

# NEWSLETTER

A newsletter published within "The European and Our Affairs" – a project funded by the European Union

## IN FOCUS:

### TRAINING FOR MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES HELD IN ZEPCE

ALD Zavidovići organized a training on the topic "EU integration - the prejudices and myths" within the project "The European and Our Affairs" on January 25th 2013, in the conference room of the Municipal Council Zepce. The project is implemented by the Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA), in cooperation with the LDA Zavidovici in Zenica region and local communities Zavidovici and Zepce. The goal of the project activities is to increase awareness about the EU enlargement and pre-accession aid, with special emphasis on the role of local governments and civil society in the reform process. The project is funded by the European Union, with the funds provided under the IPA 2011 "Information and Communication".

This training is one of the education activities envisaged by the project, and is especially adapted for representatives of media.

Training was held by Sandra Memisevic, a representative of the Directorate for European Integration BiH, and was attended by journalists from local media and correspondents from Zavidovići, Zepce and Maglaj. The goal of this project activity is to emphasize the importance of media coverage in creating a positive atmosphere in public, particularly in relation to the process of EU integration. Through an interesting presentation of the integration process so far, and its political, economic and social components, attendees received a lot of new information and expanded their knowledge about the European Union. It was followed by a discussion in which the participants have had the opportunity to express their views, opinions and dilemmas, but also ask questions to which Miss Memisevic readily answered.

A general conclusion from the discussion is that journalists have to be more informed about the integration process



and know the basic facts about the EU, in order to better fulfill their mission of objective and accurate informing of the public. All of the present expressed satisfaction and hope that there will be even more similar activities in the future.

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**PRESENTATION OF THE LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCY ZAVIDOVICI**



**CROATIA'S ACCESSION TO THE EU: THREATS, OPPORTUNITIES AND MESSAGES AT THE DOOR**



**IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW ACTIVITIES OF „THE EUROPEAN AND OUR AFFAIRS PROJECT**



This project is funded by the European Union



This project is implemented by ALDA and LDA Zavidovici

## „PARTNERSHIP BUILDING FOR EU INTEGRATION “ – SECOND PART OF THE TRAINING WITHIN „THE EUROPEAN AND OUR AFFAIRS“ PROJECT HELD IN ZEPCE

The training titled „Partnership building for EU integrations – project cycle management“, within the project „The European and Our Affairs“, was held on January 24<sup>th</sup> 2013 in the Municipality Hall Zepce.



This training represented the continuation of the one held in Zavidovici on december 12th 2012, and it is the second in line of trainings for capacity bulding of CSO's that are foreseen in the project „The European and Our Affairs“, which is financed by the EU, from IPA 2011 „Information and communication“ programme.

The training was attended by 20 representatives of NGO's from Zepce and Zavidovici, and it was held by Stanka Parac from Subotica.

The people present expressed their satisfaction with the fact that they were given the opportunity to know more about the basics of IPA funding, writing of project proposals, and the whole process of applying to the European Union calls for project proposals.

Project "The European and our Affairs" is implemented by the Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA), in cooperation with the LDA Zavidovici, in Zenica region and local communities Zavidovici and Zepce. The goal of the project activities is to increase awareness about the EU enlargement and pre-accession aid, with special emphasis on the role of local governments and civil society in the reform process. Our activities include strengthening of local capacity, public promotion, and knowledge exchange involving various aspects of local society. Priority target groups are local governments, businesses, nongovernmental organizations, local media and youth. The proposed activities and included knowledge exchange will serve as a learning opportunity for stakeholders, but also as a way to dispel the myths and stereotypes related to EU integration.



## EU QUIZ –COMPETITION IN KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE EUROPEAN UNION FOR HIGHSCHOOL STUDENTS

"The EU Quiz" is an activity of the project "European and Our Affairs" and a competition for high school students from the expertise in the European Union (EU) and the European integration process. Quiz includes verification of knowledge relevant to the EU, knowing the history of European integration, EU institutions, as well as knowledge of basic geographic and historical facts related to the member states of the European Union and relations between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the EU.

