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Co-operation Association of LDAs/FEDRE/NALAs
Transborder co-operation and networking for institution building in South and Eastern Europe
Transborder co-operation activities of LDAs

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o **Past experience in transborder co-operation**

- 2001 : Title of the programme: YOUTH EXCHANGES
Activities: WORKSHOPS
Partners: DRK KRALJEVO (SM)
Results: POSITIVE
- 2002 : Title of the programme:
Activities:
Partners:
Results:
- 2003 : Title of the programme: THE LANGUAGE OF THEATRE – OUR NEW BRIDGE
Activities: THEATRE PERFORMACES AND WORKSHOPS
Partners: LDA SISAK (HR), YC ZAVIDOVICI
Results: POSITIVE

- **On-going and future activities of transborder co-operation**

- 2003-2004 : Title of the programme: we plan to continue with youth exchanges in cultural fields together with Croatia and Albania. No programmes officially submitted yet

Activities
Partners
Aims

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- **Past experience in transborder co-operation**

- 2003 : Title of the programme : “Transborder cooperation and Inter-ethnic dialogue, 2002/2003”- Empowerment of women
Activities: International conference on Family violence, seminars, aid line
Partners: LDA Zavidovici, Women group “Zena zenj”-Zavidovici
Results: Exchange of experience and know-how
- 2003 : Title of the programme : “The language of theatre-our new bridge”
Activities : Youth exchange, workshops, performance
Partners: LDA Zavidovici, Youth Center Zavidovici, Theatre “Daska”-Sisak
Results: Establishment of the initial contact and further cooperation among youth theatre groups from Sisak and Zavidovici
- 2003 : Title of the programme: “Strengthening the cooperation between local media and local NGOs”
Activities : Workshops, Regional conference
Partners: LDA Prijedor
Results: Establishment of the initial contact and further cooperation with TVRS in Prijedor

- **On-going and future activities of transborder co-operation**

- 2003-2004 : Title of the programme :”Training course for journalists on Banovina”
Activities: Workshops, study visits
Partners: LDA Prijedor (to be established)
Aims : Development of cross-border cooperation between journalists from Croatia (Banovina region) and Republika Srpska (Prijedor area)

LDA Osijek

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- **Past experience in transborder co-operation**

- 2001 : Title of the programme
Transborder Cooperation in Euroregion Danube-Drava-Sava

Activities: round tables and seminars

Partners:

- Croatia (towns of Osijek and Vukovar, Chamber of Commerce Osijek, Osječko-barnjska county, Požeško-slavonska county, Virovitičko-podravka county);
- Hungary (towns of Pecs, Harkany, Siklos, Pecs county, Europe House from Pecs, Chamber of Commerce Hungary);
- Bosnia and Herzegovina (Tuzla canton, town of Tuzla, Posavska county, Brčko district, town of Brčko, Orašje and Odžak communes);
- Serbia and Montenegro (town of Subotica, Subotica commune)

Results:

- re-establishing of connections within region
- re-establishing of connections in the fields of economy, culture, civil society
- inclusion of Subotica in the program (as candidate for the full membership in Euroregion DDS)

➤ 2002 -2003: Title of the programme:

Transborder Cooperation in Euroregion Danube-Drava-Sava

➤

Activities: round tables, seminars and excursions

Partners:

- Croatia (towns of Osijek and Vukovar, Chamber of Commerce Osijek, Osječko-barnjska county, Požeško-slavonska county, Virovitičko-podravka county, Brodsko-posavska county, Vukovarsko-srijemska county, communes of Bilje, Petlovac, Draž, Popovac);
- Hungary (towns of Pecs, Harkany, Siklos, Pecs county, Europe House from Pecs, Chamber of Commerce Hungary);
- Bosnia and Herzegovina (Tuzla canton, town of Tuzla, Posavska county, Brčko district, town of Brčko, Orašje and Odžak communes);
- Serbia and Montenegro (town of Subotica, Subotica commune, town of Sombor, Sombor commune, Bačka palanka commune, Bač commune)

Results:

