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Youth in the Right Direction ! Newsletter – November 2009



Youth

Peer to peer training of multipliers: Nis, Serbia, 26th to the 31st of may 2008

The Association of the Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA) and the Local Democracy Agency Central and South Serbia (LDA CSS) organised a peer to peer training from the the 26th to the 31st of may 2008 in Nis. During 4 days, 14 young people from Nis (Serbia), Subotica (Serbia) and Prijedor (Bosnia and Herzegovina) have been trained in order to promote, employing a peer to peer methodology, the Youth programme at the local level, supporting the work of Youth National Agencies, Contact Points for Youth and SALTO resource centres. The trainers were the Marco Boaria of ALDA and the Sean Feenan of the International School for Peace from Italy and Northern Ireland and the project manager was Gregoire Fanniere from France.



On the last afternoon of the training the municipality of Nis offered the participants a bus tour of the main points of interest of the city.



Peer to peer training of multipliers: Kutaisi, Georgia 24th to the 28th of June 2008

In the scope of the « youth the right direction » project sponsored by the European Commission, ALDA and the LDA Georgia organised a peer to peer educators training from the the 24th to the 28th of June 2008 in Kutaisi (Georgia). During 4 days, 20 people from Kutaisi (Georgia), Belfast (Northern Ireland), Nis (Serbia), Monfalcone (Italy), Osijek and Verteneglio (Croatia) were trained using non formal education activities to both build a united team of participants and deeper their knowledge of projects methodology. The participants were enthusiastic and already started to cooperate for future projects or youth exchange.



Apart from the training the foreign participants had a demonstration of the Georgian culture of hospitality. The city of Kutaisi offered a tour visit of the main monuments of the city and a farewell dinner with traditional dances show and food. The Georgian participants also appreciated to meet people from all over Europe and strong relationships have been built among participants.



“The training in Kutaisi was for me, my first experience within the Youth field and the Youth work, and because of this I didn't know what to expect from it. After the course, I can say that I am really satisfied, because it gave me the chance to make my first step into this new world of youngsters and all their activities proposed by the European Union. I had the chance also to learn a lot, not only from my specific and professional point of view, but also from a more personal one, dealing with different people, situations and problems.”

Jessica Cassan (Italy), LDA Verteneglio

"The training was very useful for me! I got good experience in this field. I also made friends from different countries. Since that training I am in contact with LDA Georgia. This organization gives me information about different trainings and Youth Exchanges. Since June I participated in one training and sent essay to a conference about NGOs' role in creating open society. The best news and using the experience is that started to work for LDA Georgia as A Youth Infopoint Coordinator. So I have a chance to use all my experience in Youth field. I was sent as a team leader of Georgian group in Baku, Azerbaijan last week to participate in Contact Making Seminar " Factory of Cultural Managers ". In the beginning of December of this year, LDA Georgia sends me to participate in training concerning the EVS, which will take place in Montenegro. I think I can get a wide Knowledge in this Field and then use it for the benefit of my country and LDA Georgia.”

Maka Tsertsvadze (Georgia)

“Taking part in the “Youth in action” training in Kutaisi was a twofold experience: for my own personal growth and for the development of my skills as a young project developer in my community.

While comparing my visions and experience with other fellow project managers, I could observe the actual bottom-up reaction that takes place in a transition Country: its new generations are strongly motivated and driven towards new standards and objectives either in university, in business or in social and community life.

It is very rare, in my experience, to obtain such effective results in a project, I am sure that its strength was in the motivation of both trainers and trainees.”

Chiara Valdesolo (Italy), City of Monfalcone

"The experience which I got in June 2008, after Kutaisi training, was really useful for me. From that time I am in close contact with LDA Georgia. With the help of this organization I regularly get information about different Youth Exchanges, trainings and other projects! LDA Georgia is in contact with me. It gives me a chance to participate in EVS training which will take place in Montenegro, 9-12 December, 2008. I think I can enlarge my knowledge in this sphere and use it in future."

Mirza Gubeladze (Georgia)



International Crossing Youth fair: Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Albania, 25th of July to 3rd of August 2008



25 young people from most former Yugoslavian countries and European Union crossing the Balkans from Croatia to Albania, passing through Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro, sharing their daily life, viewpoints and ideas among them and with the locals, discovering the places and writing common projects in regular workshops. This is the result of the International Crossing youth Fair, an event organised by ALDA in the framework of its project

Youth: the right direction. This event aimed at promoting the European Commission's "Youth in Action" program and at deepening the mutual knowledge of the different youth contexts whilst promoting cooperation in the field of youth.

