

Activity Report



2012



**LOCAL
DEMOCRACY
AGENCY
MOSTAR**

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Local Democracy Agency Mostar

About us

The Programme of Local Democracy Agencies has been established in the Western Balkans by the Congress of the Council of Europe in 1992, as a support programme to strengthen local democracy, foster respect for human rights and further sustainable development. Today there are 13 active Local Democracy Agencies (LDAs) based in Western Balkans and South Caucasus co-ordinated by Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA).



LDA ALBANIA



LDA ARMENIA



**LDA CENTRAL AND
SOUTHERN SERBIA**



LDA GEORGIA



LDA KOSOVO



LDA MONTENEGRO



LDA OSIJEK



LDA PRIJEDOR



LDA SISAK



LDA SUBOTICA



LDA VERTENEGLIO



LDA ZAVIDOVICI

The agencies function as self-sustainable, locally registered NGOs, but they are different from other local NGOs because of the international framework they operate in.

Indeed, the LDAs develop partnerships with local authorities and NGOs from all over Europe giving to the whole network direct access to an international framework through the support of ALDA, the Council of Europe and the European Union.

The most important aspect of the LDAs is the process of partnership building. The co-operation and partnership between local and international partners, between local authorities and NGOs, give added values to the process of designing projects and implementing local activities.

This process is in itself a learning process for everyone involved and serves as a practical example of how a democratic participatory planning process can create results.

The international legal legitimacy of LDAs has been recognized through a number of official decisions of the Council of Europe.



LDA MOSTAR



ALDA

LDA Mostar

Since its establishment in November 2004, Local Democracy Agency Mostar acts as a locally registered non-profit, non-governmental organisation, with the support of its partners and co-operation 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.

Partners

- Region Puglia - Italy / partner leader
- City of Mostar - BiH / partner host
- City of Monfalcone - Italy
- Province of Brindisi - Italy
- City of Kragujevac - Serbia
- Municipality of Vejle - Denmark
- NGO IPSIA - Italy



GRAD MOSTAR



REGIONE PUGLIA

Mission

To support the process of democratisation in the City of Mostar by strengthening good governance and capacity building of local authorities and civil society, and active participation of citizens in public life.

Vision

LDA Mostar will be a resource centre for institutions of cantonal authorities, city administration and civil society for harmonisation of standards with democratic standards of the European Union.

LDA Mostar activities and projects aim to:

- Promote concrete initiatives of encouraging democracy on local level;
- Build bridges between citizens and authorities;
- Develop plural civil society and active participation of all social groups;
- Encourage the process of reconciliation and protection of human rights;
- Incite sustainable local development;
- Strengthen the knowledge of local community on the processes of stabilisation and accession.

Membership in networks

- ALDA - Association of Local Democracy Agencies
<http://www.alda-europe.eu>
- Network „Sporazum plus”
<http://www.sporazum.ba/#&pid=0>
- Peace Building Network
<http://www.mreza-mira.net/node/1>
- ALF - Anna Lindh Foundation
<http://www.euromedalex.org/>
- E.F.L.S. European Federation of Local Solidarity
<http://www.european-neighbours-day.com/>

Projects in implementation

POPoWO (People Organize Prevention of Water Overflow)

Donor: European Union and Norwegian Embassy in Bosnia and Herzegovina (co-financier)

Project leader: Association for Entrepreneurship and Business LiNK Mostar

Project partners: Local Democracy Agency (LDA) Mostar, Centre for Development of Herzegovina (CRH) Trebinje

Project duration: January 2011 – June 2012

General Objective

Strengthening the role of civil society through initiation of a dialogue in the area of Popovo polje so to consolidate the political participation and representation of farmers, women and men equally.

Specific objectives

1. Assist in communication between the key stakeholders in the area of Popovo polje related to flooding of agricultural land;
2. Create an informal network that will gather stakeholders for the purpose of reaching consensus on the contentious area in Popovo polje and
3. Increase political representation and participation of farmers, farmer associations, cooperatives and small and middle enterprises in Popovo polje.

Short description of Project

Popovo polje is a karst field in the south of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Administratively, its surface is divided into three municipalities - Trebinje and Ljubinje in Republika Srpska (RS) and Ravno in Federation BiH (FBiH). Non-existence of a unified national ministry for agriculture, ecology and energetics results in a chronic lack of co-ordination between the state, entity and cantonal levels, inclusive of competent ministries, public enterprises and agencies on entity and cantonal levels directed towards the prevention of floods.

This Project will open up the room for communication of all stakeholders but will also address capacity building of civil society aiming to strengthen its political representation.



Popovo field without water



Popovo field under water

Activities realised in 2012

Call for project proposals

Upon the development of guidelines and preparation of a package containing an application form, financial and narrative report template, logframe and evaluation form, the Project team initiated a Call for project proposals.

The Call was open from 30 December 2011 until 15 February 2012 and was intended for citizen associations and non-profit organisations coming from the area of Trebinje, Ravno, Ljubinje and Čapljina Municipalities and the area of Popovo polje.

Coordination meeting of partners



Project Cycle Management (PCM) 2

This was a two-day training workshop held from 30 to 31 January 2012 in Trebinje. The training was attended by fourteen (14) and eleven (11) participants on the first and second day of workshop respectively.

The objective of the two-day training workshop “Project cycle management – PCM, part II “ was to equip the participants with the skills necessary for the development and preparation of a project proposal, by working together under the guidance of trainers on developing the elements of a project proposal. The second part of the training focused in particular on budget development, activity chart and timeframe and logical framework. The ideas for projects were generated by the participants themselves.

Third Roundtable

Within the “POPoWO” (People Organize Prevention of Water Overflow) Project, which aims to establish a more clear dialogue of all stakeholders in prevention of water overflow in the area of Popovo polje, a third Roundtable was organised in Hotel Mogorjelo in Čapljina on 03 May 2012. On the basis of the previously held roundtables and conclusions reached, this one served for the continuation of the discussion about the problem of flooding of Popovo polje, which also affects the surrounding municipalities and possible solutions for prevention of that problem and reducing the damage already made.

Apart from that, once again the guidelines for establishment of an informal network of Project stakeholders, including all relevant bodies from the institutional level and four municipalities, whose aim would be to, through mutual co-operation and exchange of information, establish better communication and co-ordination of competent bodies so to minimise the problem of area flooding, were presented.

Evaluation of the proposals received

After receiving project proposals from citizen associations and non-profit organisations from Čapljina, Ravno, Ljubinje

and Trebinje Municipalities, a team for evaluation of the proposals was formed. It was comprised of the representatives of municipalities included in the POPoWO Project, and representatives LiNK Mostar, Centre for Development of Herzegovina (CRH) and Local Democracy Agency Mostar. The task of the Evaluation Commission was to assess the proposals received and monitor the process of implementation of the approved small scale projects.

Eleven project proposals were received, while seven of them were positively assessed and therefore eligible to receive a grant. We must mention that € 20000 was allocated for the needs of the small grant scheme, with a minimum of € 2000 and a maximum of € 3000 per small scale project.

Allocation of agreements for small scale projects

Agreements on implementation of small scale projects were signed on 05 March 2012. Mutual obligations of the contractor and organisations granted the funds were regulated by an agreement, which is in accordance with the BiH legislation. All projects that were approved had to be implemented within a three-month period.



Rounded table in Čapljina

Small-scale projects implementation, monitoring and reporting

During implementation period we were in permanent contact with applicants and were available for any issue they have faced during project implementation period. Project implementation went smoothly with no significant difficulties and co-operation with approved small scale projects applicants went well.