- further and more concrete re-establishing of connections within region which was historically always well connected
- re-establishing of connections in the fields of economy, culture, civil society, media, NGOs, education
- work with media and raising of awareness about the importance of Euroregion DDS and potential it offers
- focus on cooperation between schools and universities
- visit to Europe House and Civil House in Pecs, Hungary and establishing of relations with those institutions
- visit to town of Tuzla and closer contact and relations with its institutions and people included in euroregional cooperation, as well as with their local media

○ **On-going and future activities of transborder co-operation**

➤ 2003-2004 : Title of the programme: *Transborder Cooperation in Euroregion Danube-Drava-Sava*

➤

Activities: seminars, round tables and excursions

Partners:

- Croatia (towns of Osijek and Vukovar, Chamber of Commerce Osijek, Osječko-barijska county, Požeško-slavonska county, Virovitičko-podravka county, Brodsko-posavska county, Vukovarsko-srijemska county, communes of Bilje, Petlovac, Draž, Popovac);
- Hungary (towns of Pecs, Harkany, Siklos, Pecs county, Europe House from Pecs, Chamber of Commerce Hungary);
- Bosnia and Herzegovina (Tuzla canton, town of Tuzla, Posavska county, Brčko district, town of Brčko, Orašje and Odžak communes);
- Serbia and Montenegro (town of Subotica, Subotica commune, town of Sombor, town of Bačka palanka, Bač commune)

Aims

- to widen, strengthen and make more visible cooperation in the Euroregion Danube-Drava-Sava
- to continue with good quality information and education of target groups
- to present as much knowledge and information on different EU programmes (PHARE, CARDS, INTERREG)
- to inform structures of people who are carrying out transborder projects
- to contribute to the sense of unity of the mentality and regional belonging
- development of mutual plans and projects
- to initiate development of some specific and concrete aspects of cooperation in the region (such as continental and river tourism, manufacturing of healthy food as a common potential of the whole Euroregion)
- better media coverage and presentation of the work of the Euroregion Danube-Drava-Sava in public
- assistance to the local authorities in implementation of transborder cooperation activities
- to intensify cooperation and contacts with the Ministry of Administration, Justice

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○ **On-going and future activities of transborder co-operation**

➤ 2003-2004 : **Survey transborder co-operation**

Activities

Terrain survey on expectations expressed by the civil company in term of transborder Co-operation with Serbia and Macedonia

Partenaires

Irish government, East-West Institute

Aims

To have a better knowledge of the needs for the civil society.

Debates

Activities

Organization of a debate with the journalists of Serbia Kosovo and Macedonia on the transborder co-operation .

Partners

Club of the press of Gjilan, Irish Government, East-West Institute

Aims

To support the exchanges of ideas on the transborder co-operation

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○ **Past experience in transborder co-operation**

- 2001 : Title of the programme: *Regionalisation process in SEE*
Activities: *Series of round tables, international conference; publishing a book*
Partners: *Center for regionalisation, (Novi Sad) Euroregional Center for Democracy (Timisoara), LDA Osijek*
Results: *effective networking of NGO-s and experts, raising awareness, publishing a book that has become useful manual for a number of scholars*
- 2002 : Title of the programme: *Training Seminar for young political leaders*
Activities: *thematic workshops, training seminars*
Partners: *experts, Novi Sad University, Open University Subotica*
Results: *Inclusion of young local political leaders, participants from other countries in the region*
- 2003 : Title of the programme *Continuation of the Training Seminar for Young Political leaders*
Activities
Partners
Results

○ **On-going and future activities of transborder co-operation**

- 2003-2004 : Title of the programme: *Multicultural Voivodina: a new region in euro-regional co-operation*
Activities: *round tables, thematic seminars, international conference, collection of contributions and reports*
Partners: *Center for regionalisation, Human Rights centre Novi Sad*
Aims: *Examining the regional identity of Voivodina, current demographic trends, economic potential, trans-border regional co-operation*

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○ **Past experience in transborder co-operation**

- 2001 : Title of the programme: *"Promoting the multicultural values within the multiethnic democratic society"*
Activities: *Series of activities on "The common cultural values in the traditions of different ethnic groups" (two Round tables, production of CD-Rom, two presentations of the CD-Rom)*
Partners: *Cultural institutions, NGOs, local authorities and ethnologists fro Ohrid and Struga (FYROM) and Pogradec (Albania)*

Results: effective networking of institutions, organisations and persons from both countries, publishing CD-Rom which has contributed in raising the knowledge about different traditions about five ethnic groups living in the bordering region.

