



ACTIVITY REPORT 2007



LDA Mostar





INTRODUCTION	3
LDA Mostar	4
1. PROJECTS FUNDRAISED BY ALDA	
1.1. CBM II – Confidence Building Measures, to foster interethnic dialogue in the secondary schools of Mostar and its Region.....	5
1.2. Local Economic Development in Balkans.....	6
1.3. Micro-credit Scheme.....	7
1.4. Pearl.EU.....	7
1.5. “Youth the Right direction” project promoting the program “Youth in action”.....	9
2. PROJECTS FUNDRAISED BY LDA MOSTAR	
2.1. Vocational Training and Career Guidance.....	10
2.2. Adriatic Seaways.....	11
3. OTHER ACTIVITES	12
4. NEWLY ESTABLISHED PROJECTS	
4.1. Resource Centre for supporting the democratization process in Mostar.....	14
5. RESOURCES OF THE LDA MOSTAR FOR 2007	15



2007 has been an important year for consolidating our commitment to build democratic society in Mostar: we have further reinforced our partnership with the City of Mostar and our network of European local authorities who committed themselves to share with us the efforts to promote democracy and respect for human rights.

All our projects and initiatives as well as our enthusiasm in our everyday job are constantly motivated by our mission: to support the democratization process in the city of Mostar by strengthening the good governance and capacity building of local authorities and civil society and the participation of citizens in public life.

In fact the great importance of democratic governance and active citizens lead us in our activities aiming at reducing social exclusion, promoting human development and sustaining local development.

Our innovative methodology is the decentralized multilateral cooperation which underlies the common engagement and responsibility taken by local and international Partners to operate in Mostar area through the LDA Mostar.

That methodology allows us to share local needs and challenges with our local and international Partners and find the most proper answers by using LDA Mostar deep knowledge of local resources and characteristics.

Furthermore, 2007 confirmed the capacity of the LDA Mostar to work on the issue of self-sustainability as the LDA Mostar ownership and adherence to local community are reinforced and guaranteed by being a locally registered NGO. The LDA Mostar demonstrated its capability to look for further resources and partnerships at local and international levels which can ensure the long – term sustainability of the Agency.

Our main 2007 goal has been consolidating the basis for becoming a resource centre for the Cantonal government, the city administration and the civil society, and providing them with active tools for the harmonization to the European democratic standards.

The same goal is on track with the report of LDA Mostar activities in 2007, which deal with

- 1. strengthening capacity of institutions and individuals,*
- 2. improving the dialogue between citizens and local authorities,*
- 3. empowering youth and*
- 4. support local sustainable development .*

All of this would not been possible without the support of the Council of Europe and its Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, without the political and financial support of the host- City of Mostar, of all our international Partners and of the Association of Local Democracy Agencies.

I would like to thank all of them and all people who trust us.

Mostar, 10th January 2008

*Jlenia Destito
LDA Mostar Delegate*

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Partners:

Region Puglia - Italy (Partner leader), City of Mostar - B&H (host partner), City of Monfalcone - Italy, Province of Venice - Italy, City of Kragujevac - Serbia, Municipality of Vejle – Denmark, Metropolitan City of Kayseri – Turkey, Municipality of Orkdal – Norway, Municipality of Sund – Norway, NGO IPSIA – Italy

Strategic goals of LDA Mostar:

- Building the bridges between citizens and governments
- Support the improvement of the disadvantage of people in the society
- Strengthening the capacities of public institutions
- Promotion of active citizenship
- Support to local economic development
- Increase the knowledge of local community about Stabilization and Accession Process (EU integration)
- Strengthening the LDA partnership
- Contribution to achievement of a better and more qualitative educational system
- Development of youth policies according to EU standards

LDA Mostar is member of the following local councils and organisations:

- Mostarian Platform – platform of NGO sector
- Youth Council - Council of youth organizations





1.1. CBM II – Confidence Building Measures, to foster interethnic dialogue in the secondary schools of Mostar and its region

Donor: Permanent Representation of Luxembourg at the Council of Europe

The main objective of the whole CBM project is strengthening interethnic and inter-religious dialogue between students and teachers from different ethnic groups, exchange of the best practices between teachers and experts from HN Canton and teachers and experts from cities and regions partners of the LDA, promoting the values of respect of human rights, democracy and respect of minority groups and peaceful conflict resolution, contributing to improvement of educational system.

