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# Welcome to the first issue of YOUTH - in the right direction!

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Education and Culture Youth in Action



OF EUROPE	CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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What an exciting project we are embarking on!

It aims at enhancing the promotion and visibility of the Youth programme in South Eastern Europe (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia) and Caucasus (Georgia).

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

The proposal combines cooperation, training and information aspects, through the implementation of different actions: information seminars, setting-up of specialized info-points, website and newsletters, youth ambassadors groups, trainings of peer educators (multipliers), job shadowing, trainings on EVS, itinerant crossing youth fair and the setting-up of 4 different networks of stakeholders working in the field of youth in SEE and in Georgia.



## The project objectives

This project aims at strengthening and fostering the involvement of the Local Democracy Agencies in the field of youth; the overall objective being to allow young people to acquire knowledge, skills and competencies through the promotion of the Youth Programme in South Eastern Europe and Caucasus. We will focus on training of multipliers and on the development of networks and partnerships.

To achieve all this we decided on a set of specific objectives:

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



# **AGENDA: Activities implemented so far**

The first steering committee of the project was gracefully hosted by the City of Monfalcone (Italy), one of the partners of the project, on April 3-4 2007.

The meeting gathered the representatives of the 20 partners of the project from the following countries: Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, France, Georgia, Greece, Italy, Serbia, Montenegro, Northern Ireland, Wales (UK).

The coordination of the different (information seminar, training of peer educators, information cam-

### **AGENDA: Upcoming events**

The first information seminar will be held in Thessaloniki from the 12 to the 14 June 2007 in cooperation with the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, the municipality of Mouzaki and the Development Agency for Karditsa (ANKA).



# Presentation of the Project Leader: The Association of the Local Development Agencies

#### Our Past.

When the Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA) was established in 1999, it brought together a network of Local Democracy Agencies (LDAs) in existence since 1993. The LDAs were set up by the Council of Europe's Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe (Congress) in the framework of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe. They were originally conceived to provide concrete assistance to warravaged municipalities in the former Yugoslavia through partnerships with counterparts in Western Europe. When the war in the Balkans ended, ALDA's focus shifted from crisis management to strengthening local democracy, with an

emphasis on promoting tolerant and trust-based relationships within communities. From the beginning, however, the method has been to establish partnerships between local and regional authorities and NGOs in the former Yugoslavia and their counterparts elsewhere in Europe.

#### Our present.

In the decade since its founding, ALDA has grown from a small pilot programme to a stakeholder in promoting a stable, democratic South-Eastern Europe. As the network coordinator, ALDA facilitates collaborations among 12 Local Democracy Agencies and over 130 members and



150 partners, towns, regions and NGOs from more than 25 countries across the whole of Europe.

In addition to coordinating LDA activities, ALDA contributes to their fundraising, provides the LDAs with technical and administrative support, trains staff, maintains an information and publication centre, and represents members in dealing with international institutions and sponsors especially the Council of Europe. Through a formal working agreement with the Council, the LDAs share their expertise in implementing programmes, gather and disseminate information locally, and organise site visits. Other international organisations ALDA works closely with include the National Association of Lo-Authorities in South Eastern cal Europe (NALAS), the Organisation for



# About ALDA (project leader) - continued

Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the European Union (EU), and the United Nations (UN) - particularly the High Commissioner for Refugees. Despite this high level of international involvement, ALDA remains committed to its original mandate to focus on supporting democracy on a local level.

As the methodology of the LDAs proved to be very successful in the Balkans, in 2005, ALDA decided to extend its geographical coverage to other regions, in particular the Southern Caucasus. In September 2006, ALDA opened its 12<sup>th</sup> LDA in Kutaisi (Georgia). This new Agency will focus its activities mainly on training for local authorities and civil society, local economic development, and youth empowerment.

### Our Future.

ALDA's expertise and activities will not be limited to the countries of the former Yugoslavia and Georgia. In 2005, ALDA already implemented a pilot project in Belarus, and in 2006-2007 a more significant project will follow to strengthen civil society groups. After a fact-finding mission in autumn 2005, ALDA decided, in addition, to work on a pilot project to establish a new LDA in Shkodra (Albania). It will be another mayor challenge for ALDA in the years to come to open a 2<sup>nd</sup> Agency outside the countries of the former Yugoslavia.

