSOVO IN THE FIELD

## Projects and activities

### 1. "Youth Empowerment for Social Change"

**Timespan:** From **August, 2023** to **December, 2023**

**Name of partners/Associated:** /

**Total Budget:** 4.000,00 €

**Funded by:** Municipality of Peje

The project aims to promote youth participation in social change and development initiatives. And so provide young people with the skills, knowledge and opportunities they need to participate in the processes of change in their communities.

"As part of this project, four round table discussions were organised, providing young people from Peja with the opportunity to learn about the following topics:"

*Media Literacy*- educating young people about media literacy, teaching them to critically analyse media messages, recognise biases, and understand the impact of media on society.

*Language of hate, sexism, and the role of civil society.* It has been a crucial discussion about recognising and combating hate speech, promoting gender equality, and the importance of civil society in fostering positive change.

*"16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence"* campaign, which takes place annually from November 25th (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) to December 10th (International Human Rights Day). It's likely focused on raising awareness about gender-based violence and promoting activism to combat it.



Gender equality in institutions - round table discussion about gender equality in institutions, emphasising the importance of ensuring equal representation and opportunities for all genders within various societal institutions.

The main goal of the project is to empower young people to make changes in their society, with focus on issues such as gender equality, human rights and preparing young people for the labor market. By engaging and empowering young people, the project aims to create a more inclusive society right, where everyone has equal opportunity.

## 2. European Label of Governance Excellence (ELoGE)

**Timespan:** From **May, 2023** to **November, 2023**

**Name of partners/Associated:** /

**Total Budget:** 6.200,00 € (LDA Kosovo funds)

**Funded by:** Council of Europe

The ELoGE program provides tools to local authorities to assess their compliance with the 12 Principles of Good Democratic Governance.

During this period, the main project activities included analysing the first year of implementation of ELoGE in Kosovo municipalities. Additionally, a final conference was held to mark the opening of the second phase of the project, titled "European Award for Excellent Governance in Kosovo". The conference was attended by mayors from Kosovo municipalities as well as representatives from the Council of Europe.

The main achievement was to improve and enhance good democratic governance of local administrations, promote democratic participation of citizens in the public life of their municipality and support local administrations in understanding the strengths and weaknesses of the elaboration of the decision-making process and of the provision of public services.



### 3.Display

**Timespan:** From **January, 2023** to **December, 2024**

**Number of partners/Associated:** 7

**Total Budget:** 300.000,00 €

**Funded by:** EU-Erasmus+

DiSPRAY aims at motivating youth to stimulate their social entrepreneurship, creativity, innovation and transversal skills. Through the promotion of intercultural dialogue, ject supports the purposeful use of digital technologies and serious plays in youth business ideas development.

LDA Kosovo participated as a partner fo the project with 2 young people from Peja in this case as a Partner of on Training in Triesen, Liechtenstein.

The main topic was Digital LEGO® SERIOUS PLAY® and youth entrepreneurship. This training marks the beginning of a transformative journey for our project team, focusing on developing a robust training plan. The goal was to empower youth workers with the tools and methodologies needed to evaluate youth entrepreneurship ideas using LEGO® SERIOUS PLAY®!

Training Highlights:

1. Motivation 3.0 (autonomy, mastery, and purpose)
2. Self-knowledge: inner motivations, strengths, and values
3. Teamwork: interpersonal communication, conflict solving, leadership, etc.
4. Information literacy
5. Business Model Canvas
6. LEGO® SERIOUS PLAY®
7. Sustainability, ethics, and social innovation
8. Business creation
9. Internationalisation
10. Communication and formal presentations

DiSPRAY encourage an open and respectful exchange of views on youth entrepreneurship between individuals and groups involved who come from different cultures and foresees a deeper understanding of the different perceptions. The overall aim of this project is to open employability opportunities and build up the entrepreneurial capacities of youth and youth workers from Europe, third countries associated with the Programme and Western Balkans that are required with innovative tools, resilient management and a solid sense of their ethical boundaries.

With the core element the digital transformation, the project supports the purposeful use of digital technologies and serious plays in youth business ideas development.





**Delegate: Tetiana Lomakina**  
**Established: 2017**

## Key partner:

### International partners:

- The Municipality of Gdansk
- Etterbeek Municipality
- Studio Progetto
- Progettarte
- ADL Zavidovici, Brescia
- the Government of Japan and the IOM (project partners in 2023)

### Ukrainian partners:

- Mariupol City Council
- Mariupol State University
- Pryazovskyi State Technical University
- CF “I am Mariupol. Youth”
- Pan-Ukrainian Youth Organization
- NGO Mariupol Youth Union
- Ukrainian Red Cross Society (URCS) created in Ukraine by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Main objectives:

The mission of LDA Mariupol is to support civil society in Ukraine during the war. We aim to promote increased activism among citizens, create mutual understanding and cooperation between the public and local authorities, develop the potential of youth and opinion leaders, and provide the necessary assistance to displaced persons.

*Vision:* We strive to build a sustainable and solidary society in Ukraine, where citizens actively participate in decision-making and interact with local authorities, where young people are a strong force for positive change, and displaced people find support and opportunities for integration. Our vision is a peaceful and

prosperous society based on human rights and principles of equality.

## LDA MARIUPOL IN THE FIELD

### Projects and activities

#### 1. Conducting an online workshop on issues of democracy and its effective tools for students of universities of Ukraine, young people, representatives of Ukrainian youth organisations and associations

**Timespan:** From **October, 2023** to **October, 2023**

**Number of partners/Associated:** 5

**Total Budget:** Volunteer project

**Funded by:** LDA Mariupol

The main goal of the workshop is to provide young people with the necessary knowledge, skills and tools for active participation in democratic processes and making informed decisions in public affairs. Such topics as the application of practical tools of participatory democracy in order to develop youth self-governance have been discussed at the online workshop.

Participants shared the challenges faced by representatives of youth communities during the organisation of public events, and thus developed joint ideas for involving young people in decision-making. The event was facilitated by Tetyana Horokhova, a national expert of the Council of Europe project "Youth for Democracy in Ukraine".

Thanks to the involvement of partners, the workshop was conducted efficiently and effectively: Mariupol State University, Pryazovskyi State Technical University, All-Ukrainian Youth Center, Centers "I am Mariupol.Youth", Mariupol Youth Council.

It is worth noting that 67 people took part in the workshop, where, respectively, the number of participants was 41 (61.2%) and the number of representatives was 26 (38.8%). The age of the participants ranged from 15 to 47 years. The number of internally displaced persons was 40 persons (59.7%) of the total number of participants.

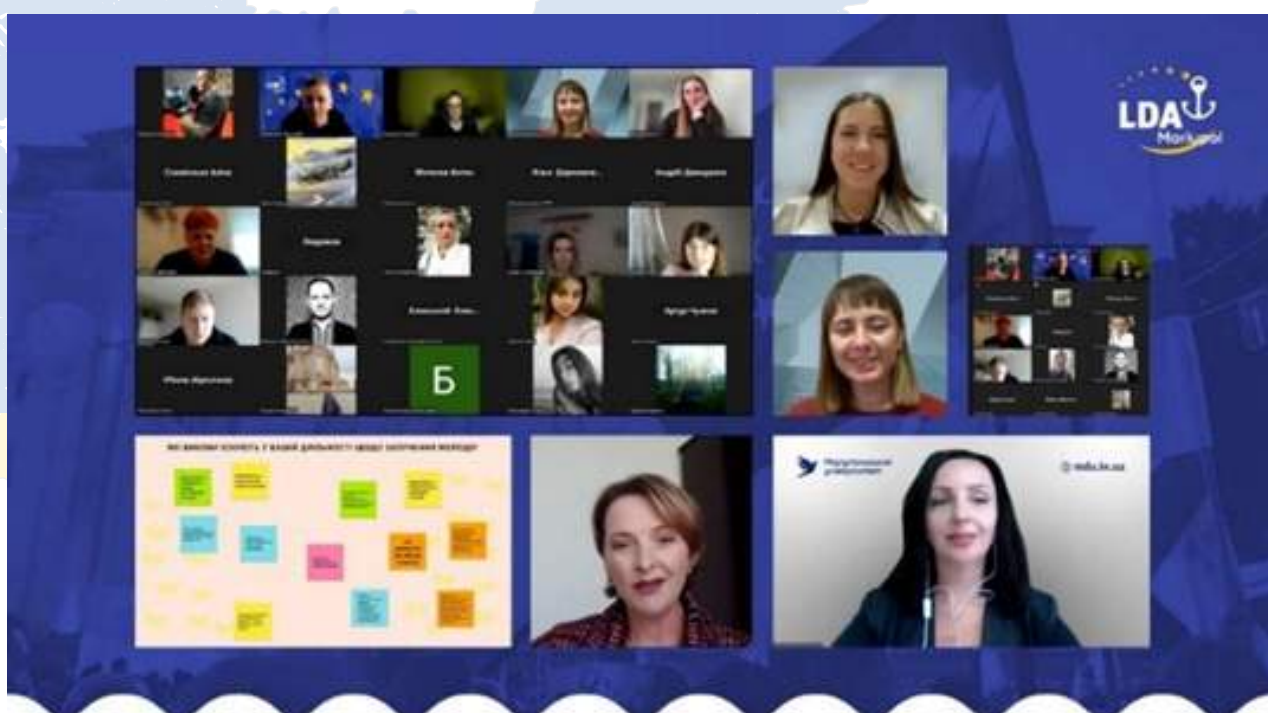
87.5% of participants noticed the importance of developing democracy tools among young



people and planned to apply them in their civic activities. LDA Mariupol expert team provided additional knowledge about modern tools for their quality use in their areas of activity.

The result of the workshop was the development of proposals for practical tools of democracy for the development of self-government and youth activity.

“  
**Yulia, 25 years:** “That was a great experience for me as a student activist of Mariupol State University. Now I know necessary tools of democracy for development of youth activity in student self-government sphere”



## 2. Dialogue meetings with the people of Mariupol in different cities of Ukraine in the framework of the project “Mariupol.ReBorn”

**Timespan:** From **June, 2023** to **October, 2023**

**Names of partners/Associated:** Mariupol Youth Union, Mariupol City Council, LDA Mariupol “I am Mariupol”, Mariupol City Council, Diana Protsenko, Professional Mediator and Expert of the National Academy of Mediators of Ukraine

**Total Budget:** Volunteer project

**Funded by:** USA Government through the program of USAID "Economic support of Ukraine"



The initiative to hold dialogue meetings with the people of Mariupol arose because of the high need of the people themselves to understand their own future after the de-occupation of the city of Mariupol. The main motive of the events is the return of Mariupol residents to the city after de-occupation. The role of the LDA Mariupol was to provide informational support of the project, organisation of events, distribution and promotion of the project among internally displaced persons, and social networks.

**16 meetings** were held in 16 cities of Ukraine, where there are centers of comprehensive support of "YAMariupol". More than 700 residents of Mariupol were involved. More than 400 ideas from citizens have been developed.

A team of experts and Urbanists was formed, who began implementing the opinions of Mariupol residents into the vision of the revival of the city after the de-occupation.



### 3. Mariupol Reborn

**Timespan:** From 2022 to 2024

**Names of partners/Associated:** Mariupol City Council, "I am Mariupol", experts: Sergiy Rodionov, the author of Mariupol brand, director of the platform "Setka", Fulko Treffers, the architector from the Netherlands, Viktor Zotov, Ukrainian architector

**Total Budget:** /

**Funded by:** USAID "Economic support of Ukraine" and local partners

Development and implementation of an action plan for the reconstruction and restoration of the city of Mariupol after its de-occupation. Information support, consultations and sharing experience, distribution of the project impact at social networks of the partners.

*Main achievements:* The consolidation of the efforts of EU communities will be a guarantee for the sustainable reconstruction of Ukraine, Mariupol and other affected cities. Mariupol, unfortunately, is the biggest tragedy of Ukraine. In two

months of war, a promising city turned into a city of ruins and the deaths of tens of thousands of civilians. The revitalisation plan "Mariupol Reborn" is the city's future. It is part of the great reconstruction of Ukraine. Mariupol is the first to develop expertise and follow a path that other communities can then use. It is about creating a new city with a new economic model, a visual vision and a new master plan. And all this can be implemented quickly and efficiently by joining forces with the European community.



A workshop was held in Warsaw, at which Mayor of Mariupol Vadim Boichenko spoke about the development of the "Mariupol Reborn" City Revival Plan, and teams of well-known urbanists presented four visions of the spatial development of Mariupol. According to Vadym Boychenko, Polish cities will help rebuild Mariupol quickly and efficiently after deoccupation. In particular, they are ready to provide an analysis of concepts and approaches to urban renewal. These intentions were recorded in the Memorandum signed by Vadim Boichenko and the leadership of the Union of Polish Metropolies, which unites the 12 largest Polish cities.

“Polish cities have gone through the path of revival from the ruins suffered as a result of the Second World War. We strive to study as much as possible their experience and the main points that helped to quickly recover, rise and become the leading cities of Europe. Involvement of expertise of this level will help to make the path of reconstruction of Mariupol more effective and faster" - **Vadym Boychenko.**



#### 4. Training program "Ukraine of the future - PROsocial business"

**Timespan:** From **August ,2023** to **September, 2023**

**Names of partners/Associated:** NGO "Mariupol Youth Union", the International Organisation for Migration (IOM Ukraine), the Government of Japan, NGO "Barrier-free", GURT Resource Centre

**Total Budget:** /

**Funded by:** The program "Reconstruction and development 2023: employment and business" is implemented by the NGO "Mariupol Youth Union" within the framework of the project of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM Ukraine) with the financial support of the Government of Japan in partnership with LDA Mariupol

In order to help businesses in Kyiv, Chernihiv and Poltava regions, to remain competitive, to be ready for changes, as well as to be able to use the best experience and tools today for the effective development and expansion of their own business, the expert team of NGO "Mariupol Youth Union" and LDA Mariupol held offline and online events in Kremenchuk , Bilotserkivska, Kyiv, Nizhynska, Chernihiv and Poltava communities with cooperation and support local self-government bodies and deputy mayors of these communities.

6 trainings were held in 6 cities and towns of Ukraine, including sign language. In total 263 entrepreneurs took part in online and offline trainings, 285 people participated in online broadcasts.

The training program revealed 4 blocks with information on social responsibility and social mission, openness and inclusiveness, development of business processes and culture in the team, as well as opportunities to attract additional funding, taking into account local characteristics, opportunities and examples. This will contribute to the growth of the economic and social stability, creation of

jobs in the communities.

Target group: residents of Kremenchuk , Bilotserkivska, Kyiv, Nizhynska, Chernihiv and Poltava communities, in particular youth, internally displaced persons, veterans, combatants, people with disabilities



## 5. PAVE - Peace Awareness through volunteering and education

**Timespan:** From **January, 2022** to **December, 2024**

**Number of partners/Associated:** 7

**Total Budget:** /

**Funded by:** Erasmus +

*PEACE ACADEMY SUMMER SCHOOL:* Co-developing and facilitating a training module for the participants of the summer school, and presence of two representatives at the Peace Academy Summer School.

- *RESTITUTION OF RESULTS:* Participation of three representatives at the final conference of the project.

- *COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION:* Contribution to the communication on the project activities (at least one article, social media post or other organisations' own channel mean of dissemination published about participation of the Associated Partner at the activities of PAVE project).

**2 representatives of Mariupol State University** visited the "International Peace Academy" in the city of Zagreb, Croatia, as part of the PAVE project. They explored the main conflict scenarios that shaped Europe's past - Northern Ireland, the Balkans and Ukraine - these are invaluable history lessons for everyone.

They learned to prevent conflicts and foster a culture of peace and mutual understanding.

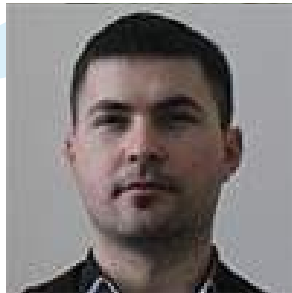
In the frame of the project PAVE, LDA Mariupol took part in the online trainings, information visibility in social media.

The project PAVE will be continuing till the end of 2024 and LDA Mariupol will take active part in it.

