

# Local authorities and NGOs together for peace and democracy in Europe

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## I INTRODUCTION TO THE PROJECT "CITIES FOR PEACE AND DEMOCRACY IN EUROPE"

In the discussions about the current crisis of the European Union caused by "NOs" to the Constitutional Treaty in France and the Netherlands, one sometimes forgets that all in all the construction of the European Union is more than a success story! Europe is currently experiencing an unprecedented period of stability and peace. 60 years after the end of the Second World War, 27 European countries are constructing their common future based on the values of peace, democracy and human rights. Undoubtedly, democracy is a fragile construct, though, which needs to be strengthened continuously. Local authorities are closest to the citizens and have a particular role to play in this process. In addition, it is important to include young people in the debates since they have never experienced any war directly.

The project "Cities acting for Peace and Democracy in Europe" therefore intended to bring local authorities, NGOs and young people together to evaluate and debate their role in the construction of a peaceful and democratic Europe. With the help of five main partners, namely ANCI (the Italian Association of Municipalities), the Italian NGO Enti Locale per la Pace, Cités Unies France, the Warmian and Mazurian Association of Local Authorities (Poland), the Association of Local Municipalities and Communes from the Prefecture of Karditsa (Greece), and more than other 50 partner organisations from across Europe, the Association of the Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA) conducted a Europe-wide campaign on peace and democracy in today's Europe. A whole series of events (workshops, conferences, seminars, exhibitions, cultural events...) took place between May 2006 and February 2007.

In this handbook, summaries of the main activities together with some best practice examples of how to foster peace and democracy at the local level are gathered, some of them written by the participants of the various workshops and conferences. We hope that they will inspire other local governments or NGOs in Europe or beyond to follow their good examples and shape a peaceful and sustainable world.

*Stefania Toriello and Dorothee Fischer, Project Managers, ALDA*

## II THE ASSOCIATION OF THE LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCIES

The Association of the Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA), initiator and lead partner of the project “Cities for Peace and Democracy in Europe”, was founded in 1999 with the help of the Council of Europe’s Congress of Local and Regional Authorities to coordinate a network of Local Democracy Agencies (LDAs) in South East Europe already in existence since 1993. The main aim of ALDA and the current 12 LDAs in the Balkans and, since September 2006 also in the Southern Caucasus, is to foster human rights, local democracy and sustainable development – not only in the regions where the LDAs are located, but across Europe. To achieve this goal, both ALDA and the LDAs are cooperating with a network of more than 300 partners and members from 25 European countries.

The support of a peaceful and democratic Europe has therefore become one of the work priorities of ALDA. Throughout the past three years, it has conducted several projects to strengthen an active European citizenship and today ALDA belongs to the main European stakeholders active in this field.

Map of LDAs



Countries in which ALDA members or partners are located



### III BEST PRACTICE EXCHANGES

#### 1. How to have peace and democracy topics covered by the media

Public relations and press work in an NGO often means taking up with the challenge of working with very little financial means to achieve media coverage at the local, national or even European level. What are the best methodologies to do so? How to build up and maintain a network of media contacts at the European level? And how to “sell stories” which may not necessarily seem “sexy” to most media which are rather seeking to cover scandals and catastrophes? These were all questions discussed during the first workshop of the project Cities for Peace and Democracy in Europe which took place in Karditsa, Greece, on 13 and 14 September 2006.

##### 1.1 E-Newsletter of the Institute for Entrepreneurial Development of Larissa, Greece

*By Tasos Vasiliadis, Director of the Institute for Entrepreneurial Development*

Entrepreneurship is a fundamental factor in the economic and social development of many countries. Although the European Union supports the idea of entrepreneurship, many European countries still lack entrepreneurial culture. The Institute of Entrepreneurship Development aims to strengthen the entrepreneurial spirit in citizens, especially among young people of all countries. The Institute, a private non-profit organization established in 2005, focuses on promoting discussions about economic development and entrepreneurial topics. As a result, a new bi-monthly electronic newsletter called “Entrepreneur” was launched. It is distributed through a mailing list including more than 1.000 people (organizations, enterprises, individuals). Some of the recipient organisations print the newsletter and provide their members with a hard copy. This publication is based on volunteer work done by members of our Institute and other groups (students, youth etc...) interested in the field of entrepreneurship and development.

##### The newsletter aims at:

- >> Providing information on the field of entrepreneurship and employment, focusing on young people
- >> Providing information on the field of innovation, research, education, training, social issues and humanitarian aid, promoting economic and social development
- >> Promoting discussions on development and democracy

The "ENTREPRENEUR" is published in Greek and, among other issues, it includes useful information, links and presentations of other non-governmental organisations.

Finally, an important part of the e-newsletter is the two-way communication with the readers who feed it with comments, articles and questions. Although this effort is still in an initial stage, the readers' response is quite important and encouraging and there are plans to organize more volunteer groups, so that different multilingual newsletters will be published in the future.

For more information on the concept of the e-newsletter and the Institute for Entrepreneurial Development, please write to [newsletter@entre.gr](mailto:newsletter@entre.gr), [www.entre.gr](http://www.entre.gr)

### **1.2 A Partnership for Common Interests, Olsztyn, Poland**

*By Joanna Wafkowska-Sobiesiak, Chairwoman of the Polish Journalism Society, Olsztyn Branch*

The project 'Partnership for Common Interests' was inaugurated in Olsztyn on 9 September 2006. It was created to benefit non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The inauguration ceremony took place in the most prestigious room of the town hall in the presence of the President of Olsztyn who highlighted in his speech the importance of the bridge between society and local authorities that NGOs create.

The project itself was initiated by the Olsztyn branch of the Polish Journalism Society. The partners of the Society in this project are: the public radio station, Radio Olsztyn S.A, as well as over 700 NGOs located all over Olsztyn. The project has governmental backing, is supported by the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and it falls within the framework of the Citizens Initiative's Fund.

Why did we come up with such a project? Well, we acknowledged that it was necessary to make NGOs activities more visible within the press, radio, and television. Amongst NGOs there are organizations providing support for people in need, the disabled, sick people and children. NGO activities are needed and welcome within society and the support they provide is very valuable. Therefore, acknowledging the importance of NGOs is an imperative for attracting new members and sponsors for their support. This should be carried out in such a manner, which would allow every person in need to be able to find the help and support from the NGOs they may need.



*Media Training in Poland*

Another question may spring to mind: why do we need to emphasize the existence of NGOs? Only a small percentage of newspapers/magazines and radio stations are public, the rest are in private hands. A column for example in a newspaper or an advert on television cost money. Only in fact the most important political and economic events appear for no fee. You will more often than not find the popular press filled with news about tragedies and scandals about the rich and famous. Such media policies give NGOs little chance to voice their concerns and for the last few years they have rarely been in the local press, let alone the national press.

There is another reason for the absence of NGOs from the media. There was a boom of the local press in the early 90's, when every little town in Poland wanted and eventually got their own press/radio and even TV. This quick dynamic development became known as the 'European Marvel', but unfortunately the bubble burst. When this occurred, many media outlets collapsed or were bought by foreign companies which then went on to completely reorganise the media in their hands; sometime closing them down, at other times creating supplements. For example, the regional newspaper "Gazeta Olsztyńska" has as many as up to 15 supplements at present.

The transformation that has taken place due to the free market conditions in the past few years within the media has taken its toll and the mediocre revenue created from advertisements and stiff competition has forced many local media companies to simply collapse and close down.

So we found the number of different newspapers decreased and so the NGOs found it more and more difficult to enter their pages. In an attempt to maximise their profits, the press are now using every bit of space, even those originally put aside for news, for adverts which generate revenue.

The Olsztyn branch of the Polish Journalism Society decided to help NGOs and show them how to present their activities in an attractive way to the media. This was the beginning of a new project 'Partnership for Common Interests' whose aims are the following:

- >> To create new ground for cooperation between journalists and NGOs in Olsztyn
- >> To help building a fresh positive image of NGOs
- >> To enable NGOs to present new initiatives, how to prepare a news for the press and how to behave while being interviewed.

There are three different workshops within the framework of the project. Each group of participants will pass through the press, radio and TV workshop.

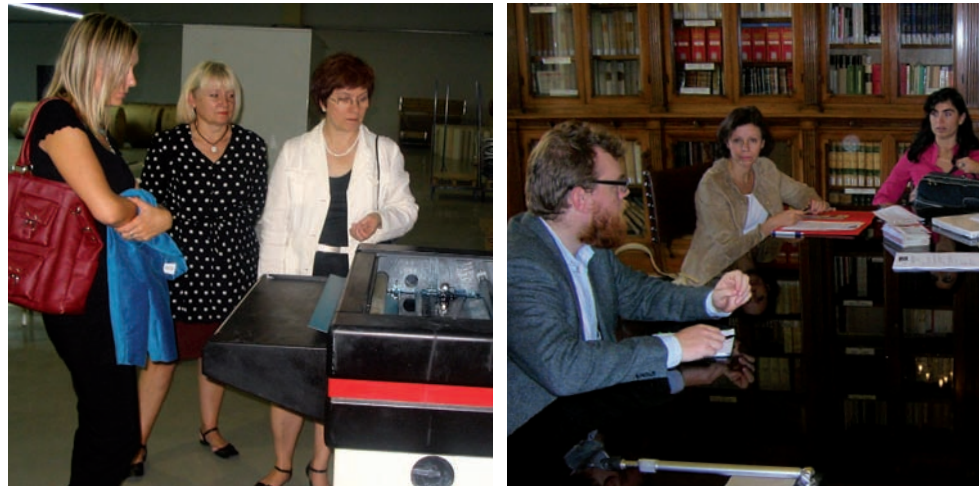
The workshops began with a presentation 'Creating an image of NGOs in the society by using the media'. The participants were given the opportunity to directly meet journalists and they were coached by a voice trainer who helped them to deliver speeches in public.

All the material is presented in our journalism bulletin that has been in existence for several years and is also present on our website [www.sdp.pl](http://www.sdp.pl). Information on the projects mentioned above are also available on the website of the Olsztyn NGOs Council, [www.wim.ngo.pl](http://www.wim.ngo.pl).

The project will be closed during an annual meeting of the NGOs in Olsztyn. And during this meeting a competition will take place to assess which promotional material produced by NGOs in the past year can be considered the most effective in the three different media categories, radio, press and TV. The best one will receive the 'President of Olsztyn Prize'. It will be the second edition of this competition.

We have great hope that we will be able to teach NGOs to present press information effectively, in such a way that their very first sentence will itself attract an editor and the everyday reader or listener. We hope to teach them that a column in the newspaper costs money and therefore the message must be concise and yet contain all the relevant information. We will suggest them that a journalist is only a person who is sometimes lazy and often tired. Therefore, the best way is to hand in ready made news about the activities of your organization. We hope to extend this project and involve all NGOs and media from our region by next year.





*The workshops in Greece and Italy*

### 1.3 National minorities in the media

*By Joanna Wafkowska – Sobiesiak, Chairwoman of the Polish Journalism Society, Olsztyn Branch, and Member of the Voivode Plenipotentiary for National and Ethnic Minorities, Warmian and Mazurian Office*

National and ethnics minorities in Poland have by status the right to present their culture in their mother language on TV and radio. In practice, this means that nearly 75,000 inhabitants of the Warmian and Mazurian Voivodie can watch TV programmess or listen to the radio in their mother language.