- 2002 : Title of the programme: *"Promoting civil society and trans-border co-operation"*
Activities: Training seminar *"Participation of the youth in the decision making process"*
Partners: LDA-Subotica (SCG) and LDA-Osijek (Croatia)
Results: effective networking of LDAs, introducing the youth from three countries with the decision making process, initiative for further co-operation in different sectors of civil society among youth in three countries
- 2003 : Title of the programme: *"Strengthening partnership and co-operation"*
Activities: two days conference *"Strengthening the partnership of LDA-Ohrid"*
Partners: Host city, municipality Karditsa (Greece), Development Agency AN.KA. Karditsa (Greece), ZELS (Association of Macedonian municipalities), NGOs, experts
Results: the partnership in the future should be based on common projects, a leaflet that was published for this occasion gave profound information to all partners about the six years activities of LDA-Ohrid in different sectors of civil society, initiative for establishing partnership between ZELS and LDA-Ohrid.

○ **On-going and future activities of transborder co-operation**

- 2003-2004 : Title of the programme: *"Promoting civil society and trans-border co-operation"*
Activities: *Training "Promoting the participation of youth in the decision making process"*
Partners: The training will be organised in Ohrid and would be attended by 15 participants delegated from 3 LDAs, i.e. LDA-Nis (SCG), LDA-Niksic(SCG) and LDA-Ohrid (FYROM).
Aims: Participatory Planning Process for solving problems on the local level, Managing Multiethnic society and Trans-border co-operation. The training programme will be enriched with experience for the problem solving with concrete case studies in each participating country.

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○ **Past experience in transborder co-operation**

- 2001 : Title of the programme
"Transborder collaboration initiatives and their development sustainable in Istria"

Activities:

On the meetings dated October 6 and 7 on transborder collaboration and the roles of local autonomies in international relations were discusses. The two seminars have only confirmed that the subjects brought up were most topical, especially if we consider the position of Istria, the sovereignty of the three different states on its historical territories, the big problem of the sea border between Slovenia and Italy, the compensation for real estates left behind by fugitives after the second world war claimed now by Italian political circles of the far Right, the project of the Euroregion Istria-Karst-Sea (to be signed between Istrian communes, three Slovene coastal communes and two Italian ones) that is encountering many problems on its way towards constitution. The round tables have proved successful.

Partners: Swiss Agency for the Development and Cooperation

Results:

We had a very qualified speakers such as: Drago Kraljević, Ambassador of Croatia in Rome Franco Juri, writer-journalist, ex-Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia, Marino Vocci, Prof. Livio Dorigo - President of the association "Circolo Istria" in Trieste, Ezio Giuricin - Slovene Reporter, Prof. Giuliano Orel from the Trieste University and other which have succesfully transmit to the participants a lot of their experience.

At the beginning the delegate Tullio Fernetich explained the present situation in Istria, enumerated the open problems and the possibilities that we should take advantage of within the frame of the transborder collaboration. He analysed the possibilities offered to Istria by twinings between communes and regions. The Ambassador, Drago Kraljević, reported about the present relations between Croatia and Italy, accentuating that they are improving continuously. He spoke about the situation, the commitments and the difficulties of Croatia in the process of approaching the European Community, but of the targets already reached as well. He also mentioned the agreement of stabilization and joining, which Croatia is signing with the European Community on October 19, at Bruxelles, and emphasized its importance. The Protocol initialed between Italy and Croatia, in the field of social safeguard, education and culture, was also mentioned as a matter of great importance to the people of this area. Franco Juri, ex-Ambassador of Slovenia in Madrid and Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs, stated that the present moment between Slovenia and Croatia is a very delicate one because of the still unresolved question between the two states regarding the marittime frontier. The recent political events and the fact that the agreement has not been signed yet could have negative repercussions on the present good relations and on the creation of the Euroregion. Marino Vocci spoked about experiences had so far and about initiatives of collaboration in course between his Italian bilingual commune, so close to the Slovene border, and the Istrian communes. They remembered the steps taken in the last twenty years as regards the relationship and the collaboration between institutions and people belonging to the three different areas, separated by state frontiers. They spoke about trandborder integration and about sea border between Slovenia and Croatia and dwelt upon the international legal aspect of the matter. Ezio Giuricin, a well known Slovene reporter, chose to discuss the problem of optants' real estates and spoke about possible solutions that the States of Slovenia and Croatia could take in order to solve the problem to their mutual satisfaction. Though very delicate, the subject was treated with much knowledge and skill.