“

**Katerina Horiunova, 29 years:** “The workshop brought me fresh ideas for better understanding and planning of civic activities in my career in the field of education and civic engagement”





**Delegate: Nicolae Hristov**  
**Established: 2017**

## Key partner:

- Solidarité Eau Europe, France (lead partner)
- City of Cimișlia, host city
- IASCI – International Agency for Source Country Information (Representative Office Moldova) - NEXUS Moldova

## Main objectives:

- Facilitate the participation of civil society in the decision-making process at the local level.
- Increase the interest, awareness and capacities of citizen to take part in the decisionmaking process at the local level.
- Increase the awareness and skills of the local communities and local authorities to address the needs of citizens.
- Increase the interest and sharing of information between Moldova and other European.
- Countries and stakeholders to enable closer cooperation and ongoing exchange of the practices.
- Raise the awareness of the importance of migration with regards of local development.

The LDA Moldova in Cimișlia was established on 3 March 2017. It represents the first Local Democracy Agency in Moldova, based in the city of Cimișlia, a historic and symbolic city, the aim is to create a platform for cooperation, dialogue and mutual exchange of experience in all aspects (cultural, social and economic) between local communities and communities of European partners and will constitute a platform of discussion between citizens, local associations and authorities on the field in order to meet the needs of local communities.



## Projects and activities

### 1. Modernisation of livestock farms, automation of the milk collection process, and enhancement of the feeding production

**Timespan:** From **December, 2023** to **October, 2024**

**Name of partners/Associated:** NGO Development through Involvement (AO Dezvoltare prin Implicare), Cimislia District Council, Cimislia Business Incubator.

**Total Budget:** 145.000,00 \$

**Funded by:** UNDP Moldova

This project is implemented within the micro-region of Cimislia-Basarabeasca, encompassing 10 localities within the region, with an aggregate population of 21,400 individuals. The focal recipients of this endeavor are the 24 constituents of the micro-cluster “Ovi-Caprin Cimislia-Basarabeasca”, an entity employing 50 workers with an estimated turnover of 23 mln MDL. The identification of the recipient institution transpired through a rigorous closed call for proposals.

Subsequently, the ultimate beneficiaries were judiciously chosen at the micro-cluster level, taking into account the most pressing needs, challenges, and prospects. The overarching goal is to enhance the provision of tourism services within the region, aiding the micro-cluster in the execution of the roadmap formulated and sanctioned by its members.

Furthermore, the principal aim of the project is to augment the revenue generation of the final beneficiaries, consequently contributing to the overall economic growth of the micro-cluster. The initiative also aspires to generate and/or enhance employment opportunities within the micro-region.

#### *Main achievementst:*

- The development of livestock farming and milk processing in the Cimislia-Basarabeasca micro-region through modernisation and automation efforts.
- A budget allocation of 145 000,00 USD (Moldovan Leu 2,568,095) to support these initiatives, with disbursements based on project milestones.



- The establishment of an implementation team, execution of non-monetary assistance agreements, and a detailed procurement plan to facilitate project objectives.
- Implementation of interventions at the micro-cluster level, including the procurement of goods and services and the transfer of these to final beneficiaries.
- The project targets the creation and enhancement of employment opportunities and aims to generate economic growth within the micro-cluster, with performance indicators and risk analysis detailed to guide and measure progress.

Due to their motivation to develop, they are part of the Project "Modernisation and efficiency of livestock business in the Ovi-Caprine Cluster Cimislia - Basarabeasca", an activity financially supported within the framework of the Switzerland-UNDP Project "Resilient and Inclusive Markets in Moldova".

“ Thus, the **Caproșu family noted that** "The sheep and goat cluster is not just a project, but a community made up of people with the same passion and commitment for the welfare of animals and the rural environment. Through collaboration and exchange of experience, we can improve our practices, support each other in the face of difficulties."

In the framework of the project implemented by AO Local Democracy Agency of Moldova, "GȚ Caproșu Alexandru Sergiu", will benefit from support to improve the conditions of animal husbandry and maintenance by carrying out reconstruction and modernisation works on the farm.





**Casian Petru** is a young farmer from Abaclia village, Basarabasca. He comes from a family of sheep breeders and has loved this occupation since childhood. As a child, he used to spend his days in the fields in the summer, grasing sausages. He had to overcome many challenges and even went abroad to work, only to finally return home from Ireland in 2023. and start from scratch the business of his heart's desire.

Today, Petru Casian, founder of the business "Shepherd's Farm", has managed to bring to Moldova and develop 2 productive sheep breeds Assaf and Friza, create his own milk production line and prove that it is possible to be successful in business at home with loved ones.

Due to his motivation to develop and grow his business he became a member of the Cimișlia - Basarabasca Sheep and Goat Cluster, which gave him the opportunity to be also a beneficiary of the Project implemented by AO Local Democracy Agency of Moldova LDA Moldova.

"Modernisation and efficiency of livestock business in the Cimișlia - Basarabasca Sheep and Goat Cluster", an activity financially supported under the Switzerland-UNDP Project "Resilient and Inclusive Markets in Moldova".

In the framework of the project, the "Shepherd's Farm", will benefit from support for the development of the livestock business through the construction of a modern farm equipped with automated milking technology for 12 heads and a photovoltaic system to ensure adequate conditions on the farm.

These investments will create conditions to increase the herd of breeding animals and increase the production of milk delivered to the processor SRL Sălașul Baciului, a member of the sheep and goat cluster.

“ ———  
**Petru Casian** said that "It is encouraging to see that farmers have joined together in a cluster to cooperate and develop. I have high expectations from this collaboration, as it can bring significant benefits in terms of efficiency, resource sharing and joint sustainable development."



**Delegate: Kerim Međedović**  
**Established: 2001**

## Key partner:

- Friuli-Venezia Giulia Region, Italy (Lead partner)
- Municipality of Nikšić, Montenegro (Host city)
- Municipality of Kotor, Montenegro
- Municipality of Rozaje, Montenegro
- Union of Municipalities of Montenegro
- Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Montenegro
- Association Betton-Montenegro, France
- City of Neuchatel, Switzerland

## Main objectives:

- Local administration capacity development
- Human rights and peace building
- Youth participation
- Local economic development
- European Union integration processes

The Local Democracy Agency in Nikšić was established with the support of the Council of Europe on May 11th 2001 as a local NGO. LDA Montenegro functions within the network of 11 Agencies in the former Yugoslav republics and with the support of the Association of Local Democracy Agencies. The creation of Local Democracy Agencies was one of the measures proposed in 1993 by the Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe. Local Democracy Agency of Montenegro together with the Association of Local Democracy Agencies works on the development of democratic processes and socio-economic development of Southeast and Eastern Europe in co-operation with partners, cities, regions and other organisations through decentralised co-operation and partnership.

# LDA MONTENEGRO IN THE FIELD

## Projects and activities



### 1. INER – Intelligent Energy Management and Renewable Energy Sources Promotionk

**Timespan:** From **April, 2020** to **March, 2023**

**Number of partners/Associated:** 6

**Total Budget:** 119.736,00 €

**Funded by:** European Union, IPA Interreg CBC Croatia - Bosnia and Herzegovina – Montenegro program

The objective of the project was to increase energy efficiency EE, the use of renewable energy sources RES as well as intelligent energy management in CRO, BiH, MNE through promotion, raising awareness, improving knowledge, competences and enabling transfer of best practices between project territories.

Within the framework of the project, numerous activities were carried out among which the preparation of Local buildings typology and lists of recommended EE measures; the elaboration of Scenarios for EE improvement; Implementation of 5 Energy audits in public buildings (these audits include: analysis of energy category of building, balances of energy use, measures for improvement of energy efficiency, calculation of possible savings and payback period for each measure, as well as potential financing sources); Conducting a TNA; development of a Training curricula; conducting Energy management (EM) training, EM software training and Training on profitability of EE measures; Installation of Energy management software; realization of coaching on practical measures, Analyses of financing sources; Creation of Technical documentation for investments; and implementation of EE/RES Demonstration action, development of Transferability report.

*Main achievements:* the main achievements of the project included; the installation of a solar park (solar tree, 5 solar benches, 10kW solar power plant) ,5 public buildings energy audits conducted and reports produced, Nikšić building typology developed, energy management trainings for energy managers and other technical staff from 3 municipalities realized.

Special added value of the project were trainings for design and projecting the solar power plants for teachers and students, which complemented the donation of 5 educational solar sets to 5 professional secondary schools in Niksic, Bijeljo Polje, Pljevlja and Podgorica.

LDA was partner in charge for project visibility and we managed project identity, media releases, social networks and produced 8 newsletters, project brochure and project video, which is available [here](#).

The follow up will be the accreditation of a specialised training program for teachers in electrical high schools.

## 2.South Eastern European coalition to cultivate SMART SMEs in Europe SEE SMART SMEs – Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs

**Timespan:** From **February, 2020** to **February, 2023** (extended until February 2024)

**Number of partners/Associated:** 7

**Total Budget:** 88.521,00 €

**Funded by:** European Commission – Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs

Local Democracy Agency Montenegro is participating in this big EC program dedicated to new and future entrepreneurs' development in partnership with their colleagues abroad. The partnership is constituted of organizations from Austria, Turkey, Italy, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and North Macedonia.

The project addressed three main challenges that European SMEs need to face and overcome in order to keep on being the backbone of the European Union (EU) economy and thus contribute to reach the Europe 2020 Strategy. Within the framework of the project several activities were carried out, among which provide information to NEs; Promote the programme and search for HE, Verify applications from NEs and HEs; Pro-actively match relationships; Provide induction training for NEs in the country of origin; Manage commitments & agreements; Assist on the practicalities /logistical support; Administer financial assistance, Ensure high standards and evaluation feedback, Organize active networking amongst IOs; Report to the Lead IOS.



*Main achievements:* we established cooperation with all the leading business support actors such as Ministry of Economy, Chamber of Commerce, university of Montenegro, Business Center Bar as Enterprise Europe Network contact points in Montenegro, then Employment Bureau, Union of Employers, Faculty for Management in Tourism, Tehnopolis Niksic, Birzimumium HUB Podgorica, University Donja Gorica, Youth Club Budva, local administration units for business support, various NGOs etc. With our partners we organised a number of promotional and support events 14 live and 5 online.

Out of 54 registrations, a total of 20 exchanges are realised. 17 young Montenegrin entrepreneurs established partnerships and stayed from 1 to 6 months with their experienced partners in Sweden, Spain, Canary Islands, Germany, Turkey, Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, learning entrepreneurial skills and developing their business ideas, and three entrepreneurs from Italy and Bosnia and Herzegovina visited their peers in Montenegro. The business areas covered are tourism, start up in IT, fitness industry, video production, candy shop, pottery production, photography, UX design, coliving/coworking, consultancy in accounting, interpretation/translation services, event management etc.



### 3.WB cities creating more opportunities for young people

**Timespan:** From **February, 2023** to **March, 2023**

**Number of partners/Associated:** 3

**Total Budget:** 15.268,00 €

**Funded by:** European Union, Western Balkans Fund

The “WB Cities creating more opportunities for Young People” project, implemented in Subotica, Novi Sad, Nikšić and Prijedor, is making a real change through concrete actions involving many civil society organisations, institutions, students and youth.

The project is designed as a combined set of capacity building, regional best practice exchange and joint pilot actions to mobilise youth groups, young IT professionals, IT clusters, tourist and cultural operators, local youth offices and local public authorities in three cities to work together and contribute to creative industry and youth entrepreneurship development.

The proposal incorporates the transferring of best practice with OPENS, Novi Sad as the organisation with relevant expertise in city branding within the Novi Sad EU Youth Capital 2019.

The project addresses some of the key challenges relevant to WB region - youth employment, brain drain and a general abstention of youth from participation in local public life. Therefore, the focus is on youth friendly innovative approaches to cultural tourism, resources and products. A wide scope of digital tools, social media campaigns, creative artistic expressions, authentic youth narratives from both urban and rural communities will be employed for innovating the approaches of youth participation in inclusive development.

Overall objective of the project is To contribute in empowering the grass roots youth groups, young artists, IT clusters, youth workers through promotion of creative industry and entrepreneurship. Specific objectives were to empower CSOs and youth grassroots organisations to engage jointly with local public authorities in promoting cultural heritage and tourism and to promote innovation initiatives in the region through exchange of best practices in youth cultural participation and creative industry.

*Main achievements:* together with project partners, LDA Subotica – the Lead and LDA Prijedor, we Developed one tailor-made training program for young participants from three countries – regional informal learning and intercultural exchange promoting creative industry and entrepreneurship development held in Subotica for 30 young participants from all three contracting parties and one-day study visit to Novi Sad (with the aim to foster exchange of experience and examples of best practices). All the partners have put in place promotional and recruitment/selection processes where we identified 10 participants from each partner fitting into the project demands and scope.

Project partners, together with participants form the training in Subotica then organized 3 follow up activities in Nikšić, Prijedor and Subotica (aim of those follow up activities is to include local civil society organizations, local authorities, citizens and other relevant stakeholders in the project activities and findings – promoting cultural heritage and tourism) and produced three guided cultural touristic tours. In Nikišic we had 20 participants from different walks of life: art, IT, lawyers, entrepreneurs, touristic guides etc. The walking tour comprised 6 localities with cultural – historical monuments of utmost importance for Nikišic that are: The Emperor’s bridge, Anti Fascist Monument under Trebjesa, Carev

most, Lapidarium, old fortress Bedem, monument to national hero from WWII Ljubo Cupic and King Nikola I moment.

#### 4.WB cities creating more opportunities for young people

**Timespan: August 2023**

**Number of partners/Associated: 2**

**Total Budget: 10.000,00 €**

**Funded by: European Union - project number: 2022-1-TR01-ESC51-VTJ-00080187**

Volunteering exchange project 8 volunteers ( 6 volunteers +2 teachers) stayed for 15 days as a short term ESC project in Montenegro.

LDA was acting as a hosting organisation, and the sending organisation was Antalya Aile ve Sosyal Hizmetler İl Müdürlüğü and they prepared an outdoor activity programme with Study Visit to Orphan House Organising Voluntary Non Formal Games, Discover Kotor, Tivat and Perast, City Hunting - Volunteering Themes Video Creating.

LDA provided all the support in the terrain and together with Youth Club Budva organised cultural event for the guests.





**Delegate: Dženana Dedić**  
**Established: 2004**

## **Key partner:**

- Apulia Region, Italy (Lead Partner)
- City of Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina (Host City)

## **Main objectives:**

- Creating active citizenship by involving citizens in decision-making processes
- Building the capacities of local authorities for better local government
- Supporting youth activism and the position of women
- Strengthening partnership networks (national and international) to develop strong national and regional cooperation programmes

Since its establishment in November 2004, Local Democracy Agency Mostar acts as a locally registered non-profit, nongovernmental organisation, with the support of its partners and cooperation with other Agencies and the Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA).

It is precisely this co-operation, both on local and regional level that has enabled numerous activities and projects useful for the development of local community and its inclusion into processes at the regional level. Activities of LDA Mostar, which aim to create a more active citizenry on one side, and transparent and accountable local authorities on the other, are focused towards development of a modern democratic society. These activities entangle every segment of life of the local community and offer a possibility of improving the living standard of all categories of the society by directly influencing concrete changes.



# LDA MOSTAR IN THE FIELD



## Projects and activities

### 1.LINK 4 Cooperation

**Timespan:** From **January, 2021** to **December, 2023**

**Number of partners/Associated:** 6

**Total Budget:** 545.897,00 €

**Funded by:** European Commission (IPA Funds)

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 empowers the capacities of local authorities (elected leaders and civil servants) and civil society in implementing participative processes. Together they identified 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 organisations from Bosnia and Herzegovina and 12 local governments – 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.

*Main achievement:* Establishment and implementation of [the European Label of Governance Excellence \(ELoGE\) methodology](#) of the Council of Europe in Bosnia and Herzegovina. LDA Mostar becoming the holder of the first accredited ELoGE platform in BiH, successfully implementing the ELoGE process in 12 cities/municipalities. Additionally, in 2022, [Leadership Academy Program \(LAP\)](#) of the Council of Europe was implemented building capacities of the more than 60 representatives of the local governance and CSOs from BiH territory. In 2022, two project Forums for sharing best practices of CSOs and LAs cooperation were organised in [Zavidovici](#) and [Prijedor](#) gathering altogether more than 120 attendees, representatives of the international community, LAs and CSOs. In 2023 subgranting scheme was successfully implemented resulting in [22 implemented projects](#) of CSOs across 12 municipalities in BiH. This activity strengthened the capacity of 22 CSOs and empowered them to continue strong cooperation with the local authorities and engagement in local communities. At the end of 2023 the Final Conference was organised in Sarajevo gathering more than 70 participants, representatives of LAs, CSOs, donor, CoE and representatives of relevant institutions and international community in BiH. At this occasion, the ELoGE label

along with the ELoGE Christal dodecahedron was awarded to 3 deserving cities/municipalities.



