



Balkan regional platform for  
youth participation and dialogue



This project is funded  
by the European Union

# REGIONAL NEWSLETTER ON YOUTH PARTICIPATION



## NEWSLETTER 4

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## **LDA Montenegro**

*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.*

*Our vision is respect for human rights and development of democracy on the local level.*

**Local Democracy Agency** of Montenegro 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 organizations through decentralized co-operation and partnership.

Our basic target groups are: **citizens, local self-government employees, elected representatives.**

Particular attention is paid to: **youth, minorities, women, persons with special needs.**



## **We do this through following programs:**

- Local administration capacity development
- Human rights and peace building
- Youth
- Local economic development
- Admission to the European Union





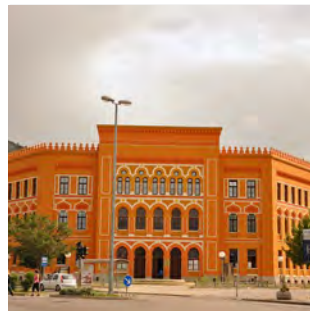
## MOSTAR!



*"When a person spends a night in Mostar, it's not the sound that wakes him up in the morning, but the light." With this verse the famous Nobel Prize winner Ivo Andrić described this city. Mostar is a city of great light, a city in Bosnia and Herzegovina.*

*This city of lights on the green Neretva River, in addition to having spawned numerous artists who have sung about it, described and illustrated it in their works, through which the city is also famous, is also a place of festivals and events that show the vibrancy and enthusiasm for the revival of this enchanting city that makes its identity, such as jumping from the Old Bridge, Santić's poetry readings, the "Mostar co-ots" festival of theater comedy, the Mostar Summer Festivals and the Days of Culture of "Matica Hrvatska" - the Mostar Spring, as well as the Film Days...*

*This city is located in the flower and wine - growing valley of the Neretva River. Its mild climate is protected by Mount Velez, Čabulja and Hum. It was built around the old bridge, which was built in 1566 in the vicinity of the former chain bridge. With the arrival of the Austro - Hungarian rule in this region, the old artisan - based economy and the specific social relations were replaced by the industrial age.*



*A new way of governance, new materials, construction, industry, railways, roads, public lighting, water supply, bridges, schools - these are all characteristics of Mostar at the turn of the XIX and the XX century. Special efforts are focused in the field of tourism, where Mostar after the restoration of its symbols, the Old Bridge, and its inclusion on the list of World Heritage by UNESCO, has favorable opportunities.*



*The architecture in Peja show different architectural cultures, such medieval Serbian, Ottoman, Yugoslav and contemporary architecture. Because of this there are many churches, mosques, buildings which are attractions points in the city and where built by the aforementioned influences.*



## PEJA!

### Peja

*Peja is a city in western Kosovo. The city is located a strategic position on the Peja Bistrica river a tributary of the white Drim to the east of the Prokletije. The city lies near the Rugova Canyon.*



*Peja has undeveloped tourist areas such as the Rugova Canyon and Rugova Mountains. Skiing is possible in the mountains nearby. Peja Bath is a township located in the municipality of Istog, Kosovo. To many people it is known with the name Ilixhe. It is a touristic-health center with services in Istog and in the region, offering quality for inhabitation, highly developed infrastructure and every service needed for living.*

*Cultural trail begins from the town center, in the west side is the first hotel built in 1929, from where you may enjoy the view of Rugova Mountain while in other side from right you can find the memorial of Demonstration of year 1968. The trail follow it route to the east toward hotel Dukagjini which leads you to the Haxhi Zeka square, a historical patriot monument of Peja and on its left side is located Ethnological Museum*





## RESEARCH ON YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN THE BALKAN REGION

### *My City - Youth City*

*The activity “My City - Youth City” was held within the framework of the Balkan regional platform for youth participation and dialogue. The activity was held during different time periods in different months by our eight partner organizations, the local democracy agencies in different towns.*