In 2005, the Olsztyn branch office of the Polish national TV broadcast 24 hours of programes for minorities in their native languages and 37 hours of religious programmes for people of different faiths. This branch office edits two cyclic programmes: for ethnic and national minorities there is a very popular Ukrainian programme.

The public Radio Olsztyn devoted 50 hours of air time for broadcasting in minority languages (28 hours in Ukrainian, 22 hours in German). Another 135 hours of broadcasting in Ukrainian were addressed to the 40,000 Ukrainians living of the Northern regions of Voivodie.

German and Ukrainian minorities also publish their own magazines, four titles in total. However, a range of those magazines as well as TV and radio broadcasts is limited for certain language groups. That is why the presentation of their activities and culture in the Polish press are important for associations of national minorities.

After 1989, the presence of minorities in the Polish press was very frequent. Non-governmental organisations run by minorities were new and attractive in the regional life. For journalists the most interesting were meetings with Germans who had been living in this region before the Second World War.

Over time, this topic became unattractive. Nowadays only really important events referring to the relations between Poland and Germany or the Ukraine make journalists remember that they can ask German and Ukrainian minorities in Poland what do they think about those events.

This situation pushed the leaders of the Association of German Minorities in Olsztyn to cooperate with the branch office of the Polish Journalism Society. In November 2005, we could see the result of this cooperation in the launch of the project Functioning of NGOs. Relations with the media. The aim of the project was civil education of German minority representatives as a foundation of civil society. They learnt how to present their achievements to the media in an attractive way.

Within the framework of the project, 39 members of the Association of German Minorities, mainly young people, were trained in editing press information with the help of the experienced journalist Tadeusz Prusinski. He informed them of the rules of editing articles, reports, announcements. During the workshops the participants wrote an article and analyzed it later on. They realized that what they had written before the workshops had nothing in common with properly edited texts.

The conclusion after the workshops was simple: it is necessary to continue this kind of training for minority representatives from our region.

## **2. Tools and methods how to improve peace and democracy at the local level**

From 5 – 7 October 2006, a workshop “Tools and methodologies to improve democracy and peace at the local level” embedded in the three-day international conference “Peace built by the Human Rights Cities” took place in Perugia, Italy. Twenty years after the foundation of the Italian Coordination of Local Authorities for Peace and Human Rights, about 100 Mayors and



Conference in Zaragoza, Spain (left)  
youth leaders in Poland (right)

City Councillors as well as representatives of NGOs from across Europe came together to exchange best practices on how to guarantee social cohesion and peace in Europe's cities.

## 2.1 Examples from Polish local authorities

### Introduction to the Community of Piecki

By Ewa Grzeszczyk

The Community of Piecki is located in the South-East province of Warmia and Mazury. It was founded by Ulryk von Jungingen in 1401. More than 50% of the community is covered by forests. A further 10% of the community is occupied by lakes, of which the largest is the lake Mokre covering an area of 841ha. A considerable area of the region lies within the Nature Park of Mazury. Today Piecki is a dynamically developing tourist attraction. A majority of the population works in tourism and this helps to sustain social peace. Piecki lies among picturesque lakes and forests and the blue river Krutynia. The Krutynia ranks among the most attractive kayaking routes in Poland and in Europe.

The community's most valuable natural resources are protected in six natural reserves.

**Tourist attractions:**

- >> A small 17th century water power station in Babieta
- >> An 18th century water mill in Zielony Lasek
- >> A church in Nawiady built in the 17th century
- >> A collection of ceramics from Polish villages
- >> The Natural Museum of the Mazury Nature Park

**English Language Camps**

*By Ewa Grzeszczyk*

The idea of English Language Camps in the Community of Piecki goes back to the cooperation between Piecki with Estonia and Sweden. This year, we had the opportunity to celebrate the 10th English Language Camp in Piecki.

The teachers are all native speakers who help children to improve their English. Not only classic lessons were organized, but also trips and nature walks. Like this they children could experience a full day in English because they also had to communicate in English among each other.

English Language Camps bring together youth from Piecki in Poland, Hylte in Sweden and Lihula in Estonia in a unique and well-protected environment of the nature park of Mazury in Krutyn.

Over 50 children who participated in the camps gained positive identity, social skills, and positive values as well as increased physical skills. We helped to prepare young people to play an active role in our global village.

**Aims of the English Language Camps:**

- >> To teach new skills
- >> To meet new people from around the world and make wonderful friendships
- >> To learn how to be a team player
- >> To gaining self-confidence and become independent
- >> To learn English
- >> To have fun in a relaxed and secure environment
- >> To visit new places
- >> To learn about other cultures

To sum up we can say that the camps do not only help schoolchildren to learn about other cultures but also to understand their native culture and its values in a better way. English Language



Students' exchange in Romania (left)  
during one of the workshops (right)

Camps broaden people's minds and build tolerance towards other cultures in general. Young people become "global citizens". Linguistic development in social contacts is interrelated with intercultural awareness and it may help building a more peaceful and democratic Europe.

### Cultural Festival in Mrągowo

*By Justyna Gasienica*

Mrągowo is a town situated in the North-East of Poland, in the region called Warmia and Mazury. It is a small town with a population of about 23,000 people. It is an old town, its origins reach back to the mid 14th century. Before the Second World War, Mrągowo was a Prussian town, its name was Sensburg. After the war, it became Polish territory. For more than 12 years now, Mrągowo has been organizing a Border Culture Festival. This is the Festival of four countries, namely Belarus, Ukraine, Lithuania and Poland. Before the Second World War, all these countries partly belonged to Poland. After the War, our border to the East was moved to the West. People who lived in the East moved to Poland or stayed in their old houses and new countries. The Border Culture Festival is an occasion for them to meet in one place and it gives them the opportunity to exchange experiences in building democracy, making friends, getting to know our neighbours.

### 3. The role of young people in the promotion of peace and democracy

One of the main objectives of the project Cities for Peace and Democracy was to include young people in the debates and to raise awareness among them how fragile our current peace actually is. The workshop in Nevers on 27 January 2007 therefore dealt with best practice exchanges how local governments and civil society organisations work with young people and foster their participation in the decision-making processes.

#### 3.1 Examples of youth activities from Karditsa, Greece

##### **Schools are showing us Europe**

*By Labrini Triantou*

##### **Karditsa, May 2004**

The event was co-organised by the Development Agency of Karditsa (AN.KA.) S.A. and the Carrefour of Thessaly

The students of 10 schools of our area collected information about the European Union candidate countries. The country profiles included information on religion, the position of the country on the European map, the climate, the population and any other kind of information that was essential to describe the candidate country.

The duration of this event was one week and all the students could use present their results in the main building of the old market in the town of Karditsa. All the necessary materials were given to the students from the Municipality of Karditsa.

The conclusions were presented in a one-day festival in the central park of our town (Pausilipo), where 10 kiosks were operated (one for each country), so that the visitors could see all the information that the students collected and become familiar with them.

This action aimed at creating a European identity among the children of the participating schools and to familiarize them with the new EU member countries.

##### **Additional actions:**

10 songs were played (one for each country) and were recorded during the festival

Round table discussions were organised with young people from the candidate countries who now live in Greece



Workshop in Greece

### Free Painting Youth workshop – Dolphins and Acrobats

#### *Karditsa, May 2005*

The event was co-organised by the Development Agency of Karditsa (AN.KA.) S.A. and the General Secretary of Youth in Greece

The main concept was to “express yourself through art”. All the citizens of the town of each age could participate in this event, but most of the participants were young people.

The duration of the event was 1 week and it took place on the old market square of the town. The project was financed by the General Secretary of Youth in Greece.

The subject of the main paintings was dolphins and acrobats.

The painting materials were given to young people and they could express themselves through art. Materials that were used included wood, plastic, paper, colours and in general any kind of material.

Famous local painters and art experts also have support and advice to the participants. On the last day, an exhibition of all the art creations and paintings took place.

### 3.2 How the Local Democracy Agencies promote youth participation

*By Per Vinther, Executive President ALDA*

In 1993, the first Local Democracy Agency, LDA, was established at the initiative of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe as a means of dealing with the aftermath of the break-up of the former Yugoslavia. So even though the objective from the start was to address issues of democratisation and promotion of human and minority rights at the local level, activities in the early days focused on humanitarian assistance, refugee return, and other more basic activities. The work of the LDA was supported by a group of partners from other parts of Europe, mainly local authorities and NGOs, in what you could call decentralised international co-operation.

In the following months and years further LDAs were – based on the same bottom-up concept – established in the other countries of the region, so that today 11 LDAs exist in the Western Balkans, and LDA number 12 was opened in Georgia, Southern Caucasus, in September last year. Opening of an LDA in Skhodra, Albania, is planned for the second half of this year.

In 1999, the number of LDAs had grown to a point where it was considered useful to create an umbrella organisation to co-ordinate the activities of the – by now – well-established network of LDAs and provide them with practical support, including fund-raising for projects of a regional nature, in which they would all participate and share experience. So the Association of Local Democracy Agencies was founded with an ever-growing membership so that today ALDA can count on support from almost 150 active members among local and regional authorities, NGOs and individuals from 25 European countries. I want here also to recognise the privileged relationship ALDA enjoys with the Council of Europe and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, a relationship which is taking more and more the shape of a true partnership. However, ALDA also works closely with the European Union, OSCE, UN, Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, and has enjoyed generous funding from many national governments and private foundations.

Due to its wide membership, ALDA is able to not only fulfil the task of providing daily support to the LDAs as mentioned earlier but also to promote the role of local authorities in Europe, promote human and minority rights throughout Europe, and further active European citizenship. Among all of these activities, on the one hand by individual LDAs or by the LDAs as a network implementing projects devised and fund-raised for by ALDA, and on the other hand by ALDA and ALDA members and partners, youth participation and youth issues like the ones that will be addressed here at this Congress the next two days have a very high priority.



*Workshop in Nevers*

Allow me to mention a few examples from the many past and present projects dealing with youth in addition to the project “Cities for Peace and Democracy in Europe”:

For the past three years, ALDA together with ANCI, the Italian Association of Municipalities, has carried out a capacity-building project for local authorities and civil society in Southern and Eastern Europe. Among the activities were youth workshops and the establishment of info-points for young people so that they could get better acquainted with job and scholarship opportunities in the European Union and obtain general information on EU policies.

ALDA last year completed the first phase of a project on youth entrepreneurship with the aim of promoting local economic development. Young people interested in starting their own business participated in seminars, in which they obtained the first basic knowledge about how to make their dream a reality. This project will be followed in a second phase by the establishment of a microcredit scheme targeting people who would normally not be able to obtain a start-up loan from the bank. This phase will last three years and is being currently launched.

The kick-off meeting for yet another ALDA project called “Youth: the right direction” took place at the beginning of March 2007. This three-year project aims at enhancing the promotion and visibility of the EU’s Youth programme in South East Europe and the Southern Caucasus.

The overall objective is to allow young people to acquire knowledge, skills and competencies, focusing on the training of multipliers and on the development of networks and partnerships.