Specific objectives of CBM II:

- To get overview of level and quality of teaching about values such as democracy, human rights, dialogue, respect of human rights and peaceful conflict resolution in high schools of Mostar.
- To inform all high schools and relevant institutions in Mostar about CBM project
- To engage schools and relevant institutions in process of planning of CBM project
- To conduct research on teaching about values such as democracy, human rights, dialogue, respect of human rights and peaceful conflict resolution in Mostar high schools and to publish it in the form of report

Activities implemented in 2007:

Activity 1: general preparations, data gathering, and preparations for first series of meeting with principals, giving first information to psychologists.

Activity 2: meetings with principals: informing them about CBM project and its conclusions, informing them about follow up project – research and getting first information (based on inputs from psychologists) and impressions about current situation in the school (this will help us in getting better overview of situation and help us in preparing the questionnaire), giving information to psychologists (they start preparing the draft of questionnaire).

Activity 3: finalisation of questionnaire, second round of meetings with principles, giving information to psychologists.



Activities to be implemented in 2008:

Activity 4. Work on report, printing publication.

Activity 5: Preparing and conducting round table



1.2. Local Economic Development in Balkans

Donor: French Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The first stage of the project implemented in 2004 was aimed to assessing of different economic sectors in the Herzegovina region in order to analyse impediments and opportunities for economic development and employment opportunities with the SWOT analysis, i.e. a tool for auditing an organization and its environment. It is the first stage of planning and addresses marketers to focus on key issues. SWOT stands for strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.



As the result of the SWOT analysis the proposal was prepared and additional funds provided in 2007, by the same donor, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The project, called "Creation of a package of tourist offer for Herzegovina that aims to improve tourist potential of the Region", is aimed to tourism development in Herzegovina region, focused on production of traditional

sorts of cheeses.

the project has been implementing in collaboration with the Italian NGO UCODEP.



Activities implemented in 2007:

- In the period 10-14.04.2007, the first recognition mission had been organized in BiH by the University of Udine, the "Institute for animal husbandry" (ISZ) of Potenza and ANFOC.
- 1st Round tables in Livno and Nevesinje
- Visiting laboratories production of "Sir iz mjeha/ Cheese in the sack" (traditional cheese preserved in sheep's skin), Nevesinje
- Visit of one expert from cheese department from the University of Udine (Italy) has been organized in Livno and Nevesinje
- 2nd Round table in Livno, Municipality of Livno
- 2nd Round table in Nevesinje, Municipality of Nevesinje
- 2nd level training in Livno and Nevesinje, Municipality of Livno and Municipality of Nevesinje
- Visit to laboratories in the cheese factory – production of the traditional Livanjski Sir, Livno
- Elaboration of promo material

1. PROJECTS FUNDRAISED BY ALDA



1.3. Micro credit Scheme

Donor: Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Partner: Banca Intesa San Paolo and Bank of the Council of Europe
Duration: January 2007- December 2009

Activities implemented in 2007:

- LDAs assessment
- Signing the convention between Alda and Banca Intesa San Paolo
- Micro credit market survey
- Identification of target groups
- Trainings for the project managers
- Identification of the financial partners
- Identification of Micro Finances Institutions as potential be partners

Activities to be implemented in 2008 / 2009

- information about the loans;
- advices to potential borrowers
- long-term support to the borrowers;
- monitoring the process and providing services
- trainings in designing business plan;



1.4. Pearl.EU

Financed by: EU Adriatic New Neighbourhood Programme INTERREG/CARDS-PHARE
Lead partner of the project: Municipality of Lecce, Italia

Partners of the project: Italy (City of Bari, Province of Bari, Province of Brindisi, City of Gorizia, City of Lecce, City of Ravenna, City of Tavagnacco, City of Udine, City of Venezia, City of Trieste, City of Monfalcone, Region Puglia), Bosnia and Herzegovina, (City of Prijedor, City of Mostar, City of Zavidovici, LDA Prijedor, LDA Mostar, LDA Zavidovici) and Croatia (County of Baranja Osijek, City of Sisak, City of Verteneglio, LDA Osijek, LDA Sisak, LDA Verteneglio).



