

Local Development Agency Struga

Vlado Maleski Tale nn
6330 Struga
www.ldastruga.org



2011



**ANNUAL
REPORT**

MISSION, VISION AND KEY VALUES

LDA-Struga is a citizens' organization that aims to improve the quality of life for residents of the municipality of Struga and the region by supporting local civic initiatives, establishment of new sustainable forms of tourism, strengthening the dialogue and cooperation between different ethnic communities, organizing cultural events, stimulating local businesses and promoting the volunteerism.

Through cooperation with various actors from Macedonia and neighboring countries, LDA will contribute to creating sustainable solutions for the overall development of the municipality of Struga and the region.

LDA Struga 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

- ✓ To support local initiatives that will improve the quality of life in the Southwest region of the Republic of Macedonia.
- ✓ To support the development of tourism as a leading industry branch and strategic development priority of the Municipality of Struga
- ✓ To provide assistance to youth, women and elderly and support their social integration;
- ✓ To strengthen the interethnic dialogue and cooperation in Struga and neighboring municipalities
- ✓ To support the development of small and micro businesses in Struga and the neighboring municipalities as well as to stimulate farmers to produce organic food.
- ✓ To increase the visibility and to built positive image in the public for LDA and civil society sector;
- ✓ To strengthen the capacities of LDA

PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

PROGRAM:

Interethnic Dialogue and Cooperation

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.

During 2011 in the frame of this program we have implemented the following 4 projects: "Just don't"; "Diversity – bridge and not a barrier"; "International basketball camp for youth" and second phase from the project "Unity in diversity"



Project: "Just don't!"

About the project	Discrimination based on gender, ethnic and religious origin occurs often in the rural areas in Municipality of Struga. People living in these areas do not even recognize that their discriminative behaviors or when they are discriminated. Very often they accept it or perpetuate it as part of their tradition and it is justified by the others. Children growing up in such communities, take discrimination as a normal way of behaving without even trying to think about other proactive ways to eliminate the discrimination. The main goal of this project is to help inhabitants from rural communities in Struga develop awareness about their own or others' discriminative behavior. If young people have access to information about the concept of discrimination at an early age, they will develop into mature human beings who can show empathy and take appropriate action in support of justice, equality and human rights.
Time frame	July 2011 – November 2011
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Primary schools from rural areas in municipality of Struga, » Helsinki Committee – Skopje » Committee for interethnic relations between communities
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Delivered training on topic "Discrimination and Human Rights" with 20 representatives from rural communities » Drafted 4 scenarios about different forms of discrimination adapted for puppet theater » Created 4 puppet theater stages and 20 dolls that are given as a gift to 4 primary schools from "BrakaMiladinovci"-Struga, Draslajca, Labunishta and Radolishta. » Performed 11 theater performances in Vevchani, Draslajca, Moroishta, Frangovo, Oktisi, Delogozhda, Zagrachani, Radolishta, Labunishta and Struga. » Created DVD with the recordings from the puppet shows, promoted on www.facebook.com/ldastruga
Supported by	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) or the United Nations Development Programme "Acting Communities Together", financially supported by the Government of Spain through a fund for implementing the Millennium Development Goals

Project: “Diversity – bridge and not a barrier”

About the project	In the last decade in Struga it has become obvious that it is not diversity itself which is the cause of conflict, but the intolerance and misconceptions of “the others”. Only when the differences among the local communities are considered as advantage, we will arrive at unity, increased awareness and respect for the values of the “other’s” culture. This project aims to help local community to overcome prejudices based on ethnicity and religion. Target group are young artists, representatives from NGO, public and private sector from the Municipality of Struga.
Time frame	April 2011 – September 2011
Partners	» Committee for interethnic relations between communities from the Municipality of Struga
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Increase trust, tolerance and respect among ethnicities » Strengthened the capacities of the members of the Commission for Intercommunity Relations » Created new partnerships among various citizens groups in the Municipality » Organized multi-ethnic art camp in Krushevo with 25 participants » Prepared and organized theatre performance with more than 300 visitors » Signed Declaration for Peace and Tolerance
Supported by	» Center for Institutional Development - CIRa, through CIVICA Mobiltas Programme, financially supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