Livio Dorigo updated the audience on the initiatives of the association "Circolo Istria", which in twenty years of its existence has been promoting the collaboration and the dialogue between different realities. He also spoke about real transborder projects. The "Circolo Istria" is the only association of exiled Istrian people that since the year of its constitution has been open towards problems of people also across the border, and that has encouraged collaboration with people from both Slovenia and Croatia. Renzo Nicolini underlined the importance of safeguarding the Istrian-Venetian culture, so present in the area.

- 2002 : Title of the programme:
«Transborder cooperation and Interethnic dialogue – Actors of tomorrow's Europe»

Activities:

The main aim of this programme, was to give young people the opportunity to learn about organizational and leadership skills, as well as to induce the public to pay more attention to the world and the problems of the young. Young people are the driving force of many initiatives by which they promote their interests and needs. Mostly these initiatives give poor results because of the lack of experience of the young and so their work usually remains marginalized. Six workshops, of the duration of one day each, were organized in Brtonigla -Verteneglio. The training took place from March 16 to April 13, 2002 in Buzet. The workshops/trainings were attended by young people from central Istria

There were also two seminars in Verteneglio on 21 and 22 March 2003 dedicated to the Ministry of the European Council and to the European Union. During these two

days, the lecturers of the Ministry for the European Integrations and of the University of Rijeka managed to familiarize the participants with many commonly used expressions that people do not really know and which result in confusion among the local administrators. The structure of the participants varied. There were students, young undergraduates, and primarily people ready to deepen those European concepts more frequently in use in everyday life that are not sufficiently assimilated. Several mayors and local and regional administrators also participated in the lecture. There was a discussion about the objective and the function of the two most important European institutions, about the member states and the candidate states, and the prerequisites to be met to be able to become a part of the EU. We also talked about the foundation of the European Council, its objectives and its way of functioning. On 20 March 2002, we organized a seminar dedicated to social issues, or better, to the young people and volunteerism. This is a segment that certainly still requires a lot of work and that asks for a total inclusion of civil society besides legislative norms.

Too many historical changes occurred in this area in merely several years unavoidably leaving consequences in this sector as well. In only a few decades, Istria was a part of five states, and every single one of them wanted to impose its models, including the social model. There has been a new territorial asset in the last few years, including local administrations with scarce experience and no tradition. Istrian area is characterized by political and economic exoduses which modified the ethnic structure and created additional social problems. Until recently, the entire social care was in the hands of a state that kept opposing the minimal needs of its citizens. On one hand, the state guaranteed the indispensable social security, and on the other it created a mentality of dependence difficult to overcome. The lack of traditions and limited economic possibilities of the new states and municipalities create unflattering situations.

We have already dealt with this issue in the course of other seminars primarily focused on local administrators and technicians. This time, our main focus were the young people. Together with the lecturer, the expert in this field from Tuscany Alessandro Vanni, we made the point of the situation and of the new dispositions of the related law, but most of all, he presented the Tuscan reality in the sector, their experiences and the great results they made. We wanted to present and explain the term "volunteerism" and the role of the young people in this important segment of the society.

Partners: Swiss Agency for Development, Basel, Liechtenstein and Finland Government

Results:

The results of the seminars were excellent. After having held a similar course in 2001 in western part of Istria, we wanted to hold one in the central part of Istria, too. Our work was made easier by the great homogeneity of the participants and by their discreet preparation. As we already stated, there were twenty-five participants who, in their own and very positive ways, evaluated this initiative.

