

Multilateral youth exchange

"Story of Europe"



Struga 10-19 February 2010



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France - Serbia - Italy - Montenegro
- Macedonia

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Main idea for the project

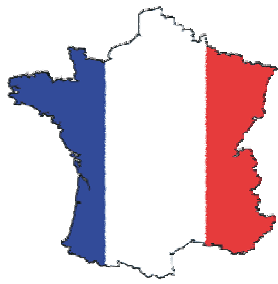
Identifying art and storytelling as a mediums that can connect young people – and even more, as a connection between different cultures and backgrounds, we got the idea to use this as a methodology to develop and strengthen intercultural dialogue and promote unity through exploring diversity. Concerning the fact that art and stories (folklore) are common and in the same time very different for people from different countries with different culture and history, they persist to be a very suitable medium for exercising, presenting and learning cultural wealth and uniqueness.

Summary of the project

The main aim of this multilateral exchange is to encourage and support international dialogue and understanding through art and culture. Young participants from 5 countries from different angles of Europe were involved in a process of intercultural and non-formal learning presenting art as a key media and methodology. Art as link brought young people from different cultural backgrounds to live and work together in intercultural atmosphere where they developed personality and explored and shared culture and way of living.

During the working days 25 young participants from France, Italy, Montenegro, Serbia and Macedonia were promoting non-formal learning using and developing different techniques and methodologies and worked together to share culture and explore diversity of the countries involved. Youngsters were narrating stories that expressed the folklore and tradition of their countries and at the end a storybook “The story of Europe” was created, produced in large number of hard copies, which will be distributed to young people from communities involved and to the participant's organizations. Also participants expressed their impressions from the stories and narrate the Story of Europe on three big paintings that will promote European culture, friendship and unity.

In this direction the project introduced intercultural dialogue and diversity to young people. The event was realized in hotel “Solferino” in Struga, Macedonia in the period of 10.02.2010 – 19.02.2010.



Eurocircle Marseille

France

History

Founded in Berlin in 1993, the EUROCIRCLE network is a European grouping of project managers in the social sectors of education and employment. In 1995, the network became a non-profit-making organization under French law, and settled in Marseille. Ever since, EUROCIRCLE has been endeavoring to support project managers in their implementation of a European approach by initiating European partnerships in order to set up transnational projects. The service on this web site, which puts partners in contact with one another, is structured around an information service that concentrates on the technical aspects of funding programs.

Providing information on European programmes

EUROCIRCLE implements a strategic and documentary survey of the European programs focused on the initiatives of the EU and organizes a European platform of transnational project managers. Information can be one of the obstacles to the emergence of European projects and, therefore, plays an important role. Even if the sources of information are abundant, this does not necessarily mean that they are always available in time and exploitable by the persons in charge of the development structures of European projects.

Initiating transnational partnerships

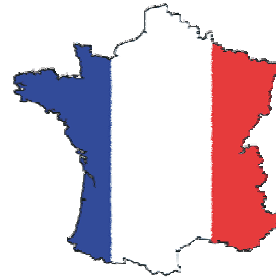
Besides the distribution of information on funding programs, concentrated on the "technical" aspects (deadlines, contents, procedures), EUROCIRCLE assists also in the creation of projects. EUROCIRCLE, holding the position of an interface on a European level, proposes that organizations with different horizons should integrate into already existing European networks, thus allowing them to familiarize themselves with how European projects work and to strike up first contacts with European partners, while benefiting from a subsidy as an associated partner.



Co-operating to realize the projects

EUROCIRCLE's intervention in favor of the project carriers (organizations, enterprises, administration, associations) is backed up by:

- ✍ An expertise, well-founded on a long experience in the development and management of projects at European level;
- ✍ A data base of 400 co-operation partners from 10 European countries;
- ✍ A network of co-operation partners in Germany, Austria and Greece;
- ✍ Intermediary partners like BBJ-Italia and BBJ-Brussels, which play a similar role in their respective countries and organize European co-operation networks.



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www.ec-network.net

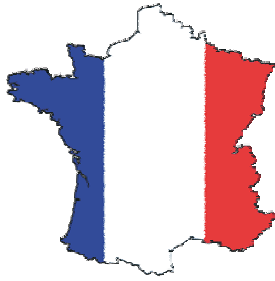
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The Valantre bridge's devil

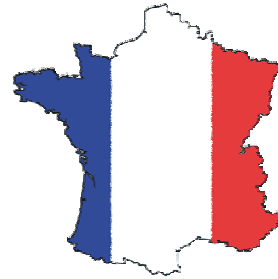
A legend from France

It was beautiful; these boats, this ferry, and these trading vessels constantly crossing the river Lot; but so inconvenient! It was a bridge which needed Cahors, a nice, big, strong and sturdy bridge to cross the river Lot. Unfortunately, construction was hard because the raging and capricious river resisted the men, and all that had been attempted before failed. At this time a master builder arrived in town; he had just finished his “tour de France” and confident in his skills, he presented himself to the Consuls, the local authorities. He won the job and the building of the bridge could start.