The project combines co-operation, training and information aspects, through the implementation of different actions: information seminars, the setting-up of specialized info-points, web-site and newsletters, youth ambassador groups, trainings of peer educators (multipliers), job shadowing, trainings on the EVS programme, itinerant crossing youth fair and the setting-up of four different networks of stakeholders, namely networks of info-points, of youth ambassadors, of EVS organizations and of peer educators-multipliers. The main direct target groups are young people, youth leaders and youth workers, youth organisations, NGOs, and local and regional authorities.

The project brings together 20 partners, representing ten different countries in Western Europe, South-East Europe and the Caucasus.

**Let me also mention a few examples of youth projects carried out by the individual LDAs:**

**LDA Osijek**, Croatia, has implemented a project called “European integration and us”. The aim of the project was to build capacities and raise awareness on European integration and the role of a common European culture among young people and other local stakeholders dealing with youth issues. This was achieved through several debates on EU related topics with secondary school teachers and students, debates with young people, and lectures on European history and integration.

**LDA Sisak**, Croatia, has run a project on “Indigenous Multiculturalism – Youth in Action”. This project aimed at developing cooperation projects between young people of different ethnic and confessional backgrounds in the Sisak-Moslavina County and to educate them on multicultural issues. This was done through 4 workshops on multiculturalism and inter-culturalism, a photography course for young people, a photography exhibition with more than 100 visitors, a cultural evening, and the production of a short documentary film as promotional tool for indigenous multiculturalism.

At the other end of Croatia, **LDA Verteneglio** in Istria organised a study visit to the Italian Region Friuli Venezia Giulia for young entrepreneurs from Verteneglio called “Through the routes of rural development”.

**LDA Central and Southern Serbia** is preparing an environmental protection project on waste management, raising awareness among school pupils about the benefits of recycling and sustainable development.



*Workshop in Nevers (left)  
final conference in Zaragoza (right)*



In Montenegro, **LDA Niksic** is working on a project called “Dialogue for Human Rights and Democracy”. The aim is to create teams of youth workers and educate about human rights. The Agency is also preparing a three-month traineeship for youth representatives of four Roma NGOs in Niksic, aimed at developing capacities in organizational management and project implementation, producing educational and promotional material, and developing concrete project proposals to continue the cooperation with the participating Roma NGOs. The LDA is also running a “Youth Club” as a place to be for young people of the town. The club offers education opportunities, youth voluntary work, various workshops, and a resource centre, incl. a library.

**LDA Kosovo** is the contact point for Salto Youth in Kosovo promoting the EU Youth programme, offering advice and information for Youth project applicants, organisation of information meetings in Kosovo, and training of 30 associations on EU programmes. Supported by the European Youth Foundation of the Council of Europe LDA Kosovo has also organised international meetings of youth councils.

Among many youth projects and exchanges **LDA Prijedor** in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) helped different youth organizations hold a public hearing within the pre-electoral campaign activities for the general elections in BiH in 2006. Young representatives of two political parties were answering questions from journalists and a general audience.

Another project "Youth and active participation" will function on two levels: the first level consists of work with youth organizations on the strengthening of their capacities and instruments, and the second level covers work with representatives of local authorities dealing with youth issues.

**LDA Zavidovici**, also in BiH, has worked on the "Development of a plural citizenship" through exchange and training with Italian and Bosnian teachers, and lessons by Italian teachers in Bosnian schools in particular on intercultural subjects. In addition, a group of Italian students came to Zavidovici to realize a research project and analysis on the municipal waste landfill.

**LDA Mostar** has organised Youth cooperation and networking within the LDA Partnership, supporting the "All different - All Equal" campaign of the Council of Europe. This involved a training course for 26 youth leaders and activists coming from the network of the LDA in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Denmark, "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia", Italy, Montenegro, Kosovo, Norway and Serbia.

The LDA supported several youth initiatives in the framework of the campaign both at state and local level. At state level, the LDA Mostar, in cooperation with the Ministerial Commission for the Coordination of Youth Issues, undertook the responsibility of creating a National Campaign Committee (NCC) for the European campaign "All Different - All Equal". The NCC will establish the national guidelines for the coordination of the campaign's activities.

LDA Mostar is a full member of the newly established Youth Council of Mostar. In addition, it has set up and now coordinates, in cooperation with other NGOs, the activities of the Mostarian Platform, a coordination body representing the local NGOs of Mostar.

**LDA Georgia**, recently established, has already organised a project called "Students for Women's Rights" in cooperation with the Georgian Young Lawyers' Association. The training course for 40 2nd and 5th year law students consists of 3 stages of 4 months each. Including theoretical as well as practical elements the first part will deal with women's rights and constitutional law, the second with women's rights and civil law, and the third one with women's rights and criminal law.

It is hardly necessary to offer you more examples to demonstrate the commitment throughout the ALDA network to encourage young people to participate in the development of the society, in which they live. Through these many youth related projects the LDAs and ALDA aim among other things at assisting countries of SEE to prepare themselves to one day become



*The concentration camp of Sachsenhausen (Germany) where the Peace School took place*

members of the EU but first and foremost at helping them to become genuine members of the European family of democratic countries. What better way to achieve this than to focus on youth empowerment? After all, the young people of today are tomorrow's decision-makers.

#### 4. Peace School: What do young people think about the 2nd World War today?

*"It was a very intensive week, rich in emotions and reflections, especially during the visit to the concentration camp and the meeting with the group of German students. The cultural exchange was fantastic!"*

**Participant of the Peace School**

In the Steering Committee in Strasbourg, it had been decided that what was first planned as five international youth exchanges would be rather merged to an international one-week peace school to take place in a symbolic city in Europe. It is therefore no surprise that Berlin was selected for this activity, being a city which bears witness to all the different phases of European history: from Nazism to the last remains of the Berlin wall, which for so long symbolised the iron curtain that cut Europe into two parts.

Even the seminar premises itself reflected this meaningful past: the young people stayed in a villa next to the former concentration camp of Sachsenhausen which was built by prisoners of the camp in the 1930s and which used to be inhabited by the chief commander of all concentration camps, Theodor Eicke, who died in 1943. At the beginning of the 1990s, it was decided to renovate the old villa with the help of the Foundation "Brandenburgische Gedenkstaette" and to initiate a cooperation with the international youth hostel association.

The participants of the peace school – all aged 18 – 30 - were partly sent by the partner organisations, but it was also decided to open it to the partner and member network of ALDA and the main project partners. We received more than 200 applications – a confirmation that we had hit a nerve of the time with our peace school - and the ALDA staff together with the partners selected 20 young people from Poland, Latvia, Italy, France, Greece, Germany, Belgium, Norway and Croatia to take part in the Berlin Peace School from 15 – 18 January 2007.

Two ALDA staff members, namely Marco Boaria and Dorothee Fischer, accompanied the group and were responsible for the pedagogical programme consisting of:

- >> An introduction to peace and democracy during and after WWII
- >> Presentations of the participating organisations that the young people represented ("NGO-Fair")
- >> A guided tour around the concentration camp of Sachsenhausen including visits to the museums
- >> Meeting with young German students from a nearby school who are involved in a tolerance working group. Exchange on how young people cope with the fact of growing up close to a former concentration camp and the problems of racism and xenophobia in today's Germany
- >> Cultural exchanges/intercultural evening
- >> A guided tour along the remains of the Berlin wall
- >> A visit to the museum "Checkpoint Charly"
- >> A meeting with a former prisoner of the concentration camp of Sachsenhausen (who was born in the prison after 1945 when it had been taken over by the Soviet Army)
- >> Meeting with three different NGOs from Berlin working on peace and democracy issues
- >> Preparation of articles for the final handbook
- >> Exchange of ideas for future projects and cooperation



*The Peace School in Berlin*

The peace school – a pilot activity of this kind for ALDA and its partners – was a big success which reached the goal to include young people in the debates about the Second World War and peace/democracy issues today. The event showed that young people are very interested in learning more about their European heritage and 20th century history, even though it may be a very cruel one. All the participants in Berlin were extremely moved, in particular when they visited the concentration camp and when they spoke to the former prisoner. It was evaluated that this kind of activity should definitely be repeated in future projects of a similar nature.

#### **4.1 Young Europeans visiting peace NGOs in Berlin**

##### **4.1.1 Loesje**

*By Alessia, Ariana, Elena, Nina, Rada and Tatjana*

*It was a day like this when Marco Polo left for China – what are your plans today?*

Does this statement provoke some reactions in your mind? You started to think about yourself, your future, past, your life... And the name Loesje? Does it ring a bell? Well, here we will share what we – a group of International NGO activists – found out about the international NGO Loesje.

The whole philosophy of this organization can be expressed in only one sentence: Conquering the world with creativity and posters. They are a writer's collective, an NGO, a poster activist group, an international organization, a creative network, a contagious idea.... A large, worldwide group of people who share the same goal: communicate opinions and exchange ideas.

It all started in the Netherlands in the 1980ies, when Europe was still divided and when people were more oriented towards criticism than positive thinking. A girl named Loesje together with her friends started to provoke people with creativity, positive criticism, ideas, philosophical thoughts and current events through short slogans on posters which after a short while started to appear all over the world. Only one thing is characteristic – all posters are signed by Loesje.

Today, the girl Loesje is no longer active, she simply introduced the idea and gave her name to the next youth generations who have many things to say.

There are more than 30 International organizations who are promoting Loesje's work at the local level, creating slogans for posters in their own languages. They all receive support from the main Loesje office in the Netherlands and the main international office in Berlin.

Besides the writing of texts and spreading them on posters, Loesje activists also organize workshops on creative text writing, publish monthly bulletins, organize international exchanges and summercamps, organize different projects like "Book in one day". For their activities they receive funds from different institutions/organizations, mainly from the Council of Europe, the European Cultural Foundation, and the European Commission's Youth Programme, but they also collect money through membership fees, selling books, T-shirts, postcards, calendars.

Since Loesje likes to provoke people with their slogans and creative actions, they also like to receive feedback on their work. Through their web page [www.loesje.org](http://www.loesje.org) they provide space for dialogue and together with their audience – a general public - they discuss current affairs, exchange thoughts, vote for the best slogans, but also suggest and create new activities.

Well, it's hard to finish this text since there are loads of other things to say, so we will not finish it with our words, but with Loesje's, hoping that this article will contribute to the work towards a creative and peaceful society.





The Peace School in Berlin



*“What kind of world do you want, really? I want a world where people are appreciated for their own capacity, instead of being economically valued. I believe in a world where you take initiative, where you shape life in your way and give power to your passions and talents. Where forward means more than technological progress, namely that everyone is given space to develop and where people grow larger than numbers. I’m driven by fascination and curiosity, for you, and you, and the rest of the world. I say don’t be against everything until you forget your dreams. I decided to say what I want and what I believe in rather than what I hate or dislike. Let’s push the world forward, create personal revolutions and give people a push over their invisible threshold!”*

**Loesje**

If this story about young people expressing themselves and provoking the world through posters is interesting for you, you can join them, they are waiting for people who have something to say!

Why keep your right to remain silent when we have the freedom of speech?

#### 4.1.2 Weltfriedensdienst

As part of the Berlin Peace School, we visited the Weltfriedensdienst (World Peace Service, WFD) organization in Berlin. The World Peace Service, is a German NGO that was established in 1959 after the Second World War. The initial aim was to promote reconciliation after the crimes of Nazi Germany by promoting development and cooperation. WFD started its activities in European countries that had suffered the crimes of Nazism, but later changed its focus to developing countries in Africa, Latin America and the Middle East. At the moment, WFD runs 20 operating projects, and over 100 solidarity partnerships, which support the projects abroad. Partnerships are especially important to WFD as the organization works only with local staff and already established NGOs abroad. In this way, WFD is able to benefit from the existing networks of the partner organizations and support the projects that have already proved to work. The importance of partnership is also reflected in WFD's cooperation motto: "Partnership not dominance."

