

97 / 2032



Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe

Congrès des pouvoirs locaux et régionaux de l'Europe

Strasbourg 15 May 1997
s:\sa\ad\docs\rappcasa.en

CG (4) 10

Part II

FOURTH SESSION

(Strasbourg, 3-5 June 1997)

**"THE LOCAL DEMOCRACY EMBASSIES:
INSTRUMENTS FOR PEACE AND DEMOCRACY IN EUROPE"**

Rapporteur : Mr Claude CASAGRANDE, France

Explanatory memorandum

A. A POSITIVE RECORD

I. Background

In Resolution 251 (1993), the Standing Conference of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe laid down the principles of the programme of local democracy embassies, to be set up by "agreement between a local authority in one of the territories of the former Yugoslavia and a number of European local authorities who are prepared to keep a permanent staff on the spot for the purpose of:

- encouraging the start of the democratic process and of confidence-building measures between ethnic groups, in accordance with the scheme devised by the Council of Europe;
- encouraging the development of unbiased and pluralistic information;
- assembling eye-witness accounts and other information on the situation of the ethnic minorities;
- receiving requests from refugees and displaced persons and taking stock of local resources and needs".

The idea of the local democracy embassies was an initiative and proposal made by Causes Communes Belgique and supported by "Causes Communes Suisse".

Having been set up during the period of conflict, the local democracy embassies have seen their objectives broaden as the political context has changed and the process of peace and stabilisation has begun to take hold in the region. Their purpose today is therefore to encourage, develop and consolidate democratic processes by establishing confidence-building measures in the host towns and the surrounding areas. The aims of the local democracy embassies also include "(combating) racism, intolerance and xenophobia by implementing non-violent solutions", and "(committing themselves) to a pluralistic, multicultural and multireligious society" (CLRAE Resolution 39 (1996), Appendix, Point B). The local democracy embassies seek to foster dialogue between cultures and religions, to promote the coexistence of different communities and to further the development of human rights and mutual understanding, as well as the democratic process at local level, and to encourage the development of micro-economic projects. In Resolutions 25 (1995) and 39 (1996), the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe reiterated its support for the LDE programme and called on European local and regional authorities to become partners in the programme.

II. Development of the local democracy embassies programme

The local democracy embassies are tools for co-operation between towns and cities at European level. Nine LDEs have been established since 1993¹:

Subotica (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia) (1993)
Osijek (Croatia) and Maribor² (Slovenia) (1994)
Tuzla (Bosnia and Herzegovina) (1995)
Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Brtonigla-Verteneglio and Sisak (Croatia) (1996)
Zavidovici (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and Ohrid ("The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia") (1997).

¹ A list of local democracy embassies, their partners and their specific activities appears in the Addendum.

² The Maribor local democracy embassy was aimed mainly at refugees. In view of the changes in the political situation, it ceased operation at the end of 1996.

Other projects are under consideration, in particular in Bihac and Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina).

Following his election, President Haegi expressed the wish that the Congress would give priority to developing the LDEs and adapting the programme structures so as to enable them to develop and the structures to be harmonised, without reducing opportunities for each local democracy embassy to take its own initiative. In practical terms, this has led to a good many meetings which have helped with the drafting of this report. The various stages of this activity may be summarised, chronologically, as follows:

