

# LOD NEWSLETTER

Reinforcement of  
Local Democracy

## FIVE YEARS OF THE LOD PROJECT IN FIGURES

AUGUST 2014



### 3 PHASES OF THE LOD PROJECT

★ **40 local self-governance units (LSU):** Banja Luka, Bihać, Bijeljina, Bosanska Krupa, Bugojno, Čapljina, Derventa, Dobož, Foča, City Of Sarajevo, Gradiška, Gračanica, Jablanica, Ključ, Kozarska Dubica, Laktaši, Livno, Lukavac, Ljubinje, Ljubuški, Maglaj, Mrkonjić Grad, Novi Grad, Novi Grad Sarajevo, Prijedor, Srbač, Srebrenik, Stari Grad Sarajevo, Široki Brijeg, Teslić, Tešanj, Travnik, Trebinje, Tuzla, Velika Kladuša, Višegrad, Zavidovići, Zenica, Zvornik and Žepče. ★ **224 CSO projects financed**

★ **The total value of the financed CSO projects during a five-year intervention by LOD amounts to 7 million KM, With The LSUs contributing almost 1 million KM.** ★ **60.000** beneficiaries included in the CSO projects, out of which more than **30,000** in the field of social inclusion.

# FIVE YEARS OF THE LOD PROJECT

## A symbiosis of the local self-governance and civil society

After a successful implementation of three phases over the past five years, the project “Reinforcement of Local Democracy – LOD” positioned itself as an important intervention that reinforces the relations between the civil society and local self-governance. It is the impact of this project that enabled civil society organizations (CSOs) to be recognized as local governance service providers, at the same time pointing out ways in which Local Self Government Units (LSUs) may entrust the civil society with some of its duties.

The LOD III project is financed by the European Union (EU) from the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA) in the amount of 2 million EUR and implemented by the UNDP in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), whereas the Ministry of Justice of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Association of Municipalities and Cities of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Association of Municipalities and Cities of Republika Srpska are project partners that have provided full support in the implementation of project activities in all three phases. The goal of the project is to support democratic stabilisation, reconciliation and further development of Bosnia and Herzegovina by assisting the selected LSUs in establishing better relations between the local authorities and civil society and developing financial mechanisms for better provision of services.

### Three phases of the LOD project

The first phase of the LOD project lasted from January 1, 2009 to September 30, 2010, whereas the second phase was implemented in the period October 2010 – May 2012. During the first two phases of the LOD project, the following

LSUs participated: **Banja Luka, Bihać, Bijeljina, Bugojno, Derвента, Doboj, Foča, Grad Sarajevo, Gradiška, Gračanica, Jablanica, Ključ, Laktaši, Ljubuški, Maglaj, Mrkonjić Grad, Novi Grad Sarajevo, Prijedor, Srebrenik, Široki Brijeg, Tešanj, Travnik, Trebinje, Tuzla, Velika Kladuša, Višegrad, Zavidovići, Zenica i Zvornik.**

“Preparations for the fourth phase of the LOD project have already started and the selection of new LSUs to participate in this project phase is expected soon.”

The third phase, LOD III, was initiated in June 2012 and it was completed in June 2014. LSUs from throughout BiH were invited to participate in a transparent and competitive process of LOD III project partner selection. Initially, 11 partner LSUs were included: **Bosanska Krupa, Čapljina, Kozarska Dubica, Livno, Ljubinje, Lukavac, Novi Grad, Srbac, Stari Grad Sarajevo, Teslić and Žepče.** Due to good practices in the implementation of the LOD methodology, additional four LSUs that had been partners in previous

phases were selected for participation in LOD III phase, namely **Banja Luka, Novi Grad Sarajevo, Tešanj and Višegrad.** Based on clearly defined criteria, the financing of 76 CSO projects at 15 participating LSUs in LOD III phase was approved, with a total value of over 2,4 million KM. Priority areas of the selected projects are related to poverty reduction and social inclusion.

### Municipalities and cities co-financed civil society projects

In order to assist partner LSUs in improving the methods of financing CSO from their own budget funds, the LOD team also conducted a comprehensive analysis of the distribution of budget funds foreseen for CSOs within the partner LSUs participating in the third project phase. The analysis identified challenges in the method of financing of CSOs and necessary steps were proposed in order to establish a transparent and uniform financing mechanism for CSOs in compliance with best practices from the EU Member States by adopting and implementing the **LOD methodology.**

During all three project phases, a total of 224 CSO projects were implemented at 40 local communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which included more than 60,000 project beneficiaries.

| Period  | Total grant funds | Share of local communities | Number of partner LSUs | Number of CSOs |
|---------|-------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| LOD I   | BAM 2.286.263,51  | BAM 241.430,43             | 14                     | 67             |
| LOD II  | BAM 2.363.749,22  | BAM 245.615,39             | 15                     | 81             |
| LOD III | BAM 2.411.285,31  | BAM 456.044,65             | 11+4                   | 76             |
| Total   | BAM 7.061.298,04  | BAM 943.090,47             | 40                     | 224            |

Partner LSUs have directly assisted not only with the preparation and implementation of these projects, but they have also co-financed them as shown in the table.