Abroad WFD supports several projects of different character. The area focus varies from sustainable resource protection, education and training, civil conflict management and protection of women and human rights. In addition to this, "Peace exchanges" are also arranged every year. In these EU-programmes young people from Germany, Austria, Poland and the Czech Republic will learn about peaceful conflict transformation in Latin America and Africa through rap/music, sports and theatre workshops where they can meet experts from those countries.

Since 1971, WFD is one of six foreign aid organizations recognized by the German government. Through public awareness and educational projects domestically WFD aims at fostering understanding for the problems between North and South. WFD also cooperates with different development networks in order to influence the policies at home. Through PR and lobbying, WFD works actively in order to keep the needs of the South on the daily agenda of both the German government and the EU.

#### 4.1.3 Aktion Sühnezeichen

*"We Germans began World War II and for this reason alone, more than others, we are guilty for bringing innumerable suffering to humankind...We ask the peoples who suffered violence at our hands to allow us to perform a good deed in their countries....."*

**Lothar Kreissig**



*The Peace School in Berlin*

With these words, Lothar Kreissig, a protestant pastor and a judge who opposed Hitler's policy, founded the non-governmental organisation ASF (Aktion-Sühnezeichen- Friedensdienste) and ARSP (Action – Reconciliation – Service for Peace) in English.

Six young people from different parts of Europe, we had the opportunity to visit the headquarters of ASF in Berlin and discuss with two volunteers how their organization functions.

Lothar Kreissig founded ASF in 1958 and it has an obvious Protestant Christian character, even though people of different ideological, philosophical and religious backgrounds are welcome to participate. Its main reason of foundation and existence is that Germans feel guilty about their shameful actions during World War II but they don't ask for forgiveness- as these crimes could never be forgiven (words of the members of ASF)- but they work for reconciliation and remembrance through the means of volunteer work in countries whose citizens have suffered from the Nazi crimes.

Their first mission was in the Netherlands where they have sent volunteers to re-build a bridge and then a mission to Norway followed. In 1961, the Berlin Wall was built and thus ASF was divided in 2 parts , the Eastern and the Western branch and each one of them continued its work with different activities. Finally, after the fall of the Wall and the re-unification of Berlin, the two branches were united again.

Today ASF works for reconciliation, responsibility, international understanding, peace, remembrance and wishes to combat racism, anti-semitism and discrimination. Their projects and missions expand in 13 countries, mostly in Europe, but also in the USA. Their main activities include summercamps, working in memorials and Jewish centres and visiting survivors of the Holocaust. As Jewish people were not the only victims of the Nazi cruelty, they also cooperate with Roma and homosexual organizations. ASF also sent volunteers to the homosexual museum in Berlin and joined the voices for the erection of a monument for homosexual victims of the Holocaust. Some staff and members disagree with this liberal approach which in their opinion stands in disagreement with their Christian belief. ASF also works for the benefit of different weak social groups such as disabled people and drug-addicts. For the time being there are almost 180 long-term volunteers and 400 short-term volunteers each year working in almost 20 summer camps each year. Till today there have been almost 7000 long-term volunteers and around 12000 short-term volunteers. Most volunteers come from Germany but there are also volunteers from other countries. They seek volunteers through media campaigns and through campaigns in schools and universities. A lot of young German males can complete their civil service by working for ASF.

As an NGO their resources come from funding of the European Union, the German government, the Protestant Church, other institutions and organizations and private donations.

ASF are also active in publications, conferences, seminars public relations and study trips. Their slogan could be summarized in "Learning from history..taking a stand today..... and building a better future"

As for us, we had a very interesting discussion with the two volunteers that gave us all these useful information and we also watched a video-tape about the visits of German ASF members to victims of the Holocaust in the United States. No matter what is the opinion that each one of us has formed about the organization,our different thoughts about their aims and their real contribution to the modern world, we are content that we had the opportunity to become aware of one more action towards a more peaceful and democratic society.



Budapest



#### 4.2 A rare pearl by the river Danube – Building substantial democracy in the Castle District of Budapest

*By Dr. Dávid Görömbölyi. Being an EU-expert, a lawyer and a journalist, he has worked with several international entities such as the UN and the Foreign Ministry of Hungary, before taking up his current position as Head of the International Relations Office of the First District of Budapest, Hungary.*

Everyone, who has visited Budapest, leaves with an image. An image of its beauties, its lights, its atmosphere. But for us, the ones living in the city, it is not so simple, as almost two decades after the change of systems, we still have to live with an often disappointing socio-political situation. However, there is one municipality of the few, where we think differently about the structure of political circumstances. Under the leadership of Dr. Gábor Tamás Nagy, Mayor of the First District, the heart of Budapest is trying to fill the sometimes empty skeleton of democracy with real life, with consensuality (?) in decision-making and with proper civil cooperation.

The situation clearly derives from the recent history of Hungary, or rather the recent history of Eastern and Central Europe as a whole. When "the Wall came down", all of our countries focused on the primary political goal: to build democracy as fast as possible. So we had pluralism, free elections, basic human rights and a Constitutional Court in a few months, thus resulting in a swift change on the political surface, but leaving behind much of the social damage.

In a few years our nation was acknowledged as free and democratic, as all necessary formal requirements were met, and after the years of economic consolidation and the accession processes we joined the clubs of the privileged, NATO and EU – all symbolizing that things are going really well in Hungary.

So where do the problems of contemporary democracy lie? Many now believe that in the lack of consensuality and proper civil involvement. If there is no interaction between governments and citizens, if the voice of the people cannot affect decisions, then there is no substantial democracy. Some claim that these changes take more time, but one has to face the question: so many years after 1990, do I hear the echo of my own voice in concrete governmental decisions? Apparently, the answer is no.

The number of NGOs – for instance – is minimal. While in France alone more than 16,000 new NGOs were registered in 2006, in Hungary it was a few hundred only. An even greater problem is their weakness in lobby power, as they are struggling to reach their goals in their own fields due to the complete lack of cooperation with the responsible authorities. There are Workers' Unions, but they are not functioning as their "Western brothers" either. Being deeply embedded in governmental circles, the Unions in Hungary organize 2 minutes of strikes per worker every year. In Western Europe this average is over one hour.

These are just examples, and it would be a long list if we looked through all these important comparisons. However, the major difference lies in the attitude of those in power. How democratic is it to be caught with cheating at the elections, and then survive without any consequences whatsoever? How democratic is it not to care about the protesting tens of thousands, simply saying that "they will get bored and go home"? How democratic is it to hand in a white paper law on different areas of regulation, and then leave it all unchanged, despite the expert chambers objecting as strongly as they can? How democratic is it to cut the budgetary revenues of local communities drastically, when realizing that doing so pays well politically?

In the middle of all this, the ones in power – sometimes regardless of their political colour – claim that "the people have voted, now let us do our own jobs". And this shows the most important problem with contemporary democracies in ECE. That here only one day in four years can practically be democratic. Between the elections the ones in power consider this power limitless – but at least untouchable by the people themselves.

So what can a local community add to all this in the given circumstances? Budavár Municipality, the Historical Old Town of Budapest finds the needed substance in cooperation. Cooperation both internally and externally to give place to the proposals arriving from below, and to learn from others, who might have found their own answers before we have.

The Castle District – fortunately enough – was less affected by the social damage of the socialist system than others, therefore here we have both living traditional civil structures, and also people, who are willing to act in preserving these structures. The Municipality supports a variety of NGO-activities from organizing events to giving them political support in questions affecting their daily lives, or simply giving a clearer voice to the proposals of the local citizens, thus raising the initiative to a higher social level. The municipality laws are always consulted with the relevant local forums; and the different offices, together with the Mayor's Office keep their doors open to the public.

On the other hand, the constant dialogue with other municipalities and the cooperation with our twin cities (ten of them from all over Europe) help us learn from each other and exchange best practices in different fields. We also sincerely appreciated the chance to get in connection with ALDA, and through the organization to participate in the Berlin Peace School of the "Cities for Peace and Democracy in Europe" project. Our District will always be open to further cooperation in the future.

The above deeds might seem little, however, many local communities in ECE would be happy to experience such environment for their civil life. We believe that if everyone – decision-makers and institutions alike – would actively do this much with the will to build mutual understanding and consensus, then our part of Europe could experience more of substantial democracy in the forthcoming decade.

#### **Budavár Municipality – The I. District of Budapest, Hungary**

The historical centre of Budapest, home of 28000 citizens lies around the Royal Castle of Buda, which makes the District a spiritual centre of the Hungarian nation. Led by Mayor Dr. Gábor Tamás Nagy (FIDESZ-MPSZ), the District gives home to several national institutions and NGOs. Its foreign relations are conducted through cooperation with ten twin cities from both neighbouring and other EU countries.

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## IV ANALYSIS OF THE IMPACT OF THE PROJECT

### 1. A successful project: working with grass-root organizations and local authorities

Bringing together local authorities and young people to evaluate and debate their role in building up a peaceful and democratic Europe was the main focus of the present project. Besides all the above-mentioned activities foreseen in the project, 48 organizations, above all local governments and NGOs, supported the goal of this project and decided not only to co-fund it, but also to be very active in spreading the message of peace and democracy.

Each of these organizations is working at the local level to spread the values of peace and democracy. They organized events all over Europe, including listening exercises, trainings, art events, informal education activities among others. Peace is not an easy topic and it does not immediately gather people or creates cohesion. The use of innovative methodologies gave the chance to involve more people and to attract younger generations (cf. the summary of the activities below). Moreover, each of these implementing units involved other partners at the local level generating a multiplier effect and paving the way to replicate the activities.

The involvement of different components of the society, young children, ordinary citizens, local authority representatives (mayors, councillors, civil servants), gave the project the convey the message of peace and remembrance of war to 40,000 people in 15 European countries. An added value was brought by the active role of the local governments and the participation of their own community. Moreover, the majority of people reached by the activities were young people who never experienced a war themselves. This was an excellent goal scored. These significant results went beyond all ALDA's expectations on the project, which lasted only one year.

An extremely interesting side of the project is that each involved organization focused on a particular feature of peace and democracy: from remembrance of the past to active citizenship for peace in Europe, from the fight against racism and death penalty to the promotion of reconciliation, to rule of law, rights of asylum seekers... All these single messages can be summed up in a very precise one: today's Europe is a peaceful response to conflicts and wars; democracy is necessary to construct peace; citizens can give a rich contribution to build up a peaceful and democratic society.