- Meeting of the Bureau on 9 September 1996 and of the Standing Committee on 18 November 1996 and adoption of transitory provisions on the LDE Monitoring Committee
- Visit by Mr Haegi to the Sarajevo LDE, accompanied by Mr Martini, Chairperson of the LDE Committee and meetings with Delegates (14 September 1996)
Visit by Mr Haegi to the Osijek-Vukovar LDE, accompanied by Mr Levrat, expert (26/27 October 1996)
Visit by Mr Haegi and Mr Martini to the Tuzla LDE (Bosnia and Herzegovina) and meeting with the LDE Delegates (3 November 1996)
Attendance by Mr Martini at the opening ceremony for the Sisak LDE (5 November 1996)
Attendance by Mr Martini at the meeting of partners of the Zavidovici LDE in Brescia (10 March 1997)
Attendance by the Rapporteur at the inauguration of the Zavidovici LDE (19 April 1997)
Attendance by Mr Martini and members of the LDE Committee at the inauguration of the Ohrid LDE (3 May 1997)
- Meeting by Mr Haegi with Mr TARSCHYS, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, and Ms FISCHER, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (Strasbourg, 25/26 September 1996)
Speech by Mr Haegi to the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (Strasbourg, 18 November 1996)
Meeting between Mr Haegi and Mr Van Cauwenberg and Mr Hoffmann (Vice-Presidents) and the Bureau of the Ministers' Deputies (Strasbourg, 7 March 1997)
- Meeting between Mr Haegi and Mr KLARIC, head of budgetary line B7-7001 at the European Commission (2 October 1996)
Meeting between Mr Haegi and Mr LAMOUREUX, Deputy Director General of DGIA and Mr KLARIC (13 December 1996)
Meeting between Mr Haegi, accompanied by MM Friederich, Dournel and Despicht, Delegates, and Mr WITTEBROD, Head of Mr Van den BROEK's Private Office (Commissioner) (4 February 1997)
- Meeting of the Finance Group in Strasbourg, attended by Delegates and project leaders (10 October 1996)
Meeting of the LDE Committee in Paris (France) (17 January 1997)
Meeting of the LDE Committee and LDE Assembly in Osijek (Croatia) (22/23 March 1997) and consultation of partners with a view to drafting a report on the LDEs
Meeting of the LDE Committee in Ohrid ("The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia") (4 May 1997)

- Working meetings of the Secretariat with those in charge of the Sarajevo LDE (Bosnia and Herzegovina) (Sarajevo, 1-2 November 1996)
Fact-finding visit by Mr Martini, accompanied by Mr Quinet, to Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina) (17/20 December 1996)
Presentation of the LDE programme to the Swedish delegation at the Congress by the Secretariat (Stockholm, 4 February 1997)

The number of meetings listed above highlights the Congress' commitment to this project.

The concept of local democracy embassies has proved successful and has shown itself to be operational and attractive. This is because it combines:

- work done in co-ordination with the local and regional authorities on the spot;
- appropriate consideration of real and specific needs;
- development of links with other European countries through a network of partner towns and regions, and;
- the political and financial support of the Council of Europe, the promoter of the programme, as well as dissemination of the values it defends.

The local democracy embassies have thus come to play a central role in community affairs, thanks to a network of contacts and active co-operation with local and regional elected representatives. They offer a unique forum for dialogue and discussion between the various sections of society within a European framework, if necessary in co-operation with the international bodies responsible for implementing the peace process.

Following an exploratory phase during which activities were limited by the open conflict in southeastern Europe, the local democracy embassies programme now needs to be stepped up. The local democracy embassies are facing new demands, in particular in the fields of economic co-operation and the environment, which go far beyond the activities concerning democratisation and civil society which have been funded to date by the European Union or the Council of Europe. There is therefore a need to strengthen the financial base and the co-ordinating and developing mechanism for the LDEs, especially those called on to perform new functions in response to the needs expressed by the local and regional partners.

III. The involvement of the various partners in the programme

A. *The Council of Europe in general*

The Council of Europe provides a wide range of financial and technical support, which has helped ensure the cohesion of the programme. In addition to the direct funding of the programme's co-ordinating mechanism (the Committee on Local Democracy Embassies) and Secretariat, the various Council of Europe directorates co-operate with the LDEs by helping to organise events that come under the Council of Europe's priority fields of action (local authorities, human rights, media, etc). In 1997, the LDEs will receive funding under the LODE programme of co-operation and assistance for local authorities (Local Democracy). The "Bosnia and Herzegovina" programme and voluntary contributions from Council of

Europe member states will enable additional allocations to be made to certain local democracy embassies. The Confidence-Building Measures programme, which focuses more specifically on funding activities aimed at bringing different communities together, has made a significant contribution to the work of the LDEs since 1994.

In 1996, the Council of Europe contributed almost two million French francs to the LDE programme.