Regarding the three seminars held in 2003 dedicated to social issues, the European Council and the European Union, I can say they were both useful and especially very up-to-date, particularly the last two dedicated to the European institutions. On 21 February in Athens, Croatia officially submitted the demand to the European Union for the inclusion in quality of a full member. I hope we can consider it a good sign that already on 14 April the Council of Ministers of the European Union asked the European Committee to evaluate the Croatian demand for the inclusion in the EU. This is a great opportunity that nobody wants to fail, despite difficulties and prerequisites to be met as defined at the Copenhagen Convention. This is certainly the aspiration of all countries of the Balkan area. However, it will have a specific significance for a bordering region such as Istria. After 50 or 60 years, more than 30.000 workers will be able to daily go to work without having to show their passports, their university degrees obtained on both sides of the border will have the same value, the fishermen with their boats will not be afraid of the trespass and of becoming machine gun targets. People will be able to take home the wine produced in their vineyards or in their parents' vineyard on the other side of the border, and thousands

of Istrians will be able to take flowers to their family graves without undergoing the humiliating customs controls. For these and other reasons, the themes of European integrations are as actual and felt, which was shown at our seminars.

- 2003 : Title of the programme: "Tradition and tutelage of the territory: the only way to fight unemployment" (Transborder cooperation - comparison among different realities)
Activities:

In October 2003 we organized three days seminar on "Tradition and tutelage of the territory: the only way to fight unemployment". Disposing experience of Municipalities and Towns, partners of ADL of Verteneglio, to municipalities and entrepreneurs of Istria, about development of management structure on the territory. Sensitizing and reinforcing the role of municipalities and various associations of category mainly with the scope of supporting and backing the raising of entrepreneurial initiatives within the own territory, contributing to alleviate the problem of unemployment and above all the daily and weekly migrations of young people going to work in neighboring Italy.

Partners: Town of Greve in Chianti, Town of Portogruaro, Verteneglio Tourist office

Results:

We can say with certainty that with this seminar, we achieved results we targeted from the very beginning. In other words, we familiarized our citizens and our institutions with the experiences that the towns-partners of the LDA of Verteneglio matured in the agritourist sector, primarily the possibilities that the sector can offer to the problem of unemployment and the care of the territory. We had at our complete disposal the Town of Greve in Chianti and the Town of Portogruaro, which included us in the initiative, putting at our disposal-- through their experts-- the long and rich experience in the sector.

The course was subdivided in three parts:

On the first day, Thursday, 23 October, there was a panel that saw the participation of the officials of the institutions with a hands-on experience in the sector. We wanted to confront the legislations regulating the sector in Tuscany, Istria and Friuli Venezia Giulia. It was a very constructive and useful debate helping us understand different experiences and the mistakes made on their journey and the importance of local autonomy and their policy of protection of the territory as a fundamental premise for a development of agritourism and rural tourism in a territory.

On Friday, we discussed the topic entitled "Wine and Agritourism- valorisation of the typical, protection of the territory.

About fifty participants from the country listened to extremely well prepared instructors discussing the issues that held the audience's attention.

The third topic we discussed was "The Role of Consortiums and Associationism in the Valorisation of Products and the Protection of the Quality"

Three specific courses as part of the same topic, namely: tradition and protection of the territory: the only way to fight unemployment.

We contacted the technicians of the institutions working in the sector, communal administrators and employees in the sector. The interest was great and the spokesmen were particularly excellent. It was also a great opportunity to meet and initiate the collaboration between technicians of Istria, Tuscany and Friuli Venezia Giulia.

- **On-going and future activities of transborder co-operation**

- 2003-2004 : Title of the programme: "**The new generation supporter of European unity as the answer to historical inconveniences of a frontier land**"

Activities:

Involving people from three different strata of today's Istrian structure in an open discussion about the present, and hearing their opinion about the future of their children, the grandchildren of the people who were divided by the after-war exodus. Divisions and lacerations that still today keep heavily marking the relationships between the people in the bordering area. Attempting to organize a series of

encounters, to bring together some differences and standpoints that are still too divergent and that represent a burden for the coexistence and for the relationship between the majority and the minority, between those who stayed and those who left during the exodus, or between the autochthonous and the “newly arrived”. Dealing with such issues in the light of the imminent inclusion of Slovenia into the EU and of the less imminent inclusion for Croatia.