With its long experience in South East Europe and the diversity of its activities in the field, ALDA plays an important advisory role in the EU enlargement process, and makes an ideal partner for enlargement activities in South East Europe. Indeed,



the future strategy of ALDA is to support the stabilisation and accession process all over Europe. In the meantime, ALDA recognizes the important effects that neighbouring countries' accession to the EU will have on the whole of South East Europe and looks forward to partnering with organisations across the continent to ensure a smooth, stable transition that benefits all countries in the region. Having already joined the Council of Europe, the Balkan states are expected to join the EU themselves in coming years, and ALDA will be there to support them. As the Balkans and the Caucasus region become increasingly involved in continent-wide networks, ALDA is growing to promote tolerant and effective local governance across Europe.



Notes to the maps:

- The 11 LDAs in the Balkans cover most of the former Yugoslavia
- The 12<sup>th</sup> LDA in Kutaisi is the first in the
- Southern Caucasus, outside South-East Europe
- ALDA is a truly European network: the 25 countries in orange indicate where partners and members are located

#### For further information: www.alda-europe.eu

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# **Presentation of the project partners**

# ALBANIA: Civil Society Development Center (CSDC) Shkodra

### The organization.

Civil Society Development Center CSDC Shkodra which is a part of National Network of CSDC in Albania started work in April 2004. The British Ambassador in Albania, representing the donor, inaugurated the CSDC in Shkodra. As part of the sustainability strategy the initial five centers were registered in May 2004 as centers according to the Albanian non-profit organization law. A series of training courses and workshops offered in the CSDCs strengthen the skills of the Albanian not-for-profit organizations to help them successfully and economically communicate their messages to the media, government, donors and the public.

A few words ir	ALBANIAN:
Hello:	Tungjatjeta
Thank you:	Ju falem nderit

### The community.

Shkodra is one of the 12 prefecture centers of Albania. This prefecture consists of three districts: Shkodra District, Malesia e Madhe District and Puka District. Shkodra District consists of two municipalities and 15 communes. The City of Shkodra is the administrative, business and cultural center of the District of Shkodra.

Municipal Council elects the Chairman of Municipality Council, Deputy chairman and the Secretary of Municipal Council. This organ is made up of 45 counselors of different political subjects based on the percentage of the votes won in the local elections. The beginnings of the institution of the Shkodra municipality may be traced back to the year 1865. On the 26th of



July 1992, for the first time, free multilateral elections were held for the local government bodies. The passing of Law No. 7275 "The Law on the Functions and the Organization of Local Governments" made possible for the first time the establishment of local government political autonomy.

### **BOSNIA AND HERTZEGOVINA :** The Local Development Agencies of Mostar Prijedor Zavidovici



#### LDA Mostar.

LDA Mostar is fully part of the network coordinated by the Association of LDAs. LDA Mostar is based on an European partnership of cities and regions for the promotion of the democratization process at the local level and the respect of human rights. In the last two years, LDA Mostar has carried out the following projects with youth: Dialogue through practice, to foster interethnic dialogue in the secondary schools of Mostar and its region, debate on youth council.

Moreover, LDA Mostar is now the coordinating organization for the establishment of the National Campaign Committee in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the European campaign "All different, all Equal".





### LDA Prijedor.

The main objectives of the Local Democracy Agency of Prijedor are the promotion and the support to:

• Dialog among the ethnic components as the necessary condition for the reconciliation in the community to reach through an important process of elaboration of the conflict. Reconciliation is one of the key word to allow the community of Prijedor to be united and strong enough to reorganize a real process of local development.

• Reconstruction of the local capacities and local development as model to give an answer to the economic crises of an area where most of the economic frameworks of the past period are obsolete and out of any market and where the risk is to be only the cheap labor and deregulated market of the West economy. A local development that is endogenous, based on the local resources and with starting point the logic of the needs of the community:

Development of relations between Prijedor and the European communities aware that the integration of the Balkan area in Europe should be a short time objective to give a significant contribution for the solution of its political but

A few words in Bosnian: Hello: Zdravo Thank you: Hvala Welcome: Dobro dosli also economic problems and that the contribution to this process of the relations among the local communities of both the "small" and the "big" Europe could be decisive.