B. The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe

As the body which initiated the LDE programme, the CLRAE makes an essential contribution in terms of mobilising the partner towns and regions, co-ordinating the LDE programme through one of its working groups (the Committee on Local Democracy Embassies) and promoting activities to support local democracy. Nevertheless, the CLRAE respects the desire of the partners in individual local democracy embassies to manage and run their LDEs with some degree of autonomy, while complying with the general rules for the programme laid down by the CLRAE. This demands close co-operation both with the LDE delegates and with the representatives of the partner towns and regions. In addition, the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe has assigned the Working Group on Local Democracy Embassies responsibility for managing the Special Account for local democracy embassies, which is used for gathering donations from local authorities or other parties which wish to make a financial contribution to the LDE programme.

C. The partners of the local democracy embassies

The partner towns and regions, together with NGOs, are the driving force behind the LDE programme. They can give political momentum to the programme, while fostering exchanges, promoting dialogue between local and regional authorities and offering practical solutions to the problems of municipal and regional administration. Their support is essential, as the LDEs are not intended to become institutional outposts of the Council of Europe. At present, the network of partner towns and regions is made up of around sixty towns and regions in fifteen European countries. European non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are also invited to play a major role in the LDEs' activities and help formulate and implement and/or finance the various programmes, often in co-operation with local NGOs.

D. The European Union

Under its support programmes for the democratisation of the countries of former Yugoslavia, the European Union has made a significant financial contribution. This has been endorsed by the European Parliament during budgetary debates. Contacts also exist with the interparliamentary group of the European Forum for Active Prevention of Conflicts (EFAPC). In addition, the local democracy embassies provide bases for visiting delegations from the European Parliament, and the activities of the embassies tie in with the EU's activity programmes. The LDEs thus play a full part in the activities aimed at promoting stability in the region, fostering European dialogue and supporting local initiatives involving the reconstruction of the social, economic and political fabric.

IV. A network of conflict-prevention instruments to be built on

The local democracy embassies enable action to be taken at grassroots level on the basis of local networking of NGOs and target groups. They form a network whose role is to step up contacts between the LDE host towns, regions or countries. Regular meetings between the LDE delegates, the project leaders and the members of the CLRAE working group will enable to pool their experience, while fostering exchanges and inter-LDE co-operation within a multilateral framework. It should be noted here that co-operation between regions has already developed on a spontaneous basis: several LDEs joined together, as for example Osijek, Tuzla and Sarajevo to organise a meeting of refugee associations in Sarajevo in September 1996 - the first of its kind for five years. The Euroclub activities run by the Sarajevo local democracy embassy offer young people from Banja Luka, Mostar and Sarajevo a forum for discussion and dialogue. Lastly, the local democracy embassy in Ohrid, opened on 3 May 1997, offers a promising example of interregional co-operation involving partners in "the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia" and Greek towns in implementing a cross-border project around Lake Ohrid which should soon be joined by Albanian partners. There are also plans to open LDEs in Mostar or Bar and preparations are under way. The LDE network is therefore helping to rebuild confidence between the citizens of southeastern Europe, while establishing political dialogue based on close co-operation with local and regional elected representatives.

Having been established under the auspices of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe, the local democracy embassies have a special relationship both with the European local and regional elected officials represented in the CLRAE or their national associations and with the Council of Europe as regards the implementation of activities more directly related to its fields of action. There is thus a need to reinforce the structure of the LDE network.

B. HOW TO IMPROVE THE SYSTEM

In the light of the previous section, there can be no doubts as to the success of the Local Democracy Embassies and that they have proven effective on the ground.

The increased number of local democracy embassies in operation and prospects for new ones to be created have led us to review the working methods previously established for this programme (cf Resolutions 251 (1993) and 39 (1996) of the Congress).

The Bureau of the Congress consequently decided to take provisional steps to review the operating framework of this programme (cf decisions of the Bureau of the Congress of 9 September 1996 and of the Standing Committee of 18 November 1996).

The working group has therefore carefully examined the results of the LDEs, given thought to the programme's future prospects and, after consulting with the different partners involved, is now in a position to propose amendments to the initial programme, which are submitted to the Congress and explained in this report.