Based on the project approach and transparent funds allocation mechanisms, the **LOD methodology** implies decisions on allocation of funds for CSOs from the public budgets are made in compliance with needs and priorities of local communities and based on results of a transparent evaluation of project proposals submitted following a public tender. As opposed to the “traditional” method of allocation through direct financing of CSOs, this method allows to direct the public consumption towards the achievement of strategic goals of local communities and at the same time it maximizes effectiveness (by achieving the best results) and efficiency (by achieving results with the minimum use of resources). This approach also enables representatives of the civil society to participate in a decision making process, which results in better inclusion and transparency of the process. An important approach to implementation is also the introduction of gender equality principles, especially encouraging women to participate in all activities and goals of the LOD intervention.

### Unique local development intervention

What makes the LOD project a unique intervention is the cooperation with the local self-governance in strengthening the civil society and their mutual cooperation. By assisting LSUs in achieving a symbiosis with CSOs, the LOD project, with the support of the EU Delegation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, tries to establish a basis for long-term sustainability

of integrated strategic planning and public consumption. The importance of the LOD project is reflected in the fact that the improvement of relations between the civil society and LSUs results in a better and stronger participation of the civil society in planning and provision of services to citizens. At the same time, a close cooperation between CSOs and LSUs, in compliance with clearly defined procedures, includes a harmonisation of financing the civil society in line with local development plans and needs of local communities. This is of particular importance considering that local authorities are frequently unable to recognise and design relevant activities for specific needs of citizens fast enough, especially when it comes to those citizens that belong to the category of socially marginalised citizens. For this specific reason, the LOD project aims at strengthening capacities of service providers in the field of social service provision, considering a special needs-based approach and implementing targeted support interventions, e.g. for Roma, internally displaced persons, children and youth, women, disabled persons and elderly persons. The activities of the Reinforcement of Local Democracy project develop synergy with other UNDP interventions in the field of local governance, such as the Integrated Local Development Project (ILDLP) and the Municipal Training System Project (MTS). These interventions are implemented as part of the UNDP’s Regional and Rural Development Sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

### Results of the LOD project

The implementation of project activities has resulted in successful assistance to LSUs in developing uniform and transparent mechanisms for the allocation of budget funds planned for CSO projects in compliance with local needs and identified priorities. Improved communication was promoted and permanent partnership between CSOs and LSU was established by raising the awareness on mutual benefits of the cooperation, supporting sustainable dialogue and building of capacities needed for the implementation of joint activities. There was continuous capacity building of partner LSUs and CSOs in the field of project cycle management. At the same time, CSOs were encouraged to specialise their activities and make them more professional, adopt the practice of long-term planning, act in compliance with local needs and be less dependant on the current donor priorities. The preparations for the fourth phase of the LOD project have already started and the publication of a tender for the selection of new LSUs that will participate in this project phase is expected soon. The EU will continue financing this successful project from IPA funds amounting to 2 million EUR, as in case of the previous project phases. The LOD IV project will be implemented over the coming two years (2014-2016).

# FLOODS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA: Chronology of Assistance

## The EU assists flood-affected areas

Since the very beginning of the emergency and received request for assistance that the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina sent on May 15, 2014, the EU has demonstrated full solidarity with Bosnia and Herzegovina. Assistance will continue to be provided for the purposes of the fastest possible recovery and resolution of this dramatic situation.

Assistance in the form of an immediate emergency response provided by EU Member States and organised by the European Commission is an important part of the reaction to the emergency in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Activities on the ground included rescuing lives, pumping water from flooded buildings, maintenance of the electricity supply system, provision of material goods



to flood affected areas, analysis of water-courses and forecasting of their tendencies and satellite image analysis of damages occurred. As the situation unfolds, the EU mobilises all tools available that will ensure assistance with the recovery and reconstruction of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

### Emergency response

On May 15, the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina sent a request for international assistance to the Civil Protection of the EU through the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) of the European Commission. The EU has put its emergency response mechanism to use since the very beginning and provided emergency assistance. The EU Civil Protection engaged more than 400 persons under the emergency response, who participated in provision of the assistance. Thanks to them, more than 1,700 persons were saved by helicop-

ters, motorboats and special teams. EUFOR participated in the rescue of 3,000 persons. Twelve large capacity pumps were used, with additional 85 pumps and 14 water purification devices. Flood victims in Bosnia and Herzegovina were also provided with 11,000 water purification tablets, 14,000 blankets and more than thousand tents. The European Commission co-finances assistance transportation costs for the affected areas and ensures satellite images. The Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC) of the European Commission has been in contact with the competent government authorities in the affected countries in order to ensure that the arriving assistance meets the needs on the ground. The Head of the EU Delegation in BiH and EU Special Representative in BiH, Peter Sørensen, delivered humanitarian assistance for the inhabitants of the affected areas to one of the aid collection points in Sarajevo. The EU Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Re-



sponse, Kristalina Georgieva, visited Sarajevo on May 21-22 2014. On this occasionshe also visited some of the most affected areas and discussed assistance with some of the European teams that participated in rescue operations on the ground. Furthermore, Christian Danielsson, Director General for Enlargement at the European Commission



and Ricardo Zapata Marti, Chief Coordinator of the EU for the Recovery Needs Assessment, visited Doboj on May 27. Danielsson and Zapata met with mayors of Doboj and Maglaj and other members of rescue coordination teams in order to discuss the situation on the ground after the catastrophic floods.

### The participation of EUFOR ALTHEA troops in the rescue

The EU military troops in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR ALTHEA) and soldiers from 22 countries were among those leading the way in providing international assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina. They assisted in the rescue of persons from flooded areas, provided medical assistance, and transported water, food, medicines and other necessary materials and equipment.