The aim of the quiz is to encourage young people to research the facts related to the process of European integration and connectivity of BiH with the European Union, and for the better understanding of the needs of accession of BiH into the European Union.

This project included three high schools, two of high schools are from Zavidovici and one high school from Žepče. Quiz will be conducted in two phases. The first phase has already been held in these three schools, on February 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> 2013. Fifteen most successful students from all three schools will enter the final round of the competition.

The final round of the quiz will be held at the end of March 2013, as a part of the finalevent of "The European and Our Affairs" project. Three students winners of the second phase of competition will win valuable prizes. The first phase of the quiz was very succesful, and the LDA Zavidovici is thanking the schools which are part of the project for their cooperation and help in the implementation.



## TRAINING FOR NGO NETWORKS REPRESENTATIVES IN SARAJEVO



Representatives of the organizations implementing the project "Civil Society in Action for dialogue and partnership" had the opportunity to attend a workshop organized by TACSO (Technical Assistance for Civil Society Organisations) BiH, as part of their activities in support of non-governmental organizations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, on topic "Guidelines / monitoring component to eight networks supported under IPA 2009 national program". The workshop was held in Sarajevo from 13th to 14th February 2013, and was led by the Croatian expert Mladen

Majetić.

Prior to the workshops, a survey was conducted among all active participants in networked organizations. These workshops are exclusively intended for representatives of formal and informal networks of non-governmental organizations whose projects have been funded under the IPA 2009 Support to Issue Based Networks program.

One of these projects is the Civil Society in Action for Dialogue and Partnership, in which the lead partner is ALDA, while other partners are members of ALDA network from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia-LDA Mostar, Zavidovici, Osijek and Subotica and also Forum of Tuzla Citizens, Center for Local Development Breza, DON Prijedor and Center New Hopes Bihac. Five representatives of the partners in this project represented the informal network of organizations implementing the project, and these were Dzenana Dedic (LDA Mostar), Amra Hadzimehmedovic (New Hopes Bihac), Murisa Maric (DON Prijedor), Alen Smajic (CLR Breza) and Jasna Zvekić (LDA Zavidovici).

This event was an opportunity for the participants to exchange experiences related to networking and network activities of non-governmental organizations, and create a good vision of opportunities facing their organizations in the future. Thanks to the extensive experience and expertise of the workshop leader, even the experienced activists of the NGO sector benefited greatly from two days of working together, and representatives of "Civil society in action for dialogue and partnership" have managed to create a clear vision for how the project should look like by the end of the implementation, and how to continue to campaign that was started by this project.





## PRESENTATION OF THE LOCAL DEMOCRACY AGENCY ZAVIDOVICI



Embassy of Local Democracy in Zavidovici was founded in 1996. It emerged as a spontaneous initiative of a group of peace activists who had gathered around the Coordinating solidarity initiatives in Brescia in 1992, during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and carried out humanitarian aid projects for the population in BiH, and the admission of refugees in Italy. Over the years, this initiative has been extended from Brescia to the territory of Alba and Cremona.

During 1993, the Standing Conference (now Congress) of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe, adopted a resolution 251, which promotes the creation of the "Embassy of Local Democracy" as an instrument of mediation, promotion and protection of human rights in a pluralistic and multicultural society. This was referring to the formation of the delegations within the ex-Yugoslav communities, which would be an instrument of democracy and support to peace building process. So, in 1997, what started as a project initiative from Italy, was officially recognized as the Embassy of Local Democracy, and an office was formally inaugurated with a permanent delegation in Zavidovici.

Today, LDA Zavidovici in BiH is implementing activities in the local community and the Zenica-Doboj Canton and cooperates with many organizations from across the country and the region in the implementation of joint projects. In addition, it should be emphasized that the basis of the organisation's activities is a constant close cooperation with the founders from Italy.