The new developments will be examined successively under the following headings:

- tasks;
- legal framework of the programme;
- status of LDEs and the Delegates;
- LDE financing.

The difficulty of this exercise, linked to the different situations facing each LDE, should not be underestimated:

- different partners, whose involvement varies from one embassy to another,
- problems specific to each embassy, connected with different local problems,
- different operational and financial arrangements.

Furthermore, the LDEs' tasks are limited to the period during which these problems prevail.

Some principles guide our thoughts and should be reiterated here in a preamble:

a) the diversity of situations must be taken into account and respected as a factor of the programme's interest, since it offers everyone varied and rewarding experiences

b) The Congress, as guarantor of local and regional self-government, could not aim to set up a centralising structure or one that removes power from the local authorities or those working on the ground

c) the Congress recognises and welcomes the vital role and special nature of the programme's various partners: Host towns, local and/or regional partner authorities, NGOs

The approach introduced in this report is based on application of the principle of subsidiarity, which we support, but by no means implied that actions are unrelated or uncoordinated, given that it is in the interest of those working on or benefiting from the programme.

1. TASKS

a. Geographical coverage

The success of the programme is owed to the fact that LDEs are exceptional instruments of democratic development in the field, and to the reconstruction of a civil society undermined by ethnic, religious or cultural conflicts. Now, problems of this nature are present, or at least latent, in numerous other regions of Europe. For the time being, however, the geographical setting for the development of this programme is rather limited. The subject has already been tackled by a decision taken by the CLRAE Bureau, on 9 September 1996.

The CLRAE working group on LDEs states that LDEs are useful in all regions where there are problems of democratic development, particularly when there is misunderstanding between different communities in areas affected by war, reconstruction or economic transition, and where there is a need to restore confidence, sometimes across national borders or between neighbouring towns.

b. The name

The name "Embassy" is sometimes misinterpreted because of its usual meaning in international affairs. Clearly these are not embassies of the Council of Europe; the term "Local Democracy Embassy" must be seen as a strong symbol expressing the determination of the local or regional authorities of Europe to lend their support in difficult situations.

Similarly, the work done by the LDEs must be perceived as a statement of support and solidarity on the part of these same local authorities of Europe towards fellow local authorities in the grip of exceptional difficulties. The involvement of the Council of Europe - and more particularly of the CLRAE - is fully justified when it falls within the Council's sphere of competence (human rights, democracy) and is aimed at the right partners (local authorities).

The LDEs may also be considered as structures acting preventively. Their role today goes well beyond merely restoring civil peace.

It should therefore be possible to envisage opening an LDE in any country, be it a member of the Council of Europe or an applicant for membership, in which certain local or regional authorities are faced with particular problems of social reorganisation, peaceful coexistence, racism, xenophobia or simply developing democracy.

It must be made perfectly clear that there is no question at all here of interfering in domestic affairs: LDEs can only be set up when a local authority in the receiving country expresses interest in such a partnership arrangement. And the action developed cannot go against the will of the host state.

The two following principles must be respected at all times: the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the states and the application of the Charter of Local-Self Government and, once it has been adopted, the Charter of Regional Self-Government.

2. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Today co-ordination of the programme and the resulting political responsibility lie with the Congress. There are other partners, however, inside the Council of Europe and outside, who are interested in developing the programme (see part A § 3 above).

Analysis of the legal situation of LDEs reveals that their present status is not very satisfactory in terms of the hopes for the development and stability of the programme.

Indeed, the request for a single presentation of requests for financing from the European Union was made by the European Commission itself.

A solution therefore needs to be found which:

- maintains the overall political responsibility of the Council of Europe and in particular, the Congress, for the whole programme,

- while at the same time sharing it with the different institutional partners committed to the programme and European local authorities and NGOs involved in each LDE, in respect of their work on the ground.

We must also set up a more coherent and more efficient financial management system and provide guarantees to the different donors, at the same time improving the co-ordination avoiding the pitfall of excessively centralised management.

Consequently, after considering various possibilities, the LDE Committee suggests setting up a "EUROPEAN FOUNDATION FOR LOCAL DEMOCRACY" to serve as legal and institutional co-ordinator for the LDE programme.