This event lasted for 10 days from 25th of July to 3rd of August it demonstrated that among their differences European youth can be united and that the physical and mental borders are not impassable. It opened new perspectives to these young people for future common projects and created strong friendships. Most of these young people are already involved in the work of the Local Democracy Agencies or ALDA's partners and it showed them the work of other LDAs and strengthened the network.



The International Crossing Youth Fair Travelled within the network of LDAs

To share their experience the participants wrote diaries on a daily basis:

VERTENEGLIO, CROATIA:

24th July 2008: First group of participants arrived 24th in the evening in Pula and they stayed in Sabrina's house where they all had dinner together and met each other for the first time. The group talked about school system and the newly introduced Bologna system and problems youngsters have in collecting information about it in their town. Vesna from Prijedor gave very good examples of her commitment to spread information in high schools of her town. The dinner went on in a very cheerful atmosphere as all participants are very nice and heart lighted. After dinner participants were brought for a walk through the town centre where there were a lot of tourists around as in Summer in Istria in all the cities that are on the sea squares and streets are very lively with a lot of tourist. In the meanwhile other participants arrived in Novigrad as they were instructed, and they have been accommodated as well as trainers, bus tour drivers and participants from Niksic all arrived in Istria safely and in time.

25th July 2008: The bus tour came to Pula early in the morning to pick up the group in Pula. They then all reached Verteneglio and at 12h they met with other participants and trainers. The group had an hour meeting with LDA Verteneglio to set technical issues and some rules for the two-day stay in Verteneglio. Issues as punctuality, behaviour in hotel, rules to follow if they were to visit the area by themselves if they have friends/relatives, were checked together. Participants have been explained the whole programme of the two days by explaining them the way LDA Verteneglio has organised the first stop of the fair and then trainers explained how they have planned working sessions and workshops for the 26th July. At 13h there was lunch for all and after lunch scheduled meetings and seminars began following these schedule:

- Sabrina Quarantotto in the name of LDA Verteneglio explained the Youth: the Right Direction Project and the activities done so far. In this occasion there was the chance to introduce two participants Alen and Amir from LDA Zavidovici as they are the ones who created the logo and are the winners of the official logo of Youth: the right Direction. Then participants were asked to introduce themselves shortly so to give a short overview of their background to the local authorities present during the day. It was a chance for participants to introduce themselves and to tell about their role within their local communities at home. -

The Delegate of LDA Verteneglio, Umberto Ademollo, was then introduced together with the Head of International Affairs Department of Istrian County, that is partner of LDA Verteneglio and also the newly appointed ALDA member of Governing Board, Oriano Otocan, and together with Andrea Debeljuh that is the Youth Ambassador of LDA Verteneglio and then also Tea Rakar the young representative on behalf of the Municipality of Verteneglio. - There was the welcoming speech of the Delegate of LDA Verteneglio, Umberto Ademollo, who gave a very warm welcome to all the group and stressed the importance of having such an international group of young people as part of this ten-day fair. The Delegate underlined the great honour LDA Verteneglio has to host this first stop, to host so enthusiastic young people and was pleased to tell the importance that the event has arisen among local media. All participants were therefore given the photocopy of the daily paper with the article about the event.

- Head of International Affairs Department of Istrian County, Oriano Otocan, welcomed all as well and gave a very in-depth presentation on the activities Istria County has done so far and about all the activities that is still performing within several European projects. The presentation gave an insight on how active a County can be and how far it can go with its activities.

- Andrea Debeljuh, the Youth Ambassador, who is also the President of a very active local youth association Informo, explained all the issues about Youth Advisory Boards in Croatia and the state of art of national youth policy in Croatia. As he was involved also in writing the regional strategic action plan for youth, the questions that arisen from participants were addressed to him and discussed together.

- Jessica Cassan, LDA Verteneglio staff in charge of European Voluntary Service and Equal Gender issues inside LDA Verteneglio, gave a presentation together with Ana Popovic from LDA Nis. Since they recently were in Georgia together within the Youth in the Right Direction, they had the chance to develop there a project proposal together with other project partners, so this was an excellent chance to give to all an overview of the project and to spread the idea in order to see who else of participants might be interested in joining the project. As the group will have ten days time to meet and exchange opinions about it, Jessica will collect suggestions as she is also travelling and so project proposal might be presented by the next Youth in Action deadline on 1st September 2008.

The first day session closed at 19h and all participants were brought to Novigrad for dinner. After dinner they had free time to visit the Music Nights Festival in centre of Novigrad, that is an event that attracts a lot of tourist every Summer in July in Novigrad.