“ELoGE is a confirmation that we are on the right track to achieve a high level of good governance. Applying good governance practices can help the municipality of Žepče to achieve greater efficiency, transparency and accountability, and to better respond to the needs of its citizens. This will result in a stronger local community and a better quality of life for all citizens”- **Mr. Mato Zovko, the mayor of the Žepče Municipality,** on the occasion of the awarding of the ELoGE during the projects Final Conference.



## 2."Project Mostar - Spaces to Activate and Rejuvenate"

**Timespan:** From **April, 2021** to **July, 2024**

**Number of partners/Associated:** 5

**Total Budget:** 3.000.000,00 £

**Funded by:** UK Government

The 3-year, UK Government funded (Conflict, Stability and Security Fund, CSSF) project seeks to improve public space and its use in Mostar through mobilizing citizens and supporting citizen-led initiatives that contribute to shared civic, cultural and economic life of Mostar. The project also aims to support citizens and local authorities to effectively use new skills, tools and mechanisms to address citizen priorities in an inclusive, gender-sensitive, participatory and systematic manner.

*Main achievement:*

### **Conference on responsible influencing "KOI"**

Responding to tragedies that happened in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina this year, we organized a two-day conference whose goal was to provide young people, interested in the world influencer marketing, the opportunity to, through conversations



with nine regionally known influencers, discuss strategies for and the importance of creating positive and socially responsible online content, which is often the initiator of positive changes in the "real world." With over 80 participants at the Conference, we discussed what laws need to be put in place to protect victims of online abuse, why some influencers choose to walk the difficult path between raising awareness about current issues, while covering topics such as lifestyle, nutrition, tourism, sports, or comedy, and how these topics are interconnected. While grabbing a selfie with their favorite influencer, participants had a chance to get tips on how to improve their content - podcasts, blogs, photographs, and social media profiles.

### **Study visit "Seeing is believing"**

The study visit, which took place in September, celebrated 30 years of Local Democracy Agencies in the Balkans by gathering members from ALDA Skopje and seven LDAs from the Western Balkans and their partner cities. During the visit, participants familiarized themselves with steps organizations behind Project Mostar - Spaces to Activate and Rejuvenate and Project grantees took to successfully address community concerns in an inclusive and participatory

manner, all in cooperation with the City of Mostar. For the Project, this was an opportunity to learn from LDAs about the interconnection between participatory democracy and cultural heritage, tourism, and economic development of a city and from other municipalities about how and why successful cooperation can and should be maintained outside of projects. All together, we have offered a unique vision of a European future for the entire Western Balkans.

### **Electionville**

We used the last three months of the year to educate 91 students, from 17 high schools from Mostar, about the processes behind decision-making and invite them to reflect upon the fundamental needs of their local community through an educational game called Electionville. Originally designed as a tabletop game by Fabel AB, and adjusted by the Swedish Institute for the large format on the floor, it is a perfect tool for practicing core democratic values such as inclusiveness, participation, and gender equality. For many high school students from Mostar, the past three months were the first time they were allowed to express their opinions on local issues. Apart from gaining new knowledge, students now have more confidence in the knowledge they had before starting the game and they do not see decision making processes as something out of their scope of interest. With the local elections coming up in 2024 and EU accession talks speeding up, an increase in confidence and willingness to participate seems more important than who wins the competition.



“ —  
“Young people are the present, not the future.” - **Katica Janeva, ALDA Skopje**

### 3. Beyond the Tales - BTT

**Timespan:** From **April, 2021** to **July, 2024**

**Number of partners/Associated:** 5

**Total Budget:** 193.845,00 €

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

The project is a response to the disconnection between climate change and migration among young people, building on the results of the survey, which suggest that young people do not currently associate climate change and migration to a great extent, but are aware of their connection in relation to the future.

*Overall goal* is to target youth workers with knowledge and information to build and strengthen competences and critical understanding of climate migration.

Through this educational and awareness-raising project, we aim to promote and strengthen the networking and solidarity between youth workers and young people and to foster understanding, solidarity, and encourage activation for a climate and social justice society. As a testament to our commitment, we collaborated on the creation of a compelling book in 2023 shedding light on the stories of climate migrants worldwide. Explore their journeys and challenges in our booklet: [BOOKLET “Beyond the tales” global – youth stories on climate change and migration](#)



## 4.Youth Empowered to Change the World - YECW

**Timespan:** From **January, 2022** to **December, 2023**

**Number of partners/Associated:** 6

**Total Budget:** 193.845,00 €

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

*Description:* With this project we will promote young people's sociopolitical development and psychological empowerment such that they understand the roots of problems facing their communities and have the skills and motivation to take action by using PAR methodology. By applying the Participatory Action Research methodology in the local community, young people will be able to conduct public advocacy towards decision makers that lead to a potential solution to the problem and their direct or indirect involvement in decision-making processes.

*Overall goal of this project* is to build the capacity of partner organizations and their members on participatory action research (PAR) and foster the use PAR methodology in addressing different community issues and take concrete actions that lead to social changes.

*Main achievement:* Forming an informal international network of exchanging PAR practices and positive changes between Europe and MENA regions will lead to strengthening international cooperation and bringing a new dimension of partnerships and common experience in improving youth participation and engaging young people in the process of making decisions. [The Manual of Participatory Action Research \(PAR\)](#) was created to serve as a valuable resource for those interested in learning more about PAR and its applications. It can provide guidance on how to conduct PAR projects, including practical tips on data collection, analysis, and dissemination. Additionally, the manual can offer educational activities and exercises that can help build the skills and capacities of young people in local communities, empowering them to become agents of change.



## 5. PIROUETTE

**Timespan:** From **January, 2022** to **December, 2023**

**Number of partners/Associated:** 4

**Total Budget:** 153.265,00 €

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

“Pirouette” is a 24-months Capacity Building aimed at promoting the use of performative street arts such as circus, street dance and street painting as an innovative NFE methodology to foster social and civic engagement of youth and, eventually led to a community-led regeneration of urban/disadvantaged areas. The idea behind the project stems from the recognition of youth’s social and civic engagement as a driving force for community development.

The project specific objectives, in line with the specific thematic areas are:

- The inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities through the participation in mobilities and local activities, designed to provide them with the skills needed to carry out community-led performing arts festivals/projects/initiatives autonomously.
- The promotion of the values of democracy and tolerance among young people who will pass these values through their more familiar tools: that of the arts.
- Planting seeds for peace and post-conflict reconciliation through the empowerment of young people thanks to the encounter of peers with different cultural background, the exchange of ideas/challenges/issues/proposals, the capacity of put in place youth-driven initiatives for reconciliation through the power of the arts

*Main achievement:*

- Research conducted on best practices of performative arts for educational, community development, regeneration purposes;
- Training Format designed and tested;
- A toolkit designed and tested;
- Mobility of youth workers;
- Youth Exchange of young people on creative urban regeneration through performative arts;





## 6. Digital Serious Play for Youth Business Ideas Level - DiSPRAY

**Timespan:** From **January, 2023** to **December, 2024**

**Number of partners/Associated:** 8

**Total Budget:** 300.000,00 €

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

*The overall aim of this project is to open employability opportunities and build up the entrepreneurial capacities of youth and youth workers from Europe, third countries associated with the Programme and Western Balkans that are required with innovative tools, resilient management & a solid sense of their ethical boundaries. With the core element the digital transformation, the project supports the purposeful use of digital technologies and serious plays in youth business ideas development.*

*Main achievement:*

1. **Research Report and Data Report:** Research on existing tools, methods and skills existing tools, methods and skills on how to use the Educational Methodology through Digital LEGO® SERIOUS PLAY® and on the needs and conditions of employment and youth entrepreneurship conducted at national level in 8 countries. A Report on methods used in the data collection will also be produced.
2. **Methodology Handbook e-Guide (e-book):** A clear inventory Methodology Handbook e-Guide (e-book) of existing tools, methods and skills on how to use the Educational methodology through Digital LEGO® SERIOUS PLAY® & Good practices.
3. **Open Educational Platform:** A dedicated online Open Educational Platform which will track the progress of the project, bringing videos, pictures and



descriptions of the work, news about new engagement tools, FAQs, and the activities carried out the summit events in the project planning.



## 7. Raising Environmental Sustainability Through Art - REST\_ART

**Timespan:** From **January, 2023** to **December, 2024**

**Number of partners/Associated:** 7

**Total Budget:** 182.598,00 €

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

*The project aims to present, raise awareness, sensibilise and prevent harmful attitudes against the environment through artwork. Through the scheduled mobilities the project envisions acknowledging Art as a strong influence on issues related to environmental preservation.*

Artworks are essential tools for ecological activism that alert the population to urgent matters, facilitate understanding messages about sustainability, and help mobilize people to fight for this cause. In addition, the Consortium will implement a comparative approach and photography research to shed light on the plastic waste management of the respective cities of the consortium, as a tool to exercise pressure on the Municipalities through its dissemination and communication.

The initiative of the project as well as its innovation is to increase environmental awareness through art, as a means of sensibilization and creation of an environmental consciousness.

More specifically the project 's objectives concern to the:

- Introduction of young people and youth workers to environmental awareness
- Creation of artworks from single use of plastics, as a medium to tackle the use of single-use plastics
- Adoption of good practices to reduce and manage plastic waste
- Comparative research of the engaged countries to address major environmental issues and exercise pressure in the respective Municipalities



## 8.Virtual Exchanges for Balkan Youth - VEBY

**Timespan:** From **July, 2023** to **Jun, 2026**

**Number of partners/Associated:** 4

**Total Budget:** 88.774,00 €

**Funded by:** European Union / ERASMUS+ Lump Sum Grants

*Description:* Virtual Exchanges for Balkan Youth (VEBY) is a 3-year project that focuses on enhancing the participation of young people with fewer opportunities in virtual mobilities, and the building the skills of youth workers and educators to foster such inclusion, along with media literacy and peacebuilding attitudes. The Project's consortium consists of youth organizations from neighboring Balkan countries, which share differences in their post-conflict affairs and economic levels, but commonalities in ethno-diversity, multiculturalism and the need for inclusion of minorities.

Another shared current issue the Partnership's communities are facing is the global phenomena of the COVID-19 outbreak which has brought more interaction with and through the digital world, but at the same time more dangers, due to the rapid and frequent spread of fake news. In combination with the social distancing and social alienation that took place globally, young people found themselves unprepared in the face of social exclusion, and isolation with only access to a constant flow of unfiltered information. In this way, young people's personal and social well-being has been and is undermined, enhancing polarization, division of opinions and lack of critical understanding, issues that consist of a reinforcement to the geo-political issues that the Balkan countries are already facing.

This Project aims to foster and promote the inclusion, tolerance, media literacy, soft skills and activation of young people in the Partner's Balkan communities by providing them with educational opportunities from trained youth workers, which are low threshold and participatory – virtual youth exchanges – attempting to reach the ones that are facing social obstacles to participate in such opportunities.



*Project objective:* Overall, VEBY, its aims and activities were designed upon the needs of the Partners' target groups and Partners' local and national communities. The Project aims to upscale already used practices during the period of Covid-19 where virtual mobilities began to become more popular in the Erasmus+ world, and to use the collected experience of all partners to provide constructive experiences to the target groups. At the same time, VEBY will use a target approach to better involve young people, and will pay attention to potential difficulties young people with fewer opportunities face, in addition to potential difficulties for the ones coming from non-Programme countries (e.g. communication in English, unacquaintance with digital tools, etc), in order to produce a high quality learning program for the participants. Last, VEBY aims to

promote the EU scope and its opportunities to the non-Programme countries of the Partnership, as well as at European level.

*Main achievement:* Enhancing the participation of young people with fewer opportunities in virtual mobilities, and building the skills of youth workers and educators to foster such inclusion, along with media literacy and peacebuilding attitudes.



## 9. Youth Ambassadors of Non Formal Learning - Phase 2 (YAMNFL2)

**Timespan:** From **December, 2023** to **November, 2025**

**Number of partners/Associated:** 6

**Total Budget:** 267.643,00 €

**Funded by:** European Union / ERASMUS+ Lump Sum Grants

The project “Youth Ambassadors of Non Formal Learning – phase 2” / YAMNFL2 is a continuation of the successfully implemented Youth Ambassadors of Non-Formal Learning project from 11/2020-05/2022 approved by the ERASMUS-JOUTH-2019-CB program.

Phase 2 involves 6 partners and 6 associate partners from the program and WB countries, which aims to build the capacities of youth through participation in non-formal education activities and the ability to recognize competencies gained outside the formal educational environment, to enhance the employability of youth through innovative methodology. On 20/12/2012, the Council of the European Union issued a recommendation (2012/C 398/01) urging the EU countries to develop and empower ways of recognizing the NFL.

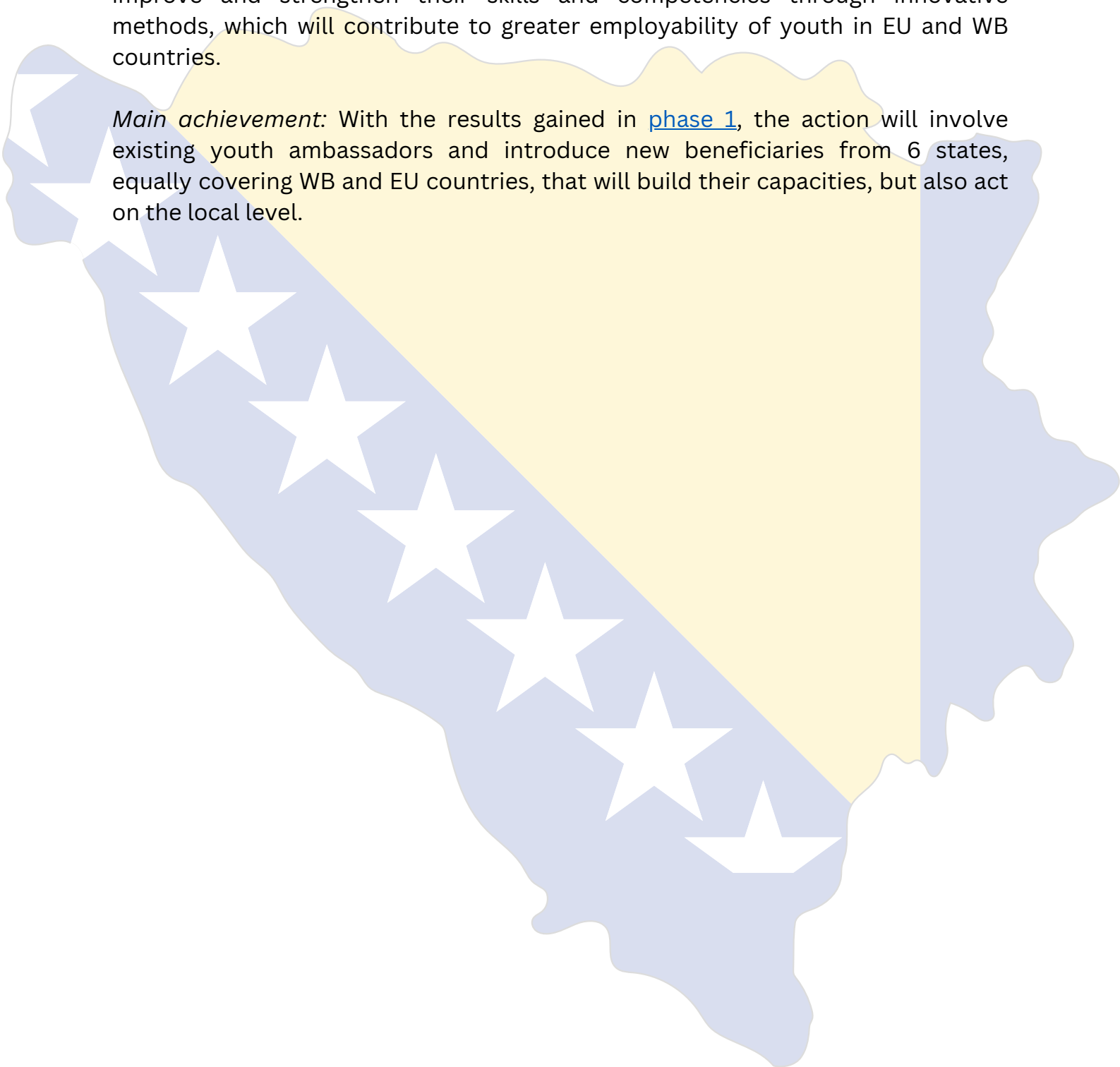
Since then, a lot has been done in the member states, but such work was not conducted in the countries of the WB. Within these actions, we want to involve youth NGOs (responsible for developing NFL activities), other CSOs (that work with disadvantaged groups focused on youth), public institutions (responsible to design firm policies), private business companies (aiming at increasing the skills and recognition by employers of NFL competences), and young people.