There is a precedent, from the structural point of view, in the European Foundation for Heritage Skills (Pro Venetia Viva Foundation), a foundation set up under Swiss law³ established by the Council of Europe in 1996. At this stage of proceedings, we shall merely outline below some guidelines as to what this foundation would comprise, the Council of Europe being urged to play a major role in it.

The purpose of the Foundation would be to support the development of local democracy in Europe and encourage the opening of Local Democracy Embassies in those countries which have a use for them. The embassies, set up on the basis of agreements between local/regional authorities in the country concerned and in other European countries, would be responsible, with the support of NGOs, for developing initiatives to improve understanding between the different communities with a view to developing local democracy, improving the inhabitants' living conditions and promoting peace between peoples.

The aims of the Foundation would be:

- to promote efforts to develop genuine local democracy, through inter-community dialogue and improvements to living conditions
- to provide legal, administrative and financial support for setting up and developing "Local Democracy Embassies",
- to organise the activities of the "LDE network"
- to raise joint institutional funds,
- to manage the funds entrusted to the Foundation,
- to help the partners exchange experiences,
- to train LDE delegates.

The Foundation would comprise two bodies:

a. The "*Assembly of the Foundation*", made up of all the institutions, host towns, local and regional authority partners and NGOs which take a genuine part in the setting-up and/or financing of an LDE, and the LDE delegates. The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe would be represented by a delegation (of 9 to 12 members).

³ Swiss law was chosen because of the especially advantageous conditions it offered for setting up a foundation of this kind, particularly in respect of authorised capital and the nationality of the members of the Foundation Council

This Assembly would be a forum for discussion and would decide the guidelines for the Foundation's programme and policy. It would meet at least once a year.

b. A "*Governing Body of the Foundation*", composed of:

i. members by law:

At present, we think that these members could be:

- the Chair: the President of the Congress or his/her representative
- one representative of the Committee of Ministers
- one representative of the Parliamentary Assembly
- one representative of the European Parliament
- one representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe
- one representative of the European Commission

ii. one representative of each LDE created, appointed from amongst its different partners (local authorities, NGOs, delegate),

iii. six members of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe⁴.

iv. two representatives of NGOs regularly co-operating with the programme, selected by the Bureau of the Congress after a call for applications

The Governing Body is responsible for deciding how the Foundation should use its means and resources.

c. A Secretary General (or Executive Secretary) would notably be responsible for the day-to-day running of the Foundation:

- practical implementation of the decisions of the governing body of the Foundation;
- co-ordination of applications for funds submitted to the Council of Europe and the European Union (in the event of joint application for funds by LDEs);
- co-ordination of efforts to raise additional funding;
- running the LDE network.

If the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and the Committee of Ministers were to approve this Foundation, an agreement could then be concluded between the Foundation and the Council of Europe - along the lines of the agreement concluded by the Council with the European Foundation for Heritage Skills.

Inter alia, this agreement would provide for:

⁴ This Governing Body would do the work of the CLRAE working group

- the Council of Europe to be able to call on the Foundation to implement certain activities designed to promote local democracy and build confidence between ethnic and language groups;
- the Council of Europe to make operating facilities and administrative services available to the Foundation (Secretariat functions would be carried out, at least partially, by Council of Europe staff);
- the appropriation of funds in connection with different programmes (LODE, Confidence-building, CLRAE budget) for implementing the activities of the Foundation in conjunction with the Council of Europe.

At this stage of the study, the Rapporteur is unable to provide more details about the arrangements for the institutional functioning of this foundation. The details set out above reflect the latest thoughts on the matter expressed by the LDE Committee, which should now be fleshed out by means of a more thorough legal study and consultations with all partners.

3. THE STATUS OF LOCAL DEMOCRACY EMBASSIES AND THEIR DELEGATES

a. Status of LDEs

There are considerable differences in status between the LDEs today, where indeed they have any status to speak of. In certain countries the situation is complex: setting up a legal structure under local law may be a lengthy process, sometimes dissuasively so, with unfavourable taxation conditions that can further diminish the already modest financial means available to the embassies.