Project: “International basketball camp for youth”

About the project	The main goal of this project is to inspire the young people from different ethnic groups from the municipality of Struga to cooperate on joint activities, to develop leadership and communication skills.
Time frame	July 2011 – September 2011
Partners	» Youth Basket Clubs: “CrnDrim 007” and “Struga 2009” from Struga
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » 8 young people from 16-18 years participated in international basketball camp in Montenegro in the month of August 2011 » Designed and released a video for the basketball team from Macedonia » 25 young attended training in leadership and communication skills
Supported by	» United States Embassy in Macedonia

Project: “Unity in Diversity”- second phase

About the project	Municipality of Struga is very sensitive multiethnic environment. Everyday life is burdened with many prejudices and lack of interethnic dialogue. The successful implementation of the project “Unity in Diversity” helped the citizens to overcome these prejudices and increase the interethnic tolerance and confidence. Furthermore, the capacities of the Commission for interethnic relations have been strengthened because all the activities have been implemented jointly with the Commission.
Time frame	October 2010 – March 2011
Partners	» NGO “Eko-Vel”
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Designed and organized five day interethnic camp with 25 participants from high schools, business sector and NGO’s in February 2011 » Organized competition for best photography “Unity in Diversity-Struga” » Organized two cultural events in cooperation with local café-bars in Struga in March 2011
Supported by	» UNDP – United Nations Development Program

PROGRAM:

Gender Equality and Social Inclusion of Vulnerable Groups

This program is designed to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals by providing better and equal access to services for socially marginalized groups. Our main goal is to develop projects for social integration of women, elderly and disabled people. Existing common social problems such as poverty, unemployment, lack of life-long learning and informal education programs are experienced with more intensity by these groups.

During 2011 in the frame of this program we have implemented the following 3 projects: first phase from "Women Crossing Borders for Change", second phase from "Strengthening the institutional response to prevent the domestic violence at local level", and "Leadership and Capacity Strengthening Workshops for vulnerable groups".



Project: "Women Crossing Borders for Change" – first phase

About the project	<p>The overall objective of the project is to enable and expedite social integration of long-term unemployed women and young women entering the workforce from urban and rural areas in the Macedonia-Albania cross-border region. We intend to achieve this by increasing women's capacities for employment through leadership and management trainings, experience-exchange study trips and cross border meetings.</p> <p>With the activities in this project we will work on 3 levels of strengthening the cross-border cooperation. First level will be cooperation between civil society organizations. Second level is establishing women-to-women cooperation. Third level is institutional level - we shall make sure that representatives from welfare institutions participate on the cross-border conferences and study trips so they will start to get to know each other and eventually develop more contacts with the similar institutions from the other side of the lake.</p>
Time frame	April 2011 – April 2012
Partners	» NGO "UneGruaja" Pogradec
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Raised awareness among public and local welfare institutions about problems of social exclusion and poverty of unemployed women through educational campaign via TV, radio and social networks » Strengthened leadership and increased personal development skills of the women participants to help them better integrate into society. Trained 35 women who can be more competitive in the labor market » Increased cooperation and contacts between woman from the cross border region. Organized 2 study trips (in Albania and Macedonia) and 10 cross-border meetings between partner organizations.
Supported by	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » European Union through IPA-CBIB Program » The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Project: “Strengthening the institutional response to prevent the domestic violence at local level” - second phase