The strategic objectives of the project PEARL.EU - "Platform Enhancing Adriatic Regions Links in Europe" are the constitution of permanent working groups among Italian and Balkan local authorities and the Local Democracy Agencies in order to implement concrete actions of European territorial co-operation. In this way, the project,



even if financed with funds of the old programming period, will contribute to put into action the European Commission's new objective 3 "co-operation" of the reform proposal of the economic and social cohesion politics for 2007-2013. In particular, the project aims at overcoming specific, legal, administrative, linguistic and cultural barriers by contributing the development of common standards; creating and developing cross-border networks between Italian and Balkan local authorities as well as Local Democracy Agencies. In addition, it seeks to improve the flow of information through frequent exchange of information between structures involved in preparing and executing the projects and to support local democracy through the reinforcement of the network of the Local Democracy Agencies.

Activities implemented in 2007:

- 18.05.07 Lecce (Italy): participating to the kick off meeting along with two representatives of the City of Mostar
- 24.09.07. Lecce (Italy) Study visit of LDA Mostar delegate to Lecce on participatory planning in complex program
- 16.10.2007. Udine (Italy) seminar on "Intercultural dialogue", LDA Mostar supported and organized the participation of the Municipality of Mostar
- Work on the topic "Communication among local authorities and citizens and participation of citizens in the public life" in cooperation with the City of Mostar
- Support to the City of Mostar and the Province of Brindisi for the organization of civil servant exchange in 2008

Activities to be implemented in 2008:

- 21st of January – 21st of February 2008 Civil Servant from City of Mostar will work at the Bureau for EU Policies of the Province of Brindisi. This kind of internship will be used to exchange the best practice and transfer the knowledge and experience.





1.5. "Youth the Right direction" project promoting the program "Youth in action"

The program "Youth in Action" is active in promotion and visibility of the Youth programme in South Eastern Europe (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia) and Caucasus (Georgia).



The overall objective of the project is to allow young people to acquire knowledge, skills and competencies, focusing on training of multipliers and on the development of networks and partnerships.

The project foresees a wide-ranged variety of activities involving youth from all partner Countries of the project, like training and information aspects, through the implementation of different actions: information seminars, setting-up of specialized info-points, website and newsletters, youth ambassador groups, trainings for peer educators (multipliers), job opportunities monitoring, trainings on EVS, itinerant crossing youth fair and the setting-up of 4 different networks of stakeholders working in the field of youth in SEE and in Georgia.

The objectives of the project are:

- To promote the Youth Programme as a tool for enhancing youth participation and to develop European citizenship in South Eastern European countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro) as well as in the Caucasus (Georgia)
- To provide capacity building for young people and youth workers through trainings of multipliers
- To develop and consolidate networks and partnerships, in order to create a long-lasting "platform" in South Eastern Europe and Caucasus in the field of youth
- To exchange best practices in the field of youth among the partners.

Info-seminars are the first tool to train youth according to the objectives of the project, in fact the participants of the info-seminar on Youth the Right Direction project will be the ones who will run future Info-point that will be established in participating Countries.

Activities implemented in 2007:

- First seminar, 12th to the 14th of June 2007, Thessalonica (Greece), Seminar sponsored by the European Commission in Thessalonica (Greece), in cooperation with the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, the municipality of Mouzaki and the Development Agency for Karditza (ANKA). LDA Mostar delegate and student of Mostar law faculty participated.
- Second seminar, September, Sisak (Croatia)
- Third seminar 22- 26 October 2007, Mostar (B&H)



2.1. Vocational Training and Career Guidance

Donor: City of Mostar, City of Vejle (Denmark), Ministry of education, science, culture and sports of HNK

LDA Mostar in cooperation with the City of Mostar, Municipality of Vejle, Ministry of education, science, culture and sports of HNK, Pedagogical institute Mostar, Institute for education Mostar, and 10 elementary schools from Mostar has initiated a project called "Establishment of professional orientation centre Mostar".