The beneficiaries of the action will join the 2-year journey to get the knowledge of best practices used in their local realities, features of NFL for increasing

(self)employability, to collect inspiring successful stories, to develop dedicated tools and methods, and to get trained to directly work on the field.

*Aims of the project:* Strengthening the capacity of young people aiming to improve and strengthen their skills and competencies through innovative methods, which will contribute to greater employability of youth in EU and WB countries.

*Main achievement:* With the results gained in [phase 1](#), the action will involve existing youth ambassadors and introduce new beneficiaries from 6 states, equally covering WB and EU countries, that will build their capacities, but also act on the local level.



## Key partner:

- Odesa Rayon Council, Ukraine
- Foster Europe Foundation for Strong European Regions, Austria
- Istria Region, Croatia
- Friuli Venezia Giulia Region, Italy (Observer partner)
- Centre for Regional Studies, Ukraine
- Odesa Oblast branch of the all-Ukrainian community organisation “Committee of Voters of Ukraine”, Ukraine

## Main objectives:

The Local Democracy Agency Odesa has been opened in November 2023 and it is the third LDA established in the country. The creation of this Local Democracy Agency in Ukraine, as an instrument of peace and social cohesion, is the first step for the creation of other LDAs in the country, as established by ALDA's Flagship Initiative in Ukraine.



# LDA PRIJEDOR



**Delegate: Dragan Dosen**  
**Established: 2000**

## Key partner:

- Association Project Prijedor, Italy (Lead partner)
- Municipality of Prijedor, Bosnia and Herzegovina (Host city)
- ALDA Office in Vicenza, Italy
- Association Tavolo Trentino con Kraljevo, Serbia
- Association Tavolo Trentino con il Kosovo, Kosovo

## The Association Project Prijedor includes:

- Italian Municipalities of Aldeno, Baselga di Pinè, Borgo Valsugana, Caderzone, Caldonazzo
- Cavalese, Grumes, Lavis, Levico, Massimeno, Pergine Valsugana, Pinzolo, Predazzo, Ronzo
- Chienis, Spiazzo, Tassullo, Trento and Varena • District of Valle dell'Adige, Italy
- District of Alta Valsugana, Italy
- Cooperative of Social promotion L'Ancora, Italy
- Association Trentino in the World, Italy
- Association The Mosaic, Italy
- Association The Joy, Italy
- Association CISV, Italy
- Association Yugo 94, Italy

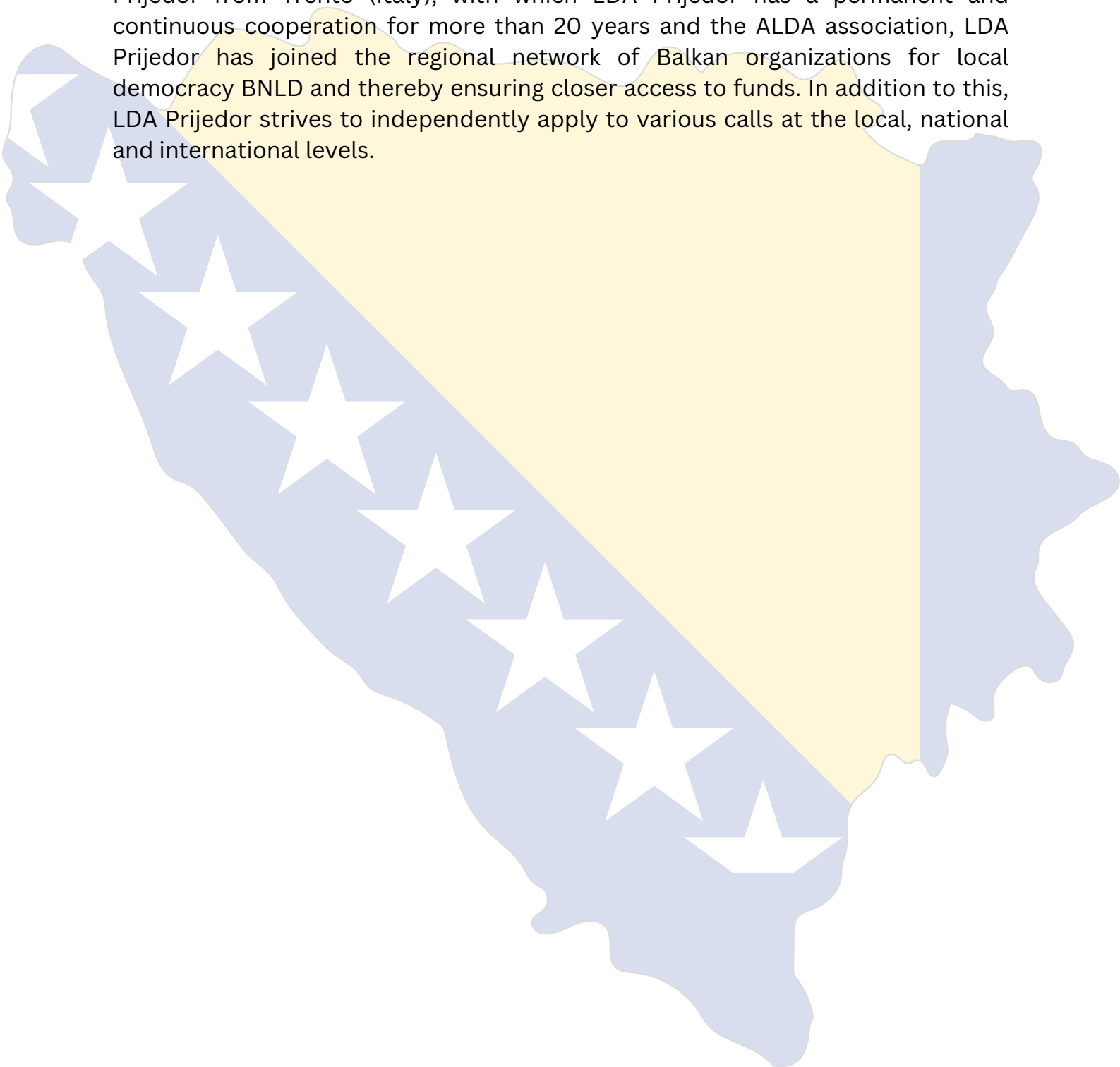
## Main objectives:

- Supporting citizen participation
- Supporting the democratic process at the local level
- Fostering the social network between citizens, organisations and institutions
- Supporting social inclusion and local economic development
- Contribution to the work on memory

The mission of LDA Prijedor is to promote local democracy and regional

cooperation in the perspective of the integration of the Western Balkans into the EU through the strengthening of civil society and local authorities.

In addition to permanent and long-term partners, such as Associazione Progetto Prijedor from Trento (Italy), with which LDA Prijedor has a permanent and continuous cooperation for more than 20 years and the ALDA association, LDA Prijedor has joined the regional network of Balkan organizations for local democracy BNLD and thereby ensuring closer access to funds. In addition to this, LDA Prijedor strives to independently apply to various calls at the local, national and international levels.





# LDA PRIJEDOR IN THE FIELD

## Projects and activities

### 1. Kultarte

**Timespan:** From **January, 2023** to **June, 2023**

**Number of partners/Associated:** 5

**Total Budget:** 5.000,00 €

**Funded by:** Autonomous Province of Trento in collaboration with the Municipality of Prijedor

The "KultArte" project is a collaboration between the students of the "Sveti Sava" high school from Prijedor and the "Liceo artistico A.Vittoria " high school from Trento, as well as the "Andromeda" art studio in the field of art and painting.

The KulturArte project has as its educational objective the study of the Italian language and culture through art and its history, the target is deserving children from third and fourth grade high schools. The long-term objective is to create a continuous exchange between schools, in order to create a permanent corner dedicated to Italian culture in the high school structure; and promote annual travel between the two countries.

*Main achievement:*

- The trip to Trento was completed in the spring of 2023, with visits to the "Andromeda" art studio and the "A. Vittoria" art school.
- Artistic photography and painting workshops were held during the stay in Trento
- The exhibition of photographs and drawings created during the visit to Trento was held at the Prijedor high school
- The space for Italian language and culture has been prepared at the high school

### 2. Tenth edition of the project “Prijedor, city of murals”, international prize “Paola de Manincor” 2023.

**Timespan:** From **September, 2023** to **December, 2023**

**Number of partners/Associated:** 6

**Total Budget:** 5.000,00 €

**Funded by:** Municipality of Lavis, Trento and Municipality of Prijedor

In continuity with the tenth edition of the international prize named Paola de Manincor (artist from Trentino who in 1998 painted, with the support of the City of Trento, the first mural in Prijedor), in 2023 for the tenth time was issued the

invitation for artists to participate in the competition through which the best proposal for the new mural in the Prijedor as selected; After that, the selected work was carried out on the facade of a building in the city of Prijedor.

*Main achievement:*

- Contribution for development of culture and tourism of the city of Prijedor, that contribute to the branding of Prijedor on cultural and tourist map of Europe
- Contribute to the improvement of the offer of cultural and tourist experiences in Prijedor
- Encourage the promotion of tourism in Prijedor as a city of art and artists
- Improving the appearance of the space of the city through the rehabilitation and beautification of surfaces that need technical and aesthetic interventions
- Improve the visibility of artists from Prijedor
- Increase the motivation of people to participate in the art and cultural and artistic events
- To train and spread a positive view on art and culture
- Provide more information to citizens about the past artistic and cultural city
- To encourage an increased sensitivity of policy makers towards art and culture in general



### 3. Continue to support the social centre with the public kitchen in Ljubija

**Timespan:** From **January, 2023** to **December, 2023**

**Number of partners/Associated:** 4

**Total Budget:** 4.000,00 € financed by Municipality of Trento

**Funded by:** Municipality of Trento and Municipality of Prijedor

The Prijedor Project Association, in agreement with the local administration, with the aim of mitigating the problem of the poverty of inhabitants of Ljubija, also continued in the year 2023 to support the Social Daily Center project with the public canteen in Ljubija, officially opened in September 2013 with the support of the Trentino Alto Adige Autonomous Region. Users of the Daily Center and the canteen are people in socio-economic distress, mainly elderly, without family assistance.

*Main achievement:* Support working spaces for social inclusion through the opening of spaces and services is possible to improve the quality of responses to the needs of the most vulnerable groups of the population and the well-being of the community in general.

### 4. “Remote adoption”

**Timespan:** From **September, 2023** to **December, 2023**

**Name of partners/Associated:** Committee entrusts Prijedor, Social Services Centre, Prijedor municipality

**Total Budget:** 100.000,00 €

**Funded by:** Associazione Progetto Prijedor and private donors from Trento

Since 1997 began the PROJECT DISTANCE ADOPTIONS (entrusts) that involved up to now 811 families in Prijedor and as many from Trentino (for most).

This activity goes beyond economic aid: among many families has created a stable relationship, made of meetings in Prijedor and exchanges in Trentino.

*Activities:*

- Distribution of material assistance in the amount of 120 euros every four months
- Visiting the families of the donors once a month
- The exchange of letters or e-mails between donors and families in donations

*Main achievement:* The economic aid, while important, becomes an instrument through which to create relationships that go beyond this dimension, and help to feed the population of Prijedor greater hope for the future and to combat the



apathy that is currently one of the major problems of the area. The recipients of this aid are especially families in economic distress, lonely elderly and students of secondary schools and universities, who need support in order to continue their studies and to become in this way a resource for the future of their community.

### **5.A project of cooperation, exchange of experiences and training between the Association of Parents of Children with Special Needs "Neven" and the organisation "Amffas" from Trento, which deals with the same issue**

**Timespan:** From April, 2023 to August, 2023

**Number of partners/Associated:** 3

**Total Budget:** 8.000,00 €

**Funded by:** Municipality of Trento

There has been a mutual collaboration between our partner leader Associazione Progetto Prijedor (APP) and Neven Prijedor since 2005 (2022). Thanks to the presence of a decentralised APP office in Prijedor it is possible to have a direct relationship with the population of Prijedor and know the real and widespread needs. People with disabilities in Prijedor in most cases experience a state of isolation, students who finish special school, after reaching adulthood, remain without employment under the exclusive care of their families.

The Neven association represents concrete support for many families. Since the foundation of Neven, the APP has been present to support the association's activities through humanitarian aid, laboratory materials, and financing of transport vans. Despite these interventions, the Neven association is unable to deal with all the requests present in the area, due to lack of adequate spaces, lack of funds and specialised personnel, the need to intervene by supporting the

association itself through a partnership, starting from the experience of similar realities in Trentino. The APP therefore decided to involve ANFFAS Trentino association reference for the sector, which accepted the challenge.

The actors were collaborated in the following ways:

1) exchange of practices between associative realities in the definition of strategies for cultural change and acceptance of the disabled person in society "overcoming the sense of shame", definition of advocacy and negotiation strategies with local administrations and institutions, search for new funding financing and economic development of the association, thinking of new projects related to work employment and inclusion interventions for the disabled population in a vulnerable situation in Prijedor, sharing new evaluation and intervention models starting from the "support intensity scale".

2) definition of a micro-project between Anffas, APP and Neven association thanks to collaboration of the Municipality of Trento. "Development of training on Support Intensity Scales (SIS) and linguistic validation protocol" The project aims to develop a training program on the Support Intensity Scale (SIS) and to create a protocol related linguistic validation. SIS is a tool used to assess the level of support needed for people with intellectual or developmental disabilities. This project aims to provide professionals with clear guidelines on how to correctly use the SIS and to develop a protocol that allows the scales to be linguistically validated in Serbo-Croatian. Project objectives:

- Understand the Support Intensity Scales (SIS): The initial objectives will be to gain an in-depth understanding of the SIS, including their dimensions, the evaluation process and the interpretation of the results.
- Development of training program: Based on the understanding of SIS, it will come developed a detailed training program for professionals using these scales. The training program will include theoretical information on SIS, practical guidelines for applying the scales, and case studies for experiential learning.
- Linguistic validation of the SIS: To make the SIS accessible across the board, a linguistic validation protocol will eventually be developed. This protocol will allow SIS to be adapted cross-culturally while ensuring consistency of concepts and measurements.
- Once the training program has been developed and the validation process has been completed linguistics, could be disseminated among professionals in the sector through workshops, conferences and online resources. The objective is to increase awareness and appropriate use of SIS at the local territorial level.

## 6.Promotion of territorial partnerships, support to entrepreneurship and enhancement of human resources for local economic-social development - Prijedor - Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Timespan:** From **2018** to **July, 2023**

**Number of partners/Associated:** 15

**Total Budget:** 373.094,00 €

**Funded by:** Associazione Progetto Prijedor, Autonomous Province of Trento

Within the Municipality of Prijedor, promoting sustainable local economic and social development and global citizenship, facilitating professional options and dialogue between people, communities, public bodies and businesses in the Prijedor and Trentino area.

*Main achievement:*

1. Facilitated entrepreneurial initiatives in an associative and cooperative form and collaboration between companies in the territory of Prijedor, Trentino and the rest of the Italian territory.
2. Disseminated good practices for local economic-social development and production planning of the territory with a participatory approach of all public and private actors.
3. Promoted cultural growth and higher education and university education for young people from a global citizenship perspective. Improve the offer of local institutions to support the weakest social groups of the population

## 7.LINK 4 COOPERATION

**Timespan:** From **January 2021** to **December 2023**

**Number of partners/Associated:** 12

**Total Budget:** 545.897,00 €

**Funded by:** LDA Mostar, European union

*Description and objectives:* To strengthen the capacity of civil society organisations involved in advocacy processes to become a trained and reliable partner for local authorities to create policies and reforms within BiH.

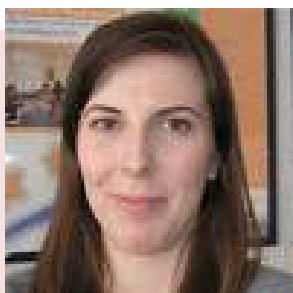
Strengthening local participation and cooperation through partnership of Public Authorities and CSOs in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

*Main achievement:*

- Created stronger links to citizens by engaging in public policy process, reaching out to society as a whole including marginalised 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 organisations and civic initiatives;
- CSOs create networks for coalition-building for increased impact in campaigning and advocacy.