But even if the workers were working steadily all day long under the orders of the master builder, there was a curse which caused all the work accomplished the previous day to disappear during the night. The Consuls, unhappy, threatened to hang the miserable man if the work wasn't finished by the deadline. Desperate, the master builder was complaining to his wife and looking for an answer, when she decided to go and look for a “fatsillière”, a good fairy from the Quercy countryside, to lift the curse.



Then the fairy tells her that it's a “not so bad” imp, a mischevious “dracounet” (a little Drac), which every night undid the work done during the day. The only answer is to neutralize it by being more cunning than it.

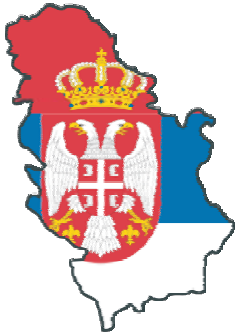


The “fatsillière” explains to the master builder's wife that the imp is afraid of light and whispers in her ear what she has to do. She thanks the good fairy and goes back to comfort her husband. On the day after, just before dawn, the master builder's wife is hiding behind one of the bridge's pillar with the rooster she took on the fairy's advice. The imp approaches to carry on destroying, but at this moment the rooster starts to crow.

The “dracounet” is instantly turned into a statue which the master builder will quickly seal in the upper corner of the central pillar of the bridge, once the work is finished.

If you don't believe me, go and visit Valentre's bridge over the river Lot; the little devil is still there today!





LDA Subotica

Serbia

Mission statement of the LDA Subotica

The Local Democracy Agency Subotica was founded the 1st October 1993, as a result of an agreement between the Council of Europe and the local authorities of Subotica. The LDA had as a main goal to promote local democracy and human rights despite the authoritarian regime Serbia had by this time. LDA Subotica is registered as local NGO. Since 1999, when ALDA was established, LDA Subotica operates as a member of the international ALDA-Network.

The current and the future profile of the LDA Subotica are determined by the mentioned above [aims](#) of the ALDA- Network.

The LDA Subotica contributes to achieve these aims at a regional level in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina in northern Serbia. On a national level the LDA Subotica co-operates with municipalities across Serbia and maintains a closed collaboration with the LDA for Central and Southern Serbia, in [Niš](#). On an international level the LDA Subotica stays in regular contact and profits of a systematic co-operation with its [Partners](#) from the ALDA-Network.

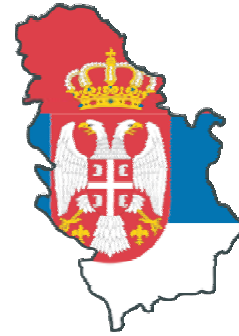
With its programmes the LDA Subotica aims to:

- Strengthen local capacity and institution building towards a European integration
- Develop civil society and citizen's participation at local level
- Promote trans-border and regional co-operation
- Empower young people to volunteer and participate in European youth exchange programmes
- Strengthen Human and Minority rights in local communities,
- Promote inter-cultural dialogue and tolerance



What are the objectives and priorities of the LDAs?

Over the years, the main objective of the LDAs remained the same: Assist the region in a stable transition towards democracy and European integration, with an emphasis on promoting Human rights and tolerant and trust-based relationships within different local communities.



However, different pillars of activities were added to ALDA's mission which nowadays include:

- Strengthening of European integration and implementation of European values
- Active citizenship and citizens' participation
- Fostering of equal opportunities and young policies
- Sustainable economic development

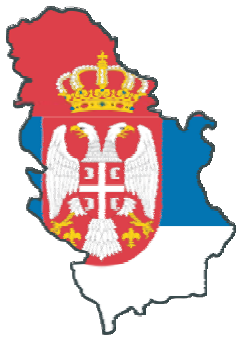
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Why people don't have flatfoot?

A legend from Serbia

When the devils fell from God and escaped to the Earth, they took the Sun with them, and the Devil impaled it on a spear and carried it on the shoulder. Then the Earth complained to God, that it was burning from the Sun being so close, so the Lord sent the holy Archangel to take the Sun back from the Devil.

When the Archangel came down to earth, he joined with the Devil; but the Devil knew what he wanted, so he was cautious. Walking on the earth together, they came to the sea and went for a swim; the Devil stabbed the spear, with the sun on it, in the ground.