The main goal of the project is to initiate the establishment and development of a sustainable and learner centred educational system for career guidance, youth enrichment and empowerment, as well as to contribute reduction of unemployment of youth through building capacities, exchange of experience and cooperation.

Objectives:

- Build capacities of teaching staff to work as career guidance advisors.
- Realise a promotional campaign to promote the concept of VTCG with the target group and partner organizations.

- Providing the students with the relevant orientation needed, in order to help them find suitable secondary schools and job opportunities and help them with the choice of their future careers.
- Creating a broad network of co-ordination and co-operation between public institutions, training centres, companies, and community organizations.



Activities completed in 2007:

- 16-17.10. 2007, "Training for career advisors - Youth on their way to make a choice of education in Mostar" in the premises of the Pedagogical institute of Mostar: trainers from Vejle (Denmark) offered the training for local professors and pedagogical workers based on the basic principles of professional orientation of the Danish model.





2.2 Adriatic Seaways

Donor: EU Adriatic New Neighbourhood Programme INTERREG III a / CARDS-PHARE
 Partner leader: Municipality Monfalcone (Italy)
 Partners in B&H: (Municipality of Neum, LDA Mostar)

The part of project implemented in the territory of BiH is focused to Neum Municipality. With the main objective to support tourism development at the cost area of B&H, project will:

- improve the infrastructure capacities by construction of the path along the sea,
- prepare the SWOT analyses of the region of Herzegovina
- organise the training for the stakeholders in tourism of HN Canton



General objective

The Seaways Integrated Tourist Development project aims to promote the creation of a model of integrated tourist development and to support the conservation of the cultural patrimony of the interested territory, by matching initiatives of animation and tourist promotion of the municipalities involved, starting from the study and valorisation of the cultural patrimony in common, derived from the history of connecting seaways. The project is a systematic action, open to elements of great innovation and testing, in order to promote and support the tourist field by actions of cooperation and valorisation of the offer and by the elaboration of a local development model for innovative initiatives in the cross-Adriatic area, starting from the seaways which crossed this sea.





19-20/03/07, Bari, Italy, Project 'Mahldenet" final conference, representative of City of Mostar, representative of the Ministry of Herzegovina-Neretva Canton (B&H) and LDA Mostar Delegate participated



- 19-21/06 '07. Gradačac, B&H, First Fair of BiH Cities and Municipalities, LDA Mostar participated together with the City of Mostar.

- 29.06.2007.Hutovo Blato, Čapljina, B&H, Seminar for the launching of the project "PlanCoast", Interreg III B Cades and implemented by the Cantonal Ministry of Phisyca planning and environment protection. LDA Mostar participated together with the other Bosnian partners in the project'a activities: Neretva Cantonal Ministry of Phisyca planning (lead partner for BiH), Municipality Neum, Electro distribution and water protection company

- 17-19/07.2007., Italian young volunteers running children summer camp in Vrapčići, Mostar, in the framework of IPSIA's project "Lands and Freedom" visited the LDA Mostar office and participated on the workshop "How do you imagine your future" organized by the LDA Mostar in cooperation with the Electrical High school in Mostar and IPSIA.



25/05/07 Sarajevo Annual LDA Mostar's Partners meeting and election of the new Delegate, Ms Jlenia Destito. Participants: City of Mostar, Mostar City Council, Region Puglia, City of Monfalcone, ALDA, City of Ravenna, City of Rimini, Metropolitan Municipality Kayseri, NGO Nansen Dialogue Centre Mostar, LDA Mostar staff.