The reserve troops of EUFOR arrived in Bosnia and Herzegovina on May 29, 2014 in order to participate in the joint rescue action with the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In addition to this, the EU, including the EUFOR ALTHEA troops, hired experts in order to assist the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and organisations engaging in mine clearance in evaluating the impact of floods and landslides in mined areas ([www.euforbih.org](http://www.euforbih.org)).

### Assessment of damages occurred and needs

The EU, UN and World Bank have jointly responded to the request of the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina for an emergency assessment of damages occurred and needs and the impact of the recent floods on the lives of persons and vital sectors in the affected areas. The EU tasked Mr Ricardo Zapata Marti, the winner of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize, with leading the assessment of the situation together with other members of the International Climate Change Committee (IPCC).

“With the support of the EU, UN and World Bank, the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina successfully conducted an assessment of the reconstruction needs after the floods that affected the country. In addition to the damage occurred as a result of floods amounting to four billion KM, the floods will also lead to a reduction of the economic growth in Bosnia and Herzegovina over the coming period, so that it will amount to -1.1%. Agriculture has also been affected, so that production in that sector will also decrease over the coming period. However, if the reconstruction is conducted fast, economic recovery will be much faster. The construction sector is crucial for economic growth.”

The assessment work officially started with a two-day training (May 29 – 30) for representatives of the institutions of Bosnia and

Herzegovina (state level), Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska (entity level), and Brčko District as well as for international experts from the EU, UN agencies and World Bank. More than 100 officials from Bosnia and Herzegovina, national and international experts, who participated in the needs assessment for Bosnia and Herzegovina, had an opportunity to learn about the assessment methodology and agree on its implementation. The methodology consists of individual methodologies used by the World Bank, EU and UN for a disaster impact assessment in the affected areas. This includes a detailed assessment of consequences and influence of disaster from the municipal to the state level, by combining social, economic and financial factors.

### Additional financial assistance for reconstruction and rehabilitation



In addition to direct humanitarian assistance to the most affected population in both countries, the European Commission allocated additional 65 million EUR for flood relief in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Out of this amount, three million EUR were allocated for ensuring food, medi-

cines, hygiene products, first aid and accommodation. A priority was to ensure clean potable water, essential goods such as blankets, mattresses, beds, bed linen,



tools and equipment such as drying equipment for the destroyed houses. These items were distributed through the Red Cross/Crescent and other partner organisations on the ground. The remaining 62 million, out of which around 42 million will be allocated for Bosnia and Herzegovina, will be used for short-term and medium-term reconstruction projects and mitigation of consequences in the affected areas. These funds were reallocated from the existing IPA programmes.

The EU is willing to continue providing assistance over the medium and long term from new IPA funds to be approved for the period 2014 – 2020. The European Commission cooperates with the affected countries and international financial institutions on the assessment of specific needs and finding the best way for using financial assistance. Based on that, the EU will approve additional IPA funds to be used for infrastructure reconstruction, improvement of the water management system and flood protection in the whole region. This will result in better planning and reduction of risk and better organisation of civil protection in case of natural disasters.

## EUROJARGON

### Do you know...

... that there are three different European bodies that contain the word “Council”:

**The European Council** represents the heads of states or governments (i.e. presidents and/or prime ministers) of all EU Member States and President of the European Commission. In general, the European Council convenes four times a year in order to discuss general EU policies and supervise the progress. The Council is the highest-ranking body of the EU and its sessions are thus frequently called summits.

**The Council of the European Union**, previously known as the Council of Ministers, is an institution consisting of ministers (from a certain field) of all EU Member States. The Council convenes regularly for the purpose of adopting specific decisions and legislation.

**The Council of Europe** is not an institution of the EU, but an international organisation with seat in Strasbourg, which, since its establishment in 1949, has been aiming at, among other issues, supporting human rights protection in its member countries, promoting European cultural diversity and fighting social problems, such as xenophobia and intolerance.

## Glossary of EU terms

**THE EUROPEAN UNION SOLIDARITY FUND** is an assistance instrument that renders possible fast, efficient and flexible reaction to great natural disasters or emergencies in Member States and countries acceding to the EU. It was established in 2002, and its budget is adopted on an annual basis.

**THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT** is an example of a directly expressed political will of the European Union and the largest multi-national parliament in the world. The European Parliament supports the rights of citizens, adopts legislation and supervises the executive power.

# FLOODS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

## Assistance on the spot

Unprecedented rains affected Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia in mid May of this year, which resulted in floods that have not been witnessed over the past 120 years. As a result of floods and landslides,

a great number of persons lost what they had been building and acquiring for a long time, in what they had invested years and decades of work and efforts. However, the floods have also lead to the best coming to surface – people, revealing the best in them. What we are happy about is that many CSOs, which had been partners of the LOD project in resolving problems at local communities, immediately came to help their fellow citizens. Some of the examples are shown in this issue.

## United in a humanitarian mission



After the first news about the people affected by flooding the collection of food and clothing was organised in numerous local communities throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. Diligent members of the Cultural and Artistic Association Puračić had been collecting food, clothes, cleaning agents and hygiene articles for days in order to alleviate the difficult situation of the flood-affected population at least a bit. The focus

of the efforts was collecting aid for inhabitants of the refugee settlement in Puračić that was most affected by the floods. Out of 12 housing units in the settlement ten were fully flooded. There are 20 families with 67 members living there, most of who, in addition to all problems they face, also belong to a socially disadvantaged category. Many fellow citizens reacted to the invitation launched by the Cultural and Artistic Association Puračić, but also people from diaspora, so that large quantities of food, clothes and other items were collected and distributed during the first days following the disaster.