Some of the main activities of the LDA Zavidovici are:

- decentralized cooperation in various sectors: local democracy, the environment, local economic development, social welfare, social, educational, cultural activities, with special emphasis on women, youth and the protection of human rights;
- organization of twinning between local authorities in Italy and Bosnia-Herzegovina;
- organization of sports exchanges between Italy and Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- youth exchanges, animation of children in rural areas Zavidovici;
- support and assistance for local initiatives to combat domestic violence;
- activities to raise awareness in local communities about the issue of human rights, civic involvement and promotion of European integration;
- coordination and receiving volunteers within the European Voluntary Service - EVS;
- supporting activities and encouraging of the construction of an active civil society at the local level;
- activities of research, analysis and publication of documents on the state of society and social needs.

ALD Zavidovići is a member of ALDA, the Association of Local Democracy Agencies, European network that brings together more than 150 members, including local authorities, associations of local authorities, non-governmental organizations and individuals from more than 30 countries. The main characteristic of ALDA and its members is promotion of the the concept of good governance and civic participation at the local level.



ALD Offices: Osijek, Sisak and Brtonigla (Croatia), Nis and Subotica (Serbia); Pec (Kosovo), Prijedor, Zavidovici and Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina); Niksic (Montenegro); Shkoder (Albania), Kutaisi (Georgia); Gumri (Armenia)

## CROATIA'S ACCESSION TO THE EUROPEAN UNION: THREATS, OPPORTUNITIES AND MESSAGES AT THE DOOR

European standards, one of the bigger challenges for BiH's economy after Croatia's accession to the EU, are in fact the road which, for BiH, would open a market much larger than the Croatian one alone. Bosnia and Herzegovina will, as of 1 July 2013, literally be at the door of the European Union – a market of half a billion people.

It will be up to Croatia whether to seek the agreement of the other EU member states for allowing BiH citizens to enter with ID cards. Should this not happen, BiH citizens

travelling to neighbouring Croatia for this year's summer vacation will have to carry their passports.

Due to gaps in legislation, some unclarity of competences and the need for harmonisation between the state level and entities in the BiH food and feed control system, milk, dairy products, eggs and poultry from BiH will not be able to cross the Croatian border as of 1 July. In the case of potatoes, BiH will have to prove over a three year period that this product does not contain substances harmful to human health. Plants that are not subject to special conditions, such as lettuce, peppers, tomatoes and several kinds of fruit, will be able to be marketed in the EU, as long as the size, structure, appearance and fragrance of the products satisfies border controls.

Clearly producers need the support of BiH institutions so that any negative impacts are only present for as short a time as possible. BiH needs to harmonize its legislation with European legislation - from systematic laws up to regulations and ordinances for the control of all kinds of products. In practice, this means controlling the process of food production "from farm to table".

At the December 2012 meeting between BiH, Croatia and European Commission, the Commission took note of progress made in the alignment of the legislation in the food-safety, veterinary and phytosanitary area, but encouraged the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to finalise their work.

Changes to legislation in BiH are necessary, amongst others, to establish a system that would allow authorities to quickly and reliably find out for example in the case of a virus being found, where exactly in the chain of the agri-food production deficiencies have occurred. This is to protect the health of the consumers in both the EU and in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Such a system has been established in all EU Member States and it is required with regard to imports of such goods into the EU. This illustrates how Croatia's accession will be an opportunity to accelerate reforms and new quality standards in sectors like food production and processing.