After some time, the holy Archangel said: "Let's dive in the sea to see who can go deeper!" and the Devil answered: "Let it be so." Then the holy Archangel dives, and brings some sand in his teeth from the sea bottom. Now the Devil has to dive too, but he is afraid that the Archangel will steal the Sun from him while he is down in the depths of the sea.

An idea came to the Devil's mind, so he spits on the ground, and forms his spit in a crow shape which rises to guard his sun while he is diving for sea sand. The moment the Devil dives into the water, Archangel makes the sign of the cross and the sea freezes, with the ice being nine ells thick; he seizes the sun and runs towards the skies.



The crow starts to caw. When the Devil hears the crow's voice, he knows what's happening; so as fast as he can, he thrusts towards the surface. But the thick ice is stopping him from getting on dry land. Then he hurries again to the bottom of the sea, grabs a boulder, and with it he breaks the ice – and chases the Archangel! The Archangel runs, and the Devil is closing in! As the Archangel just steps into the Lord's heaven with one foot, the Devil comes and with his nails he grabs the Archangel by the sole of his other foot, ripping off a large piece of flesh.



When the wounded Archangel comes to the Lord, carrying the Sun, he cries: “What should I do now my Lord? My form is distorted!” And the Lord answers: “Quiet, don't be afraid, I shall make it so that all people have on their sole a little valley, like yours”. And God does so, and in all people, the soles of their feet on both their legs have a little valley. And so it has remained from that day to this day.



XENA

ETS



XENA is a non-profit, cultural association for social promotion which was set up in the autumn of 1994. Its name derives from ancient Greek meaning "foreign things". Its main objective is to increase and improve the level of contact and interaction amongst different cultures. It promotes projects mainly within the frame of European Programmes – such as "Youth in Action" (i.e. "Youth for Europe", "European Voluntary Service", "Group Initiative", "Support Measures"), "Lifelong Learning" (i.e. "Leonardo da Vinci" and "Grundtvig") and others - with the following principal aims: to offer young people the possibility to join mobility programs in educational, professional and cultural spheres and to promote awareness of different cultures and systems; to promote opportunities for meetings between different cultures and to encourage greater knowledge of foreign languages also in the local sphere; to promote intercultural learning dynamics, and to prevent and combat racism and prejudices; and to encourage the active and responsible participation of youth in society.

Xena is a training board accredited by the Veneto Region in the guidance sphere, active member of the Eurodesk network, managing the local info centre IT049. (www.eurodesk.org)

AREAS OF INTEREST

Human Resource

European Union Programme Youth in Action (Youth for Europe – European Voluntary Service)

Leonardo da Vinci European Programme

Information, formations, orientation.

Consultancy

Language & Culture courses

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The foundation of Rome

A legend from Italy

Here is the legend of the founding of Rome by the twin brothers, Romulus and Remus. Their grandfather was the rightful king of Alba but he had been deposed by his brother. Their mother was supposed to be a virgin priestess of the goddess Vesta, but she got pregnant, some say by Mars, the god of war. Their great-uncle recognised that Romulus and Remus were more than human and attempted to have them killed. The servant entrusted with this task abandoned them by the river Tiber, which was in flood. They were found by a she-wolf who suckled them, and a woodpecker, who fed them. A swineherd later found the babies and brought them up.

Romulus and Remus grew up into strong young men, born leaders of the shepherds and outlaws in the surrounding countryside. Remus was captured in a brawl with some of his grandfather's shepherds. Romulus attempted to rescue his brother, and the presence of twins of about the right age uncovered the secret. With their own followers and their grandfather's men, they deposed their great-uncle and restored their grandfather to his throne. Romulus and Remus did not want to serve anybody else as king, so they left Alba to found their own city.

They chose different sites, and decided to seek omens for which would be better. Remus looked round and saw six vultures, a good omen, whereupon Romulus claimed to have seen twelve, even better. While



they were arguing, Remus jumped contemptuously over the walls Romulus had built. Romulus was made even angrier by this, and in a fit of rage, killed his brother.



Romulus buried Remus, and carried on with building his city. There was one problem: all the inhabitants, being shepherds, runaway slaves, and brigands, were men. Romulus held games in honour of the god Consus, and invited people from the Sabine communities roundabout. While they were watching the games, Romulus gave a signal and the Romans seized the young Sabine women who were attending the games and made off with them. The Sabines later tried to get the women back, but by this time they had married their abductors and some of them had become mothers. The women interposed themselves between the two armies, and pleaded not to be forced to choose between their relatives by blood and their relatives by marriage. Peace was restored and Romulus and Tatius, the king of the Sabines, were made joint monarchs. Tatius was killed after only five years, and Romulus then reigned alone.