3. OTHER ACTIVITIES



- 13.-14.09.2007. Sarajevo, OSCE Conference "Educational authorities in BiH and Civil society sector: toward the strong partnership" and Mini Fair for NGOs involved in education. LDA Mostar participated at the conference and at the Fair.



- 11.10.2007. Sarajevo, Seenet II project – Initial meeting for BiH region, for the project determination

- 06.-07.12.2007. Rovinj (Croatia) Seenet II - Final meeting "A cooperation network between local governments for the development and dialogue in South East Europe"

- 07.10.2007 Cooperation with the International Initiative Bureau (Krakow) in the project "Balkans in Europe" for the organization of a study visit and seminar in Poland on EU affairs. Youngsters from Mostar attended the event.



- 02.10.2007. Mostar, Presentation of film "Souvenir Srebrenica" by the Italian director Luca Rosini and video conference between youth of Mostar (BiH) and Rimini (Italia). LDA Mostar organized this event together with the Italian municipality Rimini, involving high school students, professors, local authorities



4.1. Resource Centre for supporting the democratization process in Mostar

Donor: Region Puglia

The goal of the project is establishing the urban resources centre which supports and strengthens the process of democratization and capacity building for local authorities and the civil society in the city of Mostar as well as supporting the transition towards more efficient, transparent and democratic local government institutions. Project aims at supporting a fully developed and stable democratic society with a direct participation of citizens in decision making processes, with civil society, local political representatives and local civil servants fully benefiting from the participation in the process of EU integration.



The project foresees the creation of a thematic info point at disposal of citizens on the following themes: active citizenship, democratic principles and process of EU enter.

In the info-point there will be books, bulletins, conventions and internet connection and furthermore an expert on human rights who will provide information on citizens rights, employees rights, women rights, children rights, people with disabilities, etc.

By a media campaign the community of Mostar will be informed of the existence of the info point and on what they can achieve through it (suggestions, information, etc).

LDA Mostar will organize listening and comprehension sessions, conferences, working group for students and educational play game for children. In fact the resources centre will be a urban laboratory for dialogue, education to the rights of different social groups and discussion about the future of Mostar.

The info point will be at disposal of university research, research for under graduate and post graduate students for free. It will be provided with wireless system to let users using their laptop in making researches.