**Delegate: Silvija Patarčić**  
**Established: 1993**

## **Key partner:**

- Wolverhampton City Council, UK (Lead Partner)

## **Main objectives:**

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

Local Democracy Agency LDA Subotica was founded in 1993 under the auspices of the Council of Europe and by an agreement with the local government of Subotica as a local NGO whose main mission was to promote local democracy and human rights in local multicultural community in the then war torn former Yugoslavia. Today LDA Subotica is registered as a local NGO, member of the European Association for Local Democracy – ALDA, consistently advocating democratic governance and participation and getting the accession negotiation process with the EU closer to citizens in local communities in Serbia and in multicultural Autonomous Province of Vojvodina in particular. Our main programmes are focused on capacity building, awareness raising and advocacy actions intended for three main target groups – policy and decision makers at local level, civil society organisations, youth and women’s groups in particular. Educating for democratic citizenship, promoting intercultural dialogue, regional cooperation, cross-sectoral partnership building for local sustainable development are the main types of our activities including also networking at regional and European level.



# LDA SUBOTICA IN THE FIELD

## Projects and activities

### 1. Strengthening the capacities for development of creative industries – Creative Subotica

**Timespan:** From **October, 2022** to **July, 2023**

**Name of partners/Associated:** InspiraHub Subotica

**Total Budget:** 24.625 \$

**Funded by:** Regional Programme on Local Democracy in the Western Balkans-2 (ReLOaD2) financed by the European Union (EU), and implemented by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The overall objective of the project was to contribute to the development of creative industry as a driver of cultural participation and sustainable development of the local community through the strengthening and improvement of intersectoral cooperation.

The project started from the assumption that it is necessary to connect cultural heritage with creative industries as an imperative for local development, in order to valorise local capacities and resources, especially in the context of the growing IT industry, and a recognisable cultural scene, especially contemporary urban art, which needs greater visibility and integration with elements local development.

We worked on promoting this topic in our city through a training program for young people, research, public debates and the development of the new web platform "Creative Subotica". Our common goal was to increase the availability of cultural heritage, introduce innovative approaches to the presentation of cultural content, and the affirmation of the potential of the creative industry. The project improved the cooperation and linkages of the IT and cultural sector as well as young creators and thereby contributing to greater availability of cultural content. In the long term, the project affirmed the creative potential of the IT sector as a significant resource in the development of the creative industry.

Recognising the importance and need of linking "traditional" sectors that deal with culture and art with new technologies, the project contributes to the development of the city's creative potential, recognising the need for a more comprehensive approach in integrating elements of the creative industry in the valorization and presentation of the city's cultural heritage.

*Main achievement:*

**Capacity building for creating digital content for youth:** The project took into

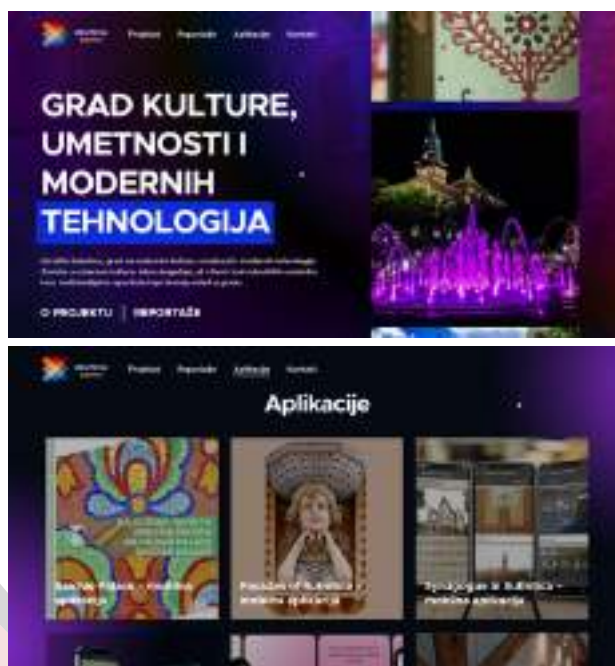
account that for the development of the creative industry it is necessary to work on education and strengthening the capacity of young people for the application of digital skills in the field of promoting cultural heritage as well as creative artistic expression of young artists in various fields.

15 young people took part in a training programme for digital content creation improving their skills and knowledge in the field of creating digital cultural photo/video content and written content in the field of cultural promotion.

The main achievement was that the group of young participants of the training program with the help and support of trainers, created the content for the web platform Creative Subotica.

**Created web platform [www.kreativnasubotica.rs](http://www.kreativnasubotica.rs):** The web platform aims to improve the accessibility of cultural heritage and digital cultural content, but also to increase the growing potential of the IT sector with the culture sector, as a space for creative innovations, new digital products and unification in the promotion of cultural heritage and digital cultural content of the city. The web platform provides space for the digital presentation of elements of tangible and intangible cultural heritage as a unified creative base that promotes culture as a brand of the local community. The emphasis is on urban development based on the concept of "creative city", which means an urban complex in which different types of cultural activities are a component of the city's economic and social functioning.

This project is relevant for the local community because it promotes the concept of creative industry as a field that deserves to be integrated into the future development strategy of the city.



## 2.WB cities creating more opportunities for young people

**Timespan:** From **January, 2023** to **August, 2023**

**Name of partners/Associated:** Local Democracy Agency Montenegro, Local Democracy Agency Prijedor

**Total Budget:** 13.300,00 € grant amount; 16.659 € total budget

**Funded by:** Joint Action European Commission and Western Balkan Fund

Our regional cooperation project funded by the Western Balkans Fund was the result of a long standing endeavour of three Local Democracy Agencies based in Subotica, Prijedor and Nisic to mobilise and empower local youth groups for participation in local public life and in sustainable growth. The project aimed to strengthen the capacity and mobilise formal and informal groups of young people, young IT professionals, tourist and cultural operators, local youth offices and local public authorities in three cities to work together and contribute to a more profound understanding of the potentials of creative industry for youth.

Contemporary trends in culture and the development of creative industries, which represent the combination of elements of creativity, entrepreneurship and the possibility of cultural participation of different social groups, have been taken as the main inspiration for the regional training programme as well as the local pilot activities in three cities.



The main activity, regional training programme was held from 31st May – 3rd June and it combined study visits was held both in Subotica and in Novi Sad in cooperation with OPENS, as the organisation with relevant expertise in developing cultural entrepreneurship development and city branding within the Novi Sad EU Youth Capital 2019 programme. All together thirty young IT professionals, (out of whom most of the participants from Nisic and Prijedor visited Subotica and Novi

Sad for the first time), creative artists and youth workers participated in regional training and exchange programmes. The primary aim was to familiarise them with innovative approaches of promoting local cultural heritage as a source of inspiration for their potential future professional skills development as well as for creating cultural content and programs in their urban areas.

Throughout local follow-up activities in all the three cities, different approaches were applied by the project partners ranging from sightseeing and walking tours, photo safari, street actions with the citizens, street arts, exploring the monuments' narrative, meetings and interviews with relevant local actors engaged in innovative promotion of cultural tourism, resources and products. The information and social media campaign containing authentic young participants' perspectives were jointly developed by the project partners, and in this way promoting the innovative approaches of youth participation in local public life and specifically in local sustainable development strategies.



“

**Feedback received in evaluation of the regional training programme:**

“I think it was very educational, this experience led us to some new thoughts, discovered problems but the possible solutions too, and also good cooperation and communication among all of us”

### **3.All our towers: Fostering a culture of interreligious dialogue among young people**

**Timespan:** From **April, 2023** to **December, 2023**

**Name of partners/Associated:** Maglocistac, Roma Educational Centre, German Society Union, Croatian Cultural Society Matija Gubec

**Total Budget:** 13.300 € grant amount; 16.659 € total budget

**Funded by:** National Democratic Institute

Main rationale of the project is to reinvigorate the public debate on inter-religious tolerance particularly among youth and open up the public space for a broader participation of diverse local actors who would contribute to a more effective functioning of the Municipal Council for inter-ethnic relations.

Round tables and training for members of Council for inter-ethnic relations were held in Subotica, Sombor and Kanjiza with the goal:

- To deepen the understanding among the local CSOs of the role of the Municipal Council for Interethnic Relations (MCIR) in revitalising interethnic dialogue and cooperation in local multicultural community
- To improve the knowledge and information exchange among the local CSOs and ethnic minority groups on existing legislative framework regulating the mandate of MCIR within the local self-government system
- To help build capacities and networking actions to increase the scope of activities in order to better influence the relevant policy and decision making at municipal level

Youth capacity building part of the project strived to:

- deepen participant insight into their shared histories and unique cultural and religious identities;
- expose participants to best practices in conflict resolution, dialogue, and coalition building;
- deepen their understanding of disinformation and hate speech amplifying religious intolerance;
- increase their capacities for civic engagement by learning more about the political process in their respective countries and models for community activism.



Training programme for youth leadership development with three workshops with high school students has the following achievements:

- strengthened youth capacities to participate in local public life through improving their leadership skills
- improved the skills of youth activists and strengthened local civic organisation capabilities in the field of promoting the culture of participation, dialogue and respect for diversities.
- empowered local youth groups to engage in an informed public policy dialogue relevant to interreligious dialogue and tolerance, as well as improved capacities for a deepened understanding and respect for diverse cultural, religious heritage of the local multiethnic community.
- improved the leadership skills of youth activists and strengthened local civic organisation capabilities in the field of promoting the culture of dialogue and respect for ethnic and religious diversities.

Topics of training programme:

1. Cultural and religious identities in the contemporary context of the development of local communities
2. Strengthening media literacy - against misinformation, hate speech and religious intolerance
3. Strengthening the capacities for youth activism



# LDA TUNISIA



**Delegate: Afaf Zaddem**  
**Established: 2017**

## Key partner:

- City of Kairouan (Tunisia)
- ALDA - European Association for Local Democracy
- COPE (Italy)
- Fons Mallorquí de Solidaritat i Cooperació (Spain)
- T4D Tamkeen for Development
- LDA Zavidovici
- Cities Alliances
- GIZ
- Other Tunisian NGOs

## Main objectives:

- Building a platform of dialogue territorial analysis and training (TAT) with local administrations and local authorities;
- Facilitating cooperation between civil society and local authorities in conducting citizens initiatives (culture, social, public life...);
- Encouraging citizen participation and sharing best practices through meetings and sensitization workshops with youth, and families;
- Capacity building for different targets and beneficiaries.

The LDA Tunisia represents a platform that facilitates citizen participation at the local level through implementing participatory democracy tools. On a long-term basis, the main objectives of the LDA are to improve decision-making at the local level, to mobilize various actors to develop joint citizen initiatives, to encourage trust and dialogue among actors to better meet the needs of the groups, and promote an inclusive city. The LDA Tunisia designs its work following a “bottom-up” and multi-stakeholder approach. It consults focus groups, potential beneficiaries, and other stakeholders to encourage them to get involved in the design and implementation of cooperative actions. Also, the LDA's work strategy focuses on developing solutions to improve local governance. It relies on direct

meetings with the community and actively listens to their preoccupation to assess their needs. This helps the agency to identify the relevant partners and mobilise support. Hence, this approach ensures a precise and impactful intervention that is in tandem with the aspirations and needs of the community.





# LDA TUNISIA IN THE FIELD

## Projects and activities

### 1.Velopark

**Timespan:** From **February , 2023** to **February, 2024**

**Name of partners/Associated:** /

**Total Budget:** 32.000,00 €

**Funded by:** Kairouan Municipality (within the framework of AUTREMENT project)

Cycle tourism via Vélopark provides for the establishment of a bicycle rental service. We offer a wide variety to meet the diverse needs of its audience. The full range will include bikes aimed at children, models suitable for adults. As well as electric bikes, offering a flexible mobility solution for individuals, families, professionals, friends. Also visitors to the city.

Whether for a lively group outing. The celebration of a festive event. Organising a memorable business seminar. A school trip full of adventure. Or simply a leisurely stroll to explore the city. Vélopark offers a response adapted to each occasion. In addition, the company is resolutely committed to facilitating bicycle mobility for all people wishing to live unique experiences.

Furthermore, the particular emphasis placed on cycle tourism is at the heart of the Vélopark proposal. Whether for cycling enthusiasts. Also urban explorers or lovers of leisurely strolls in picturesque suburbs. Also Vélopark electric bikes are specially designed to offer an immersive and enriching experience. Likewise at Vélopark, each bike ride is designed to be unforgettable. Further encouraging discovery, adventure and fun on two wheels.

#### *Main achievement:*

- Establishing a sustainable and a well equipped space with more than 40 bikes and needed accessories to provide services of cyclotourism, renting, and teaching bikes
- Conducting more than 20 tours with a total participation of more than 300 participants





“**Zahra, a female participant** “I’m so happy that I discovered the bike service, it is both a source of entertainment and sporting, but also it is a source of networking and socialising as we go together and participate in an active and fun activity with a group outing”

## 2. We’re creators

**Timespan:** /

**Name of partners/Associated:** /

**Total Budget:** 15.000,00 €

**Funded by:** Fons Mallorqui

The « We ‘re Creators » sought to engage the youth by reinforcing their capacities through training sessions on entrepreneurial and communication subjects and connecting them to their local community.

The project aimed to contribute to the inclusion of vulnerable young people from the Kairouan region, aged 16 to 24, in the community through art in its different forms.

Its main activities are as follows:

- *We create:* which consist of 04 training activities, the first three evolve around capacity building in entrepreneurial skills; Raising awareness and establishing

- an entrepreneurial culture among young people. The participants planned an activity and implemented it with a precise budget that they managed, under the supervision of the facilitator and the project team.
- *We come in*: This activity consisted of 02 visits to two types of facilities that are located in the community. The first is a cultural place which was the national museum. The second visit addressed a social enterprise. The objective is to help them discover services in their communities, have access to them and acquire “first hand experiences”, while strengthening their identity and their sense of belonging to the city. The visits aimed to strengthen their capacities by broadening their knowledge of the history, tangible and intangible heritage, crafts and culture of their city, as well as the different services available that might interest them more.
- *We connect*: This activity consisted of a community event co-organized by youth where they actively plan, participate and lead the activity. The community event was a friendly and exchange platform for meeting and collaboration among the different participants. It also provided young people with the opportunity to build relationships and connections with representatives of city councils and authorities.

*Main achievement:*

- 16 youth actively participated in the project capacity sessions with the active engagement of several local authorities
- 03 youth initiatives were funded by the project and implemented
- A community event organised by the youth

“

**A project participant Nesrine Jarray:** “What I admired the most about the project is that it provided me with not only participating in the training sessions, but is providing me with the opportunity of actively contribute, create, and organise initiatives”

### 3. Je Repars de Toi

**Timespan:** From **November, 2019** to **August, 2023**

**Number of partners/Associated:** 9

**Total Budget:** 877.640,534 €

**Funded by:** Italian Cooperation Agency AIC's

This project is co-financed by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) and implemented by the Italian association COPE - which leads the partnership together with the Ministry of Social Affairs (MAS), the Municipality of Kairouan and the LDA Tunisia. The project aims to promote the rights of young people with disabilities and to strengthen the capacities of their associations. In

particular, the project activities aim to strengthen the role of Tunisian CSOs that promote rights and services for persons with disabilities and to establish a multi-sectoral dialogue at the regional level to improve the training and employment opportunities of young people with disabilities, focusing on issues such as social and economic inclusion, mobility and accessibility of cities and transport. In addition, meetings with families of people with disabilities are an important recurring activity, crucial for raising awareness, exchanging good practices and providing training and advice. In addition, inclusive theatre workshops for young people to strengthen their capacities and defend their rights to be fully included in society.



*Main achievement:*

- Effective advocacy and shedding light on the difficulties related to the people with disabilities
- More people gained understanding of vulnerable situation of people with disabilities and developed an inclusive and acceptance mindset
- Three centres of rehabilitation received financial funds that financed and equipped vocational training workshops within the centres
- More than 50 participants with disabilities participated in the theatre workshops, and 30 performed on stage before the audience.



**The director of the rehabilitation centre of people with mental disabilities** “Theatre activities were extremely helpful in

developing learning and cognitive skills within our youth, I will definitely continue this activity after the end of the project, as I witness how much pleasure, inclusion, and confidence this activity brought to the youth. Opening up on artistic performance and including youth on stage has an incredible healing and therapeutic power as well as it is an effective way to spot the light on the capacities and skills of youth with mental disabilities.”



## 4.READY

**Timespan:** From **June, 2022** to **June, 2024**

**Number of partners/Associated:** 8

**Total Budget:** 279.697,00 €

**Funded by:** Erasmus+



The Raise Environmental Awareness for Deprived Youths (READY) project aims to build socio ecological awareness and capacity. It focuses on deprived and polluted areas.