With the assistance of its fellow citizens, the Cultural and Artistic Association Puračić forwarded part of the collected aid to inhabitants of Orašje in Posavina Canton. The Cultural and Artistic Association Puračić had organised humanitarian actions for disadvantaged families before, and by launching

this appeal it has proven once more that it is active in all segments of social activities and willing to assist those who need such assistance. We would like to remind of the fact that the Cultural and Artistic Association Puračić successfully implemented the project "Wake Up – the Nature Does Not Forgive" in Lukavac municipality in the period 2013-2014 under LOD III Project.



## Herzegovina helps Bosnia

The natural disaster did not affect Herzegovina this time. However, Herzegovina did provide assistance. Fire fighters, members of the Mountain Rescue Service, rafters, citizens, they all participated in their way. Large quantities of aid were collected, and many volunteers arrived to the flood-affected areas. They are used to emergency situations, mostly fires, and the fast Herzegovinian rivers have also enabled them to get to know the nature of water courses, which turned out to be an important asset in this case.

Mate Jurković, the Head of the Fire Brigade Čapljina, remembers that when his brigade decided at their own initiative to go there and help persons in flood-affected areas, he did not have to decide who would go, but rather who would stay, because members of the brigade volunteered on their own.

"Our job is to protect and rescue persons and material goods, we do not need additional motivation", says commander Jurković, and adds: "We found a catastrophic situation that cannot be described by words. Čapljina municipality was flooded twice in 2011, but that had not been even similar to what we have seen in Bosnia and Posavina."

Colleagues from the Mountain Rescue Services from Čitluk and Široki Brijeg joined the rescuers from Čapljina and Jablanica as soon as May 18, and all of them together – 34 of them from four stations of Mountain Rescue Service, with six boats and water and air rescue equipment, went to the flooded areas of Šamac, Žepče, Odžak, Orašje and Domaljevac, providing assistance with everything that was needed. A priority was the rescue of children, women and sick persons. It was an emergency ac-

tion, but one that had to be conducted slowly and carefully. Dozens of interventions were conducted, mostly rescues of persons who were lowered on stretchers by means of ropes to boats and transportation of the evacuated persons to the banks, which were approximately some 1.5 to 2 kilometres away. While doing so, they also brought food, water and medication in boats and distributed them to persons in need. There is no doubt that they always do their best in their work. However, it has to be said that this was a special situation in which, it seems, everyone somehow did their duties and tasks at least a bit better, or at least with more zeal. And not even once did they complain of being tired. They say that the greatest award for them had been when they were able to assist persons in need.

## Young volunteers' efforts

The citizens of Novi Grad Municipality also participated in collecting aid for the families most in need from the flood-affected areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Members of the Youth Centre for Creativity and Initiative (OCKI) Novi Grad and Red Cross Novi Grad collected more than five tons of basic food-stuffs, hygiene articles, shoes and clothes.



One of the aid collection points was the Youth Information Office in the main city street, and other locations for aid collection were located at all larger supermarkets in the city and at the very office of the Red Cross. The reactions of inhabitants were beyond all expectations, and the aid was collected in a very short period of time, which



ensured numerous packages containing food and other items. Fifteen to twenty volunteers, members of OCKI, worked during the collection, sorting, packaging and distribution of packages on a daily basis. The aid was distributed in Doboj, Modriča, Donji Žabar, Šamac and other affected areas of Novi Grad Municipality, and members of OCKI visited some of these locations or families that had suffered damages as a result of the flood and they directly distributed packages containing humanitarian aid.

A positive message and good results of the action were sent by new young volunteers, many of which joined this action with a lot

of enthusiasm, wishing to contribute by helping those who are most in need. Aid collection activities continue at the premises of the Red Cross Novi Grad, with the assistance of young volunteers who are still sorting, packaging, transporting and distributing aid at the municipality. As an organisation promoting volunteering, OCKI implemented the project "Active Youth Developing the Society" in Novi Grad in the period April 2013 to February 2014 under the LOD III.



## Stories after the rain

**There were numerous examples of humanness, courage, solidarity, strength, dedication, which flooded the media and social networks over the past months. In order to acknowledge that solidarity and motivate to similar activities, CSOs launched an initiative entitled "Stories after the Rain". During a gathering organised on June 25, 2015 by the Office of the Resident Coordinator at the UN House, the selection of ten photo and video stories was made in order to illustrate the experiences of citizens who had saved lives and helped their fellow citizens in trouble.**

The heroes of the stories that had been arriving from the flood-affected areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina over the past weeks were so-called ordinary people, who demonstrated unusual dedication and solidarity. Irrespective whether it is about informal, self-organised groups of citizens, individuals, members of the Mountain Rescue Service, rafters and kayakers or fire fighters, all of them rushed to help those most in need, dissolving all boundaries, all differences. They provided assistance in flood affected areas at their own initiative, frequently using their own resources, and as one of the participants outlined "by acting on the ground, they have shown that they are with Bosnia and Herzegovina with their whole heart".