### LDA Zavidovici.

The Local Democracy Agency of Zavidovici has been officially founded on 1996 by a group of volunteers of Coordinamento Bresciano Iniziative di Solidarietà, the Municipality of Alba, the Province of Cremona and the Association of Municipalities of Brescia (ACB), according to the resolutions 25/1995 and 39/1996 of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe. At the base of the project, there is the spontaneous initiative of a group of pacifiscts that in 1992, during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, started human aid and assistance operations in favour of the civil population, and at the same time hosting in Italy refugees and despalced people.

Actually LDA of Zavidovici is engaged in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in Zavidovici area (Zenica-Doboj Canton), since 1993, in different sectors of intervention, trying to encourage a reconstruction of the social context effected by the 1992-95 conflict and by the post-conflict conditions, directly involving the local civil society and authorities and functioning as link between them and its international partners, above all Italian ones. After the first emergency, in fact, LDA of Zavidovici tried to focus on exchanges between communities at different levels, from children to students and teachers, from women to youth, from civil servants to local authorities.

At present the main activities of the organisation are:

Local economic development: training, assistance and consulting on business planning; income generation; micro credits; sustainable tourism programmes.

<u>Environment:</u> environmental education; environmental campaigns; seminars, training on environmental and ecology issues; researches and analysis; summer eco-camp.

<u>Refugees, minorities and women:</u> support to local civil society; support to refugees in income generation (above all women); capacity building for local civil society.

<u>Youth:</u> support and capacity building for local youth associations; exchange of best practices between Italian and Bosnian youth; animation activities for youth and children; sports and cultural activities.

<u>Schools:</u> exchanges between Italian and Bosnian students and teachers on different topics, focusing on intercultural issues.

<u>Social services:</u> training on different topics of the social work, exchanges of best practices between Italian and Bosnian social services.

# **CROATIA :** The Local Development Agencies of





LDA Osijek was founded in the framework of the initiative of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe in 1993 as support to the local development of democratic processes.

Today LDA in Osijek successfully integrates its activities and projects into three main programmes: Informal education for capacity building, promotion of European values and standards and fostering of rural development. *Continues* ==>



# **Presentation of the project partners - continued**

All our programmes aim to contribute to both social and economic recovery of Eastern Croatia and to capacity building of its human resources.

Through years we have worked with local authorities, elected representatives and civil sector in this region in order to make them capable to activate their local resources, use pre accession and other funds that are available for Croatia and develop their communities.

In the frame of promotion of European values and standards we put focus on youth participation and education as well as on information campaigns in less privileged areas of Eastern Croatia. Another relevant aspect of our work is local economic development with special focus on fostering of development of rural areas and setting up of Centre for Sustainable Rural Development.

A few words in C	ROATIAN:
Thank you:	Zdravo Hvala Dobro došli

Together with other local associations and with the Regional Forum of Associations of Slavonia we work on structuring of channels of communication and cooperation between the public and civil sector and in that function we participate in the work of a few public bodies and committees at both local and regional level. We strongly believe that good quality solutions and development of this region can be achieved only through cooperation and involvement of all sectors.

LDA Sisak was established in 1996 as a pilot project of the Council of Europe, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities with partners' network that gathered 15 local authorities and NGOs from Croatia, Italy and Slovakia. The Lead Partner is the City of Mogliano Veneto, Italy.

Since February 2006 is acting as a national organisation. Mission is to promote local development and local democracy by implementing local programmes. Objective is promotion of peace, democracy, human rights (minority and women rights) and civil society with stress on decentralised cooperation.

Target groups are all community stakeholders that includes youth as a core of local community development. Regular activities are Youth Info Point, capacity building for local authorities and NGOs, SOS Phone Line for Victims of Domestic Violence, youth exchanges among partners' towns, youth capacity building, minority projects, indigenous multicultural project for youth, promotion of European



integration process through empowerment of local media, cross-border cooperation.