After having reigned over Rome for 38 years, Romulus disappeared in a violent storm, and it was announced that he had been taken up to heaven, from where he would continue to look after Rome's destiny as the god Quirinus.



ADP ZID Montenegro

Association for Democratic Prosperity - Zid – is non-profit organization established 1996. in Podgorica, and the scope of work in the beginning was student's questions within University of Montenegro. Organization has developed step by step, and 10 years later ADP ZID is one of most developed non-governmental organization in Montenegro. Of course, youth was and still is the focus of work within organization, as well as volunteerism and community development.

Our vision is:

Well developed and democratic society of equal citizens, open for different initiatives and changes, aiming permanent improvement of life quality for people who live in it.

Our mission is:

ADP – Zid promote and strengthening participation of individuals and organizations in process of development of civil society trough realization of innovative programmes aiming strengthening of democratic processes and contributing development of community.

Aims of organization:

Increasing individual opportunities for development and active participation of citizens, especially young people, in local community, using promotion of volunteerism, mobility, non-formal education, initiatives for advocacy and services.

Advance quality of life within community, urging citizens, administrative organs and political parties on cooperation and on that way to make them to take over active responsibility for self-development.

Starting dialogue and contribute to solving problems within society, using different media and cultural forms.

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The foundation of the town of Dobrota



A legend from Montenegro

Here is a story about the foundation of Dobrota:

Two travelers, who were traveling around the world, came to the grey sea. As they were already exhausted from the long trip, they sat on some kind of a rock to get some rest and to refresh themselves. One of them moved a little bit to a side and noticed a plaque with some inscription on it. The inscription said: "Measure 10 lengths dig and stop". When they read that, they wondered what could that be, so they started to guess together what that instruction could mean. At one moment they came to an idea to measure 10 lengths with the plaque, and so they did. When they measured the required length, they started to dig a small hole in the ground and they found some kind of a small chest. They tried to open it, but to their astonishment, the chest opened by itself.

At the bottom of the chest with golden letters it was written "this is everyone goodness". For a long time they thought what they should do?! Whether to stay where they are, or to continue their journey? Still, as the message was like some kind of a vow, they stayed in the place where they have found the message. At the same place they quickly made a cottage, and went to sleep.



During the night something very strange happened. From the wooden chest, some new shiny letters glimmered. The new message said: "Wish whatever you want before sleep"!!! As both of the travelers from the beginning of the story were poor, they wished for nice stone houses and beautiful wives.

When they woke up in the morning they were speechless. They saw a white castle and a woman on the window looking towards the sea. They immediately moved into the new home, and continued to live in ease. Since that, every night before they went to sleep they wished for another nice house, of which every morning one emerged.

That is how Dobrota, near Kotor, was founded.



Youth Council Prilep, Macedonia



Civil Society Organization “Youth Council” -Prilep acts from June 1999 in the field of youth and civil society.

Main motive for establishing of the organization is to help in creating conditionals for common action of young individuals and associations in direction of identification and resolving problems and needs of youngsters.

Mission

Youth Council Prilep supports young people in the democratic processes, empowering them to grow into active citizens.

Vision

Youth Council Prilep is sustainable leading organization on local and regional level, a reliable partner in the creation and implementation of youth policy along with all key stakeholders.

Our work as visible and recognized organization is based on democratic values enabling youth to be creative and active citizens.

GOALS:

- Influence on youth policy
- Development of non-formal education
- Strengthening the capacities of youth NGOs in R.M
- Achieving the financial and institutional sustainability

ACTIVITIES:

- Advocating and lobbying for the youth issues ;
- Organizing educations;
- Involving of youngsters in decision making process;
- Strengthen the capacities of youth NGOs here and in the region;
- Membership in international youth networks and associations;
- Cooperation and partnership in international and regional organizations and institutions



Regular Activities:

- Permanent advocacy and lobbying for youth needs and problems in Macedonia
 - Capacity building of local and regional youth organization on national and local level
 - Promotion of National Youth Strategy of Macedonia on local level
-
- Development of Youth Information centers (in the region)
 - Establishing and development of Local Youth Consultative Bodies
 - Increasing the youth participation on local level

Youth Council Prilep is full member of Coalition of youth organizations SEGA which is currently one of 5 YIA contact points in Macedonia and is also full member of citizens association MOST(network of elections monitoring organizations). YCP is active user of Youth in Action programme and is SO/CO/HO accredited EVS organization.