## 2. Results beyond figures

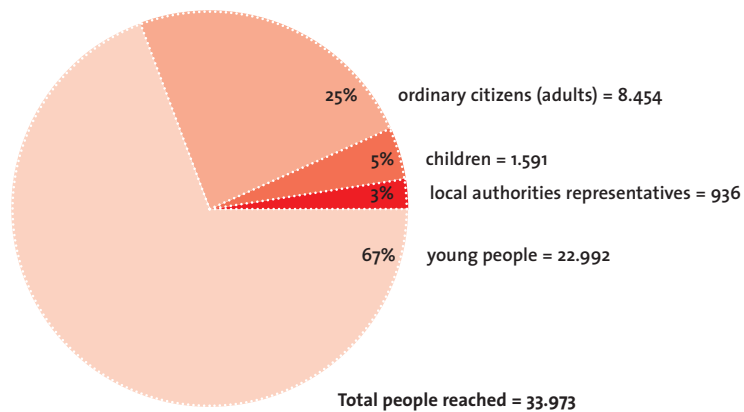
### People reached by all the activities

As mentioned above, the excellent side of the project “Cities and democracy in Europe” was the involvement of grass-root organizations, which guaranteed an enormous multiplying effect. It was possible to reach 33,973 people. Among them, the main target group reached by the activities were young people (67%) and children (5%), who are both the future citizens of Europe. This result will give a long-term impact to the activities implemented.

Students of any age were involved. They were reached in schools of any level, universities, associations, NGOs, informal groups.

An interesting part of the project was the involvement of local authorities. The role of the local governments is an important asset for the promotion of values as peace and democracy among the citizens. Even if, from a numerical point of view, local authority representatives (3%) were less than the young people involved, the former were and will be, without any doubts, active stakeholders for promoting and spreading the values of peace and democracy in their working areas.

### Participants involved in all the activities

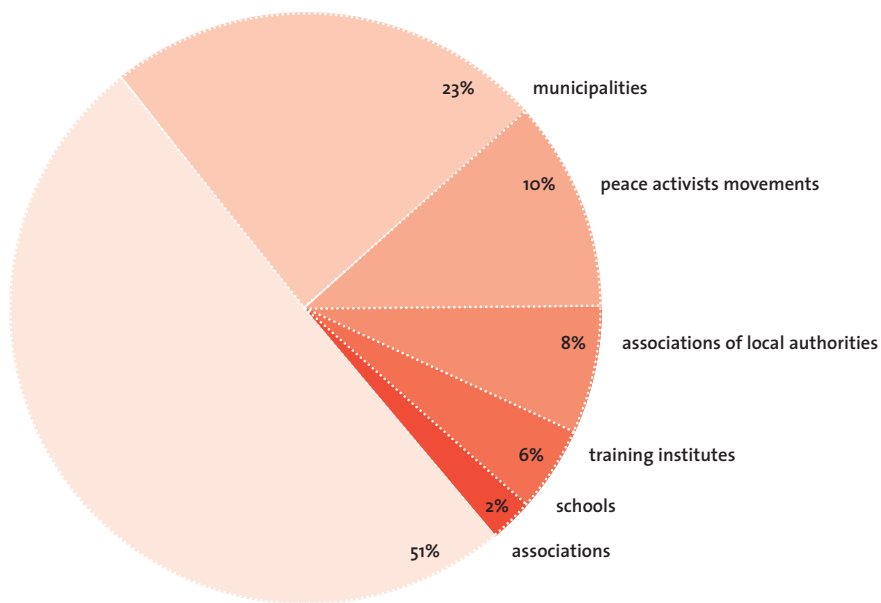


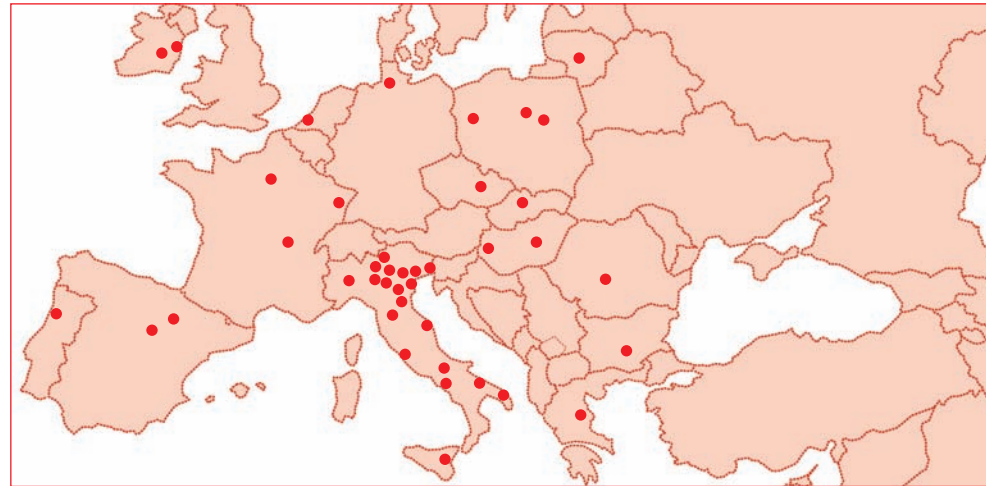
### Organizations involved in all the activities

It is beyond dispute that the large network of the ALDA permitted to work not only with the institutional partners of the programme “Cities for peace and democracy in Europe”, but to involve also other organizations.

The main implementing units were associations and ONG. They are of a different nature though: associations of young people or students, religious organizations, development associations, research institutes, peace schools.

Relevant actors of the project were municipalities, which answered to ALDA’s proposal of cooperation with less enthusiasm in terms of figures (if compared to how many NGOs were involved as active implementing units), but not in terms of active participation in the project. This unexpected result can be explained by the short length of the project. Local authorities being confronted with a higher administrative burden could sometimes not as quickly respond to the cooperation proposal than NGOs.



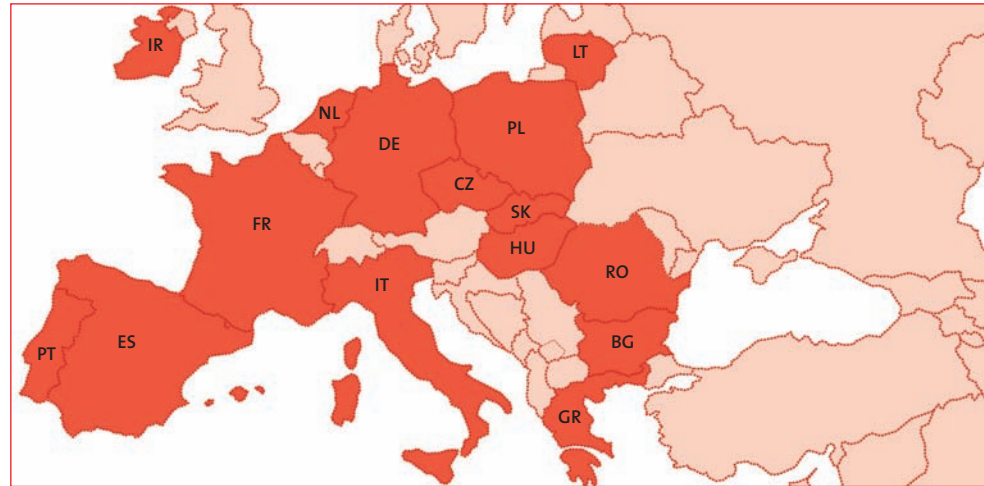


#### Towns and cities where the activities took place\*

\* Some of the towns could not be included in the map for editing reasons

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. <b>Campobasso</b> – Italy                              | 15. <b>Ancona</b> – Italy  |
| 2. <b>Venezia</b> – Italy                                 | 16. <b>San Giovanni, colli alti Massiccio del Monte Grappa</b> – Italy   |
| 3. <b>Longare, Villaganzerla, Nanto(VI)</b> – Italy       | 17. <b>Pavia</b> – Italy   |
| 4. <b>Acireale</b> – Italy                                | 18. <b>Lecce</b> – Italy   |
| 5. <b>Gietrzwald, Biesal, Szabruk, Unieszewo</b> – Poland | 19. <b>Marzabotto</b> – Italy  |
| 6. <b>Plovdiv</b> – Bulgaria                              | 20. <b>Putignano /Bari</b> – Italy   |
| 7. <b>Reggio Emilia</b> – Italy                           | 21. <b>Firenze</b> and all over Italy  |
| 8. <b>Siena</b> – Italy                                   | 22. <b>Barczewo, Bartoszyce, Biafja Piska, Biskupiec, Biskupiec Pom., Bisztynek, Braniewo, Budry, Dobre Misto, Dywity, Dziafjdowo, Gietrzwafjd, Goldap, Gorowo llaweckie, llawa, llowo-Osada, Janowiec Koscielny, Jedwabno, Jeziorany, Jonkowo, Ketrzyn, Kiwity,</b> |
| 9. <b>Frattamaggiore, Naples</b> – Italy                  |  |
| 10. <b>Modena</b> – Italy                                 |  |
| 11. <b>Cremona</b> – Italy                                |  |
| 12. <b>San Giovanni a Teduccio, Naples</b> – Italy        |  |
| 13. <b>Brescia</b> – Italy                                |  |
| 14. <b>Rome</b> – Italy                                   |  |

- Kolno, Korsze, Kowale Oleckie, Kurzetnik, Lelkowo, Lidzbark Warminski, Lubomino, Mikolajki, Milomlyn, Mragowo, Olsztyn, Olsztynek, Ornata, Pasym, Piecki, Ploskinia, Pozezdrze, Purda, Rozogi, Rychliki, Sepopol, Sorkwity, Srokowo, Stawiguda, Szczytno, Swiatki, Swietajno, Wegorzewo, Wielbark, Wieliczki** – Poland
23. **Herrera de los Navarros** – Spain
24. **Cadoneghe** – Italy
25. **Paris** – France
26. **Paris, Strasbourg, Lyon** – France
27. **Larissa** – Greece
28. **Hamburg** – Germany
29. **Padova** – Italy
30. **Kruiningen, Terneuzen, Walcheren, Tholen, Houten** – The Netherlands  
**Jicin** – Czech Republic  
**Targu Mures** – Romania  
**Moson** – Hungary
31. **Modena** – Italy
32. **Roma** – Italy
33. **Kaunas** – Lithuania
34. **Bari** – Italy
35. **Bialystok, Katowice, Plonsk, Rzeszow, Skarzysko, Kamienna, Sosnowiec, Warsaw, Zielona Gora** – Poland
36. **Padova, Milano, Bologna, Rovigo, Ferrara, Treviso, Udine, Pordenone, Parma, Vicenza, Venezia, Genova, Torino, Firenze, Roma, Verona, Brescia** – Italy
37. **Bari** – Italy
38. **Zaragoza** – Spain
39. **Porto** – Portugal
40. **Mogliano Veneto** – Italy
41. **Rome** – Italy
42. **Co Kildare** – Ireland
43. **Rovigo** – Italy
44. **Paris** – France
45. **Strasbourg** – France
46. **Trieste** – Italy
47. **Repiste** – Slovakia
48. **Plock** – Poland



### Countries where the activities took place

<b>IT:</b> Italy	<b>PT:</b> Portugal
<b>FR:</b> France	<b>IR:</b> Ireland
<b>PL:</b> Poland	<b>SK:</b> Slovakia
<b>BG:</b> Bulgaria	<b>CZ:</b> Czech Republic
<b>ES:</b> Spain	<b>RO:</b> Romania
<b>GR:</b> Greece	<b>NL:</b> The Netherlands
<b>DE:</b> Germany	<b>HU:</b> Hungary
<b>LT:</b> Lithuania	

The initiatives were implemented in 15 European countries. All the activities strengthened a very widespread network committed in the promotion of peace and democracy in Europe.