**LDA Verteneglio/Brtoniglia.** The Agency of local democracy has developed an efficient cooperation network with defined NGOs of the Region Istria and has almost 10 years of experience in the functioning and working methods of the civil society sector in Croatia.

The most frequent activity of the Agency is the realisation of educative actions: workshops, round tables, conferences, etc. both at local and regional level on the following issues: citizens and youth participation, EU funds, cross-border and transnational cooperation and local economic development. The Agency of local democracy is member of the international Association of local democracy agencies (ALDA) with the seat in Strasbourg that covers in total 11 Agencies of the ex-Yugoslav territory. Consequently a lot of activities of the Agency are realised in partnership both with the network and the other Agencies.





# **GREECE:** Municipality of Mouzaki

The municipality of Mouzaki first established at 1883 and it has had the current form (after the review of the relative law in Greece) since 1999. The staff of municipality consist of 34 fulltime employees and 6 part-time employees.

The Municipality of Mouzaki is supervising 6 organizations which are Corporate Bodies under public law which are:

A few words in Greek:	
Hello:	Geia sou
Thank you:	Efharisto
Welcome:	Kalos orisate

the nursery , the stadium, an organization that cares for the elderly, a cultural organization, the entity responsible for water supply and waste pipes and the entity responsible for the development of the community .

The municipality is responsible for the administration of national and local funds; supporting the inhabitants in order to solve their problems relative to the Municipality's subjects.



# **GEORGIA**: Local democracy agency of Kutaisi

+ + + +

LDA Kutaisi. An important step to promote local democracy and respect for human and minority rights in Georgia was taken on 8 September 2006 when the Local Democracy Agency Georgia was opened. The formal opening ceremony in Kutaisi City Hall was attended by numerous local and international partners and supporters of the new LDA and was concluded by the signing of a memorandum of understanding. LDA Georgia is the first such agency in the South Caucasus and the 12th Agency in the network of the Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA), which have been active in the Balkans for the last 14 years. ALDA and the LDAs are widely recognised as fundamental stakeholders in the stabilisation and democratisation process in South-East Europe. The mission of LDA Georgia is to strengthen local democracy and civil society in Georgia, and the Imereti Region

Alew	words	ın	Georgian:

Hello:	Gamardjobat
Thank you:	Mahd-lob
Welcome:	Mobrdzandeet

in particular by co-operating with the Association of Local Democracy Agencies, local and regional authorities, the Council of Europe, and other international and local organisations. **The Kutaisi - Newport International Association.** On October 2, 1989 Kutaisi, Western Georgia and Newport, South Wales entered into a Twinning Agreement at a special session of Newport Borough Council. At the end of 1991 the Twinning Associations were established in both cities – Newport and Kutaisi. Over the period of sixteen –year twinning there have been a lot of exchange visits involving civic delegations, city councilors, scientists, musicians, artists, architects, doctors, English teachers, representatives of local government, Women's League and church, school and university students, journalists, etc. From these visits have come several important projects such as technical assistance in the development of

small business initiatives, energy management and development, seminars concerning participation of civic society in the decisionmaking process, publications, etc.





# **Presentation of the project partners - continued**

# **ITALY:**

Municipalities of Monfalcone and Vicenza and Eurodesk Italy

Municipality of Monfalcone. Monfalcone is an industrial city which is turning into an urban centre based on trade and services. It is known as "the city of cruise ships" due to the Fincantieri shipyard, one of the largest in Europe, specialised in the building of cruise ships. With a population of 50.000 inhabitants, within the enlarged municipality, the town, located in the Northeast Italy in the autonomous region of Friuli Venezia Giulia, is the northernmost seaport in the Adriatic and it is now ready to reinvent its façade, starting from the very origins. The main objective of the municipality is to express Monfalcone's personality through the remodelling of the urban plant. New projects are being promoted in order to invite not only the tourists, but the citizens themselves to discover and explore a modern town which stands firm on its roots. There are cultural plans to be implemented like the open museum on the great war, that reminds the people of Monfalcone of the traces left by history in its trenches, the new museum of palaeontology. Other current focuses are on restoring of the ancient Roman thermal baths and the sustainable development of sea, coast and sailing resources.