Sabrina Quarantotto - Delegates of the LDA Verteneglio.



26th July 2008:

Dear Diary,

Today we started about 9 AM, with a team building game in which Igor and Zeljko were volunteers. They left the room and Elvir explained the rules to the rest of the group. Everybody except these two, was standing in a circle holding tight each other, while volunteers were trying to enter the circle. There was only one way to do it, and that was to say "please", and although no one from the rest of us wasn't allowed to tell them, both of them figured out very quickly what was the magic word that can open even doors of steal, as the saying goes. After this game we were talking with our trainers about this game and peaceful way of fulfilling needs and goals. We were also motivated to speak about the situations in which we wanted to get or achieve something, and we weren't able to enter the group that we needed to cooperate with on this. So, we explained different approaches for the overcoming of this kind of problems, and made up a common conclusion that kindly asking for joining, after explaining one's needs, was the best of them. Afterwards, we prepared everything for the presentations of regions and towns that participants came from. The presenters were using multimedia approach, and all presentations were interactive and interesting. As people were given a chance to ask all they wanted, it was very useful, so we gained a lot of new information. Presenters from the towns that we are about to visit, were very concise and their presentations were shorter, we were given some materials, and fed with great Danish candies that our new friends kindly gave us. After the break, Elvir made a small presentation about dialogue and debate and the differences of these two ways of communication. After discussing about the positive and negative sides of both of them, we agreed that during the seminar we will use the dialogue which is a better way of communication, because that way we can exchange information and build up our knowledge with respect for another persons who are involved in conversation. In dialogue, there is no

arguing and convincing, and it is very mature way of communicating, that is very suitable for us as a group and potential partners on the future projects. Nicola proposed us to do a SWOT analyses of the Crossing fair, so we did it individually. Christina, as a volunteer, wrote all these things on a flip chart. We commented on strengths, weaknesses, potential opportunities and threats, as well as about the ways of overcoming bad things and minimizing the risks, and use and increase good things and benefits. At the end of this part of our work, we wrote our expectations from our selves and others during the Fair, and Elvir read all of them. Then we agreed on the common rules for the work and communication on our trip. Also, Nicola presented the "Mail boxes" that we will use during the whole Fair, even while travelling, to leave positive notes to each others. The envelopes will be opened at the end of the Fair, so everyone of us will be able to read what new friends wrote to him/ her. Then, after the lunch break, we spent a beautiful afternoon at Umag where we were swimming, sunbathing and walking by the sea side. After the dinner, we went back to Novigrad, and had free time to visit Music festival again, or do something else, according to our choice.

For the Fair Newspaper,

Reporters from the face of the place

Tatjana Turkovic (Croatia) and Ana Popovic (Serbia)



PRIJEDOR (BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA)

27th July 2008.: At 09:30 in the morning the group started to travel to Prijedor (BiH). First problem was that the group needed to go earlier to Prijedor, at 9, but all participants were not on time at the bus station. Trip to Prijedor was long and we had some stops, when we were going there, on Milia hill, on way from Kozarska Dubica – Prijedor, because there was manifestation, day of uprising of Republic Srpska. When we arrived in hotel, we had a nice reception, there were two weddings. At 19.00 o'clock we had presentation of the LDA Prijedor, by the host: Mrs Dragana Radanovic (LDA Prijedor), young Ambassadors Mrs. Vesna Ninic (Civitas Group and Students Union of secondary schools of Prijedor) and Mr. Zarko Trivunic (Youth Center Hambarine). Also, we had presentation of local youth organizations/centers and Youth Council of Prijedor Municipality.

After that we went to dinner in traditional cuisine of local culture, in Association of women „Donja Puharska“ and folklore performance by KUD „Osman Džafi?“. We had a very good time there. A lot of participants played traditional music games with our hosts. After good fun there, we went for a walk through the town.

Written by Vesna Ninic (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

[ZAVIDOVICI \(BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA\)](#)

28th July 2008.: At 9 we have started traveling from Prijedor to Zavidovici. Now everybody was in the bus on time and we had very nice travel to Zavidovici. In Zavidovici we arrived at 13:00. We had traditional Bosnian lunch with a lot of meat, and traditional cake named “tufahija”. After lunch we went to look at jumping exercise of young firemen and our participant Alen from the second floor of the hotel. After that, the group went to the Info point Ceker and listened to a presentation of the LDA Zavidovici and Ceker’s partner, Association Strani Vari. Young people from this association presented to us their project. Also participants have their presentation. Then we discussed about project which we could do together. Participants went with our hosts to visit one of most famous places in Zavidovici, Stone spheres, which are not far from centre of town. We hear a lot of information about this place. Group went on dinner to restaurant near the hotel. After dinner, Amir and Alen show us the town, so we had very good time in Zavidovici.