Where necessary, the Foundation could place the Embassies under its broad "legal umbrella", emphasising their non-profit-making nature. They could, if necessary, be considered as local offices of the Foundation.

b. The status of Delegates

Just as there is no identical status for all the Embassies, their delegates have no similar status. In some cases, this may place the delegates in a delicate situation.

We are not suggesting that the situations should be made exactly the same. It is our responsibility, however, to ensure that a minimum status (work contract, social insurance, etc) is offered to LDE staff by the local authorities involved, particularly the "project leaders" could be required to grant LDEs and their staff such a status in the founding Charters of the LDEs. And when the Foundation agrees to the opening of a new site, it could where necessary provide delegates with a "provisional" status and minimum operating resources for a fixed period.

By the same token, it is vital that the "contract" between the delegate and the project leader on behalf of the partners specify the extent of the delegate's responsibilities vis-à-vis the partners.

4. FINANCING THE LDEs

At present LDEs are financed by different sources:

- the Council of Europe, through the LODE programme, under the "Confidence-building measures" scheme and contributions to the "special account".
- the European Union, under the PHARE Democracy Programme and the heading B7-7001.
- host local authorities (in the form of premises and other facilities).
- partner local authorities (project leaders and other partners), for operating costs and specific projects.

A distinction should be made between those financial sources which contribute to the functioning of the LDE structure (overheads and other operating costs, remuneration of the delegate and certain staff) and those which contribute to the implementation of specific projects (even if some of this money is used to cover operating costs, overall "project" funding cannot suffice to finance the basic structure, which is nevertheless indispensable).

Practical experience leads us to recommend the following distribution of the financial burden:

- i. basic LDE operating costs should be guaranteed, to a large extent, as far as their respective resources allow, by the "project leaders", and the partner authorities and NGOs;
- ii. in the start-up phase (one or two years) the funding provided by the Council of Europe (currently of the order of F 125,000 per LDE, via the LODE programme) should be used to cover these operating costs and the launching of general start-up phase activities (rather than specific projects). These funds should appear in a CLRAE budgetary line and subsequently these funds may be earmarked for specific projects;
- iii. European Union funds appropriated under the "democracy" programmes are generally negotiated and managed by the Foundation (at the request of the Commission) on the basis of projects presented by each LDE;
- iv. The Governing Body of the Foundation is responsible for appropriating any other funds than those specified in item iii received by the Foundation, and for providing donors with a guarantee that good use will be made of their funds. They may be earmarked for helping to set up new LDEs and supporting programmes in keeping with the guidelines set by the LDE Assembly;
- v. project leaders and Delegates may seek to raise additional funding for specific projects of the LDE they sponsor (projects which do not concern other LDEs), from the European Union or any other organisation (for example private foundations) apart from those for which a co-ordination structure has already been set up by the Foundation. In order to avoid any duplications, the Foundation must be informed of such fund-raising efforts from the outset.

One of the effects of this type of financial organisation would be to harmonise the accounts of the different LDEs, making it easier to consolidate them when submitting joint applications for financing. It would also give the different parties concerned (Council of Europe, European Union and Commission, donors) a clearer picture of the activities of the LDEs, contributing to the greater transparency desired.

In any case, it is vital for the programme's future and its development that new resources be earmarked in the form of a special line in the CLRAE budget, as requested by the President when he met representatives of the Committee of Ministers in 1996.

5. RELATIONS BETWEEN LDEs AND FOUNDATION

LDEs are set up on the basis of agreements concluded between several local authorities:

- one or more local authorities in the host area,
- one or more local authorities in other European countries ready to share the benefit of their experience with the host authorities and support the activities of the LDEs. One of these authorities is appointed "project leader".

The Foundation, like the current LDE Committee (cf Appendix to CLRAE Resolution 39 (1996)):

- defines the conditions for the application of the concept,
- takes decisions regarding the award of the designation "Local Democracy Embassy",
- endorses the appointment of a delegate by each LDE,
- and generally co-ordinates the actions of local and regional authorities for the development of civil society and local democracy in any other appropriate manner.

An "LDE Charter" setting forth the minimum obligations of the partners and the Foundation would be signed to this effect between the Foundation and the local authorities concerned (at least between the project leader municipality and the host municipality).