Thanks to its self confidence and the experience acquired in the field of

A few words in ITALIAN:	
Hello:	<b>Ciao</b>
Thank you:	Grazie
Welcome:	Benvenuto

EU funding and opportunities, the city has been developing an interest in international activities in the past few years. Projects range from the exchange of best practice in the field of public administration,

transparency and innovation with the neighbouring municipalities of the Balkan region (Interreg projects, Exchange projects, Italian co-operation funds), to concrete development co-operation in south east Asia and in the Middle East. These, as a matter of fact, are all Countries from where many immigrants have come to Monfalcone. Lately the city has been concentrating on building cross border and European networks and partnerships to acquire opportunities for further development. As far as the exchange of experience and practice is concerned, Monfalcone is strengthening its partnership with the ALDA network by joining the new LDA in Georgia and is eager to be involved in the dissemination of useful tools and values for the wide spread of democracy and human rights.

**Municipality of Vicenza.** The "Family and Child Area" of the Municipality of Vicenza is committed with the prevention, treatment and recovery of children and teenagers victims of sexual abuses, psychological and physical mistreatment, carelessness and negligence.

It has been developing several projects, both at the local and at the European level, to promote the involvement and the participation in the community of children and youngsters with fewer opportunities (disadvantaged).



It has developed several youth projects, especially within the action 1 (Youth exchanges) and 2 (European Voluntary Service) of the Youth Programme.

The Municipality of Vicenza is member of the Association of the Local Democracy Agencies since January 2006.

**Eurodesk Italy.** Eurodesk Italy is a national association for social promotion (Italian Law 383/2000) and, besides its mission as Italian national partner of the Eurodesk European network, is actively involved in the promotion and networking of the Italian youth information structures/agencies.

Presently, Eurodesk Italy manages a national network of 105 local youth information relays, all specialised to provide information on the various European programs and opportunities offered to young people by the European Union and the Council of Europe.

Eurodesk Italy is also actively involved in the promotion, training and implementation of local, regional and national youth policies, with particular reference to the sectors of active citizenship of young people in the decision-making processes and of the networking of local initiatives.



# **SERBIA:** LDAs of Central and South Serbia and of Subotica and the **Municipality of Nis**



Local Democracy Agency Central and South Serbia is an association of citizens established by the network of international partners in 2001. Our mission is to foster democratic, social, cultural and economical development following the pinciples of solidarity, human rights and freedom in Central and Southern Serbia.

We are working within the network of 11 Local Democracy Agencies existing in former Yugoslav Republics with help and support from the Association of the Local Democracy Agencies - ALDA. The Local Democracy Program is supported by the Council of Europe, through the activities of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities.

Our partner network consists of 19 partners: cities, regions and citizens' associations, both from Serbia and EU. We are based in Nis, second largest city in Serbia, and besides Nis we are active in three other cities in the region: Kragujevac, Kraljevo and Leskovac.

From our very beginnings we have been implementing practical initiatives to consolidate democracy at local level thru projects dealing with: Capacity building for local authorities and civil society, Youth empowerment, Support for local economic development and Social welfare.

Among other activities focused on young people and their empowerment, we have established two Youth info pionts with small libraries on youth issues, in Kraljevo and Nis. They opperate from September 2004 onwards

### A few words in Serbian:

Hello. Zdravo Thank you: Hvala Welcome:

Dobrodoshli

counseling on how to draft proiects and fundraise, educational workshops on EU (its institutions, programs, etc), on youth activism and volunteer work, workshops on topics such as gender equality, non-violent communication, conflict resolution...Over the years we also supported young people in organizing small public campaigns and researches on different topics that concerns young people today, realized internship programmes with local selfgovernments and media for young skilled people and organized workshops aimed at providing opportunities for exchanges and meetings between young people from the region (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Kosovo) that grew up in a period of war or general bad relationships.

providing young people with

Local Democracy Agency of Subotica works within the network of 11 Local Democracy Agencies in former Yugoslav Re-

### public

since

2001 with the aim to promote networking between local communities and programs in this region and its process of transi-



tion towards European Union. LDA promote democratic, social, cultural and economical development following the principles of solidarity, human rights and freedom.

