



**LOCAL
DEMOCRACY
CENTRE
FOR CENTRAL
AND SOUTHERN SERBIA**



ALDA
Association of Local Democracy Agencies
Association des Agences de la Démocratie Locale

Local Democracy Centre Nis - LDA was established in 2001. as a part of ALDA network (Association of Local Democracy Agencies).

Our main fields of activities are: capacity building for local authorities and civil society, local economic development and youth.

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY - JUNE 2011.

21st March

International Day for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

On International Day for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Anti-Fascist collective Nis organized press conference at the Media Centre Nis. After the press conference, activists from the Anti-Fascist collective implemented a performance called "ECHO" next to a **monument** honoring late Roma singer from Nis - **Saban Bajramovic**.



War and propaganda project February - May, 2011.

In cooperation with the **The Franco-German Youth Office OFAJ** and memorial centres Oradur-sur-Glane in France and Dachau in Germany, LDA CSS implemented three cycle seminar entitled "War and Propaganda: An Approach to History in Europe". After a seminar in Dachau, this year youth groups from Germany, France and Serbia met in Oradour, France and Nis.

Each seminar has been led by well known national historians, experts on each specific topic. Young people had the opportunity to question the relationship between propaganda in the Second World War and the gos conflicts in the former Yugoslavia while investigating transnational historiography.



Visiting the Scull Tower in Nis

9. May – Victory Day over Fascism

Local Democracy Centre LDA took part in the celebration of the ninth Of May, Victory Day over Fascism as a part of Anti-Fascist coalition from Nis, which consists of the Local Democracy Centre, Center for Civil resources Development, The Committee for Human Rights Niš, Yurom Center, Women's Space and Centre for girls.

The celebration began at 11am with the press conference at the Media Centre Nis, and after the press conference, the action continued at 12 on the Main Square with the symbolic performance "Metamorphosis".



Jelena Đorđević–Maksimović, psychologist



Searching for better opportunities for my family and me, I moved to Nis few years ago, and found myself unemployed. Until then I've been working a lot, mostly with young people as a teacher in high school and also as an activist in local NGOs in my hometown Bor, so I've felt the lack of activities which I used to find meaningful and exciting...

People from LDA team kindly took my offer and gave me a chance to try working with volunteers. Since the first workshop with volunteers went well, the decision has been

made to continue a series of workshops that are considering volunteers and their work. I find their enthusiasm "contagious" and enjoy been the part of their efforts to contribute to the community. I hope I will be of use in other issues of organization as well, mainly considering human resources management, but it remains to be defined in the future.

Keep hopes high!

Memories & Conflict elaboration

a documentary "Public history as private history"

March–May, 2011.

With the aim of improving relationships and cohabitation among communities by sharing reflections on past, present and future in a perspective of conflict elaboration and transformation. A documentary with interviews of around 100 people of all ages from the region (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Kosovo) has been produced.

At the beginning of April, participants from Nis, Kraljevo, Prijedor, Pec, Pristina and Gorazdevac shared their individual perspectives of major historic and politic events in past two decades in the region during the joint one day workshop with an expert from Italy about "old factory and its meaning for old and new generations", where they analyzed the meaning of industry before and today.

They have also planned the future project related to the cultural heritage of the region.



In the up-coming months a premiere of the documentary will be organized in each of the cities involved. Documentary has been realised by LDA Nis, Tavolo Trentino con Kraljevo, Kraljevo, Progetto Prijedor, Tavolo Trentino con Kosovo and supported by the Association Tavolo Trentino, Italy.



Workshops for the volunteers

January–June, 2011.

Continuing the efforts to maintain and improve the work of our Volunteers' Center, LDACSS is realising a programme of workshops for the staff and our volunteers, PRO: VOLUNTEERS. Workshops take place every second Saturday in the LDACSS' office and are facilitated by Ms Jelena Djordjevic - Maksimovic, a psychologist with extensive experience.

Youth Culture Club

March-July 2011.

In March 2011, LDA started to implement the project "Youth Cultural Club", supported at the public tender of the city of Nis Council for Cultural Creativity in 2010. This club is designed as a cultural program with the aim to satisfy the cultural needs of young people in Nis and to motivate and encourage them to use their creative capacities.

Till now we organized competition for young writers up to the age of 35 who haven't published their works yet.

By the end of June, papers will be published in printed and online publication. Promotion of publication and literary evenings will be organized till the end of July.

Program of screenings and debates on globalization

April – May 2011.

In cooperation with the French Cultural Center Nis and the Office for European Affairs of the City of Nis, with the support from the French Embassy in Belgrade, LDACSS realized a series of screenings of films and debates on globalization. The program aimed to introduce citizens of Nis with the phenomenon of globalization in the areas of life most affected by it. Debates and speakers, professors from the University of Nis, enabled the public to reflect on all the basic forms of globalization - economic, political and cultural and their effect on their personal life and local communities where they live.



This programme has been organized by Camille DURAND currently studying as a Fifth Year Student at the *Institut d'Etudes Politiques* in LILLE (France), as a part of her three-month internship in LDA.

