

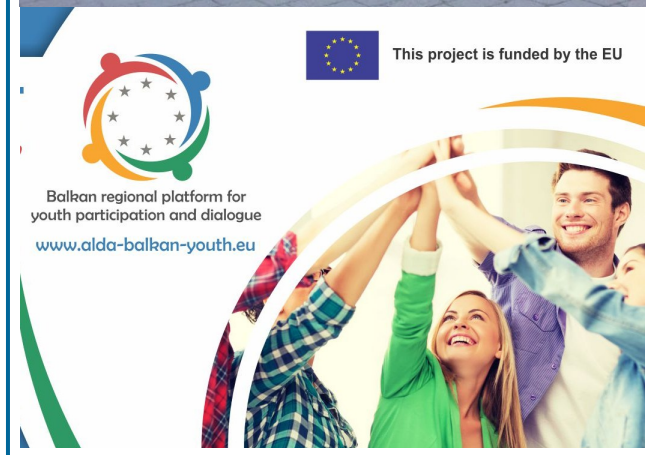


Balkan regional platform for
youth participation and dialogue



This project is funded
by the European Union

REGIONAL NEWSLETTER ON YOUTH PARTICIPATION



NEWSLETTER 2

OUR PARTNERS	2
OUR COMMUNITIES	3
OUR ACTIVITIES	4-5
STORIES OF ACTIVISM	6



Local Democracy Agency in Zavidovici was founded in 1996.

It was **created as a spontaneous initiative of a group of peace activists** in Brescia during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1992.

They implemented projects of humanitarian assistance in Bosnia and Herzegovina and facilitated reception of refugees in Italy.

Our project, that started as an initiative from Italy was officially recognized as a Local Democracy Agency in 1997.

Today, LDA Zavidovici carries out **activities in collaboration with partner organisations on local, regional and international level.**

However, the backbone of the organization remains the close collaboration with the founders.

Thematic areas!

- local democracy & participation;
- Environment;
- local economic development;
- social welfare;
- Gender equality
- youth
- Human Rights;
- promotion of European values and integration.



Activities!

Decentralized cooperation;

Town-twinning: between local authorities in Italy and Bosnia;

Sports exchange: between Italy and Bosnia;

Youth exchanges: engaging children in rural areas;

Support local initiatives: against domestic violence;

Awareness-raising activities: campaigns for large public;

EVS: coordination and hosting of volunteers;

Mediation activities: facilitating civil society.

Research activities



Our goals!

- **A bridge towards Europe** for Kosovo. Kosovo needs Europe as Europe needs peaceful relations between Kosovo and Serbia;
- **Democratisation, stability and development** through:
 - Decentralisation and development of local capacities;
 - Development of civil society as a reliable stakeholder.
- **Promotion of economic and social integration:** considering the multi-ethnic nature of Kosovo we work for strengthening cooperation among its communities.



LDA Kosovo

LDA Kosovo was officially opened on October 21, 2011 in Peja/Pec, Kosovo, as a successor of the LDA Gjilan/Gnjilane.

Activities!

Through concrete actions, we became a locally acknowledged stakeholder in some fields of activities, notably:

- Local democracy and European integration;
- Culture, youth and equal opportunities;
- Dialogue among communities;
- Local economic development;
- logistics for the LDA's partners;



The LDA has been relaunched in 2015, reestablishing the cooperation with ALDA and the Italian Association "Trentino with the Balkans".

SUBOTICA!



The City of Subotica is a city in northern **Serbia**, next to the Serbian-Hungarian border. Subotica is a multi-ethnic and multi-religious town, with more than twenty different ethnicities.



It is a member of the Intercultural Cities Network, a joint program of the Council of Europe and the EU aimed at maximizing the advantages of cultural diversity in the local community.

Our city!

Subotica is one of the most important **administrative, industrial, trade and cultural center** in northern Bačka. Apart from agriculture we have famous food production, electric industry, metal and chemical processing.



Our heritage!

Subotica has a very rich cultural scene: it is known as **the city of festivals!** The richness of **Art Nouveau architecture** makes the city a real aesthetic gem. With his beautiful nature, in particular the nearby Lake Palić, it's becoming a well-known **tourist destination**, too.



Our youth!

The Youth NGO sector is an **active and dynamic** network, always looking for young positive people to carry out new initiatives.

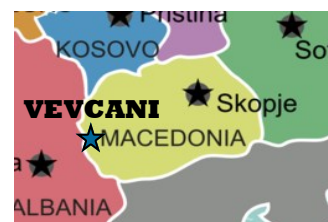
Youngsters in Subotica are mostly interested in art and music and they strive to cherish local ancient culture and architecture through festivals.

As a matter of fact **many of the festivals are organized by youngsters**, which provide a great environment for overcoming ethnicity borders and breaking stereotypes.



Our heritage!

Local architecture is peculiar in Vevcani, being a result of "Pechalbarstvo" (migrant economic working). It's a significant expression of a local history dating back to the beginning of the seventh century (at least).