About the project	<p>The main aim of the project is to strengthen the capacities of the Coordinative Bodies Against Domestic Violence and to facilitate the process of developing the Protocol of Cooperation among relevant institutions working in the field , as well as creating environment and mechanisms for fight against domestic violence and establishing a Commission on Prevention of Domestic Violence.</p> <p>The estimated impact on the target communities(Struga, Ohrid and Vevcani) will be: strengthened Coordinative Bodies and established broader network of key local actors that are dealing with the problem of the domestic violence, exchanged experiences, strengthened relationships and developed ideas on early detection and prevention of domestic violence.</p>
Time frame	May 2010 -September 2011
Partners	Comissions for Equal Opportunities from Struga, Ohrid and Vevchani
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Drafted animated brochure for youth on topic “Preventing domestic violence”; » Conducted Media campaign; » Drafted and submitted final conclusions and recommendations for the Local Self-governments in Struga, Ohrid and Vevcani municipalities » Organized event “ Let’s go out of the darkness together” as part of the national campaign against domestic violence
Supported by	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » UNFPA – United Nations Population Fund as a part of the UN Joint Project to prevent domestic violence

Project: “Leadership and Capacity Strengthening Workshops for vulnerable groups”

About the project	The main goal of this project is to design and conduct one and multi day workshops targeted towards individuals from various age groups that want to identify and strengthen their leadership skills, to gain control over their life, to be more efficient and to create better relationships with others. These workshops are tailor-made, specially created for the vulnerable groups: women, youth, unemployed and elderly from Municipality of Struga.
Time frame	September 2010 – December 2011
Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » American Corner-Struga, » Municipality of Vevcani, » Red-Cross Ohrid, » High-Schools “Ibrahim Temo” and “Niko Nestor” from Struga.
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Organized 4 two-day trainings for 70 unemployed people from the municipalities of Ohrid, Struga and Vevchani. » Organized 12 one-day trainings on topics of leadership, team work, communication skills, conflict resolution, stereotypes and prejudices for 40 high school students from the Municipality of Struga » Organized 10 one-day trainings for photography for 20 high school students » Created package of 12 postcards on topic “Struga – places, faces, moments”. Authors of the photos are high school students » Organized Forum “Learn from the most successful” where women –representatives from the business community in Struga presented their experiences in front of the unemployed women from municipality of Struga, Ohrid and Vevchani
Supported by	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Foundation “Friedrich Ebert Stiftung”-Skopje, » Foundation “Business Start-up Centre” - Bitola » Local Development Agency -Struga

Strengthening the Capacities of LDA

LDA team members in 2011 have participated on 50 trainings, seminars, conferences, workshops on various topics.

LDA has engaged one new member of the team that will work on youth projects. In second half of 2011 LDA has been appointed Peace Corps volunteer that will volunteer until 2013.

Study trips

- » 21st-24th March, Brussels-Belgium
“Defending Women’s Rights” – EU People to People Program;
- » 21st March – 14th April, Rehovot-Israel
Models for sustainable development” – MASHAV and Hebrew University of Jerusalem ;
- » 25th -29th May, Thessaloniki-Greece
“Contacts for common future” – Foundation Friedrich Ebert, Youth union Krushevo and Youth Club UNESCO Thessaloniki ;
- » 20th – 28th October, Kikinda-Serbia,
“Combating youth unemployment through entrepreneurship education and empowerment” – Youth In Action;
- » 28th October – 6th November 2011, Radenci – Slovenia
“Focus – direct your rays” – Youth in Action;
- » 12th – 14th November, Strasbourg-France
“Civil Society Forum” - Council of Europe.