In addition to acknowledging the selfless solidarity and volunteering of numerous individuals, the goal of the initiative "Stories after the Rain" and the very gathering was to exchange experiences, but also an occasion for participants to achieve networking among local communities for the purpose of cooperating on further activities.

Ten stories that were selected in order to illustrate the experiences of citizens who had been saving lives and assisting the

population of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the flood-affected areas were presented during the gathering. "Exactly stories such as these, resulting from the catastrophic floods, are what you will remember until the end of your lives. Thank you for helping us to collectively think on how we can raise further the term of solidarity and humanity," said UN Resident Coordinator in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Yuri Afanasiev, and on this occasion he added: "We are celebrating the unsung heroes of the floods, all of you, and I thank all persons present, who were not obliged to save lives, but did so nevertheless, by risking their own."

People who helped in the flooded areas will mostly say that this was their human and civic obligation. And that is true. On the other hand, however, those who had the chance to see their faces and behaviour while they were helping persons in the flood-affected areas, could not but notice a dedication that certainly goes beyond the usual term of "performing a civic duty". Their stories were shown in the following video clips: "Reconstruction of the kindergarten in Maglaj" of the CSO Magna, "Testimonials from the flooded areas" of the Volunteer Fire Department Tešanj, "Rescue

mission in Doboj area" of the Red Cross and rescue team Wolf in Foča, "Rescue of a pregnant woman and her husband in a village near Doboj" of the diving club Buk from Banja Luka and "Testimonials from the flooded areas in Posavina" of the emergency headquarters in Domaljevac, Orašje. The authors of the photo series were Enver Suljić from the Automobile Club of Bosnia and Herzegovina: "Supporting Maglaj community through provision of emergency items, food and water", Elvir Karalić: "Pomozi.ba acting for the wellbeing of the persons most in need", Mate Jurković and Dominik Marijanović from the Fire Department Čapljina: "How Herzegovina helps Bosnia", Jim Marshall: "A positive game – cleaning up in Željezno Polje and Topčić Polje" and Emir Gibić: "Rescue in Šamac". The participants agreed that it was necessary to provide support to creating multi-dimensional mechanisms of coordination and cooperation between the government sector and civil society. In the end they concluded that it was necessary to pay respect to the citizens who selflessly intervened in the affected areas and restored the trust and put focus on the culture of activism and solidarity in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

# SUCCESSFUL LOD III PHASE PROJECTS

## A community supporting children with special needs

Children and youth with special needs frequently face discrimination in the field of education, employment, health, information, culture and sport. Support is thus needed from the whole community, especially social and health protection and educational institutions in order to improve the quality of life of one of the most vulnerable social groups and their parents. "By opening a daily centre for children and youth with special needs, Ljubinje municipality joined municipalities from the region, adopting a new care model for children with special needs that is based on individual needs of these persons and adaptation of the living space and environment according to their needs", said the Chairwoman of the Association of Parents and Friends of Children and Youth with Special Needs Zračak, Slavica Turanjanin, during the opening ceremony

at this institution in Ljubinje. The implementation of the project "Day Centre As a Good Example of Social Inclusion of Children and Youth with Special Needs" started in April 2013 as part of the LOD III phase. Ljubinje Municipality participated with 10% of the total project value amounting to 54.953,47 KM, and the municipality ensured a 100 m2 building for the needs of the centre, which used to be a fire department garage. Under the project, the building was adapted to the needs of the daily centre which included a roof repair, construction of new openings and facade, followed by interior design of the building. In addition to the construction works, the project also supported numerous other activities important for the functioning of the centre; activities such as education of expert staff for work at the centre, training



of parents on how to be independent workshop trainers, visits to similar daily centres in Mostar and Trebinje, purchase of technical equipment, didactic work material for children's workshops and equipping a tea kitchen and living room. These activities built the resources and capacities of the local community for improving the position and quality of life of children and youth with special needs. In addition to the service of children's stay during the day, the daily centre also disposes of diagnostics, psychological, social and logopaedic treatments for individuals and groups and occupational therapy. During children's stay at the centre, parents can work, perform other tasks and contribute to financial sustainability of the family.



## Importance of public activism

Writing projects, lobbying, advocating, public appearance, public policy and communication – are some of the topics young participants of the trainings and workshops organised under the project "Through Education and Activism to Cooperation" were interested. The Association for Education

and Political Education (UEPeO) was the organising institution and project activities were implemented in Teslić municipality. A total of 20 young people participated in all training workshops and other project activities, and additional 10 young people participated periodically. Participants were mostly active in CSOs or political parties and they all showed great interest and wish to acquire new knowledge. A group of youngsters who showed more interest stood out during the trainings and launched independent project initiatives. Some of the participants even established a development agency to partner with the municipality and other institutions. "I have truly learned a lot and met many interesting persons. I am very satisfied with the trainers who did their best to transfer their knowledge. This training helped me to try implement some of my future ideas,



because they have convinced us that there are no bad ideas and that any of them can be implemented", said Dijana Josipović, a training participant. The mayor of Teslić municipality, Milan Miličević presented all participants with the relevant diplomas upon training completion.



"Peer education is a process in which motivated individuals, who have been trained in a certain field, organise and lead educational activities for their peers. This is a popular way of learning also when it comes to teaching. Students learn together, learn from each other, without direct involvement of a teacher, although they can initiate this process, be present and supervise it. Such an approach is based on the idea that interaction and communication among peers is not limited by diversity, which renders possible not just a transfer of information and education, but also acquisition of skills that will enable them to improve the quality of their lives and be responsible, protect themselves and their health.