Project team, besides constant contacts with small scale applicants, realised monitoring activities and field visits for each implementing organisation twice during these three-month project implementation period. During those field monitoring visits all potential misunderstandings were solved with professional assistance of monitoring team.

Participatory Planning Process

This was a two-day training workshop held from 14 to 15 May 2012 in Trebinje. The objective of the two-day training workshop “The importance and techniques of citizens’ participation in the planning process – Participatory planning process “ was to introduce participants to the importance of planning and techniques of a participatory process.

The training began with the presentation of a planning process in general and its importance to local communities. Methodologies and differences between action plans and strategic plans were presented and discussed in detail with the participants.

The next topic was participation as a process of gathering the views of a variety of stakeholders, particularly those whose interests may be at stake, and ensuing decision-making process that takes such, sometimes conflicting, views into account. The participation is also seen as a vehicle for embarking upon changes that bring about changes and benefits to the local community.



Training workshop in Trebinje



Fundraising

This was a two-day training workshop held from 25 to 26 June 2012 in Trebinje. The objective of the two-day training workshop “Fundraising” was to introduce participants to the importance of fundraising, its strategy and long-term planning of the process.

The Workshop addressed the fundraising notion in general, methodologies and differences between opportunistic and strategic approach to fundraising, importance of developing relationships with the donors, presentation of the elements that an organisation needs to have to be able to build a relationship with a donor as well as a presentation of notions of sustainability and self-sufficiency of non-governmental organisations and how to achieve it.

Fourth Roundtable

The fourth Roundtable, organised within the People Organize Prevention of Water Overflow Project, was held on 28 June 2012 in Hotel Leotar in Trebinje.

Small scale projects which were approved for seven NGOs that had applied to the Call published within the POPoWO Project from the area of Čapljina, Trebinje, Ravno and Ljubinje Municipalities were presented at the Roundtable.

Also presented was the Memorandum of Understanding, signed by the nongovernmental associations, which aims to strengthen the role of civil society in initiating dialogue in the area of Popovo polje so to ensure participation and representation of farmers and the rest of the population in the decision-making process, public advocating of efficient co-operation and communication between the key interest groups from the area of Popovo polje in undertaking measures for prevention, limitation and reduction of damaging consequences of the small and large waters in regards to flooding agricultural land and establishment of continuous co-operation of civil society and governmental sector stakeholders.

Based on the information received at previously held roundtables and meetings, final version of the Action plan for contesting the floods was also presented.

Designing and printing out of brochure containing results of the Project

Some 500 brochures presenting results of POPoWO Project were produced in early September 2012 and they were launched during project Final Conference on 26 September 2012 in Mostar. Prior approval for producing and brochure content itself was approved by the Delegation.

Final Conference and presentation of Project results

Final Conference of POPoWO Project was held on 26 September in Hotel Ero, Mostar.

Activities and results realised during the Project duration. All stakeholders included in the POPoWO Project participated in the work of the Conference (municipal mayors, representatives of electrical power enterprises, representatives of citizen association from the Project area and a representative of the Delegation of the European Commission in BiH).

The POPoWO Project was very positively evaluated by all participants, while the need for further activities related to prevention of floods in Popovo polje was emphasised.



Final Conference of the project

“POPoWO”
People Organize
Prevention of
Water Overflow



Civil society in action for dialogue and partnership

Donor: IPA - EU Delegation to BiH "Support to the Thematic NGO Networks"

Project leader: Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA)

Project partners: LDA Mostar, Citizens' Forum Tuzla, DON (Democracy-Organizing-Progress) Prijedor, Centre for Local Development Breza, Democratic Centre "Nova nada" Bihać (Bosnia and Herzegovina); LDA Osijek (Croatia); Local Democracy Embassy in Zavidovići (Italy); LDA Subotica (Serbia)

Project duration: May 2011 – May 2013

General Objective

- 1) Improve organisational/governing capacities of nongovernmental associations that are engaged in promotion of democratic governance on local level;
- 2) Provide support to raising local awareness versus activities that promote democratic potential of civil society organisations (CSOs) and their role in good local governance;
- 3) Provide support to CSOs networking actions that address the issues of problems in local community, on local and regional levels in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- 4) Enhance awareness on the politics and those who decide on European standards of good local governance and citizen participation;

5) Assist in encouraging sectorial co-operation of CSOs and local authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina with their colleagues from other IPA member countries and EU member countries.

Special Objective

The purpose of the Project is to assist in the fortification of the democratic role of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) in strengthening citizen participation in local politics and decision making through promotion of the Agreement on co-operation and measures of sectorial networking during the two years of project implementation.

Project activities will be realised through 4 components

Component 1.

Overall project management and local co-ordination of activities, also including preparatory project activities, four meetings of the Management Team, establishment of two working groups, unified trainer pool, evaluation and reporting.

Component 2.

Raising awareness actions, which consist of: a thematic conference in Tuzla at the beginning of the Project; organisation of local raising awareness campaigns as support to effective implementation of the Agreement on co-operation on the municipal level in Tuzla, Mostar, Bihać, Breza, Zavidovići and Prijedor; a series of Internet and media campaigns; local public debates; printing of promotional project materials; electronic bulletin, Manual on good practices, printing of six NGO address books, final conference and an NGO Fair in Mostar.

Component 3.

The component of capacity building includes four two-day trainings for local NGOs and local authorities on the subjects of strategic planning, project cycle management, and advocacy, communication and public relations skills.

Component 4.

Exchange of good local practices includes four documentary films: zone of good local governing in implementation of the local Agreements on co-operation and promotion of NGOs which advocate development of democracy on local level; one study visit of colleagues from EU, and a roundtable with stakeholders in Bosnia and Herzegovina on good governance and citizen participation in decision making and policy development; regional networking and building partnerships that will link CSOs and authorities.

Short description of Project

Sectorial networking and building partnerships aim at helping strengthen the role of civil society in consolidation of participative democracy at local level, which is the essence of this Project. Basic activities of civil society include capacity building, information and advocacy campaigns, development of communication tools as well as exchange of good practices of local approach between municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina but through interaction with the neighbouring IPA countries and EU member states.

Activities realised in 2011

- Two meetings of the Steering Board;
- Initial Project Conference “Municipal Agreements on co-operation: Challenges and perspectives of democratic participation on local level in Bosnia and Herzegovina” – October 2011, Tuzla;
- Training on the subject of “Strategic planning” for NGOs;
- Electronic bulletin <http://www.ldamostar.org/download/electronic-newsletter1.pdf>