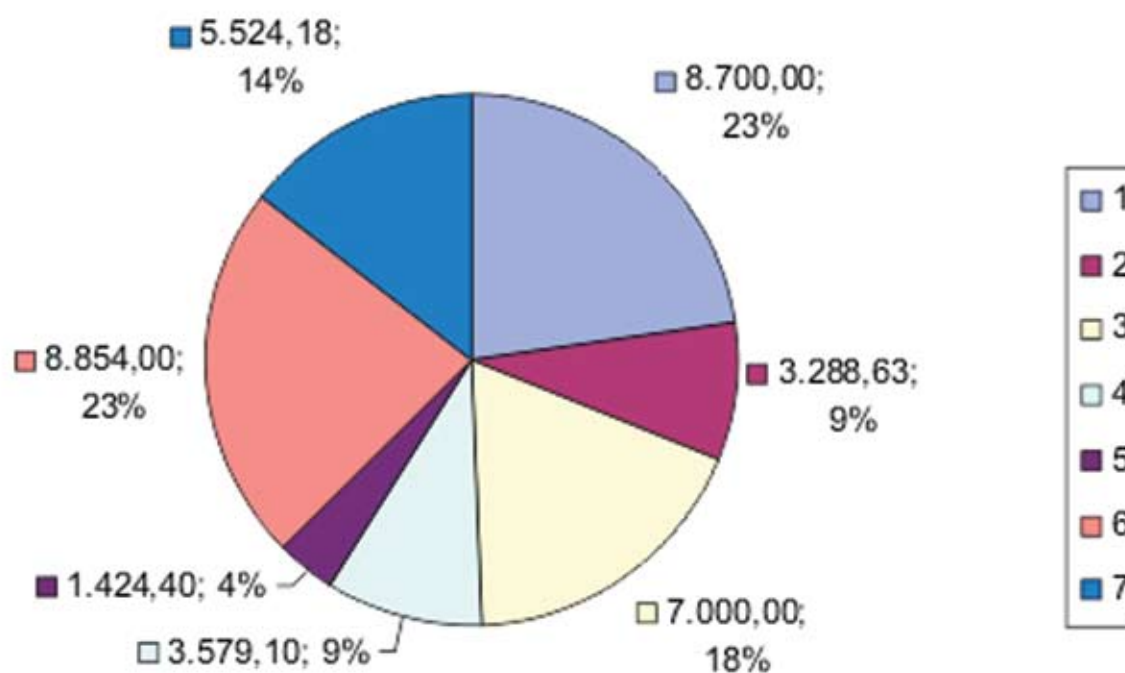
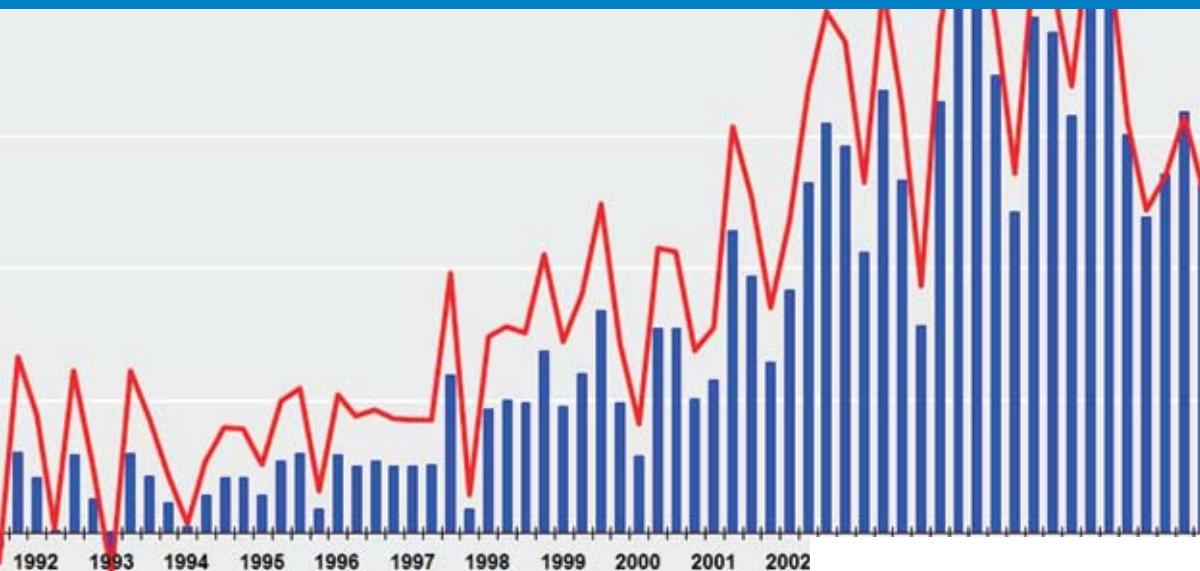
Within the project the series of trainings, round tables, and seminars will be organised, and thematic radio show will be broadcasted twice a month.

The convention for the "Resource Centre for Democracy" was signed with Region Puglia on the 25th of September 2007.

Activities within the Resource center will be implemented in close cooperation with the City of Mostar and City Council.



5. RESOURCES OF THE LDA MOSTAR FOR 2007



Data expressed in KM

1. Fees from LDA Mostar's international Partners who regularly support the Agency
2. European Youth Fund that sponsored a training on the European Campaign All Different All Equal
3. French Ministry of Foreign Affairs that sponsors a project on rural development
4. City of Mostar and Cantonal Ministry for Culture and Sport that support the establishment of a vocational training and career guidance in Mostar
5. Youth in action program-European Commission that sponsors a 3-year project for youth empowerment
6. Adriatic New Neighbourhood program. Interreg-Cards Phare 2004-2006 that sponsors the project Adriatic Seaways for the strengthening of the old maritime routes between the Adriatic coasts
7. Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and ALDA that support a micro-credit scheme