

ANNUAL REPORT



2014

MISSION, VISION AND KEY VALUES

Local Development Agency-Struga is a citizens' organization that aims to improve the quality of life for residents of the South-Western region of Macedonia, through supporting local actions, strengthening multiethnic dialogue and cooperation, creating sustainable forms of tourism and promoting volunteerism.

LDA Struga works on realization of the Millennium development goals and recognizes universal principles of sustainable socio-economic development, social inclusion of vulnerable groups, gender equality, interethnic dialogue and cooperation and environmental protection.

LONG-TERM GOALS

- Support intercultural cooperation and interethnic dialogue
- Achievement the Millennium Development Goals through providing better and equal access for socially marginalized groups
- Regional development through networking with various stakeholders from the region and cross-border cooperation
- Decreasing of the difference in the development between urban and rural areas in our region
- Improvement of the quality of life for residents of the southwestern region of Macedonia
- Promotion of sustainable forms of tourism

PROGRAM FOR STRENGTHENING THE INTERETHNIC DIALOGUE AND CO-OPERATION



The program aims to promote a tolerant community, full of confidence that values its diversity through strengthening the local capacities, institutional and informal activities. The program also supports and promotes intercultural dialogue and coexistence between youth from different ethnic communities in Struga and Southwest region.





World Heritage in Young Hands-IPA Cross Border Programme Macedonia-Albania

THE PROJECT
IS FUNDED BY
THE EU



About the project:

The project's overall objective is Albanian and Macedonian secondary school youth to learn to value diversity and protect the world's and their own cultural and natural heritage; teachers to be better prepared to foster intercultural collaboration and understanding amongst their students. The specific objectives are to support the establishment of a joint action between Macedonia and Albania in implementation of the UNESCO World Heritage Education Programme in select schools, with in-school activities based on the WHYH Teacher Kit. The action will have impact on both sides of the border in municipalities: in the Pogradec and Korça Region in Albania, and Pelagonia, Southwest and Polog region in Macedonia.

Timeframe:

15 December 2013 - 15 December 2014

Project stakeholders

The key stakeholder groups are: Partner NGOs Une Gruaja from Pogradec, LDA from Struga, the UNESCO Project Office in Skopje and the UNESCO Office in Venice, the Ministry of Education and Science (MOES), the Vocational Educational Center Skopje and vocational high schools from Struga, Ohrid, Tetovo, Pogradec and Korca.

Project results

- Linkages established between project partners and high schools from Macedonia and Albania;
- Trained 40 professors from 10 vocational high schools to implement the WHYH activities utilizing student centered project based learning methodologies, merging classroom and field based learning
- Developed training program for the subject „World Heritage in Young Hands” and specific topics from the Teacher Kit, such as international conventions, identity and culture of peace, sustainable development and tourism;
- Organized Youth Camp “Protection of natural and cultural heritage” for 90 students. Youth from both countries learn how to appreciate culture in its many forms, tangible and intangible, and understand the cultural and historic commonalities they share with their neighbors;
- Designed TV spot and promotional materials for affirmation of natural and cultural heritage in cross border region ;
- High school students learn about World Heritage sites, about the history and traditions of their own and other cultures, about ecology and the importance of protecting biodiversity

PROGRAM FOR SUSTAINABLE HUMAN AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



The main goal of this program is to reduce the difference in development between urban and rural areas in the region and to improve the quality of life by strengthening the capacities of the population, promotion of participatory models for planning, collaboration and exchange of knowledge between different institutions and organizations from rural and urban communities and enhance cooperation between public, private and civil sector.