Activities realised in 2012

- 15. - 17. March 2012, Zavidovići:
 - Training on the subject of “Project Cycle Management” for NGOs;
 - First meeting of thematic working groups:
 - 1) Working group for implementation of local agreements on co-operation (development of democratic participation of citizens, transparency)
 - 2) Working group for support to local organisations of civil society (training, capacity building for establishment of local partnerships);
 - Meeting of the Steering Board;
- 25 March – 01 April 2012 – recording of documentary films:
 - Tuzla - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eUifi3C05Os>
 - Zavidovići and Prijedor - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iZmKx84fxVk>
- June 2012 – address books of nongovernmental organisations for Tuzla, Prijedor and Zavidovići published;
 - Tuzla NGO address book – <http://www.ldamostar.org/publikacije/adresar-NVO-Tuzla.pdf>
 - Zavidovići NGO address book – http://www.ldamostar.org/publikacije/adresar_udruzenja_zavidovici.pdf
 - Prijedor NGO address book – <http://www.ldamostar.org/publikacije/adresar-NVO-Prijedor.pdf>
- 10 - 12 October 2012, Breza:
 - Training on the subject of “Development of negotiating skills” for NGOs;
 - Press conference;
 - Meeting of the Steering Board;
- 12 - 14 December 2012, Bihać:
 - Training on the subject of “Communication and public relations skills” for local authorities;
 - Roundtable on the subject of “Co-operation of local authorities with civil society organisations, mechanisms, transparency and participation in adoption of public policies“;
 - Press conference;
 - Meeting of the Steering Board;
- Four electronic bulletins issued:
 - News letter no.1: <http://www.ldamostar.org/preuzimanja/newsletter-1.pdf>
 - News letter no.2: <http://www.ldamostar.org/preuzimanja/newsletter-2.pdf>
 - News letter no.3: <http://www.ldamostar.org/preuzimanja/newsletter-3.pdf>
 - News letter no.4: <http://www.ldamostar.org/preuzimanja/newsletter-4.pdf>



Project Team meeting in Mostar



Working Groups in Bihać



Promotion of the European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life

Donor: European Commission, Strengthening Civil Society Programme for Western Balkans and Turkey:

Partner activities – Empowering women

Project leader: Association “Fenomena“, Kraljevo (Serbia)

Project partners: LDA Mostar BiH, “Anima“ – Centre for Women and Peace Education Kotor (Montenegro), LDA Niš (Serbia), Foundation “Kvinna till Kvinna“ (Sweden)

Project duration: December 2011 – November 2012

General Objective

General objective of the Project is contribution to development of local gender sensitive policies, measures and budgets in Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro.

Specific objective

Creation of basic preconditions for development of local gender sensitive policies, measures and budgets in Serbia (Municipality of Mediana in the City of Niš and the City of Kraljevo), Bosnia and Herzegovina (City of Mostar) and Montenegro (Municipality of Kotor).



Short description of Project

This Project gives the opportunity for reform of the local self-government for the contribution to the development of participative democracy on local level, in order to include interests and participation of those who have experienced poverty, social exclusion, marginalisation and, in general, it contributes to more efficient and more egalitarian system of local governance.

Women are needed in formal decision making bodies so that the women's group interests would be represented in an appropriate manner. As women and men have historically different experiences in different segments of life, contribution of women to decision making is necessary for improvement and revitalisation of democracy in the public sphere of action.

Creation of local policy of equality of “vulnerable“ groups is the first step towards the increase of visibility of a female role in the decision making process and a throne for one of the most important parts of development of participative democracy on local level.



Signing Protocol on co-operation, Kraljevo 28.02.2012.

Activities realised in 2011

- December 2011: preparatory activities and co-ordination of project partners. Skype Conference of all project partners was held on 14 December, when all details related to the beginning of implementation of project activities were agreed;
- Starting the Project Website <http://www.gradovi-za-ravnopravnost.org>

Activities realised in 2012



Conference in Kraljevo

- Kraljevo, 11 - 12 January 2012 – First meeting of partner organisations;
- Zagreb, 16 February 2012 – Initial Conference “Programme of strengthening of civil society for West Balkans and Turkey: Partner activities – Empowering Women”;
- Kraljevo, 28 February 2012 – Initial Regional Conference “Equality of women and men in local life” for representatives of local authorities – introduction to European standards of gender equality, content and values of the European Charter on equality of women and men. During the Initial Conference, the Protocol on co-operation between partner organisations and cities-project associates was signed.
- Kotor, 19 – 23 April 2012
 - 19 – 21 April 2012 – Training for local teams for development of local action plans for gender equality on local level;
 - 22 – 23 April 2012 – Second meeting of partner organisations;
- Niš, 19 – 21 September 2012
 - 20 September – Third meeting of partner organisations;
 - 21 September – Roundtable organised for representatives of partner organisations and cities/municipalities-project associates;



Meeting in Kotor



Meeting in Niš

- Mostar, 01 – 02 November 2012

- 01 November 2012 – Reception in the Office of the Mostar City Mayor, prepared for the representatives of partner organisations and cities/municipalities-project associates;
- 02 November 2012 – Final Regional Project Conference “Regional co-operation and implementation of the European Charter on equality of women and men on local level”. During the Final Conference, the Mostar City Mayor signed the European Charter on equality of women and men in local life;



Final Conference in Mostar

- Publications issued by the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) were also publicised:

- “European Charter on equality of women and men in local life”,
- “Guide for implementation of the European Charter on equality of women and men in local life “ and
- “City for equality“ in the languages of the partner countries;
- Detailed research and analyses of gender statistical data relevant for development of local action plans were conducted in all partner cities;

- During the implementation of the “European Charter on equality of women and men in local life“ Project, the Charter was signed in Municipality of Mediana of the City of Niš (Serbia), City of Kraljevo (Serbia) and City of Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina);

- During the Project implementation, Local Action Plan for implementation of the European Charter on equality of women and men in local life was adopted in the Municipality of Mediana of the City of Niš (Serbia), while other cities/municipalities-project associates still await its adoption.



Preparing of Local Action Plan



Signing of European Charter, Mostar 02.11.2012.

Monitoring of public services on local level

Donor: Open Society Fund Bosnia and Herzegovina
Project leader: Local Democracy Agency (LDA) Mostar
Project duration: December 2011 – November 2012

General Objective

The basic purpose and the objective of the Project are improvement of responsibility and efficiency of local authorities in BiH in providing public services and meeting the real citizen needs through more active role of civil society. This objective will be realised in the units of local self-government by application of the PULS methodology through activities of continuous assessment and improvement of public services. The Project will enable the representatives of civil society to effectively influence the more accountable work of local authorities, while local authorities will be enabled to harmonise the level of quality of their services with the real citizen needs.

Specific objectives

- Increase of accountability of local authorities for provision of services on local level;
- Increase of citizen participation in decision making processes related to provision of local services;
- Creation of conditions for continuous monitoring of the level of satisfaction of citizens with the services provided.



**građani i lokalna vlast
zajedno do boljih usluga**

Activities realised in 2012

Preparatory meetings

Preparatory meetings with representatives of the City of Mostar (Advisor of the Mostar City Mayor and Head of Department for organisation, legal affairs, general administration, civil protection and fire fighting), Municipality of Konjic (Municipal Mayor, Mayor's Assistant and Co-ordinator of Local Communities) and Municipality of Jablanica (Mayor's Assistant and Head of Department for general administration, social affairs, protection of the disabled and war veterans and social issues) took place in the period January – February 2012. The meetings were an opportunity to present in detail the "Monitoring of public services on local level – citizens and local authority together to better services" Project as well as an agreement which LDA Mostar should sign with the City and Municipalities.



Training for surveyors

Training for surveyors

In March, LDA Mostar organised a training course for the surveyors, members of the Mostar City Youth Council, Youth Club “Pod istim suncem” from Jablanica and representatives of Municipal Organisation of Merhamet from Konjic. Training courses were held on 27 March in Konjic, 28 March in Jablanica and on 30 March in Mostar.

The training course was composed as follows: introduction to the purpose and objective of the survey, and planning of the field work, selection and motivation of examinees to co-operate, manner of posing each question and of noting answers (detailed introduction to the questionnaire).

Also, one part of the training course was a simulated survey, where surveyors questioned each other.