The activities included:

- Needs analysis to identify obstacles and opportunities for young citizens in their neighbourhoods/areas
- Co-design and implementation of environmental training for young people, based on non-formal education methods with a combination of online and offline tools, such as short videos, individual exercises, group work, study visits
- Transnational training of trainers for partner youth workers.
- Creation of short-term voluntary work.young people carried out voluntary work and guided by host organisations in the discovery of 'green jobs'.
- Peer-to-peer environmental workshops, young citizens have completed their empowerment and are ready to defend the environment through specific workshops in schools.
- Communication and dissemination of project results

The LDA Tunisia implemented a study to assess the needs of the community and their level of awareness, then it was possible to compare and contrast the results with that of studies conducted by the project partners in their countries. As the

project emphasised the capacity building aspect of youth orchestrated by youth workers, a training of trainers took place in Italy where a tunisian participant took part in the TOT and then returned with feedback on the prepared materials. The Tunisian youth in the LDA Tunisia community received the necessary training and after that they were ready to participate in volunteering activities with partner organisations. The volunteering was based on entrepreneurship skills mainly, developing green skills, and participating in learning and active participation opportunities in this field.

Finally, a main event that signalled the contribution of the LDA Tunisia was the organisation of a 03 day international Multiplier event in July 2023 with the invitation of all the partners and also youth and influential actors with a total of 80 participants. The event encompassed indoors activities such as the training sessions, and outdoor activities mainly a bike group tour with the guidance of a historian and the Velopark team to ensure the safety of the group.

Main achievements:

- More awareness and capacity building of young people on social-ecological issues.
- Youth workers improved their awareness of the specific needs of young people and how to respond to them.
- Youth participate actively in green volunteering



## 5.VISA

**Timespan:** From **June, 2022** to **June, 2024**

**Number of partners/Associated:** 6

**Total Budget:** 600,000,00 €

**Funded by:** Cities Alliances

The visa project aims to improve the attractiveness of municipalities in the interior of the country through:

- Improving access to employment opportunities and the integration of migrant workers into the labour market and the population from rural areas and settled on the fringes of cities.
- Render municipal and administrative services more accessible, efficient, transparent and close to citizens who live far from the urban centre of the municipalities.

*Main achievement:*

- Signing conventions in 03 municipalities in other Tunisian cities in the south
- Organising national workshops to reinforce cohesion and cooperation and promote participatory decisions.

In 2023, the main focus was on developing solid partnerships and mobilising the influential stakeholders especially local authorities, public administrations, and governorates where the project would be implemented. Several field visits were conducted where the LDA Tunisia presented the project and the potential services with updates to inform and engage

- Selecting the places where the citizen platforms will be established according to specific criteria



## 6. Peace Club

**Timespan:** From **October, 2023** to **October, 2024**

**Number of partners/Associated:** 9

**Total Budget:** /

**Funded by:** Ifriqiya Center for Common Ground

The goal of the project was to promote the peace and communication culture within youth aged between 19 and 25 to spread the culture of peaceful communication and social cohesion based on concepts such as dialogue and diversity.

In 2023, the LDA Tunisia succeeded to select 20 youth and launch the project through with a kick off activity that introduced the project and its objectives as

well as get to better know the participants. The following activities addressed related topics such as non violent communication, emotional intelligence, motivation, and humanist approach.



The project is continuing in 2024 with more varied activities such as school maintenance in deprived areas.

### *Main achievement:*

- Creating a club that is in favour of peace values and where its participants adopt them in their lived environment
- Paving the way to the creation of youth who act as peace ambassadors in their communities





## 7.Nos Racines

**Timespan:** From **February, 2023** to **February, 2024**

**Number of partners/Associated:** 3

**Total Budget:** /

**Funded by:** Ifriqiya Center for Common Ground

The project Nos Racines “Our Roots” aims at raising community awareness regarding local problems through co-design Workshops. The project is implemented in 05 Tunisian states, and the LDA Tunisia coordinated the project implementation in the city of Kairouan. The co-design workshops facilitated with experts to provide tools and strategies of how to brainstorm local problems then focusing on the two main pertinent ones and then addressing them through artistic expressions.

In Kairouan, the youth opted for two issues that they identified as the main local problems which were drug addiction and illegal immigration. Then during the workshops the participants selected the artistic expression of each identified issue and wrote their scenarios and contributed to their creations, which were a documentary and a short animated movie.

A mini festival took place that gathered the participants of all patterns to watch together and discuss the products.

The LDA Tunisia is organising a dissemination plan to exhibit the products in the community for raising awareness purposes.

### *Main achievement:*

- Successful production of a documentary and an animated movie as a result of co-design workshops that gather participants who are youth as well as participants who are representatives of institutions working with youth.
- More than 25 youth and representatives of institutions working with youth attended the project workshops
- The creation of a documentary discusses a local problem (addiction) with the participation of stakeholders, and a short animated movie addresses the local problem of illegal immigration

“

**A participant Hayet:** “I’m grateful to this experience that allowed me to learn technical skills as well as interpersonal skills and learn to work in an inclusive team with people older and younger than me and from several fields, we worked as a team and developed a teamwork spirit”

## 8.A study on Violence in educational institutions

**Timespan:** From **August, 2022** to **February, 2023**

**Number of partners/Associated:** 2

**Total Budget:** 3,000.00 €

**Funded by:** LDA Tunisia

The study was based on a detailed questionnaire that included 200 students in the state of Kairouan from 22 institutions within (08) delegations: Kairouan North, Kairouan South, Sbikha, Bouhajla, Chrarda, El Hajeb, El Oula, and Hafouz. In addition, 100 questionnaires were answered by the administrative and educational staff in preparatory and secondary institutions, in addition to the participation of parents in 100 questionnaires. A questionnaire was also directed to 20 learners with disabilities within the relevant centres.

The field research also included meetings with representatives of institutions and structures concerned with the subject, including the Regional Delegation for Education, the Regional Administration for Health, the Regional Administration for Social Affairs, two specialised rehabilitation and education centres for people with disabilities, pedagogical frameworks, civil society, social and psychological specialists, and municipal social affairs committees.

Addressing the focus of the study comes within the framework of a comprehensive, multilateral approach that starts from diagnosis, then dialogue about the outcomes, and working to provide alternatives to address the problems from their roots, while calling for implementing initiatives that would contribute to positive change.

The Local Democracy Agency organised a symposium in partnership with the Regional Delegation for Education in Kairouan under the title “Violence in the School Environment: Diagnosis and Alternatives” on February 27, 2023 in order to shed light on an educational and social phenomenon that is constantly worsening and spreading by presenting the results of the study and its diagnosis and calling for Addressing it in a participatory manner.

The Symposium took place in the governorate with the presence of the governor in and the presence with various stakeholders with a total number that exceeded 90 participants.

## 9.National Conference pre COP28: Circular economy for climate change and sustainable development

**Timespan: November 2023**

**Number of partners/Associated: 6**

**Total Budget: 2,000.00 €**

**Funded by: GIZ**

Approaching COP 28 from November 30 to December 12 in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, the Association of the Agency of Local Democracy Kairouan Tunisia (ADL KT), the Association for the Protection of Nature and Environment of Kairouan (APNEK), in partnership with GIZ Tunisia by the Through the project "Climate Protection through the Circular Economy in Tunisia (ProtecT)", the RAED, the GNDR and the PACJA organised on November 23 and 24, 2023 at the Continental-Kairouan Hotel, a National Conference under the theme: "Circular Economy at the Service of Climate and Sustainable Development".

While reaffirming their commitment to the global and local process of combating climate change and its negative impacts so manifested and felt all over the world, the organisers focus on one of the main causes leading to such impacts negatives namely the one related to our current way of life, based on a so-called linear economy (produce, consume, dispose of its waste), which has shown its limits and its multiple evils affecting, among other things, the climate.

On the other hand, this national conference will have to emphasise the promotion of the decisive role of the circular economy: produce, consume, recover, recycle and reuse, as an alternative to the linear economy, from its unavoidable virtues in favour of climate and the transition to green, truly sustainable development.

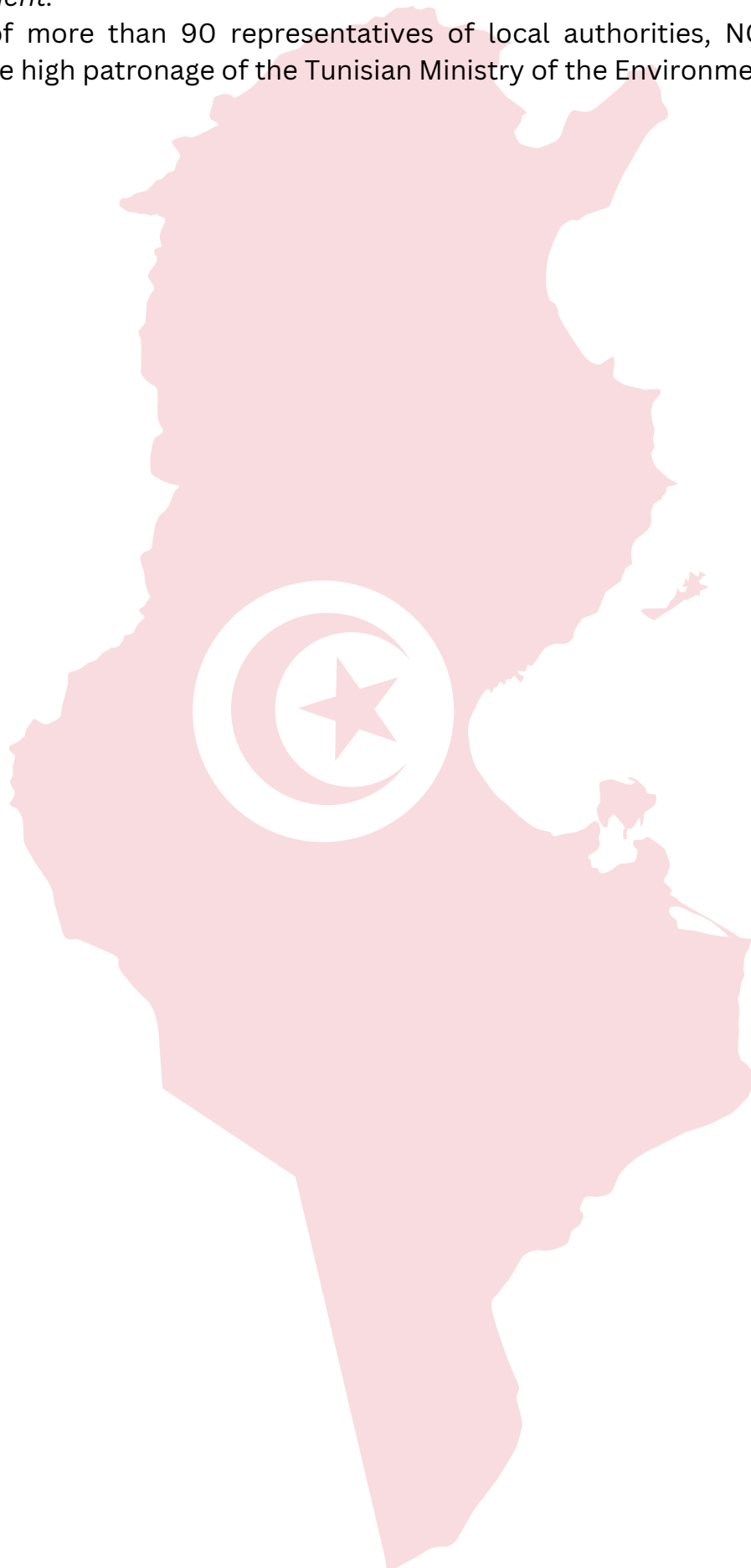
The objectives of the national conference are articulated around raising awareness of climate challenges, risks and consequences, reliable and consequent adaptation and mitigation measures and means, including the adoption and universal promotion of the circular economy and the formulation of an advocacy of Tunisian civil society to communicate to participants of COP28, via the national representatives.

The target population of this national conference wanted to be diversified and brought together representatives of civil society, the media, the university, and students, youth, various administrative and technical institutions as well as economic actors. Almost 80 participants took part in the conference.

It should be noted that all communications presented throughout the conference were the subject of questions/answers, exchanges and clarifications shared between the communicators/speakers and the attendees, on the one hand, and between the components of the conference, on the other.

*Main achievement:*

Participation of more than 90 representatives of local authorities, NGOs, and youth under the high patronage of the Tunisian Ministry of the Environment





**Delegate: Sladjan Ilic**  
**Established: 1997**

## Key partner:

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

## Main objectives:

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

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

# LDA ZAVIDOVIĆI IN THE FIELD

## Projects and activities

### 1.LINK 4 COOPERATION

**Timespan:** From **January, 2021** to **December, 2023**

**Name of partners/Associated:** 6 (Leader: LDA Mostar)

**Total Budget:** 545.897,00 €

**Funded by:** European Union

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 Civil Society Organisations and grassroots organisations from Bosnia and Herzegovina and 12 Local self-government units – municipal administration and local councils as local decision makers.

The overall objective is 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.

#### *Main achievement:*

- Establishment and implementation of the European Label of Governance Excellence (ELoGE) methodology of the Council of Europe in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Leadership Academy Programme (LAP) was implemented, which enabled capacity building of more than 60 representatives of local governance and CSOs from Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- 22 projects successfully implemented as part of the “LINK 4 Cooperation” sub-granting scheme;
- Training on project cycle management was conducted for the representatives of 22 civil society organisations, beneficiaries of grants of the grant scheme of the project;
- In cooperation with local authorities, a total of 12 smart benches were installed enhancing the participative democracy in 12 local communities of Bosnia and Herzegovina;

- “Cooperation of local authorities and civil society” training for the representatives of 12 local government;
- Two project Forums for sharing best practices of CSOs and LAs cooperation were organised in Zavidovici and Prijedor gathering altogether more than 120 attendees, representatives of the international community, LAs and CSOs.
- Final Conference “Local authorities and citizens together for better communities”



## 2.Wim Laboratories Iuvenis II

**Timespan:** From **November, 2021** to **November, 2024**

**Name of partners/Associated:** 11 (Leader - Proeede Zebre Vichy)

**Total Budget:** 393.830,00 €

**Funded by:** Agence Erasmus+ France

WIM Laboratories Iuvenis II Project is applying to the Erasmus+ programme to continue this work of learning foreign languages through theatre, and in so doing to meet two needs: - If theatre is a great vehicle for languages, it can be for all disciplines, thanks to thematic writing.

It forces students who engage their bodies and wills in the theatrical process to research and write about topics that interest them, to invent ways of inhabiting a stage space to talk about the past, history, geography, or whatever. The WIM Laboratories Iuvenis II project responds to a clear need to think of new, openly inclusive ways of learning that are easier to access for students who are struggling in the traditional system, to see global teaching levers emerge.

Theatre forces the consideration of otherness. Playing is only possible through the acceptance of the other in the stage space that one occupies. The stage is a place of shared citizenship. Based on this analysis, we ask young Europeans from all over the continent to explore their individual histories of conflicts, migrations and dictatorships, and to explore the individual and collective memories that



surround them. In doing so, they construct new narratives of the continental past for the stage. Then, playing with each other, moving to France, Italy, ..., they confront these narratives to see everywhere that European History is made up of individual narratives which everywhere are those of the escape from conflicts, of the suffering in their time, of the protection of one's loved ones and of the will to go towards peace. Considering on stage or as an audience the work of other young Europeans, they fully measure the commonality of their experience, they measure the European identity, the values of peace and dialogue that it carries.

The WIM Laboratories Iuvenis II project responds to a need for mutual consideration between peoples, between individuals on a continental scale, for dialogue and therefore for democracy.

*Main achievement:*

*Theatre workshops for young people in Zavidovići.* The workshops aimed to launch exchange activities through creative work, theatre, language learning.

Participants in these workshops were high school students, members of the theatre school of the municipal public institution the Center for Culture Zavidovići, with which LDA Zavidovići has been cooperating for many years in the implementation of various cultural initiatives.

The workshops were led by experienced professionals Fabrice Dubusset, Etienne Russias and Arnaldo Ragni, accompanied by local professional actor Nusmir Muharemović. The workshops were reflected in getting to know each other, the basics of movement and behaviour on stage, breathing techniques, and developing mutual trust. The group will continue to work on theatre and historical research in preparation for the Water is Memory Festival in Vichy.