To achieve concrete progress in the Food and Veterinary sector, the Law on Food and the Veterinary Law now have to be revised. A working group for the revision of the Law on Veterinary and Food Safety has been established and plans to finalise new drafts in the next few months. The completion of this work has to be also followed by an implementation process on the entity level, since the primary responsibility to carry out controls is with the entities. The implementation process includes the adaption of entity legislation to the State-level Laws and the Hygiene Package as well as education and training of the competent authorities. Discussions between BiH, Croatia and the EU on

two key border management issues are under way. Passage to and from the port of Ploce for cargo coming from BiH) and transit of traffic (coming from and going to Croatian territory) through Neum is still the subject of negotiations because the existing Agreement on transit through the port of Ploce is not in line with the Acquis Communautaire. Passage through Ploce is especially important because this is a route for the not yet compatible with EU standards exports of BiH's products of animal origin toward countries that are not in the European Union.

It is currently foreseen that there will be two Border Inspection Points (BIPs) between BiH and Croatia at Nova Gradiska - Gradiska and Nova Sela - Bijaca. For the moment, these will be the only border crossings that animal origin products will go through on their way to the EU.

The European Union has invested 19 million EUR in support of establishing procedures and logistics to control the safety and quality of food in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the last ten years. The EU will continue to assist Bosnia and Herzegovina in this and in all other processes necessary to adapt to the European standards, but most of the work depends on Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Source: <http://europa.ba>



## EU Enlargement - Accession Explained



## EUROPEAN VOLUNTARY SERVICE



The Youth in Action programme offers young Europeans the chance to make a real difference to the world – and to their own lives – through the European Voluntary Service. The European Voluntary Service (EVS) provides young Europeans with the unique chance to express their personal commitment through unpaid and full-time voluntary activities in a foreign country within or outside the EU. In this way, it seeks to develop solidarity, mutual understanding and tolerance among young people, thus contributing to reinforcing social cohesion in the European Union and to promoting young people's active citizenship.

Open to all young people aged 18 to 30, EVS is a true ‘learning service’. Beyond benefiting the local communities, by participating in voluntary activities, young volunteers can develop new skills and, therefore, improve their personal, educational and professional development. Volunteers can benefit from specific training throughout the activity and agree on their expected learning outcomes, processes and methods in advance. Their learning experience is formally recognised through a Youthpass. Participation is free for the volunteers (except for a possible contribution of a maximum of 10% of the travel costs) who also get board and lodging, insurance cover and an allowance for the duration of the project. Special conditions apply to encourage the participation of young people with fewer opportunities. For instance, they can participate as of the age of 16. Further information can be found in the Youth in Action Programme Guide as well as in the Inclusion Strategy of the Programme.

A successful EVS project requires close co-operation among at least three key players: a sending organisation, a host organisation and the volunteer. One of the organisations involved in this partnership also plays the role of coordinating organisation and applies for an EU grant on behalf of the partnership. Organisations perform a number of roles: they identify volunteering opportunities and develop projects that benefit the local community. They also recruit and prepare the volunteers, host them, and ensure follow-up.

EVS activities can be carried out both individually or in group. Up to 30 volunteers can now participate in the same EVS project!

The EVS has certain core values and quality standards which are laid down in the EVS Charter. In order to protect and uphold these, organisations interested in sending or hosting EVS volunteers or coordinating an EVS project need first to be accredited.

To receive accreditation, organisations submit an ‘expression of interest’ and, once their application is approved, they sign up to the EVS Charter. Accreditation lasts for three years, but can be withdrawn immediately in cases of non-compliance with the Charter.





## EVS IN ZAVIDOVICI

The Association of Local Democracy Embassy (ALD) Zavidovici is accredited as a sending and hosting organisation in EVS system.

After the first EVS experience in Zavidovici, when the ALD Zavidovici had the opportunity to host two volunteers in the period of two months during 2012, the European Voluntary Service is active in Zavidovici again in 2013.

This time, four volunteers from Turkey are gaining their experience in Zavidovici, as a part of two different Youth in Action projects - Büşra Nur and Fatma with the project „Different Visions“, and Osman and Ozan Faruk, with the project „The City of Well Being“.