Informing the public about the field survey

In order for the citizens of Mostar, Konjic and Jablanica to be as best informed as possible about the field survey LDA Mostar, in co-operation with the partner organisations, will be implementing, a media campaign was initiated. In co-operation with the Youth Radio X from Mostar, LDA Mostar recorded a jingle, which was broadcasted on that radio station as well as Radio Konjic, Radio Jablanica and Radio Good Vibrations, also from Mostar. The jingle was broadcasted over a period of seven to ten days.

Field surveying according to a defined pattern

The field survey, covering Jablanica, Konjic and Mostar area, was implemented in the period from 03 to 20 April 2012 by LDA Mostar, in co-operation with partner organisations (Youth Club “Pod istim suncem” Jablanica, Municipal Organisation of Merhamet Konjic Youth Council of the City of Mostar).

Upon the completion of the survey, LDA Mostar checked the work of the surveyors. Random check of 5% of the surveyed households was conducted for Konjic, Jablanica and Mostar. Local Democracy Agency Mostar, together with volunteers engaged on the Project, completed the data (surveys) entry in the period from 23 April to 04 May.



Public tribune in Jablanica

In order to present the results of the survey to the general public, LDA Mostar organised three public tribunes, one in each municipality/city participating in the survey. These events offered an excellent opportunity to citizens to directly communicate with their political representatives about the problems the survey detected.

Public tribune in Jablanica

Public tribune with candidates for the position of Jablanica Municipality Mayor was held on 18 September 2012 in a crowded cinema hall of the Youth Club “Pod istim suncem” in Jablanica.



Results of the Survey on citizen satisfaction with sixteen public services, implemented in Municipality of Jablanica by Local Democracy Agency (LDA) Mostar, which were based (results) on surveying overall 299 households (citizens) on the territory of all 9 Local Communities of Jablanica Municipality were the subject of the discussion at the Public tribune.

The worst rated services in Municipality of Jablanica were public transport in the evenings, winter maintenance of streets and roads, voluntarism in maintenance of green spaces and parks, maintenance of horizontal and vertical signalisation and the price of public transport. Mr. Miralem Dedić (SDA), Mr. Semir Čilić (SDP), Mr. Omer Macić (SBB) and Mr. Šaban Nezirić (SBB) participated in the Tribune.

Public tribune in Konjic

Local democracy agency (LDA) Mostar organised a Public tribune with candidates for the position of Konjic Municipality Mayor on 27 September 2012 in the Wooden Hall of the Community Centre.



Public tribune in Konjic

Results of the survey on citizen satisfaction with sixteen public services, implemented in Municipality of Konjic by Local democracy agency (LDA) Mostar, which were based (results) on surveying overall 681 household on the territory of all 18 Local Communities of Konjic Municipality, were the subject of the discussion at the Public tribune.

Mr Emir Bubalo (SDA), Mr Mirsad Ljeljak (SDP), Mr Mesud Džajić (SBB) and Mr Emir Omerović instead of Mrs Evelina Macić (SPR BiH) participated in the Public tribune.

The lowest rated utilities in Konjic were the quality and price of central heating, maintenance of green spaces and parks, availability and location of children's playgrounds, public lighting and social protection, and were the basis for the discussion of the candidates.

However, other questions were posed such as, why there is no local or inter-city bus station in the town, no playgrounds, not a single public toilette, why schools outside the town centre are poorly equipped, insufficient investments into sports and sports facilities.



Public tribune in Mostar

Public tribune with the representatives of caucuses of political parties which participate in the work of the Mostar City Council took place on 22 November 2012 and was organised by Local Democracy Agency Mostar. Results of the survey on citizen satisfaction with sixteen public services, implemented in the City of Mostar by Local democracy agency (LDA) Mostar, which were based (results) on surveying overall 1135 households on the territory of all 43 Local Communities of the City of Mostar, were the subject of the discussion at the Public tribune.



Poster designed for Public tribune in Mostar

Mr. Adil Šuta (SDA), Mr. Elvir Zlomušica (SDP), Mr. Ćazim Lulić (independent councillor), Mr. Danijel Vidović (HDZ) and Mr. Milenko Paunovski (NSRZB) took part in the Tribune.

The worst rated communal services in the City of Mostar were winter maintenance of streets and roads, availability and locations of children's playgrounds, voluntarism in maintenance of green spaces and parks, availability and location of sports fields, maintenance of green spaces and parks.

Those present at the Tribune pointed out that the councillors did not work enough during their mandate on communication with citizens. Also, a great portion of issues raised was related to maintenance of green spaces, prohibition of car parking on green spaces and pedestrian paths, introduction of communal police, as well as where are the funds intended for the civil protection.



Strengthening accountability of women and young political leaders in BiH – the role of woman in public and political life

Donor: Council of Europe and USAID

Project leader: Council of Europe

Project duration: April 2012 - September 2012

Project description

USAID BiH and Council of Europe are realising a 21-month long Programme entitled “Strengthening accountability of women and young political leaders in Bosnia and Herzegovina”. The Programme was initiated in September 2011 and will last until June 2013. Programme activities are realised in two directions in order to provide the best possible support to stronger inclusion of women and youth into political processes in BiH.

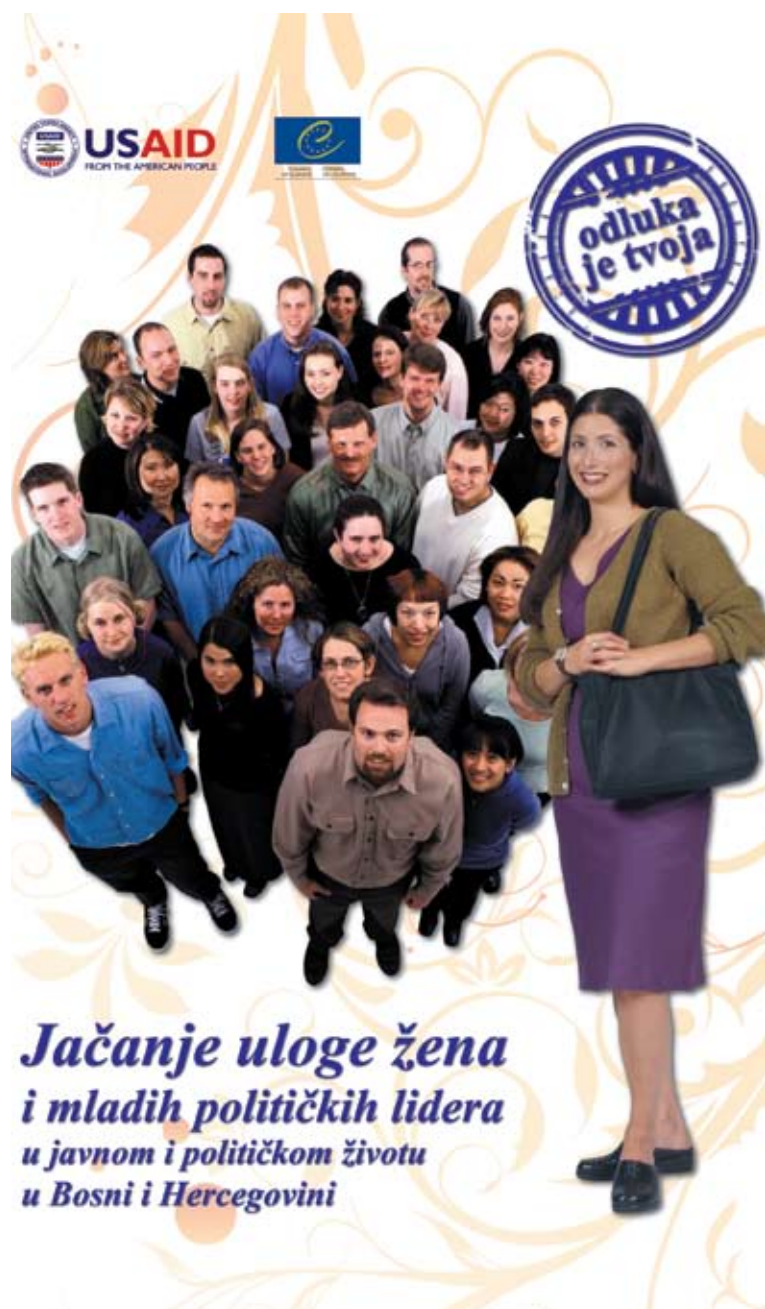
Activities are directed towards the achievement of the following objectives:

- 1) Higher engagement of women in political processes, and
- 2) Creation of new and more accountable generations of leaders within political parties.