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*Today wealthy,
Tomorrow poor*



A legend from Macedonia

Many years ago lived a very rich man. His property extended beyond the eye could see. The rich man had only one son whom he loved and looked after. When the kid grew up his father sent him to school. After a few years the father got very ill and always laid in bed.

One day when the old man felt that the end of his life was coming near, he called his son and said to him:

"As you see my son, soon I will close my eyes and die. That will be the last time that we will see each other. Listen carefully, I live you this much money, goods, fields, vineyards, gardens, houses. All I have will become yours. I only ask for one thing?

Open your eyes and work with your mind, from one make two and spread my honorable name. If you start drinking, making sins and lying you will quickly lose your wealth. Then the only thing left for you will be to throw a rope and hang yourself on the tallest tree in the garden, because the world will joke with you"

Soon after that, his father died. The son with deep sorrow buried his father. On the funeral gathered old and young, male and female a chain of people. After some time the son forgot his father's words. He got involved with the wrong people. He started drinking, gave up work and went towards the wrong way.

In about two - three years he sold all of his property, ate and drunk all his money with his friends. He quickly became poor and the world started to laugh at him.



The only thing he had left was his house and garden. One day when he didn't have anything to eat, he sent a message to his friends to give him a little loan. His friends did not send him anything, so he decided to go and beg them. His friends made jokes with him and said:

“Get away from us. You should be ashamed. Your father left you all his wealth and you wasted it. Your

head deserves that silly looking hat.” Step by step the poor man went home.

One morning, when he could not handle the laughs by the people, he took a rope and headed towards the garden. He decided to do what his father once said. He stood underneath the tallest tree, threw the rope over the thickest branch and put a wooden basket underneath his feet. He stepped onto the basket and put his head through the knot. When he kicked the basket with his feet to hang himself, the branch split from the tree and he was left alive.

Amazed, he looked up and saw that the tree was hollow. When he looked up carefully, he noticed that the trunk was full with precious diamonds and gold. Then he thought: "My father knew that I will go towards the wrong way. That's why he hid all this fortune and told me to hang my self exactly here, but now I know what to do. I will start working and make him proud".

The son went in the house to take an axe. He chopped down the tree and carefully gathered the gold and precious diamonds in a bag. After he carefully thought through what to do he decided to be a trades person. He turned his back on his older friends and started to be honest in his work. He travelled through the whole world by trading. After many years of hard work he got back his father's wealth. Once again his and his father's names were spoken amongst the people proudly.











Youth in Action Programme

On 15 November 2006, the European Parliament and the Council adopted Decision No 1719/2006/EC, which establishes the Youth in Action programme for the period 2007 to 2013. This document is the legal basis of the Programme for its entire duration.

Youth in Action is the EU Programme for young people aged 15-28 (in some cases 13-30). It aims to inspire a sense of active citizenship, solidarity and tolerance among young Europeans and to involve them in shaping the Union's future.

Youth in Action is a programme for all! It promotes mobility within and beyond the EU borders, non-formal learning and intercultural dialogue, and encourages the inclusion of all young people, regardless of their educational, social and cultural background.

Youth in Action is the successor of the YOUTH Programme (2000-2006). Building on the experience of the previous programmes for youth, Youth in Action is the result of a large consultation with the different stakeholders in the youth field and aims to respond to the evolutions and needs of young people at European level.

With a total budget of 885 million euros for seven years (2007-2013), the Programme supports a large variety of activities for young people and youth workers through five Actions.

- Action 1 - Youth for Europe
- Action 2 - European Voluntary Service
- Action 3 - Youth in the World
- Action 4 - Youth Support Systems
- Action 5 - Support for European cooperation in the youth field





Objectives

The YOUTH IN ACTION programme is the EU's mobility and non-formal education programme targeting young people aged between 13 and 30 years. Its general objectives are the following:

- Promote young people's active citizenship in general and their European citizenship in particular;
- Develop solidarity and promote tolerance among young people, in particular in order to foster social cohesion in the European Union;
- Foster mutual understanding between young people in different countries;
- Contribute to developing the quality of support systems for youth activities and the capabilities of civil society organisations in the youth field;
- Promote European cooperation in the youth field.

Youth in Action in figures

- Duration: 2007-2013
- Budget: 885 million euros for seven years
- Geographic reach: EU Member States, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Turkey, the EU neighbours (Eastern Europe and Caucasus, the Mediterranean region, South-East Europe) and other partner countries in the world
- Age brackets: 15-28 (in some cases 13-30)

“This project has been funded with support from the European Commission.
This publication reflects the views only of the author, and the Commission
cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information
contained therein.”