THE
PROJECT IS
FUNDED BY
THE EU



BLUE and GREEN vs. BLACK and GRAY

About the project:

The Local Development Agency (LDA) from Struga, Macedonia in cooperation with the partners CSO "EuroPartners Development" from Tirana, Albania are implementing project "BLUE and GREEN vs. BLACK and GRAY" from IPA Cross Border Programme Macedonia-Albania. The overall objective of the project is to facilitate effective and responsible use of the natural resources in the cross-border region around the Ohrid Lake, thus enhancing the sustainable development in the area. This cross-border initiative aims at enhancing the effective and responsible use of the natural resources through collaboration of the CSO and relevant stakeholders in the cross border area of Ohrid Lake region, thus enhancing the sustainable development in the area. The project aims at raising awareness and knowledge of the local stakeholders to contribute towards reducing problems which endanger the Ohrid Lake due to unsustainable use and management of natural resources.

Project stakeholders:

Communities from the Ohrid Lake trans boundary area, in particular: farmers and villagers of 4 villages in Macedonia: Velgoshti, Veleshta, Kosel and Labunishta (with 14 000 inhabitants in total) and 4 villages in Albania with 12 000 inhabitants in total, local authorities in the field of environment, forestry, agriculture and water management and CSOs from the region.

Project associates:

CSO "Ecologists' Movement of Macedonia" (DEM), Skopje

Municipality of Ohrid – Department for Urbanism and Protection of the Environment

CSO "Treefor", Skopje

Agricultural Development Support Agency of the Republic of Macedonia, Department in Ohrid

CSO "Eco Partners for Sustainable Development", Albania

Timeframe:

September 2013 – May 2015

Project results:

Establishing an "Eco-incubator" and organizing educational events for youth;

Desk and field research on current forest, water and agricultural management in the trans boundary area;

Producing 3 short movies about the following topics: consequences of illegal tree cutting, applying the sustainable agriculture practices, sustainable use of water and forest management adapted to the children age;

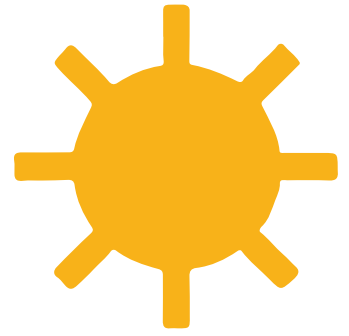
Production of promotional materials on best practices in natural resources management;

Organizing thematic trainings in the fields of sustainable use of the natural resources;

Establishing Local Advisory Groups on Environment;

Organizing study tours in Macedonia and Albania.

YOUTH PROGRAMME



We provide opportunities for international experiences and volunteerism. Every year, local young people have many possibilities to host or participate on exchanges and trainings within Europe. They develop new friendships, learn about cultures and customs in other EU countries through the Youth in Action Programme. Through our Cross – Border Programme with Albania we help young people for the Balkan to meet each other and work together for developing good neighbor relationships and joint projects.

We bring youngsters together in a multicultural and democratic society. By organizing capacity building camps for young people we provide opportunities that inspire and support leadership in young people aged between 12 - 30. On our camps, young people can increase their self-esteem, develop critical thinking, sharpen the ability to solve problems and learn about participatory democracy. We give them the chance to enhance their life and professional skills, to learn how to cooperate with different ethnicities and become active citizens that are able to develop and participate in community service projects.

We encourage their creativity and originality. We organize and support events related to music and visual arts. By organizing film festivals, photo exhibitions and music concerts, we encourage young people to develop their self expression, build their self-esteem, enhance their communication skills and provide them positive learning experiences in a safe and supportive environment.

YOUTH LEADERSHIP

About the project

Young people today are faced with numerous challenges that previous generations did not have. Access to many information's, excessive consumerism, laden with physical appearance, diseases caused by sedentary lifestyle, money imposed as a major value in life, popular are those who are materialistic and wealthy, not those who are honest and hardworking. In order to this chaos, the youth remains the challenge how to cope and how to make the best decisions for their lives. What you choose as a high school student, it will mark their life. And some decisions will not have a second chance...