The Programme will assist the creation of the new and more accountable generation of leaders within political parties at the upcoming municipal elections and raise awareness on importance of the role of women in political processes, as well as increase their engagement in the politics.

Problem description

Even though women in BiH have achieved political power at the highest levels, they are still significantly less present in the public life and on managerial positions in political parties as well as at the state and regional level. The root of the problem lays in the strong cultural and social prejudices still greatly present. Political and party leaders view women as unimportant for realisation of their aspirations in achieving and sustaining political power. Taking all this into consideration, this Programme significantly focuses on raising awareness on importance of the role of women in political processes just before the 2012 Municipal Elections, by working with women, women NGOs and women-candidates for the Elections.



Programme activities and expected results

Programme activities have strengthened communication and political conscience amongst women and youth of different nationality. 2012 Elections offered an opportunity to strengthen women and youth so that they would play a more important role in the electoral and political processes as political parties are, during that period, more focused on core issues related to governing on municipal level than on ethnic divisions which usually dominate in the national political debates.

Activities were realised by 48 women, Co-ordinators of this Project, in the entire Bosnia and Herzegovina, on the territory of 8 cantons or 49 cities/municipalities, aiming to gather up to 10.000 women at their meetings.

Local Democracy Agency Mostar has, in co-ordination with 6 Co-ordinators, participated in realisation of project activities on the territory of Herzegovina-Neretva, West Herzegovina and Livno Cantons. Activities were realised in the following municipalities: Posušje, Grude, Široki Brijeg, Ljubuški, Čapljina, Stolac, Tomislavgrad and Mostar. 60 meetings gathered 3000 women.

LDA Mostar activities realised in 2011 - 2012

- 27 – 30 October 2011, Sarajevo – participation in the first part of the training for Project Co-ordinators;
- 16 – 19 December 2011, Vlačić – participation in the second part of the training for Project Co-ordinators;
- 27 – 29 April 2012, Trebinje – participation in the third part of the training for Project Co-ordinators;



Final Seminar, Sarajevo



Workshop in Vrapčići (near Mostar)

- 18 May 2012 – Workshop in Local Community (LC) of Vrapčići, Mostar City North Area, organised for the citizens of the Local Community;
- 29 May 2012 – Workshop in LC of Drežnica, Mostar City North Area, organised for the citizens of the Local Community;
- 04 June 2012 – Workshop in City of Mostar, organised for female councillors and representatives of political parties;
- 13 -15 December 2012, Sarajevo – Final Seminar for Project Co-ordinators.



Workshop in Mostar



Workshop in Vrapčići (near Mostar)

Minority Rights Education for Children

Donor: EACEA, "Youth in Action" Programme

Project Leader: Local Democracy Agency (LDA) Mostar

Project partners: Association for promotion of humanity and urban culture, Knin (Croatia), TDM 2000 Estonia, Tartu (Estonia); Associazione TDM 2000, Cagliari (Italy); Macedonian Children's Parliament (Detski parlament na Makedonija), Veles (FYR Macedonia); Local Democracy Agency Nikšić (Montenegro); ConnectART, Matosinhos (Portugal), Club for Youth Empowerment 018, Niš (Serbia); Kosovo Young Lawyers, Pristina (Kosovo); Youth Included, Prague (Czech Republic)

Project duration: 01 December 2012 – 30 April 2013



Short description of Project

"Minority Rights Education for Children" will be a training course set to empower the work of organizations both working with children on education for Minority Rights, and promoting the specific rights of children with a minority background. The main aim is to be able to give the participants useful tools to go towards the involvement of minorities, and the mutual dialogue between them and the hosting societies, starting from children, the active citizens of tomorrow. In the 6 days of the course, staying together in Mostar, Bosnia Herzegovina, the 30 participants, half from EU and half from South Eastern Europe, will have the opportunity to share not only experiences and best practices but also to discuss about obstacles and ideas on how to improve the social inclusion of children coming from different minorities, and how to educate them on how to foster it. During the course, we will cover topics such as the concept of minority itself, what institutions are dealing with them, and what is the role of NGOs in this field, especially understanding different tools for minority rights education for children. The main issue will be for sure to provide to the participants such tools that can be useful in making children aware of the importance of the involvement of people from such different social backgrounds, make them major agents of change in this process, and improve so the mutual dialogue between majorities and minorities. The main methodology used in the training will be informal education, completed by some theoretical inputs on certain parts. The methods will include group discussions, round tables, role-plays, simulations, and different dynamic activities stimulating creativity and active participation.

Activities realised in 2012

Preparatory activities in co-operation with partners, aiming to select the participants of the planned training course.



Traveling Seminar for young journalists

“Following the footsteps of Albert Londres”

Donor: French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs

Project leader: Region of Pays Vichy Auvergne (France) and ALDA

Project partners: Regional Council of Auvergne, Regional Council of Lower Normandy, Maison de l'Europe from Caen, Municipal Council of Hautes Alpes, CRET Hautes Alpes, City of Dijon, City of Saint-Denis, and partners-hosts from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Romania, as well as Local Democracy Agencies from Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Albania and ALDA Offices in France and Macedonia

Project duration: 01 July – 01 September 2012

Short description of Project

French-Balkanise network is organising a traveling seminar entitled “Following the footsteps of Albert Londres”, aiming to promote journalistic reporting amongst unprivileged young people from France and the Balkan countries. This Project is organised within the multilateral decentralised programme of co-operation for good governance in South East Europe. Project participants and its direct beneficiaries were young people/journalists aged 18 to 30, who were selected and given an opportunity to travel the Balkans for 18 days (from Subotica via Osijek, Tuzla, Sarajevo, Mostar, Nikšić, Skadar, Skopje, Niš and Belgrade, back to Subotica), and develop a news story on up to date themes and current political, social, economic and ecological situation in the Balkans by using different journalist’ tools, all that reflecting the present situation in Europe.

Main objective of the Project

The objective of this Project is to enliven the experience of Albert Londres, born in Vichy (1884-1932), pioneer of modern journalism and reporting, based on the experience gained during his numerous Balkan travels at the beginning of 20th century. His story aims to stimulate the “taste” of adventure, curiosity and openness towards other cultures amongst young people who have a talent of a reporter, but who do not have an opportunity to travel and share their reporters’ knowledge. The Programme also aims to support the values of peace and intercultural dialogue and promote European integration of all countries of South East Europe by facilitating the meetings of representatives of local authorities and civil society organisations from France and the Balkans, and exchange of common ideas and projects.

Activities realised in 2012

- 05 -24 August 2012 – Traveling Seminar for young journalists “Following the footsteps of Albert Londres”.