Partners: Swiss Agency for Development, Basel, Liechtenstein and Finland Government

Aims:

Teaching the young people on how to organize themselves, how to manage their organizations and how to participate in the strengthening of the civil society.

Creating the young people with European standpoints and stimulating them to become included in the self-governing structures and in the civil society in order to become the true guarantees for the democracy of tomorrow.

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o **Past experience in transborder co-operation**

- 2001 : (End 2000) Title of the programme: Valorisation of the resources of the territory

Activities: Seminar held in Trento followed by the signature of a cooperation agreement. Participants: Municipality Sanski Most, BiH, Municipality of Prijedor, RS - BiH, Tuscany Region, Province of Florence, Comunità Montana del Mugello, Associazione Progetto Prijedor, Trento, Autonomous Province of Trento, Parco delle Foreste Casentinesi e Monte Falterona, Toscana, Emilia – Romagna.

- 2002 : Title of the programme: Training on the non violent resolution of conflicts

Activities:

- Lecture: “Globalization and peace by Andrej Grubacic (University of Begrade)
- Lecture and workshop. The role of community and people diplomacy.
- Workshop. Building Europe from below upwards.
- Understanding and transforming conflicts Workshop: the ABC of conflict by Nežad Horozovic of the Center for non violent action of Sarajevo
- Dialoguing with the conflicts: three experiences

Partners: Youth Centre and LDA Zavidovici, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Association DIA of Novi Grad, Republic of Srpska

Results: 25 young people from different organisation and towns trained in understanding conflicts, transforming conflicts in a peaceful and non-violent way, youth participation in public life, cooperation between young leaders, building capacities in common problem solving at local level. Confidence and friendship between youths improved through building of new connections among the organizations, in order to develop networking for common future work.

Title of the programme : Stage of Journalism for a free, independent and multiethnic information

Activity: course of journalism, including theoretical lessons and practice

Partners: Youth Centres Prijedor and Youth Centre Hrvatska Kostajnica, Croatia

- 2003 : Title of the programme: Building peace: development of the community and networking

Activities: Workshops on "Conflict and cooperation in team" and "Youth as citizens", seminar on "Third sector in Republica Srpska and Bosnia & Herzegovina", Simulation of press conferences, seminar on case studies and experiences of youth actions and networking.

Partners: LDA and Youth Center of Zavidovici, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Association DIA of Novi Grad, Republic of Srpska

Results: 24 young people from different organisations and towns trained in solving problems at local level, networking, creating relations in order to make one strong and confident multi-ethnic community in where people of different ethnic groups are living together in coexistence, jointly making a steps forward to true reconciliation.

- **On-going and future activities of transborder co-operation**

- 2003-2004 : Title of the programme: Responsible Tourism in the Balkans

Activities: training of operators providing services in the field of rural tourism, definition of rural tourist routs in the Balkan area, training of operators networking and managing the rural tourist services in the Balkan area

Partners: Associazione Progetto Prijedor, Associazione Tremembè, network of 11 LDAs

Results: rural tourism offers and services started in different areas of the Balkan region.

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- **Past experience in transborder co-operation**

- 2001- 2002 : **Regional Development through Cross-Border Co-operation between the Border Regions of Serbia, Macedonia and Bulgaria**

Partners: East West Institute

Results: Establishment of permanent expert Working Groups of local government representatives from the three border regions in the fields of environmental protection, education and youth, culture, economic development, information and communication technology; development of a cross-border WebSite; institutionalization of cross-border co-operation though the inauguration of a Euroregion and creation of institutionalized cross-border deciding bodies

- **On-going and future activities of transborder co-operation**

- 2003-2004 : **Euroregion Information Center**

Activities: Euroregion quarterly printed and electronic newsletter,

Partners

Aims: improvement of information flow between local communities from neighbouring border regions on issues of economic development, culture, environmental protection and local government public utility management and administration

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On-going activities on trans-border co-operation

2003-2004: **Co-operation issues between Montenegro, Croatia and B&H**

Activities: Establishing an interactive data based Web site which will be used as tool of exchange of information between three categories involved in the project: youth, local authorities, civil society.

The Site www.lda-nk.org contains all relevant information about LDA, partners, activities and local democracy in Montenegro

Aims: better information at local level in the region

Partner: the Irish Government

The Partners

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