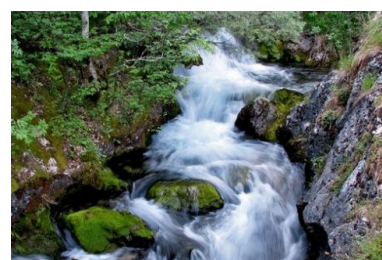


VEVCANI!

The seemingly small city of Vevcani unfolds an **impressive local and cultural tradition**: namely, the local folkloric group is internationally renowned.

Our events!

Vevcani's cultural scene hosts numerous cultural events (concerts, theater plays, promotions, festivals). One of the most famous events which is known worldwide as the "**Vevcani Carnival**", with a tradition of over 14 centuries.



Vevcani has **extraordinary nature** such as the "**Vevchani Springs**" and the pick of mountain Jablanica, above the village.

Our youth!

In Vevcani young people have a very important role. Many cultural **events**, creative workshops, festivals, sport competitions are **youth-oriented**. Unfortunately, due to the lack of employment opportunities, many young people seek better opportunities elsewhere. However, efforts from the local community brought remarkable results: Vevcani is proud to **host the only Youth Center in the area**.



YOUTH INFO POINT



Balkan regional platform for
youth participation and dialogue
www.alda-balkan-youth.eu



This project is funded by the EU



The complexity of society

is increasing rapidly:
access to information, ability for critical
analysis, information exchange are thus
becoming additionally important for young
Europeans.

8 Info Points opened all over the Balkans!

3 have already been opened in
local LDA offices in Niksic, Mo-
star and Zavidovici.

To be informed is our right!

European Charter on information for young
people acknowledges the right of all young
people to have access to comprehensive,
objective, understandable and reliable
information on all their issues and needs.



Info point Niksic



Our volunteers are there just for you!

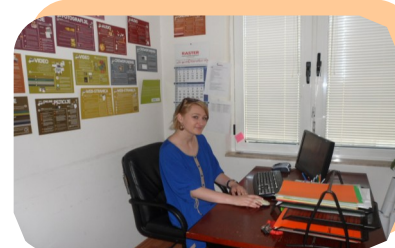
Giving tips on suitable **opportunities** based
on your interests and beliefs.
Engaging youngsters into **inspiring talks**.
Providing information through various media
tools (websites, newsletters, printed material).



Info point Zavidovici

Information on every topic!

- education (formal and informal);
- scholarships and programs of the EU;
- young people mobility programs;
- volunteering and activism;
- courses and workshops;
- and many other practical tips.



Info point Mostar



Check out our info points on Facebook:

[Niksic](#) / [Zavidovici](#) / [Mostar](#)

BALKAN YOUTH MEETING IN PODGORICA

On the 8 and 9 May 2015 an important event was held in Podgorica on the topic of youth participation and EU integration.

There, the Regional Youth Working Group had the unique opportunity to meet and discuss on these issues, exchange positive practice with local NGO and visit the National Parliament of Montenegro.

Coordination meeting!

Youth engagement workers and local project teams gathered to share challenges and ideas.

They together defined a common local and regional strategy regarding activities, communication plan and coordination plan for the project.



Visit to ZID NGO!

Youth engagement workers had the chance to meet and discuss with representatives of ADP ZID - voluntary service of Montenegro.

It had been a great opportunity to meet inspiring people, develop know how on good practices and find new ideas for the project activities.



VISIT TO THE PARLIAMENT OF MONTENEGRO

On the 8th of May 2015 our "**Regional Youth Working Group**" had the opportunity to visit the Parliament of Montenegro.



Interactive debate with Parliament members on the topic of "Function of national parliaments in the process of EU integration".



Taking part in many
inspiring activities...

Follow the discussions of the Parliament;

Informal chat with the President of the Parliament

Tour the Parliament, getting to know its history and functioning;

Join interactive debate with Members of Parliament on EU integration.



Find out more about our activities:
Check out our [website](#)

“NATOCHAK” a successful story of youth activism in Macedonia

“NaTochak”

(On a bike)

Founded in 2012 in Skopje, NaTochak is one of the most authentic civil movements in Macedonia. People driven by pure enthusiasm, with no budget, sparing their own free time to fight for better cycling conditions in their city.

CRITICAL MASS!

The main activity is Critical Mass,



A worldwide practice where **mass of cyclists gather and cycle through the city** to raise awareness about cycling. “NaTochak” first Critical Mass brought together 500 cyclists, now is being held once a month, with more and more people!

Raising awareness & advocacy



The movement has been constant in its actions throughout the years, Raising awareness among the population for cycling and putting constant pressure and working together with local authorities to make these better conditions reality.

The movement is spreading...



...in many other cities in Macedonia: no doubt this decentralization of the practice it's a remarkable development for a country like Macedonia: NaTochak is what activism should look like!



Check out the [website](#)

Jovana Tozija

ISSUE II MAY - JULY, 2015

Published and Financed by

“BALKAN REGIONAL PLATFORM FOR YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND DIALOGUE”



Balkan regional platform for youth participation and dialogue



Funded by the European Union

Written and designed by
Youth Engagement Workers.

With the help of
Marcello Feraco, ALDA intern



This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the Association of Local Democracy Agencies - ALDA, and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.