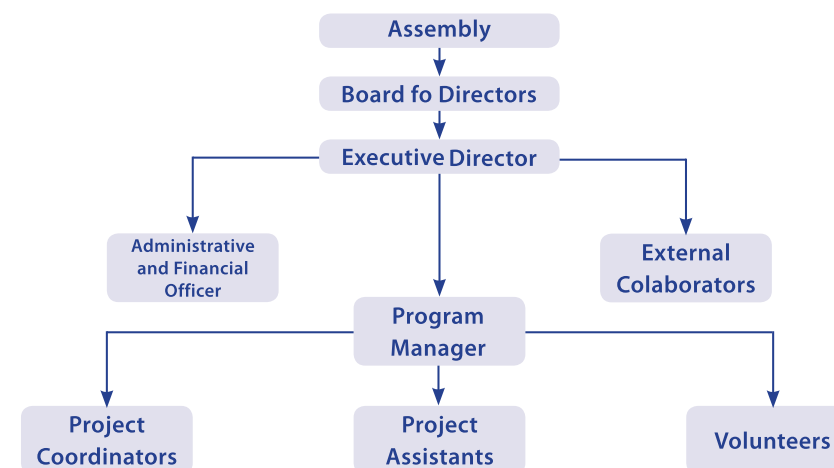
Public Relations

In 2011, LDA has upgraded its web-site and has opened Facebook, Twitter, Youtube and Script profiles which are being regularly updated. In its many years work LDA Struga is very dedicated to establishing and maintaining professional and trustworthy contacts with local and national media (TVM, NTV, TV Moris, TV Kaltrina, Alsat, OhridNews, Struga Portal, Ohrid Press, Deutsche Welle, Radio Ohrid, Super Radio, Biser Radio, Koha).

Organization

Local Development Agency Struga is established in January 2004 as part of the project “Local Governance of Sustainable Human and Economic Development” (UNDP Cluster for Decentralization and Good Governance). In its 7years existence LDA has implemented 32 projects in 5 programs with project budget of 410.000 euros. LDA has fully equipped office of 50m2 in the center of Struga.

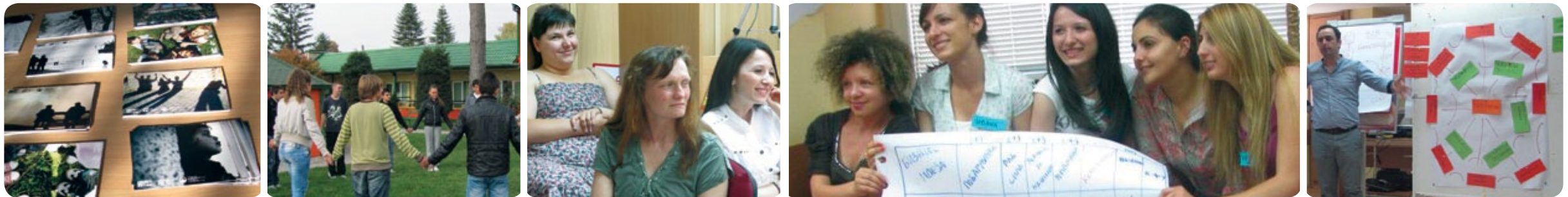
Organizational Chart



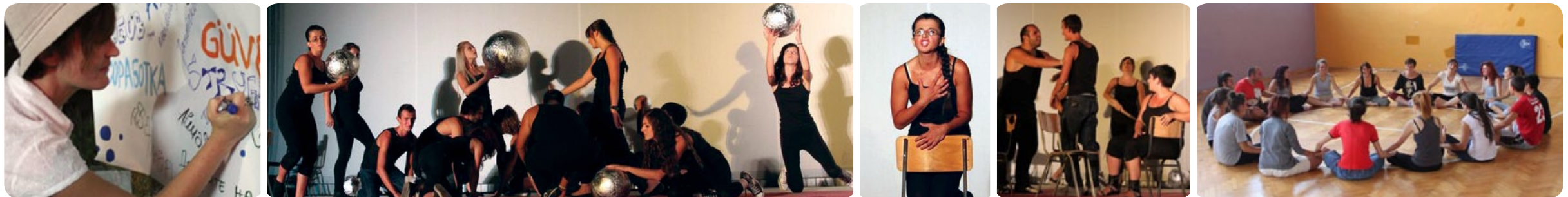
» Women Crossing Borders for Change



» Leadership and Capacity Strengthening Workshops for vulnerable groups



» Diversity – bridge and not a barrier



» Unity in Diversity