Time frame

January-December 2014

Project results

- Organized 30 workshops "6 decisions for teens" and "7 habits for success"
- Organized one campaign



Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in Macedonia



Pestalozzi Children's Foundation
Education and intercultural competence - worldwide



About the project:

The project includes monitoring and assessment of the children's rights convention in Macedonia on the field of children and young people's involvement in decision making on a local and national level. The monitoring and assessment process will produce periodical and annual reports. With this project protection of children's rights in elementary and high schools will be directly affected through establishing a child-ombudsman, and improvement in the functioning of school organizations and the processes of president election in schools will be made.

Timeframe:

January – December 2014

Organized by:

Coalition of youth organizations "NOW" from Prilep

Partners:

CSO "Local Development Agency" from Struga (local coordinator)

Results:

- Organized Two intercultural exchanges for 16 students in Children's village Pestaloci in Trogen, Swiss
- Drafted annual working programs for school communities in one primary and one secondary school in Struga
- Implemented workshops for youth participation, the convention on the rights of the child, the ombudsman child's specific role

STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITIES OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE BORDER REGION OF MACEDONIA AND ALBANIA

About the project

The goal of this project is to speed up the democratic processes in the cross border region round Lake Ohrid and strengthening of the relationships among young people from both countries. Students from high schools in pogradec, struga and ohrid get acquainted and establish concrete cooperation on joint activities and projects. The project is implemented through many project activities using different methodologies. The main focus is on the strengthening the capacities of young people through organizing training for professional development, cultural events and democratic education.

Timeframe

January 2011 – Ongoing

Partners

High school “Dr. Ibrahim Temo” from Struga

High school “Muharem Colaku” from Pogradec

Results

- Annual Cycle of 6 workshops for 30 students on the topic “democratic laboratory”- phase one

- Established cooperation between the high schools from Struga and Pogradec

TOWARDS AN ALTERNATIVE TOURISM



МАКЕДОНСКА РАЗВОЈНА
ФОНДАЦИЈА ЗА ПРЕТПРИЈАТИЈА

MEDF in consortium with the Center for managing change and crises Partners Albania and local partner Local Development Agency Struga (LDA) in the period from 15 April 2013 to 15 December 2014 implementing the project: "Towards an alternative tourism".

Overall objective of the project is:

- Diversified economic development based on tourism opportunities in Korca and Pogradec in Albania and Struga, Ohrid and Debarca Vevchani in Macedonia.
- Increased cross-border cooperation in the areas of Korca and Pogradec Albania areas Struga, Ohrid and Debarca Vevchani of Macedonia.

Specific objective of the project is:

Enhanced development of tourism in Korca and Pogradec Albania and Struga, Ohrid and Debarca Vevchani of Macedonia.

Provided the following results:

- Identified and developed products for local tourism development;
- Developed facilities for tourism;
- Promotion of the potential for tourism in the region;
- Improved infrastructure;
- Exchange of best practices.

The planned activities of the program will identify the local attractive tourist locations, business opportunities for tourism development in the target regions, and will develop at least 8 separate products in the field of tourism in Macedonia and Albania. Additional training will be provided to stakeholders for 100-120 capacity development for tourism Albania and Macedonia will organize visits to exchange experiences and cooperation of 20 people from Macedonia and Albania in order to boost tourism and 1 trip to the identified Tourist places by tour operators and journalists from Macedonia to Albania and vice versa. The project will be organized workshops and press conferences will be ready 2 videos that will be broadcast on local and national media in Macedonia and Albania, to promote the region as a tourist destination and local promotion of tourism as an economic alternative to the finish group. The project provided small infrastructure improvements in the target region.

How transparent is my municipality?

For the project:

LDA Struga is engaged as a researcher in municipality of Struga and Ohrid for the implementation of the project “CSOs Watchdog Network to Prevent Spoils and Conflict of Interest in the Public Administration”, financed and supported by the European Commission through the IPA Civil Society Facility and realized by The Institute for Democracy SOCIETAS CIVILIS Skopje (IDSCS), Institute for Economic Strategies and International Affairs (OI) and the Macedonian Institute for Media (MIM).

Good governance at a local level means an expert resource management of the municipality in a transparent and open way that meets the needs of citizens. This means absence of any misuse or corruption and full application of the rule of law.