OTHER ACTIVITIES of LDA Mostar

Female side of the politics

Helsinki Parliament of citizens Banja Luka has on 01 October 2011 initiated realisation of the “Female side of the politics” Project, funded by Open Society Fund Foundation, and which aims to empower women within political parties, especially their management structures, and female activists of civil society organisations, so to enable them to equally participate in decision-making and affirmation of the concept of gender equality in all spheres of our society.

The Project envisions the establishment of a Political Academy for Women, female members and activists of political parties and organisations of civil society, and formation of an Alternative female government of BiH, as an informal, but respectable political subject on the BiH political scene, which would articulate and promote the needs and viewpoints of women of BiH and through whose work, female expert potential in different fields would be promoted. Also, it has been planned to create reading groups at the Faculty of political sciences in Banja Luka and Sarajevo, in order to make the new generations of future politicians, journalists, political analysts, but also students of other vocations sensible about issues of gender equality, that is equal participation of women and men in all walks of life, and especially public and political life in BiH.

In mid-2011, Helsinki Parliament of citizens Banja Luka started with development of a Mentoring Programme, through which the students of the Political Academy would be enabled to do some practical work in different institutions and organisations, at work places of women already in positions. Even aside from a good legal framework that guarantees gender equality in BiH, improvement of the position of women is still far from the desired state. Implementation of this Project should incite and empower women, especially younger female members of political parties and organisations of civil society to be more visible and more influential in public and political life of BiH, which can only contribute to further development of the overall society of ours

Women’s right to vote is an expression that today marks the world’s most widely accepted concept that men and women have: an equal right to vote, that is universal suffrage, and with it the modern concept of democracy is unthinkable unless it includes equality between men and women at the polls. In historical context, this term refers to the feminist movement, “Woman suffrage”, which appeared in the western industrialized countries in the 19th century and expanded to the 20th century. Today, the women’s suffrage has been adopted in almost all countries of the world. The only exception are certain countries, where women are not given the right to vote for religious reasons.



LDA Mostar representative is one of the first 26 students of the Academy, and in 2012, through the Project, two training courses were organised. The first training course on the subject of “Gender and politics” was organised in Laktaši, where 26 Academy students, during three days of training were closely introduced to the concepts of gender equality and legal framework linked to that concept, as well as political representation of women in BiH.

The second training course was held in Konjic, and during three-day sessions on the subject of “Gender and information technologies”, the students were acquainted with the problem of gender equality in information technologies, as well as representation of media and their role in political life, with a special emphasis on women in politics.

The second module was followed by a break during which the students informally communicated, exchanged opinions and experiences from the field, from all over BiH, and had a task to compose an elaborate, choosing a subject already discussed at the mentioned modules.

Continuation of the training and the final third module has been scheduled for the beginning of 2013, where the students will be introduced to new, quality lecturers and listen to the lectures on the subject of “Gender and power”.

Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF) Network BiH

The purpose of the Anna Lindh Foundation is to bring closer the people of all the Mediterranean for the intention of improving mutual respect among the cultures and supporting civil society engaged in securing the common future of the region. Since its establishment in 2005, the Anna Lindh Foundation initiated and supported actions in different fields, affecting the perception of people of different cultures and beliefs, as well as the development of a regional network gathering over 3.000 civil society organisations.

The programme of the Foundation is focused on activities in the areas which are important for human and social dialogue

- Education and Youth
- Culture and Art
- Cities and Migrations
- Religion and Spirituality
- Peace and Coexistence
- Medial activities

Network of civil society organisations, which as such is active not only on local, but also on regional level has been established in Bosnia and Herzegovina just as in other countries members of the ALF Network. The purpose of the Network is strengthening the relations between the network members as well as developing new partnerships and project ideas in the country but also in the Mediterranean.

LDA Mostar has been a member of the ALF Network BiH since 2011, while in June 2012 a representative of LDA Mostar became a member of the Network's Steering Board. At a meeting held on 19 June 2012, organisations-members of the Network signed a Memorandum of Understanding; the number of signees is growing every day.



New Urban Topologies (NUT)

The main objective of the NUT Project is to initiate the process of discussions about urban problems and possibilities in the Middle East, all of this in co-operation with partner organisations, so to stimulate creation of new contacts, as well as conditions for exchange of experiences.

For some years now, Färgfabriken Organisation from Stockholm realises similar activities in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Balkans and the Middle East.

Organisation of events in Mostar was also supported by the Swedish Embassy in BiH, while His Excellency Bosse Hedberg, Ambassador of Sweden in BiH, arranged a reception for the seminar participants, and took part in all programme activities in Mostar. Local Democracy Agency Mostar was a partner in organisation and one of the hosts of the three-day visitation programme of the "New Urban Topologies" (NUT) Project participants to Mostar.

In the period from 07 to 09 November 2012 the guests of Mostar were representatives of partner organisations from Belarus, Moldova, Egypt and Macedonia. This opportunity was used to realise a number of activities aiming to develop a democratic platform for urban development of the City of Mostar with a special focus on the District area.

A model of NUT programme was developed for the Middle East, which is partially based on the experiences from Eastern Europe. That model is divided into four phases:

1. Seminar, where a student of urban planning and architecture from Stockholm together with the students from other cities exchange experiences;
2. A bus field trip through every city-partner, where possibilities and problems will be emphasised. History of a city and possible developmental areas will be generated and used as topics for the upcoming workshops.

3. Interactive workshops, where different issues on topics such as participation, identity, problematic areas or ideas for new development are offered for discussion;

4. Results will be communicated immediately after the workshops as a presentation containing videos, sketches, drawings, texts, photos, models and similar, created within the Project. Results will also be included in to a publication which will summarise the Project and ideas from all cities.



Strategy for youth of the City of Mostar

In accordance with the stipulations of the Law on Youth of the Federation of BiH, the Mostar City Council initiated a procedure for adoption of the City of Mostar Youth Strategy for the period 2012 -2015. In line with that, the Department for upbringing, education, youth and sports of the City of Mostar started the procedure of development of the Strategy in October 2010. The first step in the development of the Strategy was surveying young people from the area of the City of Mostar.



Upon the completion of the survey, the Mostar City Mayor issued a Decision on appointment of the Co-ordination group for development of the Youth Strategy of the City of Mostar 2012-2015, whose task was to ensure a synchronised management of the process of thematic work on the development of the Strategy. Representative of LDA Mostar took part in the procedure of the development of the Strategy as a co-ordinator of the working body for active participation of youth in society. During 2012, the working body and Co-ordination group met a few times aiming to prepare the Strategy:

- First meeting was held on 25 January 2012, where the members of the Group were introduced with their roles and tasks, and where a plan of work of the Co-ordination group was developed. As the next step, members of the Group tasked themselves with development of needs and problems assessment related to youth in local community;

- Second meeting was held on 07 March 2012, where the results of the assessment were presented and the next activity, being preparation of recommendations for the development of the Youth Strategy of the City of Mostar, agreed;

- Third meeting was held on 17 May 2012, where the Co-ordination group prepared and presented recommendations for the development of the Youth Strategy of the City of Mostar, which were delivered to the authorities of the City of Mostar.

Assessment of Local Democracy Agencies Nikšić (Montenegro), Škodra (Albania) and Mostar (B&H), 23 – 28 May 2012

Team of assessors consisting of Ms Stanka Parać Damjanović, ALDA SEE Regional Programme Coordinator, Mr Dobrica Milovanović, member of ALDA Governing Board and Mrs Dženana Dedić, member of ALDA Governing Board and LDA Mostar Delegate, visited Local Democracy Agencies in Nikšić, Škodra and Mostar. Apart from the visits, this opportunity was used to talk to the representatives of local authorities and civil society organisations that co-operated with the Agencies and gain an insight into the real situation, problems and needs, but also into the results and successes achieved by the Agencies. Assessors' team submitted an assessment report to the Governing Board at a meeting held in Monfalcone in July 2012.