Typical examples of the peer education and learning are workshops lead by students, team projects, joint learning (in groups or pairs), peer assessment during classes. In this process, a peer educator has a basic and key role. Due to this, a peer educator has to participate in a special training in order to perform his/her role efficiently."

## Small heroes with great power



Being aware of the fact that large social and cultural differences, economic crisis, poverty and unemployment lead to social deviation affecting all families, especially those most in need, the association Dar prirode from Novi Grad wished to establish an Integrated Day Centre for Children at Risk in this municipality. Wishing to provide them with a "safe haven", the centre assists children coming from families with multiple prob-

lems, characterised by dysfunctionality, poverty, unemployment, lack of education, poor cultural and hygiene-related behaviour, alcohol problems, children with special needs, low awareness and responsibility, etc. These children are frequently neglected in social and educational terms – they do not attend school or are not included in the educational system in any way. Through work with psychologists, pedagogy experts and logopedicians, children attend different therapy workshops through play, and regular warm meals prepared at the centre give their exhausted bodies new vitality. One of these "fragile heroes", as they say at the centre, is the thirteen-year old Dušanka Nikolić from Novi Grad, who comes from a five-member low-income family, with poor hygiene living conditions and dysfunctional family relations characterised by violence and alcohol problems. After several months spent at the day centre, with the generous assistance of the therapy staff, there has already been some progress in Dušanka's behaviour. The girl quickly adopted basic hygiene habits, started coming independently

to the centre on a daily basis doing homework, studying the subjects and socialising with her peers, which she had not done before. "She increasingly expresses her wishes, makes proposals, builds her own opinions. She laughs more often, shows anger if she disagrees with something, although she still sometimes bends her head and withdraws if someone teases her, because she avoids conflict situations. Any negative event in the family is reflected in her behaviour: she withdraws, communicates less, refuses food, plays on her own. It is not easy, but it is necessary to continue this, to bring down the wall that is still high. And it is not just one wall. But we will not stop", says the team of the Integrated Day Centre for Children at Risk.



## Peer education in fighting addiction



Wishing to include the whole local community and initiate active joint participation of all participants in resolving problems regarding addiction, the Association of Citizens Viktorija implemented the project "Healthy Growing Up" in Kozarska Dubica, which also included primary preventive programmes for youth. Specifically the youth, due to the very development they undergo, are at risk to come into contact with different psychoactive substances that cause addiction.

A key activity of the project was to develop peer education programmes in the field of prevention of addiction at all primary schools in Kozarska Dubica. "Students volunteered to participate in project activities. They are motivated for the work and they took their role of future peer educators se-

riously. It is very important that they spoke about positive impressions and they were particularly satisfied with the peer education school. They demonstrated motivation to work and educate their peers very fast", said Mihaela Pralica, a psychologist and coordinator of peer education. Radana and Helena from Primary School "Majka Knežopoljka", who participated in a workshop for sixth grade students, said that at the beginning they were a bit nervous and insecure, but they quickly realised how fun and nice the project was, and how they learned something new and useful. Their school friends, Marija and Sara, who are a year older, shared with us their experience: "We discussed with students alcohol and gambling addiction. We divided them into two groups. One group of students made a panel about alcoholism, and the other about gambling. After having actively worked on their presentations, there was a brief presentation of both groups, followed by our reading of 'Dejan's story'. The students listened to it attentively and participated in the work. "While the activities with students aimed at increasing their knowledge and changing their attitudes on different forms of behaviour and addiction, there were at the same time capacity building measures for school staff in order to enable them to find an active work model for their work with children and parents for the pur-

pose of prevention of risk behaviour. At the same time, parents were provided with the support in terms of strengthening the role of family in the protection of mental health of youth but also of all actors in education and upbringing of youth and overall local community, raising awareness on the harmfulness, health and legal consequences of abuse of addictive substances.



It is an honour and privilege to be a peer educator and it entails a great responsibility. Peer educators educate themselves and progress all the time in order to transfer accurate and full information to their peers. They help themselves, their peers and the community they live in, and that should be the long-term effect of the project "Healthy Growing Up".

## A centre where children play and learn

The rarely used Youth Centre in the local community Kobaš in Srbac municipality was turned into a centre for play, education, sport and creativity of children and youth from this area in May last year. The CSO Zdravo da ste initiated the opening of the Centre for Children and Youth Kobaš under the project "A Chance for Everyone" in order to improve the quality of life of vulnerable, poor, socially disadvantaged and minority groups in rural areas of Srbac municipality. The Centre quickly became one of the main pillars of the cultural and social life of children and youth in Kobaš, providing them with the possibility to spend quality free time. Children enjoy numerous offered programmes, such as drama and art section, where they can be creative, but also social and sport activities such as basketball, table tennis and volleyball. Considering the fact that summer holidays are on-going, the Centre is full of children who socialise there on a daily basis.

"For me personally, the Centre is the best place to play and socialise, but not just that. It also enables us to show our traits, inter-



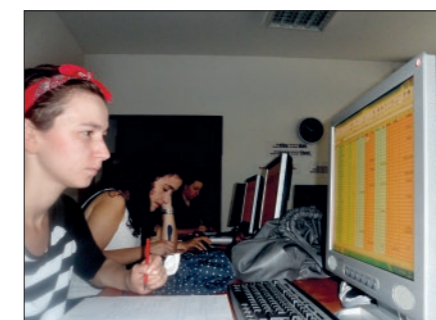
ests and also negative traits that can be corrected by socialising and learning. I am glad that I had the honour to become a volunteer and I hope that I will meet new friends by volunteering", says the fifteen-year old Dalibor Gligorić.