Economy and management for NGO

June, 2011.

Closing conference and Diploma Ceremony marked the end of year and a half long project Economy & Management for NGOs in Serbia, project funded by SLOVAKIAD and realised in partnership with Education Center for Non-Profit Organization - CVNO, Banska Bystrica, Slovakia, the Faculty of Economy "Matej Bel" in Banska Bystrica and the Faculty of Economy in Nis.

The project aimed at raising the capacities of Serbia NGOs to deal with their own management and financial resources. Representatives of 10 NGOs from the southern part of Serbia took part in 6 on line courses led by the professors from the Faculty of Economy Nis: Management of NGO, Marketing of NGO, Global economy, Human resources, Finances of NGO and New trends in NGO. These on-line courses will now serve as a module for possible future accredited master's programmes on one of the universities in Serbia.

We are also pleased to say that, thru this project, LDA initiated cooperation between faculties of economy in Banska Bystrica and Nis.



Foix, France

Territorial Development And Multilateral Decentralized Cooperation

May, 2011

The International Universities of Responsible Territories, UNITER RES together with the Association of Responsible Territories TER RES, organized 3 days seminar on the topic of territorial development and multilateral decentralized cooperation in Foix, Toulouse (FR). ALDA and LDA teams were invited to present the LDAs as efficient tool for decentralized cooperation, as resource model as well as a mediator for the multi-actor partnerships favoring good governance at local and regional level.



Photo exhibition "STRONG WORDS"

May-June 2011.

Local Democracy Centre LDA, Center for Civil Resources Development and Media Research Centre Nis in cooperation with the Office for European Affairs of the City of Nis and the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) began with preparation of the exhibition entitled "Strong Words" in May 2011.

The exhibition "STRONG WORDS" will be held from 27 June to 1 July 2011. in the European corner and will consist of the selected photos from the call for photographers invited to record examples of the hate speech on the walls of our city.

Photographs will form a whole that will be followed by texts which will point out the ideological sources of graffiti that insult the human rights and human dignity. We want to emphasize the importance of promoting human rights and tolerance but also to draw attention to the terrible consequences that can result by the tolerating of hate speech.

We believe that the results of those kinds of activities can make a significant contribution to guiding the citizens of Serbia to respect human rights as one of three key values underpinning the European Union.



News from the City of Aarhus Office in Nis

January–June 2011.

During the last couple of months, the City of Aarhus Office in Nis has been busy arranging an exhibition on Aarhus and Denmark in the European Corner. The exhibition took place from the 30th of March to the 8th of April and was opened by the Danish ambassador in Serbia, as well as representatives from the City of Aarhus and the City of Nis. It is estimated that more than 200 people visited the exhibition during the exhibition period.

One of the most important tasks of the City of Aarhus Office is monitoring and improving the functioning of the Job Center in Nis, which is a joint venture between the City of Aarhus, the City of Nis and the LEDIB program in the Nis area. Other activities of the City of Aarhus Office include helping two high schools in Nis - Pravno Poslovna skola and Stevan Sremac – in setting up a relation of cooperation with two high schools in Aarhus.

In addition to that, we are working on arranging a trip of investment promotion to Aarhus, with participation of experts from the City of Nis' LED office.

It is envisaged that the representatives of LED office will make a series of presentations at the business incubator in Aarhus, in order to inform Danish SME's about the opportunities for investing in Southern Serbia. Lastly, during the months of June and July, the City of Aarhus Office in Nis has arranged a series of displays of Danish movies in the European Corner, in cooperation with our partners from the LDA.



EVS project "Share yourself",*June–July 2011.*

LDA in cooperation with NGO Associação Mais Cidadania from Portugal started the new European voluntary service project "Share yourself" in order to promote volunteering experiences with following aims: to promote solidarity and tolerance, to increase social cohesion among European youngsters, to promote active citizenship and contacts between youngsters of different countries and to offer opportunities of non-formal education to 15 youngsters with low opportunities.

Beneficiaries are youngsters with low opportunities coming from different social neighborhoods (suburbs) located in Loures, the north-west city just out of Lisbon.

LDA will host two volunteers, Maria Flor Brandão Vieira and Daniel Inácio Mourão, for two months to work on citizenship, promotion of participation of youngsters and breaking of social barriers through the promotion of the cultural diversities.

**A view into Denmark: display of Danish movies***June 2011.*

LDACSS and the City of Aarhus Office in Nis, in cooperation with the Office for European Affairs of the City of Nis and with the support from the Royal Danish Embassy in Belgrade, are organizing a special film program with the purpose of giving the Nis audience a better sense of Danish society, culture and mentality in general. Having young people in Nis as main target audience, the movies are selected accordingly. The whole program will portray the living conditions of young people in Denmark and the problems experienced by Danish youths in the course of their daily life. The movies are a mixture of documentaries, dramas and comedies and will be showed once a week during June. This activity has been organized by Peder Lindhardt, representative of the city of Aarhus in Nis.



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