Written by Vesna Ninic (Bosnia and Herzegovina)



[MOSTAR \(BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA\)](#)

29th July 2008: What characterised the day, was the fact that we as a group had agreed to begin our journey one hour before it was planned. The reason for this was big interest of participants to use the opportunity to visit capital city of BiH, Sarajevo, one of the most destroyed city during the last war. Since the road from Zavidovici to Mostar was passing through the city and we fitted in the planned activities for this day, we made a short stop to see the part of the old town, called „Bascarsija“.

This was a great way to present Bosnian culture to all who haven’t visiting this part of Balkan and this region of former Yugoslavia, as well.

The trip was continued without delaying and we arrived to Mostar at 14h. We were welcomed by the representatives of LDA office Mostar, who introduced us with the activities planned for next two days.

After the lunch and accommodation at the hotel, we had a tour through the old part of Mostar, when guide explained all relevant facts of town's history.

It was followed by dinner at the hotel and some free time afterwards.

Diary for Tuesday, 29th of July, submitted by Edin Cahtarevic (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and Olga Terteli (Serbia).



30th of July 2008 At 9am we went to “Sunce” an institution for young people with a mental or physical handicap. There we did a lot of creative work with them using newspaper, paint, face-paint, tape etc. At the end of the day we showed our creations like puppets, balls, flowers, drums etc. Afterwards we celebrated the birthday of some kids from there; we ate pizza and a cake. Both the participants and the young people from the “Sunce” enjoyed themselves! Later we spoke about how great an experience it was to see the smiles on their faces and it was special because some of us had to communicate with body-language. Everyone agreed that Željko did a great job with the kids. Then we had a lunch.

We went to Elvir's office in NDC (Nansen Dialogue Center) where he made short presentation about what they do. Because we were little sleepy Nicola did energizer game to wake us up and then we proceed with workshop. We made 4 subjects and we split in 4 groups. Subjects were: peer educator, peace, conflict and reconciliation, exchange, info point. Everyone made a presentation of their own group and we shall continue with workshop later. At the end of the workshop we wrote mails to each others mailboxes. Later we had a dinner and some of us went out and some to sleep.

Ditte Storm (Denmark) and Aldin Kovac (Bosnia and Herzegovina)



NIKSIC (MONTENEGRO)

31st July 2008:

The participants arrived at 1:30 pm in hotel Onogost. The delegate of LDA Niksic, Kerim Medjedovic greeted them and gave them agenda for two-day stay and brochures of the work of LDA Niksic.

After lunch, the bus came to pick up the participants from the hotel and they went to the lake Krupac. The group enjoyed their time by the lake: they swam, drank *Niksicko beer*, played volleyball, walked... In the evening, the participants visited national fish restaurant where they tried fish and crabs. The dinner went on in a very nice atmosphere since all the group was cheerful. The Italian participants were very happy because the waiter spoke Italian language.

When the dinner was over, the group went to Jazz club to have a drink.



01st August 2008:

The participants went to the municipality at 9 am.

- Momcilo Micunovic, the vice president of Niksic municipality gave a very warm welcome to all the group and he presented Niksic to them. He described main characteristics of the town as well as geographic and historic background. Mr Micunovic stressed the importance of having such a group of young people and said that Niksic is the town of the youth. He also offered cooperation for the projects concerning youth in the future.
- Kerim Medjedovic, the delegate of LDA Niksic welcomed all the group once more and explained the activities within "Youth, the Right Direction" project done so far. He also emphasized the importance of cooperation between LDA Niksic and the municipality.
- Gregoire Fanniere, in the name of ALDA thanked to the vice-president and to the LDA Niksic for the warm welcome.



From 10 am to 2 pm there was a workshop where the participants continued with the projects they developed in Mostar. They gave more details and information about their projects.

After lunch, the tour around town was planned but it rained and the participants stayed in the hotel to take a rest. In the evening, the bus picked up the group and they went to Ethno village near the town. The participants were very happy to eat a lot of different meals and to try Montenegrin wine. The vice president of Niksic municipality, Momcilo Micunovic joined them and the dinner went on in a very cheerful atmosphere.

After dinner, the group had free time and they went to a local disco club where they danced and had great time.





SHKODRA (ALBANIA)

03rd of august: Our last day in Shkodra was pretty strange, because everyone of us had the feeling that something was going to end up, but despite that we were all ready to live every second of that last day at the top.

