

EMPOWERING THE ROLE OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN KOSOVO

A project financed by Council of Europe

The Council of Europe has financed the ALDA project “Empowering the role of young people in Kosovo”, a project that aims at promoting the active role of young people in Kosovo.

The project aims at empowering young people living in Kosovo, and especially in the area of Gjilan, in order to foster their capacities to play the role of “active citizens” in their local community.

Following the objectives and the priorities of the “Youth in Action” and “Europe for Citizens” Programmes, the *main specific objectives* of the project are the following:

- To provide capacity building to young people and youth workers through trainings on project development and management and on active citizenship;
- To develop and consolidate networks and partnerships, both at the local and at the international level, in order to strengthen cooperation in the field of youth
- To create the basis for a long-lasting fruitful engagement of young people in the life of the local community through the “youth ambassadors” groups

Target group

The target group is represented by all young people – mainly aged 15-25 – living in the area of Gjilan but also youth leaders, youth workers, youth organisation and NGOs.

Description of the project

After a preparation phase carried out “on-line” in October 2008 among all the participants, thanks to IT tools such as chat, web groups, e-mails, the **first activity of the project took place during the European week of Local Democracy, the 17th October 2008**, in Gjilan. The main topic of that workshop was the Participation of Young People in Local Life, which is promoted by the European Charter on the Participation of Young People in Local and Regional Life. More than forty-five people were present in the council room of Gjilan/Gnjilane Municipality to listen the conference and to participate to the debates.

The other activities, that will take place during the next months, will be the following

- a) **A training on “project development and project management”** which aims at training reliable, credible and capable young people and youth workers who can act at the local level with the necessary skills and capacities, as promoters and initiators of youth activities;
- b) **A training on “active citizenship”** which aims at strengthening knowledge and skills of young people and youth organisations in the field of active citizenship and their sense of responsibility and belonging to their local community and to Europe in a broad sense.

Those training will create the basis for setting-up **the local “youth ambassadors”** who will be the main actors in the following months to promote youth participation and to establish a long lasting cooperation for future initiatives involving young people and

youth organisations at local and international level, such as open seminars, youth exchanges, trainings, etc.

During the same months, **three meetings at the local level** will take place between youth NGOs and relevant local authorities, selected during the implementation of the project, to identify common paths of cooperation and methodologies in the field of youth participation.

An **international seminar**, lasting 5 days, will conclude the project in the early months of next year: it consist in a youth seminar, focused on youth participation, aiming at deepening the mutual knowledge of the different youth contexts and at promoting cooperation in the field of youth.