The country where the majority of the projects were implemented was Italy, with 30 projects

realized. Some of them focused on the role of Europe in promoting peace outside its borders, especially in developing, war and post conflict countries, in particular the Balkans and African countries.

Activities took place also in countries, which were not originally foreseen in the project. Bulgaria was involved because it was admitted by the EC/DG during the implementation of the project. Romania was involved thanks to the free commitment and co-funding of some partners. The participation of new EU member states gave an added value to the project in terms of spreading the values of peace and democracy also towards Eastern Europe.



## V SUMMARY OF THE ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED BY ALDA'S PARTNERS

- 1. Implementing unit:** Centro di Carità il Buon Samaritano, Association  
**Title of the project:** **Non c'è pace senza giustizia.**  
 (No peace without justice)  
**City:** Campobasso  
**Country:** Italy  
**Date of the activities:** 3 phases: October, November and December 2006

**Summary of the activities:** awareness campaign (photographs and photo competition) for young people in order to increase their participation in the local political life and to improve the knowledge of the role of local authorities in peace processes.

- 2. Implementing Unit:** Fondazione Venezia per la ricerca sulla pace (Association)  
**Title of the project:** **To build up peace: reconciliation process different realities**  
**City:** Venice  
**Country:** Italy  
**Date of the activities:** 6th October 2006

**Summary of the activities:** a round table took place in the framework of the sixth showroom on peace publishing, called "Fare pace: tra verità e menzogna" (To build up peace: among truth and lie). This showroom is one of the most important meetings in Italy for the "people of peace" and "publishers of peace" to reflect about peace as a political issue and to exchange best practices concerning peace and conflict resolution. The main aim is to present to the general public "products" dealing with peace such as books, magazines and multimedia articles. Students (actively participating in the Project Peace Network, an international network of schools involved in the promotion of a pacific culture), citizens, educators and teachers debated, together with experts the concept of "conflict", "conflict transformation", reconciliation processes.

- 3. Implementing unit:** Istituto Comprensivo Statale "B.Bizio" (Elementary and secondary school)  
**Title of the project:** **Dall'Olocausto alla Partecipazione senza prepotenze: la pace nei territori di Nanto e Castegnero** (From the Holocaust to the participation without arrogance: peace in the areas of Nanto and Castagnero)  
**City:** Longare - Vicenza  
**Country:** Italy  
**Date of the activities:** 4th November 2006, 27th January 2007

**Summary of the activities:** A Participatory and Peace Day took place and involved the entire communities of Castegnero and Nanto. The activities will be repeated every year. Lessons and meetings with experts and witnesses, visits to museums, workshops about the law, democracy and living together were organized. The methodology included special origami games and theatre performance.

- 4. Implementing Unit:** Andromeda ONLUS  
**City:** Acireale  
**Country:** Italy  
**Title of the project:** **L'Europa dei giovani – Percorsi di promozione della mobilità giovanile internazionale. Uno strumento per promuovere inclusione e cittadinanza attiva nei processi educativi con i giovani e gli adolescenti** (Europe of young people – International Youth Mobility: an instrument to promote social cohesion and active European citizenship)  
**Date of the activities:** 3 meetings during the month of November 2006

**Summary of the activities:** lessons and meetings on the topic: how to promote peace through international mobility in high schools. The primary objective was awareness raising among young people about peace in the European Union. Travelling and getting to know other cultures and ways of living can be an excellent instrument to accept the others and to prevent wars.

- 5. Implementing Unit:** Municipality Center of Culture in Gietrzwałd  
**Title of the project:** **Peace in Europe**  
**City:** Gietrzwałd  
**Country:** Poland  
**Date of the activities:** Different dates for each involved village:  
 Gietrzwałd: 15, 16 December 2006, 9, 16 January 2007  
 Biesal: 11 January 2007  
 Szabruk: 20 December 2007, 12, 19 January 2007

**Summary of the activities:** Workshop and cultural events for kids and youth: dance, singing, cooking, theatre and other cultural activities took place. The main subject was “Peace in Europe” and “how to build a European identity”.

- 6. Implementing Unit:** National Forum API  
**Title of the project:** **European-Wide action week against racism**  
**City:** Plovdiv  
**Country:** Bulgaria  
**Date of the activities:** The activities were carried out in the months of October, November and December 2006

**Summary of the activities:** The aim of the “Europe-wide Actionweek against racism” was to encourage and enable young people to participate in the construction of peaceful societies, in particular in Europe, based on diversity and inclusion, in a spirit of respect, tolerance and mutual understanding. During the meetings they studied existing theories, initiatives and approaches. Trainings were organized in addition to this.

- 7. Implementing Unit:** Reggio Emilia  
**Title of the project:** **Respect Life! Reggio Emilia against the death penalty**  
**City:** Reggio Emilia  
**Country:** Italy  
**Date of the activities:** October 2006 till 10 December 2006

**Summary of the activities:** The events consisted of the photo exhibition “Vanitas Vitae – Five artists against the death penalty”, the projection of films, a recital “Por algo sera”, and two conferences. The Public Library “Panizzi” during the same period created a corner with books, reviews, DVD movies on the subject of peace in Europe through the respect of human rights and fight against the death penalty. The target group of this project was the local community, especially young people. At the same time, a delegation from Reggio Emilia was invited to give a speech in Dijon (France) on the subject “Promotion of Human Rights against the death penalty”. This occasion gave a European/ global perspective to the whole work. Through the promotion of Human Rights people’s awareness was raised on democracy and peace in Europe.

- 8. Implementing Unit:** Municipality of Siena  
**Title of the project:** **Pace e Diritti Umani: la percezione dei giovani a Siena** (Pace and Human rights: young people’s perception in Siena)  
**City:** Siena  
**Country:** Italy  
**Date of the activities:** October, November and December 2006

**Summary of the activities:** The Municipality of Siena conducted an inquiry (questionnaires addressed to 350 high-school students) about how youth people perceive peace in Europe. The questionnaires had been prepared by two university teachers of the Faculty of Political Sciences at the University of Siena who also analysed the qualitative and quantitative analysis of the students’ answers. A public event was organized to present the results and to discuss peace issues. A CD dealing with peace and human rights was distributed among the participants of the public event and to all highschool students in Siena.



- 9. Implementing Unit:** Social Cooperative  
 “Cantieri Giovani” Onlus  
**Title of the project:** **A journey in Europe**  
**City:** Frattamaggiore (Naples)  
**Country:** Italy  
**Date of the activities:** 1 December 2006

**Summary of the activities:** One-day workshop (artistic laboratories, interactive games, multiethnic buffet and poetry competition) was organized with the participation of young people, citizens, local authority representatives. The main topic was how to spread the value of peace especially among young people. Poetry was considered an effective means for raising awareness.

The following poem won the competition

*In ogni gesto della vita*  
 (By Francesca Ceraso)

*La pace è nel rumore del mare nelle notti d'estate,  
 Nel cadere della neve nella notte di Natale.  
 La pace è nel sole che riscalda la terra,  
 Nel blu intenso dell'universo infinito  
 La pace è nell'abbraccio di chi si vuole bene,  
 nel bacio di chi si ama.  
 La pace è nel sorriso di una persona dopo aver pianto, nel  
 silenzio di una stanza.  
 LA pace è nella carezza calda di un genitore,  
 nel desiderio di un bimbo.  
 La pace è in ogni gesto della vita, in ogni singola cosa nel  
 mondo, basta saperla cogliere.*



“Flying over the differences in Europe”, Longare, Italy

- 10. Implementing Unit:** “ProgettArte” Cultural Association  
**Title of the project:** **Città per la Pace: una strada possibile**  
 (Cities for peace: a street which can pave the way)  
**City:** Modena  
**Country:** Italy  
**Date of the activities:** 5 and 6 November 2006

**Summary of the activities:** A two-day debate about peace in Europe, in the Balkans and Iraq. In order to build up peace worldwide it is necessary that Europe commits itself in promoting peace also outside Europe. It was discussed how to reach a sustainable peace in order to construct a common European identity; side effects of wars (such as deplete uranium). Participants from Hiroshima, journalists, and witnesses such as relatives of an Italian military servant who died in 2000, attended the event.

- 11. Implementing Unit:** ARCI nuova associazione  
**Title of the project:** **Diritto d'asilo e rifugiati in Italia. Attività d'informazione sul territorio di Cremona**  
 (Asylum rights and refugees in Italy. Information activities in Cremona area).  
**City:** Cremona  
**Country:** Italy  
**Date of the activities:** November, December 2006

**Summary of the activities:** Two-day training about the protection of refugees and current practices in Italy including the promotion of peace through the respect of asylum rights. Participants were: social workers from local governments, public and private institutions, NGOs and associations. The exchange of best practices was very successful.

- 12. Implementing Unit:** Ai. Bi. Associazione amici dei bambini  
**Title of the project:** **Pronti, Partenza, Accoglienza!**  
 (Ready, steady, go! Let's welcome!)  
**City:** San Giovanni a Teduccio, Naples  
**Country:** Italy  
**Date of the activities:** October, November 2006

**Summary of the activities:** The projection of a film and debate with students and teachers on the topic of children and peace. The main purpose was to stimulate a reflection about the importance of resolving social problems and of promoting social cohesion in order to build up a peaceful and democratic Europe.



*"Democracy for all, the first democratic elections", Butembo, Democratic Republic of Congo*

- 13. Implementing Unit:** Liberacion (NGO)  
**Title of the project:** **Development and forced migration**  
**City:** Brescia  
**Country:** Italy  
**Date of the activities:** 21 December 2006, 12-13, 26 January 2007

**Summary of the activities:** Movie projection and debate; training course on forced migration and public presentation of the book "The utopia of asylum". The events involved students, civil society and social workers.

- 14. Implementing Unit:** Servizio Civile Internazionale  
**Title of the project:** **Libano 2006. Percorsi di pace e democratizzazione dal basso a confronto**  
 (Lebanon 2006. A confrontation between different ways for peace and democratization from below)  
**City:** Rome  
**Country:** Italy  
**Date of the activities:** December 2006

**Summary of the activities:** One-day public event to raise awareness on the role of local authorities and youth to promote peace and democracy from below. The activity consisted also of best practice exchanges on peace action in conflict areas. Participants were local authorities, civil society representatives and young people.

- 15. Implementing Unit:** Municipality of Ancona  
**Title of the project:** **Educare alla differenza per valorizzare le comunità** (To train on managing differences in order to enhance the local community)  
**City:** Ancona  
**Country:** Italy  
**Date of the activities:** from October to January

**Summary of the activities:** A multi-religious calendar was drafted and published and distributed to the students of all the schools of the municipality of Ancona. This calendar, including the festivals of 9 different religions, was an effective method to improve the knowledge about history and culture of various populations, a first step to promote peace and respect in Europe.

- 16. Implementing Unit:** Municipality of Vicenza  
**Title of the project:** **“Italia – Austria/Europa– Conflitto, Pace e Partecipazione. Un tentativo di interrelazione tra ragazzi e ragazze che credono di contare... pacificamente”**. (Italy-Austria/ Europe- War, Peace and Participation. An inter-relation effort among young who are convinced to have a say for peace)  
**City:** Colli Alto Massiccio del Montegrappa, Vicenza  
**Country:** Italy  
**Date of the activities:** from October 2006 to January 2007

**Summary of the activities:** A workshop for young people on the topic of peace took place. Experimental methods were used. During a public event the results were shared with the whole community.