The assessment procedure for the Local Democracy Agencies having the label of ALDA network members was established in 2005, following the decision of the Governing Board and with the aim to strengthen the sustainability and operational capacity of the Agencies which are functioning in different local situations. The first assessment mission was organised in 2005 for the LDA in Nikšić (Montenegro) on an ad hoc basis, followed by a second one in 2006 in order to help resolve several problems related with their functioning.

During those missions, the assessors' team met with a broad range of stakeholders in order to understand the local situation and to investigate what can and should be improved. ALDA Governing Board suggested setting up a general assessment procedure so that all LDAs would be reviewed on a regular basis. This procedure now serves as a performance quality control, enabling the network to establish pro-active and efficient approaches to resolving potential problems and by doing so, to help improving the functioning of individual LDAs and the LDA network as a whole. So far the assessment reports have been produced for LDA Montenegro (2005), LDA Ohrid (2006), LDA Osijek (2007), LDA Subotica (2007), LDA Zavidovići (2008).

During the annual training seminar for the delegates of all LDA-s held in Sisak, Croatia, in November 2011, the decision was made to continue with the assessment process and to disseminate the information among the LDAs. Four LDAs were envisaged for the assessment process in the forthcoming two year period: LDA Albania, LDA Mostar and LDA Montenegro.



Mostar Assembly



Meeting with the Mayor of Mostar



Meeting in Nikšić (Montenegro)

Commission for co-operation with NGO sector in the City of Mostar

Upon the initiative of the former High Representative Christian Schwartz Schilling and CSSP Project for integrative mediation, representatives of six nongovernmental organisations from Mostar met the CSSP team on 08 June 2012 in Nansen Dialogue Centre as a precondition for establishment of a consultative mechanism for co-operation between the Mostar City Council, City Administration and civil sector of Mostar. The meeting also addressed the issues of a Municipal agreement between local authorities and nongovernmental organisations.

Meeting of representatives of the City of Mostar and nongovernmental organisations for the purpose of signing the Municipal agreement between local authorities and nongovernmental organisations in Mostar was held on 05 July 2012. The meeting was organised by the City Administration, and the Agreement between the City of Mostar and nongovernmental organisations was signed. Together with Local Democracy Agency Mostar, 19 organisations signed the document, while more nongovernmental organisations joined the list of signees later on;

Second meeting of representatives of Mostar City Council, City of Mostar and representatives of five leading civil society organisations in Mostar was organised in the City Administration on 17 September 2012 in order to agree the manner of communication after the official signing of the Agreement between the City of Mostar and civil society organisations in July 2012;

As one of the results of the consultative mechanism on co-operation between the City Council, City Administration and representatives of civil sector of Mostar is that three representatives of civil society organisations (Forma F, LDA Mostar and LiNK) were appointed members of the Commission for relations with religious communities and nongovernmental organisations for a two-year mandate. Considering that the High Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina Mr Valentin Incko has frozen the mandates of the Mostar City Council' councillors in November 2012, the Commission held three sessions.

First meeting of the Mostar City Council Commission for relations with religious communities and nongovernmental organisations with the external members representing nongovernmental organisations was held on 01 October 2012 in the Mostar City Council. Members of the Association for business and entrepreneurship LiNK, Citizen Association Forma F and Local Democracy Agency Mostar, elected to represent the nongovernmental sector of Mostar, met with five councillors of the Mostar City Council, who are members of the Commission for relations with religious communities and nongovernmental organisations.

The meeting was organised for the purpose of introduction and agreeing on future steps and activities.



Meeting of representatives of 15 nongovernmental organisations from Mostar with two officers of the Department for religious communities and nongovernmental organisations of the Mostar City Administration was held on 03 October 2012 in the City Administration.

The subject of this meeting was an invitation to other nongovernmental organisations from Mostar to sign the Agreement between the City of Mostar and nongovernmental organisations as well as an invitation to nongovernmental organisations to participate in the work of sectorial working groups that will be formed out of representatives of the City Council, City Administration and nongovernmental organisations. Sectorial working groups will work on defining the current situation, problems and needs of the City in specific sectors.

Ethical commission of honour of the Mostar City

Ethical commission of honour of the Mostar City Council was established by the Council's Decision number 01-02-210/10 29 July 2010. The Commission is made up of five members (three councillors of the Mostar City Council) and two representatives of civil society organisations (Local Democracy Agency Mostar and Citizen Association Altruist Mostar).

At the very beginning of the work of the Commission, OSCE Mission to BiH organised a training course for the members of the Commission where experiences of Gradačac and Gračanica, working methodology, promotion of ethical code and preparation of Rules of procedure were presented.

During its mandate, the Commission had ten sessions, while the most important legal acts adopted at the sessions were: Rules of procedure and Book of rules on sanctions of the Mostar City Council Ethical commission of honour, and a form for report of inappropriate behaviour of the City councillors. Also, during its mandate, the Commission received three reports of inappropriate behaviour conducted by the councillors, but it was unable to sanction those councillors as in that period, Rules of procedure and Book of rules on sanctions did not exist. It is important to mention that the members of the Commission were replaced several times as some councillors moved up to higher positions.

Meeting of Delegates of Local Democracy Agencies

The meeting was held in Niš, in on 9-10 October and its host was Local Democracy Agency Niš. Delegates of Local Democracy Agencies had an opportunity at this meeting to convene, exchange experiences from the previous year, present plans for 2012 and talk about problems and obstacles they face in their work. This occasion was also used for development of common projects.

Just as every year, a Delegate-Representative was elected for the Steering Board of the Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA). For 2012, Ms Dženana Dedić, LDA Mostar Delegate was elected.



ALDA Assembly

Steering Boards and Assembly of the Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA)



Counting votes for members of its managerial bodies

ALDA organises meetings on annual basis for the members of its managerial bodies. Three meetings of the Steering Board were held: Brussels, February 2012, Monfalcone, June 2012, and Strasbourg, October 2012. During 2012, LDA Mostar Delegate attended the meetings of the Steering Board as a representative of all Delegates of Local Democracy Agencies. At the meetings of the Steering Board, aside from work reports and plans for upcoming period, amendments to the Association's Statute were proposed this year; this was also the year in which a new President and members of the Steering Board were elected. Assembly of the Association of Local Democracy Agencies for 2012 was held in Udine in June. Apart from the regular presentation of work in the past year, and activity plan for the upcoming period, the members of the Assembly also elected new members of the Steering Board, while Mr Oriano Otočan was elected the new President.

Assembly of Local Democracy Agency (LDA) Mostar

LDA Mostar held its regular annual Assembly on 28 May 2012. The members of the Assembly had an opportunity to get introduced to all the activities realised during 2011. Also, they were presented with a plan and programme of activities for 2012, approved projects and actions that should be implemented through projects which are already underway. Report for the past as well as the plan for the upcoming period was unanimously adopted.

Members of the Assembly have again this year elected new or re-elected old members of the Steering Board as well as the President of the Assembly, and her/his Assistant.