The day started with the visit at the Municipality of Shkoder in which Zemaida Mozali, representative of this institution greeted us and explained us how the municipality works and which project follows. One of the most significant and linked with our tour is the creation of an LDA in Albania, to permit the sharing of experience of LDA's network also in this new country.

We spent the remaining part of the morning in their building finishing our projects that we started in Mostar. All of us was committed of giving his contribution to the conclusion of the project and after that we explained our results in among the others. That last part of the morning was used to complete the last messages of the poster wall and to collect some impressions about all the fair, sharing feelings, hopes and suggestions. It was a stirring moment because almost everybody expressed their impressions and most of all were poignant.

After this moving moment, we've had all the afternoon in which some of us were preparing the forthcoming night and some others decided to take a little nap before having a ball. We went on an excursion to Shkodra lake and Igor, Afrim and Zeljko had a swim with some Albanian guys, then we moved to the restaurant and eventually at the sea side were we had a great night dancing, singing, swimming and drinking. At 2 o'clock we got back to the hotel and some of us decided to stay awake all night long, coming back to the reception of the hotel only early in the morning.

Then sadly at 9 we had to move to the bus to begin our long trip back to every our destination.



ON THE WAY BACK TO CROATIA

Monday the 4th of August: The last day we spent all together.

After a night passed dancing on the seaside, hanging on the beach and some swimming in the Shkodra's water, we left the city. At 8.00am we met for breakfast, as every morning, but that day was different from the others, we had to say good bye to part of the group- first to Nicola that was staying in Albania to take the plane to go back to Ireland. After some hours travelling by bus, we had to say by to Ana, Jelena, Olga, Zeljko, Jessica and Gregoire who had stopped in Podgorica to catch the train to go back to their destinations. After this we left for Mostar. The lack of the others, the tireness and the bus that was becoming more and more empty, were so strong that we left an important part of the group in Autogrill. In fact, after a coffè break, the bus left, and 1 hour later we realised that we had lost Aldin. While laughing and not believing of how we managed to do that we waited for Aldin s come back and welcomed him by clapping hands. Once the group was gathered again, we had lunch at the restaurant near the lake Krupac in Niksic. Before start again for Mostar we said good bye to Milena and Dijana. We spent the afternoon in bus arriving in Mostar in the evening. The last night we spent in wonderful hotel, remembering all the moment passed together and seeing the pictures. After the dinner Edo, Aldin, Vesna, Zarko, Amir and Anel left us also. Only eight of us remained. Before going to sleep we had the last walk over the Old bridge and beautiful Mostar. Good night to everyone.

Tuesday the 5th of August: The morning after, Ditte and Christine took their way back home. 6 of us said goodbye to Elvir, left Mostar by bus and crossed the border to Croatia. On the way to Novigrad Kristina and Tatjana left us also. At the beginig we were 23, and now only 4... Denis, Diego, Igor and Serena. We spend our last night in Cittanova and the day after we took our last bus to go back home. And that was the end of this magnificent Youth Fair filled with laugh, music, new friendships and spectacular situations...

For Youth Fair diary:

Serena Favret (Italy), Denis Petohleb (Italy), Kristina Ferenac (Croatia)



Peer to peer training of multipliers: Shkodra, 11th to 14th of October 2008

The newly established LDA Albania in Shkodra, northern Albania has been inaugurated on the 10th of October and immediately started its first activity on the 11th. It was the third peer training of multipliers in the framework of ALDA's "Youth the right direction" project.

During four days, 25 young people from South-East-Europe and European Union countries including ten Albanian from Shkodra had the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of the "Youth in action" program and to draft projects together.

Apart from the training the young people discovered the city of Shkodra and created real links among each other.



"The Shkoder training means to me a lot of "firsts": My first time in Albania, a country that I only knew for being somewhere in South East Europe...Then my first training based on "active methodology", which after years of university lectures was quite a change! It was also, after a few weeks in Croatia, the first time I "represented" the LDA I am working for. And finally, it was my first youth exchange in the region, meeting great people from Albania to Bosnia to... so I definitely learned a lot during this training, from the knowledge of the Youth in Action programme to the draft of projects, not to mention the opportunity to come to know the actors active in youth projects within the network."

Pauline Godey (France), LDA Verteneglio.



“The training was the first one which revived the youth of Albania/Shkodra. In this training I learned about the greatest non verbal communication, young people from different countries exchanged ideas, worked together not necessarily knowing each other or their language.”

Zerina Halilaj