**Summary of the experimental method:** all young involved on the project had the task of ask themselves what contemporary peace scenarios they know and which are the available way to promote and experiment peace in their daily life. National Civil Service volunteers were involved in the project as an example of young people active in a Peace and active citizenship experience. The experiment lasted one month during which participants worked on the mentioned topics.

- 17. Implementing Unit:** Municipality of Pavia  
**Title of the project:** **Un logo per Pavia, città di Pace**  
 (A logo for Pavia, peace town)  
**City:** Pavia  
**Country:** Italy  
**Date of the activities:** from October to December 2006

**Summary of the activities:** the municipality launched an art competition, addressed to children, in order to find a logo of peace for the municipality of Pavia. 100 pictures were sent to the municipality and shown to the general public during an exhibition, which was open from the 11 December 2006 to the 8 January. The prize was given to 2 images, which will form together the new logo of Pavia, peace town.

- 18. Implementing Unit:** Municipality of Lecce  
**Title of the project:** **Participatory planning processes: exchanges of best practices on Adriatic transborder cooperation**  
**City:** Lecce  
**Country:** Italy  
**Date of the activities:** 18 and 19 July 2006

**Summary of the activities:** A course for young people, administrators of local authorities, and university scholars was held in Lecce. The main topic addressed how young people and local authorities can better cooperate in facing a democratic and participative Europe. Particular attention was given to the cooperation between the European Union and the countries on the other side of the Adriatic Sea in order to build up an inclusive Europe.

- 19. Implementing Unit:** School of Peace of Monte Sole  
**Title of the project:** **Giovani cittadini e cittadine per la pace e la democrazia in Europa** (Young girls and boys: citizens for peace and democracy in Europe)  
**City:** Bologna  
**Country:** Italy  
**Date of the activities:** 5 days in November, December 2006 and January 2007

**Summary of the activities:** A training course for young people who want to be leaders in their community to become active in the construction of a peaceful society. During the workshops, young people and local authority representatives exchanged their ideas and opinions on active citizenship and peace in Europe.

- 20. Implementing Unit:** Municipality of Putignano  
**Title of the project:** **Cantieri di Pace (Peace on the go)**  
**City:** Putignano - Bari  
**Country:** Italy  
**Date of the activities:** October – January 2006

**Summary of the activities:** A theatre show, debates between civil society and representatives of local authorities, and peace trainings in the schools were organized. The purpose was to promote and spread a culture of peace at the local level. Special focus was given to the different means that the word “peace” can have in the daily life.

- 21. Implementing Unit:** Pax Christi  
**Title of the project:** **Appesi alla speranza: una mappa per tanti muri** (Hanging by the hope: a map for many walls)  
**City:** Firenze and all over Italy  
**Country:** Italy  
**Date of the activities:** December 2006

**Summary of the activities:** Production of a geographic map, which represents the violation of human rights caused by the walls erected in Palestine. A large awareness campaign was organized on the importance of pulling down the real and cultural walls among people and countries and on the role of European citizens in promoting peace in the Middle East. The map was realized also with the initiative of the UN Office in Palestine and Israel and was distributed in schools, churches, associations and NGOs.

- 22. Implementing Unit:** The Warmia and Mazury Communities  
**Title of the project:** **We are shaping a peaceful future of Europe without divisions**  
**City:** Pilsudskiego  
**Country:** Poland  
**Date of the activities:** from September to November 2006

**Summary of the activities:** A debate on “Democracy and peace at the local level” was organized. A workshop on “The role of media in promoting peace and democracy at the local level: challenges for local authorities. Interaction between local authorities and their citizens” was very interesting.



Youth in Gietrzwałd, Poland

- 23. Implementing Unit:** ASAEL (Aragon's Association of Local Authorities)  
**Title of the project:** ADEBAN  
**City:** Zaragoza **Country:** Spain  
**Date of the activities:** 16 December 2006

**Summary of the activities:** A conference and a musical performance took place on the topic: "A day on women and immigration". The discussion focused on the participation of immigrant women in the life of local communities. The participation of immigrants was considered a very important matter to foster democracy at the local level in Europe.

- 24. Implementing Unit:** Beati i Costruttori di Pace (Peace activists movement)  
**Title of the project:** Pollice in alto Congo. Osservatori nella Repubblica Democratica del Congo (A thumb in high Congo. Electoral observers in Democratic Republic of the Congo)  
**City:** Padova  
**Country:** Italy  
**Date of the activities:** July – August 2006

**Summary of the activities:** A training session for 60 ordinary citizens and civil society representatives was implemented. The participants of the training sessions were highly motivated and convinced of the importance for Europe to promote democracy in third countries, such as the Democratic Republic of Congo (which had for first time democratic elections in summer 2006) and raise awareness among citizens on this topic.

- 25. Implementing Unit:** Cojep International  
**Title of the project:** Raise of Islamophobia: new stake in the fight against racism and discrimination  
**City:** Strasbourg  
**Country:** France  
**Date of the activities:** 18 January 2007

**Summary of the activities:** One-day conference about the growing of Islamophobia as a social phenomenon in Europe and how this problem menaces peace in Europe.

- 26. Implementing Unit:** Cojep International  
**Title of the project:** Voting and eligibility rights for foreign nationals  
**City:** Strasbourg  
**Country:** France  
**Date of the activities:** Strasbourg: 5 January 2007, Lyon: 6 January 2007, Paris: 7 January 2007.

**Summary of the activities:** 3 concerts and video projections and aside conferences were organized. The topic was to raise awareness among citizens on the importance of acknowledging the right to vote to immigrants living in Europe.



*"Immigrants, not strangers", Zaragoza, Spain*

- 27. Implementing Unit:** Institute of Entrepreneurship Development  
**Title of the project:** Local sustainable development: promoting youth's voice  
**City:** Larissa  
**Country:** Greece  
**Date of the activities:** 30 January 2006

**Summary of the activities:** A survey among young people about their participation in decision- making processes. The research consisted of a questionnaire and structured interviews and an analysis of the collected data. One question concerned the obstacles on the way to an effective democracy: which are the difficulties that young are facing to participate, which are the means through which local authorities favour the participation of youth?

- 28. Implementing Unit:** Institute Was  
**Title of the project:** Social Master Plan  
**City:** Hamburg (Hafencity/Wilhelmsburg districts)  
**Country:** Germany  
**Date of the activities:** from 1 December to 31 January

**Summary of the activities:** Interviews with citizens, open art session (citizens were invited to devise and show an open art project, e.g. a sculpture, a representation in an open space for the general public and so on), round table discussion, final publication, closing event. The Social Master Plan is a process aiming at the identification, activation and networking of existing authentic political potential among local actors and citizens. This process turns against a top-down approach of the conventional static "Master Plan" in terms of administrative guidelines. The main objective was to foster active citizenship as an instrument of promoting peace.

- 29. Implementing Unit:** Association SPHERA  
**Title of the project:** Il Diritto di essere Uomo (The right to be a man)  
**City:** Padova  
**Country:** Italy  
**Date of the activities:** 25 January 2007

**Summary of the activities:** A theatre performance and a movie projection about democracy and human rights in Europe. Local authorities representatives and citizens had the opportunity to discuss active citizenship and human rights, especially human dignity and the freedom of expression.

- 30. Implementing Unit:** AtlanticBridge  
**Title of the project:** **Bridgebuilders Curriculum**  
**City:** Kruiningen  
**Country:** Netherlands  
**Date of the activities:** November, December 2006, January 2007

**Summary of the activities:** an informal and experimental learning plan (role plays, games, informal lessons, practical experience...) involving young people, who are between 15 and 18 years old. The goal was to train young people on how to combat prejudice, how to build bridges of friendship and mutual understanding.

**Methods:** youth exchanges among young people from the Czech Republic, Romania, the Netherlands, and Hungary.

- 31. Implementing Unit:** Going to Europe  
**Title of the project:** **Be a protagonist in your city!**  
**City:** Modena  
**Country:** Italy  
**Date of the activities:** Erasmus Evening: 25 November 2006; Promotion in the highschoools: October, November, December 2006 - CD production: December 2006.

**Summary of the activities:** The project aimed at involving youngsters of Modena in the local life and to inform them about European opportunities. The initiative aimed at promoting European values, first of all peace. Highschools, Erasmus students in Modena, university students and young citizens were involved in the debates, conferences, cultural evenings.

- 32. Implementing Unit:** Osservatorio sui Balcani  
**Title of the project:** **Kosovo, Region of Europe: the role of territorial partnership in conflict composition.**  
**City:** Rovereto  
**Country:** Italy  
**Date of the activities:** 15 December 2006

**Summary of the activities:** A public conference was held in Rome with a large participation of civil society actors, members of the European Parliament, as well as representatives of the Italian Ministry of Foreign affairs and local governments. The addressed theme was the unsolved conflict in Kosovo, focusing on the role of people's diplomacy, social mediation as well as the European integration process in South East Europe.

- 33. Implementing Unit:** Social innovation fund  
**Title of the project:** **Gender equality creates democracy**  
**City:** Kaunas  
**Country:** Lithuania  
**Date of the activities:** January 2007

**Summary of the activities:** an informative campaign and 2 national workshops with the participation of young people, local authorities and NGO leaders.

**The objectives of the project were:** to encourage communication and spread information at the local level about human rights and gender equality as components of democracy; to bring together young people and local authorities, NGO leaders and other citizens in order to strengthen local communities and contribute to democratic processes.

- 34. Implementing Unit:** Associazione Culturale "Nova Artistudium"  
**Title of the project:** **Squilli di Pace** (Blasts of peace)  
**City:** Bari  
**Country:** Italy  
**Date of the activities:** January 2007

**Summary of the activities:** musical performances and meetings to spread common European values through a better knowledge of European folk music.

- 35. Implementing Unit:** Partners Poland Foundation  
**Title of the project:** **Women Leaders for Peace and Democracy in Europe**  
**City:** Bialystok, Katowice, Plonsk, Rzeszów, Skarzysko Kamienna, Sosnowiec, Warsaw, Zielona, Gora  
**Country:** Poland  
**Date of the activities:** December 2006, January 2007

**Summary of the activities:** Meeting among local authorities and citizens. Publication of a calendar with the title “There will be no progress without women” dealing with the promotion of women leaders in Poland, Georgia, Tajikistan and Kosovo. 8 local organizations offered opportunities for discussions and exchanges about the perceived role of women, their role in decision-making processes, the importance of women’s participation at the local level in order to foster democratic processes in Europe. Recommendations were drawn up on the future interaction among local authority representatives and women NGO leaders.

- 36. Implementing Unit:** Karibu Afrika Aps  
**Title of the project:** **Adotta un rifugiato** (Adopt a refugee)  
**City:** Brescia  
**Country:** Italy  
**Date of the activities:** September, December 2006

**Summary of the activities:** 15 conferences and workshops about the topic of refugees from Africa. Many students attended the conferences and the main problem discussed was the respect of the rights of refugees in order to guarantee peace in Europe and in the rest of the world.