The European Voluntary Service spans a wide range of areas, such as culture, youth, sports, social care, cultural heritage, the arts, civil protection, the environment, development co-operation, etc. One thing all the activities have in common is a clear European and intercultural learning dimension. EVS is a mutually beneficial process, where everybody gains from getting to know the other's culture

Here is a short introduction from the four of them:

- My name is Büşra Nur. I come from Turkey. I was born in İstanbul in 1993. I live in İstanbul. I am a student at Marmara Universtiy in second class. My department is Economics. I live with my parents in İstanbul. My wish is to be a good economics expert in the future, or to be a teacher at a university.
- My name is Fatma. I was born in 1989. I live in Ankara, Turkey. I have finished TOBB University in September. My department is international relations. Before I came to Zavidovici, i went to Augsburg/Germany with Leonardo Da Vinci Project. In Turkey I am a member of System&Generation Association. Also I am a volunteer at TEGV- Educational Volunteers Foundation of Turkey. Volunteerism in this kind of projects is very crucial for me because of my personal development. I can speak English fluently since I came here. I am learning about different cultures, languages (Bosnian). I can see historical background with observing. I can analyse more easily the differences and similarities between Bosnia and Turkey . So here i am :)
- My name is Osman. I was born in Çubuk, Ankara in 1989. I have played football for 7 years but just now I am a student at Ahi Evran University in department of computer programming. I worked in restaurant when I paused my studies. And I also worked in marketing department of an import firm. My hobbies are travelling, doing sports and commercial entrepreneurship. My purpose of participating in this project is learning different languages, knowing different cultures and people.



- My name is Ozan Faruk. I was born in 1992. Now I am studing at Anadolu University. My department is International Relations. Before this, I have been in Germany, the Netherlands and France on trips. Previously I played in a licensed basketball school team . I live with my parents in Ankara/Cubuk.

## MY EU: FIRST STEPS IN BRESCIA



LDA Zavidovici is part of the project co-funded by EU under the program Europe for Citizens (Networks of Twinned Towns) titled "MY EU: young, equal, inclusive", a project that gathers 14 partners from Albania, Bulgaria, France, Italy, Macedonia, Malta. Its main idea is to provide a well structured dialogue among twinned or keen-to-cooperate towns, with specific reference to active participation in political life of specific target groups: women, youngsters and immigrants. The first event was held in Brescia, Italy: three days to analyze and develop the relation between

immigrants and politics in Italy.

The programme was full of interesting appointments in a 3 days event: the first day was dedicated to discovering the city from its historical point of view through a guided visit to the center of Brescia. We cannot consider this as a mere touristic visit, since together with the participants there was a group of refugees and asylum seekers benefiting from the projects implemented by LDA. The meaning of this activity is to match the two groups stimulating the discussion between them while walking in the city in such a non-formal environment, so that the international participants will have the occasion to know more about this "particular" category of migrants, whose presence covers a crucial role in Italian politics.

After this first "learning by doing", there was an after dinner activity, during which a documentary was shown that tells about the judgment of the International Court of Human Rights that accused Italy for the refoulement of migrants boat in open sea. Through this documentary the participants had a national overview on Italian national politics about immigrants and borders, without forget the repercussion that this have at European level.

On the second day, an open conference was held in the palace of Università Cattolica di Brescia, where lectures were held by professors from different realities working with migrants, such as Pietro Cingiolani from Centro Fieri of Torino, Maddalena Colombo from CIRMIB, Franco Valenti from Foundation for Human Rights Guido Piccini, Maria Perino from University of Piemonte Orientale, Lorenzo Trucco from ASGI (Association of juridical Studies about Migrations), Camillo Boano from University of London. The themes that were faced are different, starting from an overview about immigration fluxes in Italy and laws for or against them, to the relation between immigrants and urban spaces, passing through the rights of migrants in work field and a specific focus on women and new generations. During the afternoon there was a contribution from different migrants associations active at local and national level such as Yalla Italia, Forum Marocchino and Association of Malians in Italy.