*Participation in the Festival "Water is Memory" in Vichy (France), May 2023.*



*Participation to the youth exchange in Oulx (Italy) in October for preparation of international performance*

### **3.Ludobus - Activities for children in rural areas**

**Timespan:** From **January, 2023** to **December, 2023**

**Number of partners/Associated:** 1

**Total Budget:** 1.500,00 €

**Funded by:** Associazione Mimi

“Ludobus” is a service that offers recreational, cultural, educational, sport and creative activities for children in parks, schools, streets and green areas of the city and villages. Activities are implemented by young people with the assistance of teachers. “Ludobus” is a mobile playroom that has a great ability to gather, attract and animate children through the game as a basis to socialise and acquire new experiences. “Ludobus” with its simplicity can be involved in various programs (school and extracurricular) and events in the city and beyond. LDA Zavidovici is actively involved in the development of non-formal education and creativity for children through fun and educational workshops with “Ludobus”. In the previous period, “Ludobus” visited almost all schools in rural Zavidovici and the activities involved a large number of children.

*Main achievement:* Development of non-formal education and creativity for young people and children through fun and educational workshops.



## 4.Strengthening the community centre in the local community Dubravica

**Timespan:** From **December, 2022** to **December, 2023**

**Number of partners/Associated:** 1

**Total Budget:** 17.895,00 €

**Funded by:** UNDP - funded by jointly the governments of Switzerland and Sweden

The main goal of the project is to further the function of the Dubravica local community centre and to make it available and adapted for all generations. During the 12 months of implementation, the community centre will become a recognizable place of convention, participation, citizen activism, information exchange, education, teaching, as well as a place where the residents of the Dubravica community will be able to spend their time with more quality.

*Main achievement:* Established functional space for realisation of activities in the community centre in all weather conditions, through renovation of the roof.

Increased citizen participation in the Dubravica local community in between one year of created, completed educational, recreational and leisure activities.

- Reconstruction of the roof of the social centre building
- Children's animation activities
- Educational workshops for young people
- Development of life skills for young people
- Demonstration class of the STEAM Academy
- Media literacy, presentation and communication skills
- Workshop on project writing
- Workshop on waste management
- Volunteer actions
- Activities for the empowerment of women
- Health counselling
- Cultural and sports-recreational activities
- Table tennis tournament
- An evening of music and dancing
- Photo exhibition
- An evening of cultural and historical heritage
- Sports night
- Coffee with counsellors
- Promotion in the media and social networks



## 5. Family Gardens

**Timespan:** From **January, 2023** to **December, 2023**

**Number of partners/Associated:** 1

**Total Budget:** 6.000,00 €

**Funded by:** Fondazione Ampleos Alba

The "Family Gardens" project characterises the cooperation activities of LDA Zavidovići with partners in Italy since 2014 and continues throughout the years in providing education and assistance to women engaged in agricultural activities, in order to increase production and quality of products for own consumption and sale on a small scale. Food security, sustainability and productivity of family farming are a basic resource for many families in the context of economic stagnation and serious impoverishment of large sections of the population.

Activities are:

- Educational workshops for women beneficiaries of the project ;
- Advisory field visits;
- Procurement of seeds, sieve equipment, fertilisers, etc;
- Workshops for processing and canning of fruits and vegetables;
- Organization of promotional events of local production in cooperation with the municipal administration and local associations;

*Main achievement:*

- Assistance to women engaged in agriculture on a small scale in order to increase production and product quality covering own needs for food;
- Promotion of local agricultural production;

## 6.Co-working Zavidovići Youth HUB – CoZY HUB

**Timespan:** From **January, 2023** to **December, 2023**

**Number of partners/Associated:** 1

**Total Budget:** 5.000,00 €

**Funded by:** City of Zavidovići

Development of a co-working space intended for the improvement of entrepreneurial skills, with an emphasis on youth and women's entrepreneurship as well as other interested users for the purpose of developing social entrepreneurship and establishing a civil-public dialogue.

*Main achievement:* Providing operational support and organising various activities through a platform for education and professional development, promotion and networking of users.



## 7."Strani Vari - Summer animation for children and young people"

**Timespan:** From **January, 2023** to **December, 2023**

**Number of partners/Associated:** 2

**Total Budget:** 10.000,00 €

**Funded by:** Asscoiazione Strani Vari

"Strani Vari - Summer animation for children and young people" is a project organised by the Zavidovići Local Democracy Agency with the help of partner organisations from Italy, and the project is also supported by the Municipality of Zavidovići and Zenica-doboj Canton. "Strani Vari" as an activity of young people from Italy and Zavidovići started in 2003, and this year was the 20th edition of this summer recreation centre for children.

The goal of the "Strani Vari" project is to contribute to the involvement of young people in social activities for children. The project animates elementary school children during their summer vacation, with the intention of offering them extracurricular activities at a time when they are not formally tied to school, thus making their vacation more meaningful, and providing them with some new knowledge and skills that they will use on a daily basis.

*Main achievement:*

- **Strani Vari** - summer camp, animation for children in the area of Zavidovići - 7 days of organised activities for children in which 40 animators participate. Animation activities that included a training ground with games (which will enable children to develop motor skills) and educational, artistic, creative workshops (which will enable children to develop cognitive skills).
- **Circus workshops for children and young people** - during the activities for children, professional circus workshops were held, led by professionals from the circus school from Italy and jugglers from Chile. During the circus workshops, children and the residents of Zavidovići in general had the opportunity to get to know the elements of circus performances, such as acrobatics on the floor, balance, juggling, performance, aerial acrobatics, and the tools used during circus performances.
- **Youth exchange** - for 7 days in the morning, there was an exchange of young people from Zavidovići and Alba/Brescia (ITA), 40 of them participated in workshops on: human rights, democracy, ecology, gender equality, stereotypes and prejudices, interculturality. Informal workshops are made up of confidence-building games, group building activities, circus games, juggling games, balance exercises, introduction to acrobatic skills.
- **Intercultural nights** - is an activity where participants from Italy and Bosnia and Herzegovina made dinner for each other. Through the presentation of dis-

- hes and traditional customs, young people had the opportunity to become better acquainted with other cultures and customs. Also during those evenings, the participants organised a quiz with questions about their countries and thus learned together about Italy and Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- **Excursion to Sarajevo** - 40 young people from Italy and Bosnia and Herzegovina had the opportunity to visit the capital Sarajevo, and had the opportunity to visit the cultural and historical sights of our capital



## 8.Citizenship on the Border: The Voices of Youth

**Timespan:** From **April, 2023** to **December, 2023**

**Number of partners/Associated:** 6

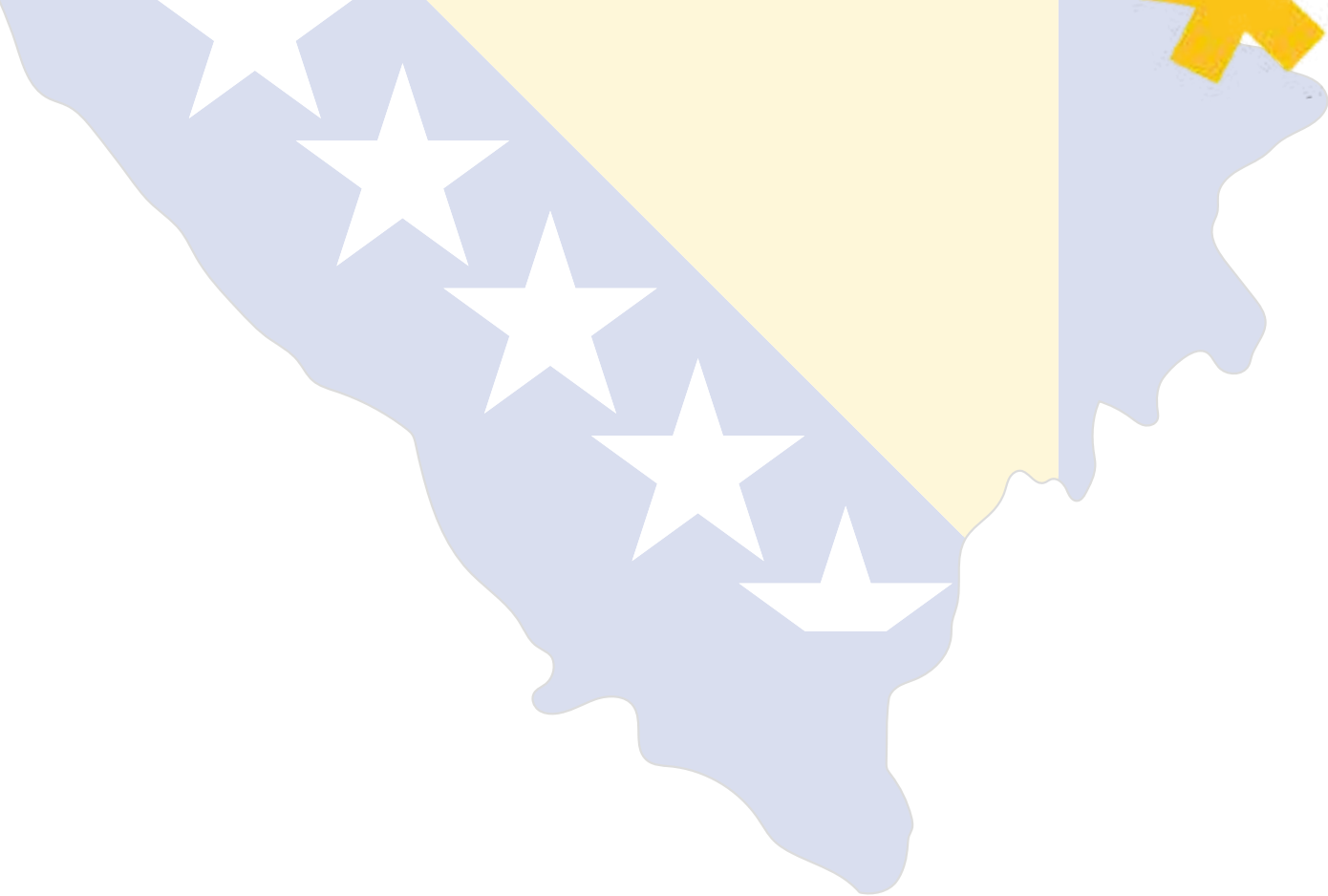
**Total Budget:** 43.932,00 €

**Funded by:** Erasmus+ KA1

An intercultural exchange aimed at young people (18-30) from the countries of Italy, France, Greece, Morocco, Bosnia Herzegovina and Turkey, in Venaus (TO) in Susa Valley, Italy in June 2023. The theme of the exchange was the development of a common concept of Mediterranean citizenship. The exchange will also address the issue of migration and freedom of movement because the cities involved are all in border areas and on the route of migration flows. The aim of the exchange is to design a common action that can be carried out in one's own city of origin, to sensitise the population on the perspective of human rights.

*Main achievement:*

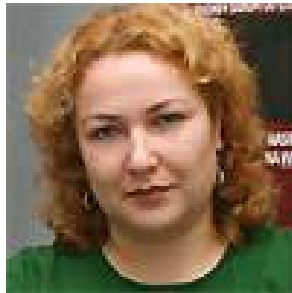
- promoting a reflection about the notion of citizenship in a intercultural group of young people, in area of border;
- work about prejudices and stereotypes in order to discover the dimension of human rights;
- promoting the cross border collaboration between youth organisations from different countries in Europe and in the Mediterranean;



# OPERATIONAL PARTNER SISAK



AGENCIJA LOKALNE DEMOKRACIJE SISAK  
Local Democracy Agency Sisak



**Delegate: Paula Raužan**  
**Established: 1996**

## Key partner:

- ALDA (Lead partner)
- Municipality of Sisak, Croatia (Host city)
- Municipality of Hrvatska Kostajnica, Croatia
- Municipality of Petrinja, Croatia
- Municipality of Dvor, Croatia
- NGO “Going to Europe”, Modena, Italy
- International School for Peace Studies, Northern Ireland

## Main objectives:

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

The LDA Sisak was opened in 1996 in Sisak, Croatia, in a very difficult area which was heavily damaged by the conflict from 1991 to 1995. The region went through an economic turmoil at the end of the industrial period which determined the economic landscape for decades.

LDA Sisak is established with the aim to support local democratic processes, promote human rights, active citizenship and international cooperation. It is strongly involved in local development through its programs: Local



democracy and active citizenship, Volunteer' Centre Sisak, Sustainable development and Social-cultural Centre. Since the accession of Croatia to the European Union in July 2013, the LDA Sisak has been an Operational Partner of ALDA.

**LDA Sisak is a beneficiary of the Institutional support of the National Foundation for the Development of Civil Society for the stabilisation and/or development of the association.**



Financijski  
podržava

Nacionalna  
zaklada za  
razvoj  
civilnoga  
društva

## **OPERATIONAL PARTNER SISAK IN THE FIELD**

### **Projects and activities**

#### **1.Strengthening the capacity of civil society organisations in the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights in Croatia**

**Timespan:** From **September, 2022** to **November, 2023**

**Name of partners/Associated:** CERANEO, LDA Sisak, Association “MI”, Network of Associations Zagor, Croatian Network for the Homeless, Norwegian Social Research (NOVA), Oslo Metropolitan University

**Total Budget:** 89.258,86 €

**Funded by:** Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway within the European Economic Area and Active citizens fund

The main objectives of the project are to introduce the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) to the public and relevant stakeholders, and to empower them to implement EPSR principles in Croatia. This is aimed at improving the quality of life in local communities and across Croatia as a whole.

Key activities of the project include analysing relevant EU and national social policies, conducting research to understand stakeholders' views on EPSR, holding educational sessions in different regions, hosting panel discussions on housing



issues, and creating a manual to help integrate vulnerable groups who face housing exclusion.

As a result of these efforts, the project has achieved significant outcomes, such as developing a monitoring methodology for EPSR, enhancing stakeholders' understanding of EPSR principles through educational activities, providing support to partner organisations for local-level analysis and monitoring of EPSR policies, and producing a manual focused on social integration, particularly regarding housing challenges for vulnerable groups.

*Main achievement:*

The publication "*Profile of the Social State*" which delves into the implementation of the EPSR in Croatia has been produced. It also incorporates findings from research conducted with key stakeholders actively involved in applying EPSR principles in Croatia.

A comprehensive "*Manual for Social Integration of Vulnerable Groups in the Status of Housing Exclusion*" has been developed. It outlines current policies and measures related to housing vulnerable groups while also presenting innovative solutions, notably the "Housing First" model.

The LDA Sisak conducted an in-depth "*Analysis of EPSR Implementation in Sisak-Moslavina County*" that offers insights into the county's social landscape, assesses progress made thus far, and identifies areas necessitating further attention to effectively implement EPSR principles at the local level.

At 5 regional trainings in 4 counties in Croatia, numerous decision-makers, representatives from civil society organisations, social workers, psychologists, and other professionals working with vulnerable groups have gained knowledge about the EPSR and its principles. This is significant because EPSR remains relatively unfamiliar to the Croatian public.

## 2. Inclusive Sisak

**Timespan:** From **December, 2022** to **May, 2023**

**Name of partners/Associated:** City of Sisak, LDA Sisak, Jesuit Refugee Service

**Total Budget:** 30.000,00 €

**Funded by:** EU Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, pilot project within the EPIC project of ALDA

The primary objectives of the project are twofold:

- 1) to increase the employment prospects for migrants in Sisak through education, support and promotional activities, and
- 2) to develop a sustainable welcome and integration network at the local level.

The aim of this project is to introduce the path, which will enable the migrants to learn, to adjust in a new culture, to build their capacity, to get employed and help them to stand on their own feet, instead of being a life time dependent on government support and other human aid organisations.

Key activities included training on employment adapted to migrants, the opening of a "library corner for migrants", a round table for employers and the promotion of migrant employment, as well as joint actions of the Local Coordination for Integration. The project also included the organisation of various cultural exchange activities, such as literary evenings and the participation of migrants at the Fair of Associations and Institutions.

Notable achievements include the improvement of employment skills and capabilities among migrant participants, as well as the fostering of strengthened collaboration and coordination among local stakeholders to bolster integration efforts. Furthermore, the establishment of a library corner has facilitated cultural integration, while organised cultural exchange activities have promoted mutual understanding between migrants and the local population.

### *Main achievement:*

The project gathered 105 beneficiaries involved in different activities. Developed educational programs for enhancing migrants' employability. Simultaneously, the activities for the children of workshop attendees were organised in the library, ensuring that women with young children could participate without exclusion.

Migrants from Sisak and Zagreb showcased their program for the first time at the LDA Sisak annual, 7th Fair of Associations and Institutions, fostering mutual acquaintance and cultural exchange.