- 37. Implementing Unit:** Centro Interculturale Abusuan  
**Title of the project:** **Bari, Africa: Weave the Peace. Starting from Nairobi. Bari and decentralized cooperation**  
**City:** Bari  
**Country:** Italy  
**Date of the activities:** 27 January 2007

**Summary of the activities:** A seminar was organized in Bari, where local institutions representatives, missionaries, citizens who participated in the World Social Forum in Nairobi, gathered. The main idea was to inform the people about the matters discussed in the forum and debate the role of local authorities in the construction of peace.

- 38. Implementing Unit:** ASAEL  
**Title of the project:** **Shaping a peaceful and democratic Europe: the active participation of citizens in the local life**  
**City:** Zaragoza  
**Country:** Spain  
**Date of the activities:** 31 January 2007

**Summary of the activities:** A one-day conference gathered NGOs, representatives from local authorities, and the European Commission. The discussed topic was active European citizenship in the current crisis of the European Union and how citizens can be active in promoting the EU values, such as peace.



- 39. Implementing Unit:** AURN (Association of the North region Universities)  
**Title of the project:** Promoting the participation of young graduates in democratic processes through the use of new technologies  
**City:** Porto  
**Country:** Portugal  
**Date of the activities:** December 2006, January 2007

**Summary of the activities:** interactive training sessions dedicated to the topic of peace and democracy within a larger training programme directed at young graduates and with the aim of improving the participation of young generations to democratic processes and civil causes.

- 40. Implementing Unit:** Municipality of Mogliano Veneto  
**Title of the project:** Strategies and instruments for the promotion of peace and human rights in South East Europe. From European Union to local authorities.  
**City:** Mogliano Veneto (TV)  
**Country:** Italy  
**Date of the activities:** 27 and 28 January 2007

**Summary of the activities:** A conference was organized on the topic of the Balkans and peace in South East Europe. The exchange of best practices concerning promotion instruments of peace among local authorities and NGOs from the Balkans and Italy were very interesting. The experience of the Local Democracy Agencies was a good and concrete example of a joint commitment for local authorities and NGOs.



*Students in a workshop in Kaunas, Lithuania*

- 41. Implementing Unit:** ARCI Lazio  
**Title of the project:** Peace between memory and future  
**City:** Rome  
**Country:** Italy  
**Date of the activities:** 17 - 27 January 2007

**Summary of the activities:** workshops with young school children (12 – 16 years old), about human rights violations during the Second World War were held. A visit to the “House of Memory and History” of the Municipality of Rome was organized. The workshop dealt with the topic of remembrance starting from the analysis of the events from the 1930s onwards which caused the ascent of Nazism and Fascism and the horror of war in Europe.

- 42. Implementing Unit:** AFRI Action from Ireland  
**Title of the project:** **International Peace Conference – Hope in the dark**  
**City:** Dublin  
**Country:** Ireland  
**Date of the activities:** 27 January 2007

**Summary of the activities:** the conference gathered people who are actively working for peace, justice and human rights: youth leaders, community groups, primary and secondary schools teachers, students, ordinary citizens. A theme, which was specifically addressed, was human trafficking and the role of local authorities and the European Union in promoting peace though the fight against this social curse.

- 43. Implementing Unit:** CONSVIPO. Consorzio per lo sviluppo del Polesine (Association of Local Authorities in Polesine, an area of the Veneto region)  
**Title of the project:** **La pace e la democrazia d'Europa nel Polesine dei giovani** (European peace and democracy for young people in the Polesine area)  
**City:** Rovigo  
**Country:** Italy  
**Date of the activities:** 27 January 2007

**Summary of the activities:** youth workshop on themes as peace and democracy were organized together with the Youth Policies Department of the Municipality of Rovigo, the Human rights and Peace Department of the Province of Rovigo, the Forum for Young people of Rovigo and Lendinara. The aim was to give voice to the young people and to encourage communication among young generations and local authorities. The activity was very successful due to the long-term commitment of Rovigo municipality in involving youth organizations.

- 44. Implementing Unit:** Theatre the l'opprimé  
**Title of the project:** **Dans l'Ombre**  
**City:** Paris  
**Country:** France  
**Date of the activities:** 22 January 2007

**Summary of the activities:** games, exercises, debates and a theatre show for young people on the topic of democracy and active citizenship. The special method of "theatre de l'opprimé", created in Latin America in 1970s by Augusto Boal, was used. This methodology permits the development of expression of each person, of "experiment on the stage what has to be defended in life". The purpose is to find together solutions and ideas to promote peace and to encourage the participation of young people in the local political life (at least going to the polls).

- 45. Implementing Unit:** OKUP  
**Title of the project:** **Caravan nr. 4 – Transit Danube**  
**City:** Strasbourg  
**Country:** France  
**Date of the activities:** October 2006

**Summary of the activities:** art festival with participants from all over Europe, including the Balkans. This event gathered artists who already met each other during another festival, organized by Okup, in Serbia (Caravan nr.3, 2005). Through art the value of peace and of a united Europe was strengthened.

- 46. Implementing Unit:** Europe Direct  
**Title of the project:** **euroLABio**  
**City:** Trieste  
**Country:** Italy  
**Date of the activities:** January 2007

**Summary of the activities:** several workshops and special events through methods of non-formal education were organized. The topics included the involvement of young people of the local community in promotion of peace and democracy, information about human rights, cooperation with local governments.



*Ordinary citizens experimenting the method of Augusto Boal,  
Paris, France*

- 47. Implementing Unit:** Transparency International Slovakia  
**Title of the project:** **Youth against corruption to improve local governance**  
**City:** Bratislava  
**Country:** Slovakia  
**Date of the activities:** 12 and 13 January 2007

**Summary of the activities:** workshops with young NGO leaders. The aim was to improve local governance in Slovakia strengthening the active role of young people and their right to have a say towards local authorities' politics and actions.

- 48. Implementing Unit:** Municipality of Plock  
**Title of the project:** **Cities for development, democracy and peace in Europe**  
**City:** Plock  
**Country:** Poland  
**Date of the activities:** 25 January 2007

**Summary of the activities:** one-day debate about the Millennium Development Goals with a special emphasis on development, peace and democracy issues at the local level in Europe. The discussion focused on the role of local stakeholders in the local development, which should lead to peace among all European citizens.

- 49. Implementing unit:** Kosovo Ensemble  
**Title of the project:** **Partner meeting of the LDA Kosovo and debate on European integration**  
**City:** Paris  
**Country:** France  
**Date of the activities:** 10 December 2006

**Summary of the activities:** One-day debate with the partners of the LDA Kosovo in Paris to identify potential cooperation in the field of decentralised cooperation, the role of local authorities in the peace process in Kosovo and supporting activities in Europe.

- 50. Implementing unit:** City of Suresnes  
**Title of the project:** **Partner meeting of the LDA Central and Southern Serbia and debate on European integration**  
**City:** Suresnes  
**Country:** France  
**Date of the activities:** 6 September 2006

**Summary of the activities:** One-day debate with the partners of the LDA Central and Southern Serbia in Paris to identify potential cooperation in the field of decentralised cooperation, the role of local authorities in the peace process in Serbia.

## **VI HOW THE TOPICS OF PEACE AND DEMOCRACY WERE DEALT WITH DURING THE PROJECT**

All the activities dealt with the topics of peace and democracy strengthening local authorities and young people in promoting a peaceful society and fostering democratic processes. A special focus was given to communication and information events about peace, democracy and human rights at the local level and to cooperation among local governments and citizens.

The participants of the activities which took place in 15 European countries responded in different ways to the issue of "peace and democracy in Europe". The following conclusions were found:

- >> Peace is an important matter for everybody's daily life, including those ones who live in peaceful societies, which are not directly involved in armed conflicts.
- >> Remembrance and knowledge of history is fundamental to educate young generations to peace and democracy.
- >> Even if war ended 60 years ago, there are many menaces to peace (intolerance, ignorance about other cultures, low level of political involvement of young generations).
- >> Talking about peace and democracy is not something given for granted: many students ignore peace and democracy issues.
- >> The topic of peace is less hard to be understood by youngsters who are more available and willing to believe and promote a non-violent culture in Europe.
- >> Teachers and educators are often not trained enough on human rights and democracy issues. It is very important to invest in the future training of teachers and educators.
- >> The participation of citizens, including young people, is fundamental in order to have a say in the European political agenda concerning peace issues and to guarantee a peaceful Europe
- >> It is extremely important to recall that local authorities bear responsibilities as key actors in the promotion of peace and democracy in Europe.

- >> The role of the media has been perceived fundamental in order to combat prejudice, racism and build up a peaceful Europe.
- >> International conventions, already entered into force, but they are not an effective instrument to protect human rights. The international community should find as soon as possible a concrete instrument to compel states to comply with their international commitments.
- >> An extremely interesting side of the project is that each involved organization focused on a particular feature of “what is peace”, “what is democracy”.

**For the citizens who took part in the project, PEACE means:**

- >> Promotion of truth
- >> Remembrance of war and of its effects
- >> Bringing stability to conflict areas
- >> Promoting youth mobility in Europe as an instrument of getting to know different cultures and leading a peaceful coexistence
- >> Discouraging racism, fighting prejudice and Islamophobia
- >> Encouraging the knowledge of other cultures and the respect of differences
- >> Fostering the coexistence of different religions
- >> Fighting the death penalty
- >> Combating nuclear weapons
- >> Protecting the rights of asylum seekers and preventing forced migration
- >> Combating human trafficking
- >> Enhancing social policies for marginalized people
- >> Promoting women’s right and gender equality
- >> Promoting rights of immigrants in Europe, especially the right to vote
- >> Spreading information about human rights

**DEMOCRACY means:**

- >> Promoting European active citizenship
- >> Education to civism and public spirit
- >> Participation of young people in the decision-making processes at the local level, also through new technologies
- >> Bottom-up approach in policies at the local level
- >> Participation of citizens in the neighbouring policies at the local level
- >> Assuring reconciliation and the rule of law
- >> Promoting political rights and democratic elections
- >> Investing in cooperation between development and third countries
- >> Encouraging the participation of women
- >> Assuring the protection and respect of human rights

All these single ideas can be traced back to a unique message: “today’s Europe is a peaceful response to conflicts and wars”. 60 years after the end of the Second World War, Europe is living a phase of peace and stability, which does not know any precedent in its history. This is something, which cannot be lost. 25 European countries are constructing their common future based on the values of peace, democracy and human rights. However, peace and democracy is a fragile construct, which needs to be strengthened continuously. Peace and democracy could appear in wide theoretic concepts, but the methodology of the project showed that it is possible to find new ways of communicating peace and democracy in Europe and to make Europe closest to the people.

## ANNEX

These posters are a selection of promotional materials published by the 50 partners who implemented the campaign “Cities for Peace and Democracy in Europe”.

**Project 32:**  
*Kosovo, Region of Europe: the role of territorial partnership in conflict composition, Rovereto, Italy (left)*



**Project 9:**  
*A journey in Europe, Naples, Italy (middle)*



**Project 42:**  
*International Peace Conference: Hope in the Dark, Dublin, Ireland (right)*



**Project 27:**  
*Local sustainable development: promoting youth's voice, Larissa, Greece (left)*



**Project 36:**  
*Adopt a refugee, Brescia, Italy (middle)*



**Project 45:**  
*Caravan Nr. 4 – Transit Danube, Strasbourg, France (right)*



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