Sisters Manuela and Gabriela Savić add that they spend time at the Centre on a daily basis, learning and socialising, while their parents know that they are in a safe place, and not on the street. The Centre for Children and Youth is a place

that includes all children and youth from this, but also from the neighbouring local communities in its programmes and activities, no matter what is their religious, economic or any other background, and enables them to improve the cultural and social life through sports, creative, cultural and educational activities. By organising cultural and entertainment events, masquerades and similar events, children are taught about team work, accord and camaraderie.

## Youth in the labour market

"Unique opportunity", "I am sure that my CV will be richer after this and that I will be more competitive in the labour market", "in order to acquire new knowledge and skills", "I hope it will help me find employment", "free certificates, which are required in any job vacancy, are awarded" – these are only some of the replies that members of the Association RODA received from participants of the training aiming at empowering young, unemployed persons and preparing them for the labour market when they asked them as to why they applied for the training. The primary goal of this project is to train young, unemployed persons from Stari Grad municipality in Sarajevo, who are



exposed to social exclusion, frustrated with their position in the labour market and exposed to the possibility of risky behaviour, and enable them to use information technology, acquire English language, business and social skills for an active search for employment and its successful performance. The five-month training will result in higher motivation, acquired knowledge and skills and internationally recognised certificates, which will make these persons more competitive in the labour market. Upon completion of the training, members of RODA asked the participants once again what the training they attended meant for them. The following answers were given: "I

feel more valuable, I am no longer afraid", "This training is an excellent thing for youth – a message not to give up", "every class attendance is enriching, makes me happy, I feel useful because I learn something new every day, giving me more me", "I can achieve much more than what I thought", "I improve as personality and learn about how to achieve the most possible in the labour market".

The complementary activities of the project will support the introduction and improvement of cooperation between local authorities and actors from the field of education, training and employment.



## Golden years of old age



The reintegration of elderly people – returnees and national minorities – in the wider social community and provision of support was the noble goal of the project "Old Age is a Golden Age" that was implemented by the humanitarian organisation Partner from Banja Luka as part of the third LOD phase. "By implementing the project, we wished to enable elderly people to have access to care services and organised social activities in order to raise awareness of their importance for elderly persons. We provided assistance through caretakers who live near elderly people, so that they were able to reach the beneficiaries fast and help them with bathing, shaving, cleaning the apart-

ment, preparing food, paying bills, obtaining medication receipts and their purchase and control their therapy compliance", says the staff of Partner. Numerous activities were implemented during the project, such as developing a data base on elderly persons – returnees and nationalised minorities – in suburban and rural areas of Banja Luka: Vrbanja, Debeljaci, Česma, Bronzani Majdan, Stričići, Han Kola, Piskavica and Verići. Caretakers were trained on providing support and assistance to the elderly, and six caretakers were employed in order to provide care services to elderly persons for six months. Individual plans of beneficiary needs were also made, excursions and visits to day centres for the elderly in Banja Luka

were organised. "Old Age is a Golden Age" is a project that was also followed by media promotion by means of visits of members of Partner in radio and TV shows, distribution of brochures and leaflets containing basic information on the project, but also on the issue of aging in general.

"Considering the fact that elderly persons who live in suburban areas do not have an organised form of support from the local institutions, we believe that this project was an excellent opportunity to show that by employing caretakers it is possible to use resources that every local community has in order to help persons who need support", says the staff of Partner.



# WHAT THEY SAID ABOUT LOD:

**SLAVIŠA MIŠKOVIĆ,**  
Mayor of Višegrad Municipality



Good cooperation between Višegrad municipality and EU Delegation and UNDP in Bosnia and Herzegovina continued with the new partnership on the implementation of activities related to the project Reinforcement of Local Democracy – LOD III. The project resulted in the continuation and improvement of the relations between the local community and CSOs, resolving issues in jointly defined priority areas for our local community. Municipal officers gained good practical experience in the implementation of the LOD methodology, supervision and monitoring of project implementation as well as capacity building of CSOs for the implementation of projects. Four projects were successfully implemented in Višegrad municipality under the LOD I project and two projects under the LOD III. We point out that the final beneficiaries were extraordinarily satisfied with the implementation of the planned activities of all these projects. We expect continuation of cooperation with CSOs in relation to the principles of the LOD methodology for the purpose of a faster development of our local community. We hope more CSOs will be willing to further strengthen their capacities in order to apply to public tenders and offer ideas for meeting local needs, both from the budget of the municipality and donor funds.