The third day was dedicated to the direct introducing of a Moroccan Association which is very active in the city and the Association "diritti per tutti" (rights for everybody) which has an active role at local level for the defense of migrants rights. In this occasion the participants had the possibility to discuss face to face with people who are working for migrants political rights.

During the last evening, participants were 16 students from the University College of London that were at their last day of a study visit in Brescia, during which they analyzed 4 different cases where the presence of migrants affects somehow the urban space. The dinner was the occasion to share impressions and knowledge learned during these 3 intensive days

## GLOSSARY OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATIONS

### EUROBAROMETER/EUROBAROMETRE

Eurobarometer is a service of the European Commission, which conducts public opinion surveys in the EU member states and candidate countries. Eurobarometer was established in 1973, and opinion polls are carried out twice a year. Using Eurobarometer, European Commission monitors the development of public opinion on social and political issues, and the goal of testing is to assist the European Commission in the decision making process, the drafting of legislation and assessing what has been done.



### ACQUIS COMMUNAUTAIRE

Acquis communautaire (the legal legacy of the EU) is one of the most important legal and political principles of European integration. Acquis is a set of rights and obligations that all member states are obliged and bound within the European Union. The term acquis refers to the total rights, obligations and commitment to the community, which have accumulated the development of the integration process, or that the EU has made to date, reached in legal and political terms. The practice of the Court of the European Communities puts the acquis in the ranking of the constitutional principles. In political terms, the key rule is that the Community legal requirements are achievements which can not be negotiated. Acquis, understood as a total achievement of the Community, is becoming larger and evolving every day. Every country that has applied for membership in the European Union must be ready to accept the acquis in full and, equally important, it must be able to implement it. Conditions and methods of acceptance and implementation of the acquis content are negotiations on EU membership candidate countries, which leads to the Member States and in that purpose it is divided into chapters.

### EUROPEAN STANDARDS-EN/NORME EUROPÉEN-EN



European standards as well as standards in general are documents created on a voluntary agreement establishing the criteria for products and services, aimed at ensuring that products and services meet its purpose and to be comparable and compatible. European standards are considered to be standards developed, adopted and published by one of the three European standards organizations: European Committee for Standardization (CEN), the European Committee for Standardization in the field of electrical engineering (CENELEC) and the European Institute of Standards in the field of telecommunications (ETSI). The European Union began to use the standards as a strong support for the development of their policies and legislation in mid-80s, 20th century. European standards, as a rule, are to develop areas of

importance to the industry, internal market made a public good, and the initiative to develop specific standards can provide all interested parties at the state level or directly at the European level. Within the European standards harmonized standards have an important role. On the basis of the "new approach" in European legislative concept that is defined by the EU Council 1985th The European institutions that share the legislative role (Council of the EU, the European Commission and the European Parliament), the regulations (directives) identify key requirements that a particular product or service must meet, and the European standardization organizations prepare appropriate technical specification - harmonized standards. These standards are published in the Official Journal of the EU.





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### USEFUL LINKS

European Union:  
[www.europa.eu](http://www.europa.eu)

Delegation of the EU to Bosnia and Herzegovina and EU Special Representative:  
[www.europa.ba](http://www.europa.ba)

European Parliament:  
[www.europarl.europa.eu](http://www.europarl.europa.eu)

European Council:  
[www.european-council.europa.eu](http://www.european-council.europa.eu)

European Commission:  
[www.ec.europa.eu](http://www.ec.europa.eu)

Council of the EU:  
[www.consilium.europa.eu](http://www.consilium.europa.eu)

Technical Assistance for Civil Society Organisations (TACSO):  
[www.tacso.org](http://www.tacso.org)

Directorate for European Integration BiH:  
[www.dei.gov.ba](http://www.dei.gov.ba)



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