The view of the citizens of corruption and conflict of interest in local government, their experience and their proposals for implementation of anticorruption measures at the local level will be the main topics to our research. Besides the opinion of citizens, the survey will cover also the local governments as themselves i.e. how much they are transparent and accountable to citizens.

Expected results:

The report will aim to show the current situation of corruption and conflict of interest at the local level and to encourage awareness of citizens of corruption of municipal authorities and encourage future influence to these conditions through legal mechanisms available to them.

The recommendations that will be drawn as a conclusion of the report should encourage municipalities of Ohrid and Struga, in the future to implement better practices in anti-corruption of the public administration in all areas of its work.

Time Frame:

July 2014 – November 2014

Exchange of EU best practices in the area of anticorruption monitoring on local level



Center for
Research and
Policy
Making



About the project:

LDA Struga in partnership with Center for research and policy making CRPM from Skopje, has started implementation of the project as local coordinator for municipalities of Struga, Ohrid and Vevchani. The overall objective of the action is to foster anticorruption and good governance practices at local level that will enable sustainable environment for social, economic and environmental development.

Expected results:

Raising the level of awareness and specific knowledge of the civil sector for anticorruption monitoring on local level through sharing best practices in EU (focused on Croatia);

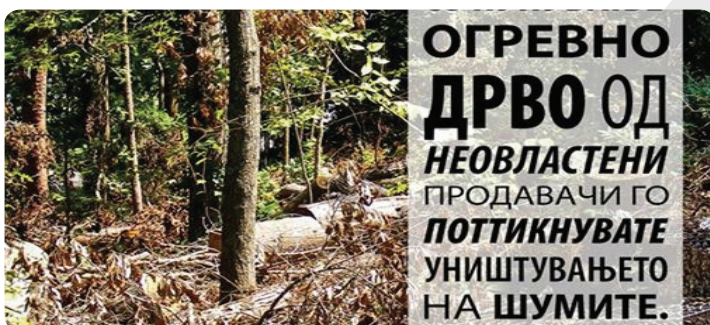
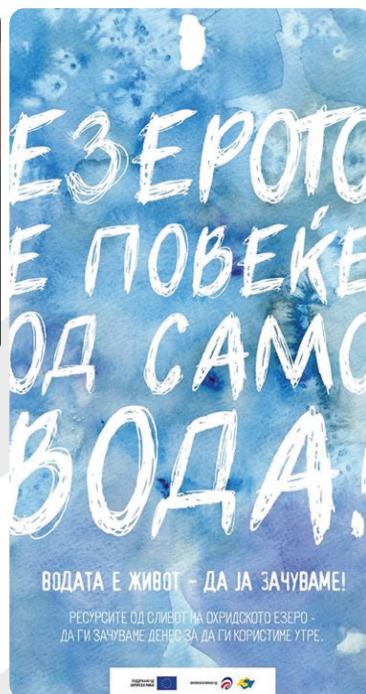
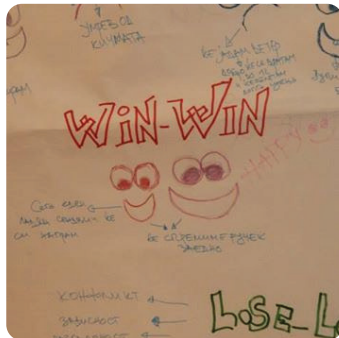
Increasing the capacities for anticorruption monitoring at local level among the citizens and the civil sector through organizing trainings for local organizations according to their specific needs;

Developing the methodology for monitoring anticorruption practices on local level that will result in Local Transparency and Accountability Study (LOTOS);

Data collection and corruption analysis on municipal level through creating systematic overview of the transparency and accountability policies of 26 pilot-municipalities.

Timeframe:

December 2013 – June 2015



**LOCAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
VLADO MALESKI TALE NN
MACEDONIA**

www.ldastruga.org

contact@ldastruga.org