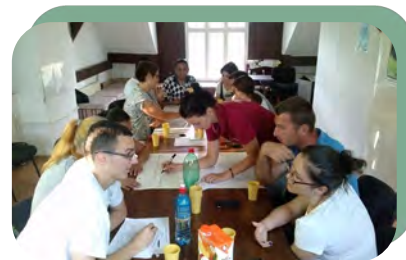
*Mapping of the facilities, Knjazevac*



*Mapping of the facilities, Peja*

*The idea of this activity was to assemble the young people from the local community together, and discuss with them on the possible development of their towns, which they, who represent the future of our communities, must have a say in. Young people of the communities of the partner organizations were encouraged to use their creativity and expressiveness to come up with possible improvements that can be done in their respective towns.*

*The activity “My City - Youth City” was intended to finish with a mapping of the facilities, with the youth and various other stakeholders (LDA, Youth engagement workers, local authorities) in each local community respectively. Therefore, as a result of the activity, after the proposals of the youngsters were assembled, maps were made of each town respectively, with the existing facilities and the ones that are to be built represented on them.*



*Afterwards these maps were shared with the local authorities which should work on the implementation of the ideas of the youngsters, building the facilities that the youngsters believe are needed in the local communities and improving the ones they believe need to be improved.*





## Youth taking over day



*As Balkan regional platform for dialogue and participation project comes to an end, we had approached to the final, and most important item of the project - Youth taking over day. Time had come for the voice of the youth to be heard, and the youth to take control in their own hands. Youngsters from eight towns from a region will meet local officials, and discuss with them pending issues that are bothering youth from the region.*



## Balkan regional platform for dialogue and participation



*That day, youngsters, or their representatives will meet local officials, in common Council in their Township. The main goal of the event is introducing town officials with the youngsters' needs and aspirations... their vision to make our local communities a better place. It is not just important for those youngsters, or the sake of the project. No, this day would be the turning point, and will leave a mark for generations to come...*

*Youth taking over, a visionary activity, took place in early December, across the region. Active youth, had once again proved that they are a force to reckon with. Youngsters gave a final touch to the Balkan regional platform for dialogue and participation project, and made a path for future generations to follow.*



**Find out more about our activities:  
Check out our website**

## StraniVari Summer Camp and Youth Exchange Being Citizen Today

*This summer has been held, in the Municipality of Zavidovici, in Bosnia – Herzegovina, the eleventh edition of "Strani Vari Summer Camp", realized thanks to the cooperation between ADL Zavidovici, Strani-Vari and YeppLanghe. The project lasted from 26th July to 5 August 2015 and involved 40 youths from Bosnia and Italy in volunteering activities and games addressed to children in the schools of Zavidovici and 5 villages nearby the city: Hajderovici, Gostovic, Ribnica, Kovaci and Brezik.*



*Part of the project was the realisation of the Summer Camp and part of the project was the Youth Exchange Being Citizen Today. The topic of the Exchange was LGBT and woman rights, and the aim was to empower young people against discrimination, stereotypes and prejudices, than can degenerate in a violent speech and violent behaviour.*

*Participants had the opportunity to acquire new skills, to get the ability of work in a group and cooperate, in a multicultural frame, in order to realize a shared aim.*

*They improved their knowledge about technology instruments, making movies and realising and sharing diaries and reportage, using the main social network platform.*

*Italian and Bosnian youths worked together managed the workshops in the school, with session of creative workshop about sports, music, arts and theatre for the children's Summer School. During the Exchange, the group had one day in Sarajevo, visiting the city, the National Library and the Gallery 11/07/95.*

*The project wanted also to give to young people the opportunity to get in touch with different culture and realize an intercultural exchange, encourage the participation...*

*Especially in the Summers School part, people involved in the exchange worked strictly in contact with the local population, with a relevant impact on them. The project involved about 300 children and had a deep impact on the city and the persons directly and indirectly involved.*

*See you next year.*

## ISSUE IV OCTOBER - DECEMBER, 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.



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