The main activities of the Local Democracy Agency are related to support local capacity building through training and education for local authorities, local civil sector, to provide training programmes for young political leaders for better local government and to run advocacy and information campaigns for citizens participation in decision making at local level.

The Municipality of Nis - is the second biggest city in Serbia; it is an economic, educational,

health, culture and sports center of the south-Eastern Serbia, as well as the intersection of the European roads and railways. Besides the regular activities promoted and managed being a local





# **Presentation of the project partners -** *continued*

# **MONTENEGRO:**

LDA of Montenegro

The Local Democracy Agency in Nikšić was established with the support of the Council of Europe on May 11th 2001 as a local NGO. LDA Montenegro functions within the network of 11 Agencies in the former Yugoslav republics and with the support of the Association of Local Democracy Agencies. The creation of Local Democracy Agencies was one of the measures proposed in 1993 by the Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe. In its Resolution 251 it encourages the maintenance and/or development of the democratic process at local level

A few words in local language:		
Hello:	Zdravo	
Thank you:	Hvala	
Welcome:	Dobrodoshli	

Our Vision: respect for human rights and development of democracy on the local level.

Local Democracy Agency of Montenegro together with the Association of Local Democracy Agencies works the on development of democratic processes and socio-economic development of Southeast and Eastern Europe in co-operation with partners, cities, regions and other organizations through decentralized co-operation and partnership.

Our Mission: We are a team consisting of young, educated women and men who are devoted to the respect of human rights and development of



#### democracy in local level.

Who do we work for: Our basic target groups are: citizens, local self-government employees, and elected representatives Particular attention is paid to: youth, minorities, women and persons with special needs.

# **NORTHERN IRELAND:** International School for Peace Studies

The International School for Peace Studies (I.S.P.S.) is dedicated to the resolving of differences and conflict transformation through exclusively peaceful means, and rejects all forms of violence or intimidation as a means of creating change. The International School for Peace Studies has developed a unique and completely original experiential learning programme called *"The Messines Experience"*.

The programme uses the events of The Great War (1914 – 18) to engage participants in learning about their shared history, cultural heritage, peace and reconciliation, and the futility of war. Various levels of accreditation are available, and all qualifications are nationally recognised. *The Messines Experience* represents an opportunity to inform and inspire a new generation of citizens in Europe and beyond by explaining the continuing relevance of this period of history and exploring how the events of 1914-18 shaped so much of the society in which we live today.

The programme also promotes our belief in the ineffectiveness of engaging in aggressive behaviour as a means of creating change, and the detrimental consequences that arise when we choose conflict over compromise. In doing so, we believe that differing communities and different participants from all over the world can be brought closer together by way of "Reconciliation Through Remembrance".



#### A few words in Irish:

Hello: Thank you: Welcome:	Buri talosk
Thank you:	Boche'
Welcome:	Graaltcha





# WALES: Powys County Council

Powys is an extensive, largely upland and extremely rural county covering 2000 square miles, that is about a quarter of the area of Wales. With only 1 person in every 10 acres (4 hectares) it is one of the most sparsely populated local authority areas in England and Wales.

The county has tremendous landscape assets, from the dramatic mountains of

A few words in Welsh Hello: Dydd da Thank you: Diolch yn fawr Welcome: Croeso

#### ALDA.

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#### **CSDC Shkodra**

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#### LDA Mostar

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LDA Zavidovici Email:<u>LDAZavidovici@aldaintranet.org</u> Web: <u>www.lda-zavidovici.it</u>

LDA Osijek Email : Idaosijek@aldaintranet.org Web: www.Ida-osijek.hr the Brecon Beacons National Park and the rolling hills of Radnor Forest to the Berwyn Mountains in the north, and some of Britain's most spectacular river valleys - the Severn, Wye and Usk - sweeping through its glorious scenery.

The economy is based on agriculture and tourism, with high self-employment and small businesses predominating, and an important contribution to employment opportunities from the public sector.



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