**SLOBODAN GAVRANOVIĆ,**  
Mayor of Banja Luka

The City of Banja Luka was so lucky to implement two phases of the LOD Project: LOD I and LOD III. An important result after the first phase of the LOD project was the adoption of the LOD methodology, but also developed capacities of the civil servants and at the City administration. The City has achieved a high level of cooperation with the EU Delegation and UNDP in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The current cooperation is focused on seven CSO projects approved and co-financed under the third phase of LOD. The implementation of these projects is in the final phase, and we expect that with their completion, certain problems will be resolved. The local community will thereby resolve certain community problems jointly in partnership with CSOs, which would not be possible without cooperation with CSOs. There is

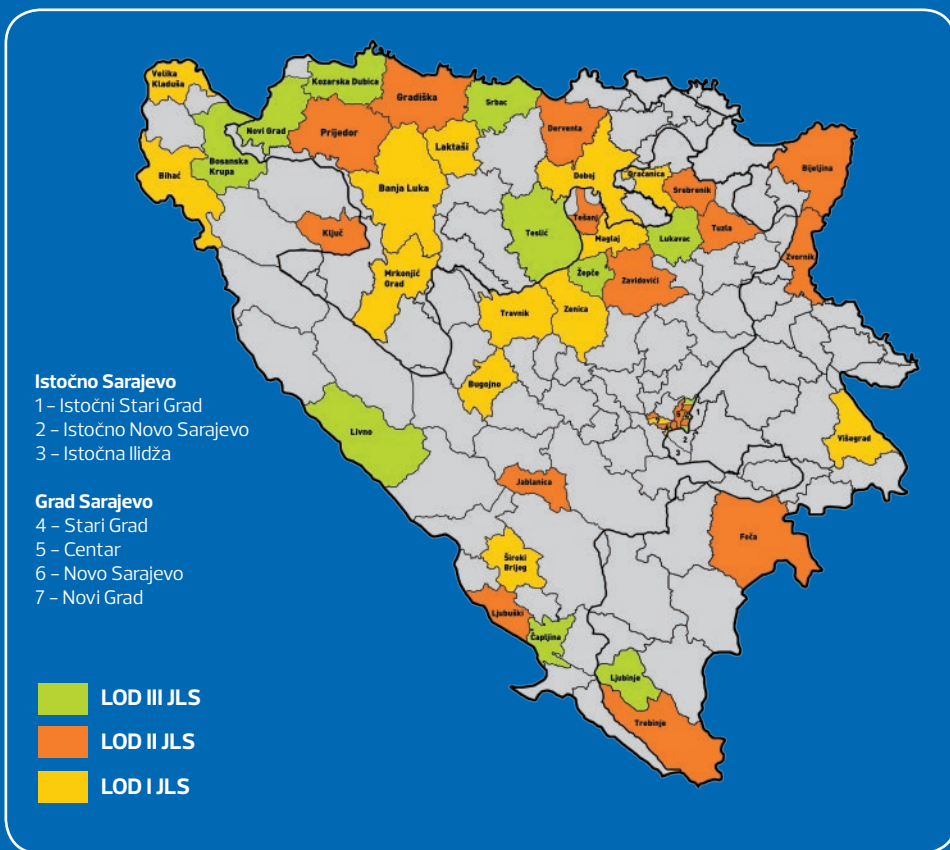


a certain number of CSOs that stand out specialised in a certain field and as such they provide better quality services to the marginalised groups. It is expected that the civil society sector, by participating in the project, will build its capacities, develop a more professional approach to project design and management, and be ready for new projects and new grants from the EU.

**SAMIR OMEREFENDIĆ,**  
Head of LOD Project



It is an extraordinary honour to say that the LOD III project was successfully completed to the satisfaction of our partners, Ministry of Justice of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Delegation of the European Union in Bosnia and Herzegovina, municipalities and cities with which we have cooperated, and their respective associations, CSOs and the beneficiaries themselves. 76 projects were implemented, which ensured assistance for thousands of persons in their daily lives and resolving problems they face in life. We worked with youth, unemployed, elderly, volunteers, children, persons with intellectual and physical difficulties, and other, often marginalised citizens in our society, pointing to the strengths of the civil society, and how these strengths can be utilised at the local level. Considering that the overall goal of our activities was to meet the needs of ordinary people living in local communities and improve life conditions we have shown that CSOs can play a more active role and create a better place for their citizens by working jointly with the local authorities. I would like to underline that over the past period (2012-2014), we managed to institutionalise tools for transparent financing of CSOs in every of the partner municipalities and cities, and to additionally enhance capacities of our partners for a better cooperation in future. The LOD has been recognised as a good practice, and we have been invited several times to share our experiences in Brussels, Prague and the countries of the region. The project as such has been recognised as an example of good practice and it was recommended for replication in the region. It is thus a particular pleasure to announce the beginning of a new phase of the LOD Project – LOD IV which will cooperate with local level stakeholders in the period 2014-2016. As a response to damage caused by the floods based on the initiative of the EU Delegation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, six LSUs have already been selected, namely: Bijeljina, Doboj, Domaljevac-Šamac, Maglaj, Šamac and Žepče. We will also publish a call for other LSUs that would like to participate in the project and continue building local communities in compliance with principles of inclusion, transparency and mutual responsibility with the purpose of preparing local authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina for joining the EU.



## Look for more about LOD Project

If you are interested in activities of the LOD Project implemented so far, as well as our future, planned projects, please visit our website <http://www.ba.undp.org> or take a look at our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/ProjekatLOD](http://www.facebook.com/ProjekatLOD). The Facebook page of the LOD Project contains information on activities of LOD III Project, partner LSUs, implemented projects and information on general activities of the civil society sector and youth organisations in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is enough to click on like and you will receive updated information on projects and on-going activities that you are interested in. Previous issues of the LOD bulletin can be found and downloaded on websites [www.ngo.ba](http://www.ngo.ba) and [www.ba.undp.org](http://www.ba.undp.org).