Four literary evenings were held on the topic of Ukrainian, Arabic, Persian and Turkish literature.

On the occasion of World Refugee Day, we inaugurated a migrant literature corner in the public library, stocked with 100 books for adults and children in Ukrainian, Arabic, Persian, and Turkish. Migrants read poetry in their native languages during the event.



### 3. Age do not matter

**Timespan:** From **October, 2020** to **April, 2023**

**Name of partners/Associated:** Association KAS Sisak, LDA Sisak, Red Cross Sisak, Labor Disability Association Sisak, City of Sisak

**Total Budget:** 144.400,00 €

**Funded by:** European Union from the European Social Fund. Co-funded by the Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs

The project purpose is to increase capacities of the CSOs in the topic of active ageing and life quality of retired people in the Sisak-Moslavina County. Activities are focused on two main pillars: a) development and implementation of the active ageing and life quality improvement program for retired people, and b) awareness raising on active gaining and social inclusion of retired people.

The activities directed to elderly people are in the area of health, social networking, computer skills, occupational activities and volunteering.

*Main achievement:*

250 direct beneficiaries (retired people) involved in the project activities in the Sisak-Moslavina region:

48 exercise workshops and lectures about the importance of exercise

10 internet banking workshops

20 floristry workshops

20 gardening workshops

17 lectures about health and disease prevention

27 lectures about psychological and mental health

19 social and emotional skills workshops

20 psychological help workshops

42 computer literacy workshops

2 regional round tables on active ageing

2 excursions

Published manual How to achieve “age does not matter” with practical tips for staying active and vital in retirement.

20 volunteers engaged in the project activities.

“

"I'm pleased to receive some interesting advices from project beneficiaries, on what to expect in older age" -

**Željko Đermanović, volunteer in the LDA Sisak**

“

"Thanks to this project, I gained many new friends and I had the opportunity to pass on my rich life experience to the young volunteers."

**Tonka Augustinović, project beneficiary**



“

"I got involved in the project for health reasons, and it was very beneficial for me to distract myself from negative aspects of life. I am very satisfied, and was particularly impressed by the storytelling workshops."

**Željka Bakarić, project beneficiary**

“

"By assisting older individuals, volunteers have contributed to promotion of intergenerational solidarity. We are very proud that the project beneficiaries got engaged in the activities of other organisations within the community, once the project ended."

**Barbara Marjanović, Program assistant and volunteer coordinator in the LDA Sisak**

#### **4.U(Z)DRUGE**

**Timespan:** From **February, 2022** to **February, 2023**

**Name of partners/Associated:** Centre for education and counselling – Lumos, Association PET PLUS, LDA Sisak, Association NADA

**Total Budget:** 63.860,00 €

**Funded by:** European Union from the European Social Fund. Co-funded by the Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs

The project addresses the problems of smaller and less experienced CSOs in managing day-to-day activities and local crises.

The teams of the two associations experienced in various areas of work and in ESF management transferred their knowledge and skills to their less experienced peers, using the project activities to become more organised and effective in responding to the needs of their final beneficiaries.

The overall objective of the project is to ensure civil society development that ensures equitable social and economic growth and democratic development in the Republic of Croatia.

Specific objectives:

- Transfer of the knowledge and skills of the CSOs most experienced in the management of the European Social Fund to their less experienced counterparts.
- Improvement of CSOs' capacities to respond effectively to local community needs in crisis situations.
- Strengthening the capacity of local CSOs to implement activities tailored to local needs.

*Main achievement:*

The project developed and implemented an extensive **capacity-building programme for CSO members**, employees and volunteers, which strengthened 208 people throughout Croatia to work in crisis situations and to work remotely using innovative digital tools.

During this intensive programme, consisting of 17 different topics necessary to work and grow successfully, CSOs acquired new knowledge and skills on: effective organisational planning, managing volunteers in crisis situations, citizen activism, financial and legal issues of CSO work, crisis management, online work, web development, social network management, public procurement, personal development and a series of group psycho-educational workshops, followed by individual psychological support.

Moreover, a comprehensive **digital handbook** on the financial and legal work of CSOs has been produced in Croatian.

“

“I liked the discussion on activism the best, followed up by each step necessary in particular activity” – **participant of the LDA Sisak education on activism.**



U(Z)DRUGE



#### 4. Live equality, celebrate diversity!

**Timespan:** From **November, 2022** to **February, 2025**

**Name of partners/Associated:** LDA Sisak, CROSOL

**Total Budget:** 54.730,50 €

**Funded by:** Impact4Values Program funded by CERV of the EACEA, CNVOS, Slagalica and Solidarna – Foundation for Human Rights and Solidarity

The project addresses the lack of civil society organisations (CSOs) able to be a force of change in the promotion and protection of the human rights in Sisak and Sisak-Moslavina County (SMC) area.

Lack of recognition and sustainability of the CSOs working on integration, leads to discontinuity of the migrants' integration programs, lack of understating of the European values and the CSOs' role in democratic society development, and fewer opportunities of citizens' participation and civil society development. Small number of the CSOs in the SMC active in peace culture development and human rights protection, additionally makes promotion and protection of these values in the local community even harder.

The project brings solutions at the three interconnected levels:

- Strengthening CSOs and public initiations advocacy capacities on the European values, democracy and the role of the civil society in the society;
- Public campaign on the CSOs work in SMC and their importance in building solidarity and inclusive community, by which the citizens will be introduced with concrete activities of the CSOs active in advocating human rights, European values and migrants' integration in the community life; and
- Advocacy campaign directed to the Sisak City Council on declaring officially the Sisak Diversity Day

*Main achievement:* Established partnership acting as an advocacy motor for concrete measures having a long-term impact in recognizing and celebrating diversity within the community.



## 5. Volunteer Centre Sisak

**Timespan:** From **January, 2023** to **December, 2023**

**Name of partners/Associated:** LDA Sisak, Elementary school Budaševo-Toplovac-Gušće, Elementary school "Braća Bobetko"

**Total Budget:** 2.000,00 €

**Funded by:** City of Sisak

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



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

*Main achievement:* Participatory planning process that led to the adoption of the new The City of Sisak Volunteering Development Program 2023-2027, with a strong inclusive component. The Program is produced in Croatian, English, Ukrainian, Arabic and Farsi language.

11 individuals and legal entities awarded with the Sisak Volunteer Awards 2023.

Personal volunteer stories are available on the dedicated website.

8th Annual photo exhibitions of voluntary programs opened with 20 photos of 15 organisations all over Sisak-Moslavina County.

the 17th Annual Sisak Fair of NGOs and Institutions gathered 36 organisations.

3 information days during major events in the community

58 legal entities supported in development of voluntary programs and in engaging volunteers.

92 citizens received support in informing and/ or finding suitable voluntary placement.

“

“Annual Sisak Fair of NGOs and Institutions is important since it showcases numerous activities organised by citizens through associations, conveying the type of society they desire. What we have realised through our work is that citizens want an inclusive society, where every individual has the opportunity to explore and fulfil their full potential. Citizens want a society that is inclusive, supportive, and sustainable.”

**Paula Raužan, President of the LDA Sisak**

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“I am very pleased with the turnout of this year's Sisak Fair of Associations and Institutions. It is visible not only by the large number of organisations presenting its work but also by the significant number of our citizens who have the opportunity to see the various ways they can get involved in the work of associations. Everyone can find their own way to contribute to the community and to dedicate their free time for the benefit of others. It is refreshing to see more and more young people every year, which means that the story of civil society in Sisak is sustainable.”

**Kristina Ikić Baniček, Mayor of the City of Sisak**

## **5. Volunteer' Network**

**Timespan:** From **May, 2023** to **April, 2025**

**Name of partners/Associated:** LDA Sisak, City of Sisak, Elementary school “Budaševo-Topolovac-Gušće”, Gymnasium Sisak, Croatian Social Welfare Center, Sisak Regional Office, Municipality of Lekenik, Municipality of Majur

**Total Budget:** 20.800,00 €

**Funded by:** Croatian Ministry of Labor, Pension System, Family and Social Policy and City of Sisak

The purpose of the program is to contribute to the development of local partnership, solidarity and social capital in the Sisak-Moslavina County through the development of quality and diverse volunteering programs that improve the services of volunteering organisers, increase the number of citizens involved in volunteering, especially young and disadvantaged people, and through promotion and recognition of the positive impact of volunteering as an activity that contributes to democratisation of society.

The program is focused on the development of less developed activities, such as school volunteering, inclusive volunteering and volunteering in rural areas.

*Main achievement:* 152 direct beneficiaries involved in the project activities, whereof 44% children and youth.

Developed and implemented educational programs for rural volunteers on volunteering in the social services sector.

57 legal entities involved in the project activities and/or received support in development of their voluntary activities.

67 volunteers received support in volunteering engagements.

Rural school organised a volunteer' action on the topic of social justice.

20 elementary and high school pupils were educated on volunteering.

Developed a new voluntary program for providing learning assistance to elementary and high school pupils from socially disadvantaged and migrant families.

Published "The impact of volunteering for the community solidarity development", gathering personal stories and the results of the research on the needs for support in volunteering conducted in the Sisak-Moslavina area, available in Croatian language [here](#).

“

Sharing personal experiences is the most powerful tool for promoting positive volunteer stories, as well as for motivating others to seek new experiences that are yet to come. By reflecting on their own thoughts, adventures, emotions, and on themselves, volunteers demonstrate in the simplest yet most powerful way what solidarity truly is and how potent it is as a catalyst for change. – **Paula Raužan, President of the LDA Sisak**, from the publication "The impact of volunteering for community solidarity development".



## 6. Platform for development of school volunteering

**Timespan:** From **October, 2022** to **March, 2024**

**Name of partners/Associated:** LDA Sisak, Vocational School Sisak, Human Rights House Zagreb, Norsensus Mediaforum

**Total Budget:** 87.870,00 €

**Funded by:** Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway within the European Economic Area and Active citizens fund

The project systematised the long-term practice and efforts of the LDA Sisak and educational institutions in the Sisak-Moslavina County (SMC) for the development of school volunteer clubs through the establishment of the Platform for development of school volunteering, **as a place of education, exchange and advocacy towards the decision makers.**

The project aims to create a precondition for the systematic support to schools in SMC by strengthening their capacities for development and implementation of **practical and engaging contents** on topics such as **active citizenship, social justice and social inclusion.**

The platform consists of schools in which volunteer clubs exist and those schools that are interested in developing this type of extracurricular activities. The backbone of the work of school volunteer clubs is collaborative (co-creative) work of teachers and students in detecting the needs and problems of the community, finding the best solutions, and implementing concrete actions.

*Main achievement:*

- Established non formal advocacy network the Platform for development of school volunteering, gathering schools and CSOs in Sisak-Moslavina County;
- Conducted the first research in Croatia on practices and needs of schools and students in the field of volunteering and civic education – available in Croatian language [here](#);
- Implemented educational program on social justice and civic education for educational workers;
- Established the Vocational school Sisak volunteer' club based on in depth needs analysis and education on volunteer' club management;
- Developed and implemented 7 school volunteers' actions on the social justice topics – [videos available here](#);
- Dedicated web page on school volunteering, including advocacy positions - [here](#);



Platforma za razvoj  
školskog volontiranja  
Platform for development of school volunteering  
Activities

Iceland  
Liechtenstein  
Norway

Active  
citizens fund



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“Teachers’ message to the decision makers is that they need better support in the school volunteer clubs functioning; more frequent students’ transport, small-scale volunteer’ actions’ funding, better promotion of volunteering and stronger connections with the community” – **from the Research on practices and needs of schools and students in the field of volunteering and civic education.**

## 7. White Water Lily Travelling Book

**Timespan:** From **September, 2021** to **September, 2023**

**Name of partners/Associated:** **Public library Lekenik, Croatia (leader), LDA Sisak, Association PET PLUS, Municipality of Lekenik**

**Total Budget:** 517.400,00 €

**Funded by:** European Social Fund and Croatian Ministry of Culture

The project aims to increase availability of materials and activities which motivates reading and develop reading competences of elderly people, children and unemployed people of Lekenik rural area. Moreover, it aims to raise awareness on the importance of reading and literature for individual and social development.

The project activities will be implemented in remote places of the Lekenik area in public spaces (where there are any) but in biblio-van as a travelling library that comes to the doorstep of each individual.

Main achievement: 322 direct beneficiaries involved in the project activities, whereof 44% children and youth.

Procured tailored-made Biblio-van and established mobile library.

Conducted 18 different educational programs and events, including: speed reading, creative writing comic workshop, media literacy workshop, summer reading program, visual interpretation of literary works, motivational reading workshops, fun reading, creative writing and creation, theatre plays, poetry evenings and many more.

7 volunteers were involved, contributing a total of 259 volunteer hours (assistance in administrative and communication tasks, support in organising public events, reading stories to children and elderly individuals, collecting old phrases and words of the local dialect).

Published dictionary of dialectal words of the Lekenik region “Treasury of folk heritage”, written by volunteers. The book contains photographs of ethnographic items and landmarks of the Lekenik Municipality. The dictionary is available [here](#).

Published collection of “Stories of generation B” consisting 15 short stories and the old family photographs, providing us with insights into the life and customs of the past in the Lekenik region. The stories were gathered during Storytelling Workshops for senior citizens in rural areas of the Lekenik.

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“Through the project, we aimed to further empower and encourage citizens' active participation in culture and their own creative expression through volunteering. This led to the creation of the project volunteer program that brought numerous benefits to volunteers, our organisation and program beneficiaries. Younger participants developed a love for reading and learning, while older citizens became more actively involved in the local community.”

**Barbara Marjanović, Program assistant and volunteer coordinator in the LDA Sisak**

“

“The Treasury of folk heritage book, is dedicated to all the dear people of the Lekenik region who are no longer with us, but who loved their local dialect and took pride in it, as well as to the generations to come so that they may better understand their grandfathers and grandmothers.”

**Ivan Svetopetrić, project volunteer and one of the dictionary authors**

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# PUTUJUĆA KNJIGA BIJELOG LOPOČA

# OPERATIONAL PARTNER VERTENEGLIO/BRTONIGLA



**Delegate: Umberto Ademollo**  
**Established: 1996**

## Key partner:

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

## Main objectives:

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

The Operational Partner Brtonigla is a non-governmental organisation founded in 1996 as part of the Council of Europe's initiative to establish lasting peace in the post-Yugoslav region. It began in 1993 with Resolution 251 of the Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe, which called for the establishment of several Local Democracy Embassies in the SEE region. The Local

Democracy Embassy in Brtonigla (called Operational Partner since 28 July 2005) was established in Brtonigla (Istria-Croatia) on 5 May 1996 by the partners of the OP (regional bodies from various European countries) and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities. In 1997, the OP Brtonigla signed an agreement with the Istrian Region with the aim of implementing its activities on the entire Istrian territory and becoming an instrument of development in the region.

For the past 20 years, the OP has been dedicated to supporting local democracy and active citizenship, civil society, raising awareness of European values and citizenship among young people, facilitating and promoting development opportunities through various European programmes, supporting the efforts of local institutions and the community to create solutions to social and economic challenges, promoting and supporting the unique richness of the multicultural and multilingual regional identity, and developing networks and partnerships with many local, national and international public bodies and NGOs with the aim of creating new opportunities for sustainable development in the region.

Istria has a history shaped by its strategic geographic position in Europe, as a bridge between its western and eastern parts, connecting the Balkans with Central Europe; traditionally, it has been a focal point of conflicting interests of various international actors, experienced periods of authoritarian regimes and changing national borders during the 20th century. Nevertheless, the local population has inherited, preserved and strengthened the strong sense of regional belonging and affiliation to the Istrian identity, making it richer and extremely important in the context of its symbolic role as a bridge between East and West in the heart of Europe. Over the past 20 years, the OP has built a long track record as a major actor in strengthening democratic values and culture among the local population and in particular among the local youth, its European awareness has enabled the participation of a large number of local young people and professionals in various programmes in Europe, and it has been actively involved in the implementation of a large number of projects under various European programmes in cooperation with its regional partners in the region.

## OP VERTENEGLIO/BRTONIGLA ON THE FIELD

### Projects and activities

#### 1.ESC Project

**Timespan:** From **September 2022** to **July 2023**

**Number of partners/Associated:** 2

**Funded by:** European Solidarity Corps programme

The project consisted in carrying out solidarity activities to support people and parts of the population that are disadvantaged and 'forgotten' by society.



# LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES

ACTIVITY REPORT 2023

**alda** \*  
30 Years LDAs in the Balkans  
European Association  
for Local Democracy



Co-funded by  
the European Union