For 2012, the LDA Mostar Steering Board comprises of:

- Sanela Demirović, president
- Ramiz Bašić, member
- Dario Terzić, member

President of the LDA Mostar Assembly for 2012:
Sanel Nezirić

LDA Mostar Assembly Assistant for 2012:
Maja Vejzović

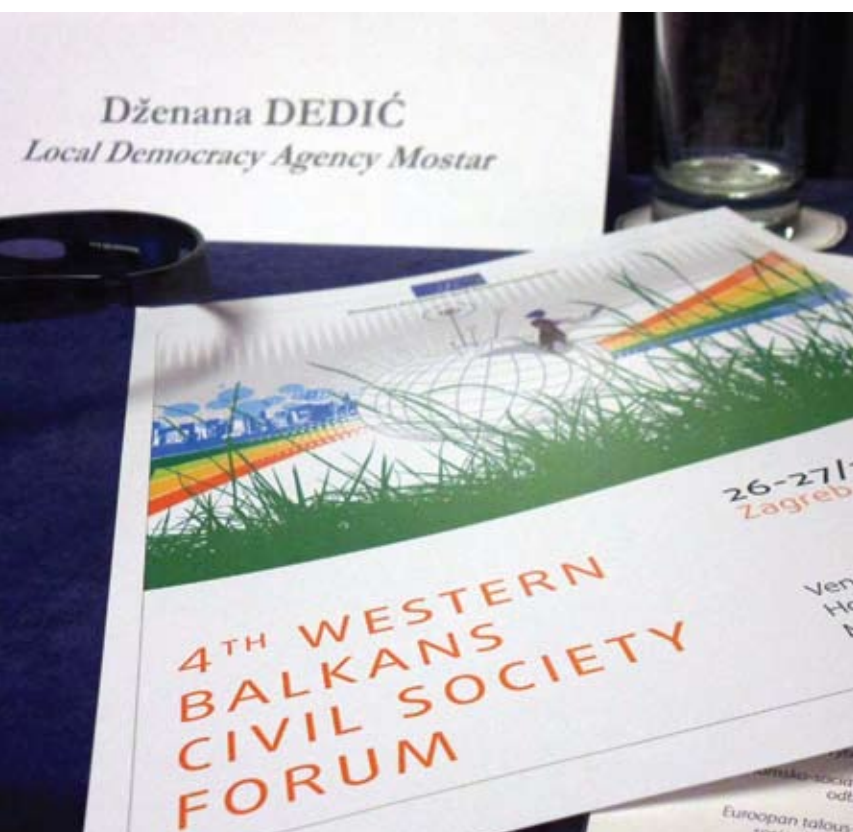


Anniversary of Local Democracy Agency Mostar

On the occasion of marking 7th anniversary of Local Democracy Agency Mostar, a reception was organised on 28 November 2012 in Hotel Bristol, to which all partners, friends of LDA Mostar and all those the Agency co-operated with in recent times were invited. On that occasion, the work of the Agency in 2012 was presented, while this was also an opportunity, just as every year, for interaction and expression of gratitude for the co-operation and support to all our partners and associates.



Fourth Forum of the Western Balkans civil society



Representative of Local Democracy Agency participated in the work of the Fourth Forum of the Western Balkans civil society in Zagreb on 26 and 27 November 2012.

The main topics of the Forum were:

- How to improve freedom of media and freedom of expression in the region;
- What is the role of civil society in rural development and employment;
- How to additionally strengthen the capacities of civil society organisations in the Western Balkans countries.

The LDA Mostar representative took part in the work of the Forum together with a representative of a nongovernmental organisation "Kvinna till Kvinna" from Sweden, with which the Agency is jointly implementing a project of promotion of the European Charter on gender equality on local level.



AIMF Seminar

The City of Mostar and LDA Mostar presented their experiences on peace building and reconciliation at the AIMF Seminar held in Geneva in August 2012. International Association of Francophone Mayors (AIMF) organised the Seminar, which gathered more than 50 eminent guests.



This event, organised with the support of the City of Geneva and two departments of the European Commission, addressed three subjects:

- Dialogue with the European Commission so to enlighten the exchange and communication between the European Commission and elected representatives with the aim of defining the guidelines for co-operation between the European Commission and local authorities for the upcoming period;
- Seminar on the topic of “Local authorities in prevention of conflict, peace building and reconciliation”, organised within the work of the Permanent Commission “Intercultural dialogue and peace”, chaired by the City of Kinshasa.
- First Workshop for planning the programme of strategy for AIMF with the aim of defining the programme for the period 2014 – 2020.

The Mostar City Mayor was one of the speakers on the “Local authorities in prevention of conflict, peace building and reconciliation” Seminar and presented the experience of the City of Mostar in the process of reconciliation and peace building after the conflict, as well as the role of Local Democracy Agency in Mostar. Together with the Mostar City Mayor, ALDA Project Manager attended the Seminar.

“Human rights and intercultural dialogue in development” Conference

Mr Ljubo Bešlić, the Mostar City Mayor, attended a Conference entitled “Human rights and intercultural dialogue in development”, which was held in Paris on 10 December on the occasion of marking the Human rights Day. The Conference was organised by ALDA in co-operation with Civisme et Démocratie (CIDEM) within the Working Together for Development (WTD) Project, funded by the European Union.

Mr Bešlić attended the Conference as a representative of the ALDA network but also of LDA Mostar and, of course, as the Mostar City Mayor, and had an opportunity to exchange experiences and possibilities that local authorities and civil society have in common activities of promoting achievements of a sustainable global development.



Consultations on the role of local authorities in development of co-operation

The Mostar City Mayor, Mr Ljubo Bešlić also participated in the regional consultations organised by ALDA for the countries of the Eastern partnership and pre-accession countries (Western Balkans and Turkey).

The consultations were held on 11 December in Paris, and served as the basis for a Communication on the role of local authorities in the development of co-operation. European Commission is preparing this Communication for realisation at the beginning of 2013.

FINACIAL REPORT 2012

PROJECT	BUDGET €	SPENT €	BALANCE ON 12.2012. €	SPENT %	SOURCE OF FINANCES
Promotion of the European Charter for equality of women and men in local life	11.431,13	11.332,91	98,22	99,14	EU IPA
Civil society in action for dialogue and partnership	69.695,00	35.508,62	34.186,38	50,95	EU IPA
Strengthening the role of women and young political leaders in BiH	20.436,41	20.436,41	0,00	100,00	European Councile and USAID
Dues partner in 2011.	10.000,00	6.270,90	3.729,10	62,71	Partners
Monitoring of public services at the local level	30.457,66	26.568,06	3.889,60	87,23	Fond Open Society BiH
POPoWO: People Organize Prevention of Water Overflow	14.285,39	14.285,39	0,00	100,00	EU EIDHR
Resource Centre for Democratisation	3.783,12	3.783,12	0,00	100,00	Regione Puglia Italia / partner
Microcredit scheme	5.200,01	4.295,21	904,80	82,60	MVP Norway Kingdom
Traveling seminar for young journalists, "Footsteps Albert Londres"	600,00	0,00	600,00	0,00	EU EACHEA
Education for children of minority rights	18.165,00	0,00	18.165,00	0,00	EU EACHEA
Dues partners for 2012.	8.220,00	0,00	8.220,00	0,00	Parnters
TOTAL	192.273,72	122.480,62	69.793,10		

FINACIAL REPORT 2012

BY FUNDING SOURCES

1.	EU FUNDS	114.176,52	61.126,92	53.049,60
2.	Fund Open Society BiH	30.457,66	26.568,06	3.889,60
3.	Partners	22.003,12	10.054,02	11.949,10
4.	European Councile and USAID	20.436,41	20.436,41	0,00
5.	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Norway	5.200,01	4.295,21	904,80