The Charter would stipulate the obligations incumbent of the partners and, at the very least, define the status of the LDE to be set up and also the statutory conditions for recruitment of the Delegate.

It would also oblige the "project leader" to keep all other partners regularly informed and hold at least one meeting of all partners a year to decide the priority action to be taken by the LDE sponsored by them.

Finally, it would state how the authorities concerned intended to finance the scheme, financing by the Foundation being conditional on co-financing by the partner towns to a minimum level yet to be defined.

C. MOBILISING FORCES IN FAVOUR OF THE LDEs

The programme is a success, thanks to the determined effort of the authorities involved, the partner NGOs and the delegates who see to the day-to-day running and management in difficult conditions.

We must not, however, leave it at that.

Who in our respective countries really knows about this programme? How many local authorities have shown any interest in it?

The pursuit and development of this programme depend essentially on the degree of involvement of local authorities and NGOs.

A special communication effort is needed for the benefit of states, local authorities, NGOs and also the general public.

For the benefit of states, first of all, because the support of the Committee of Ministers is essential if the principles contained in this report are to be implemented: not only to set up the Foundation, but also to ensure that it reflects the political consensus in favour of the LDEs through budgetary decisions. By publicising the results achieved, and regularly taking stock of the work in progress, we must show that this programme is well-founded and that it is in the interest of the Council of Europe to support it effectively and financially.

For the benefit of local authorities also, because only their involvement can give birth to a LDE.

For the benefit of the NGOs, many of which are active in the LDEs' field of work and whose experience and knowledge are recognised and vital for work carried out on the ground.

And for the public at large, because in these difficult times for everybody the efforts of municipalities can only bear fruit if the citizens are convinced of the usefulness of their actions.

We must support elected local officials in their efforts to inform their fellow citizens, not only in spirit but also with guarantees, total transparency and technical arguments capable of convincing European citizens that it is in the interest of all to live in a Europe in which mutual knowledge and respect are values essential to peace.

ADDENDUM

Fact sheets (1 page) on the activities of each LDE.

Map of LDEs currently in operation.

ADDENDUM

**FACT SHEETS ON THE ACTIVITIES
OF THE LOCAL DEMOCRACY EMBASSIES**

by alphabetical order

BRTONIGLA-VERTENEGLIO
OHRID
OSIJEK/SLAVONIA
SARAJEVO
SISAK
SUBOTICA
TUZLA
ZAVIDOVICI

Croatia
"the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"
Croatia
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Croatia
Federal Republic of Yugoslavia
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Bosnia and Herzegovina

*Prepared by the Congress Secretariat
with the kind collaboration of the LDE Delegates*

Updating : 15 May 1997

Local democracy embassy of BRTONIGLA-VERTENEGLIO (Croatia)

YEAR OF CREATION: 1996 ; beginning of activity: 1997

DELEGATE : Philippe DOURNEL

PARTNERS:

■ Municipalities and other administrations: • BELLINZONA (SWITZERLAND) • PROVINCE OF RAVENNA (ITALY) • Portogruaro (Italy) • Greve in Chianti (Italy) • Marmande (France) • Russi (Italy)

■ NGOs: • Causes Communes Tessin (Switzerland) • Nuova Frontiera (Italy) • Association East-West (Italy)

FINANCIAL SOURCES : Partners, Council of Europe (Confidence-Building Measures programme, LODE programme).

SPECIFIC PROJECTS BEING RUN:

- Transborder School of civil society:
 - Seminars on equality for civil servants;
 - Seminars for demobilized soldiers;
 - Round tables on intercommunitary issues;
 - Creation of a library;
 - Conferences.
- LODE projects:
 - Seminars for newly elected local authorities;
 - Seminars on citizenship.
- Seminars on radios, cross-border cooperation and regional actors.
- Aid for the realization of infrastructures.
- Consultancy for the Municipalities and the region in the field of international cooperation.
- Conference on cross-border cooperation.
- Cooperation with the Tourism Office of Bas-Rhin (France) in the field of agritourism.
- Cooperation in the field of hunting regulation and game management.

PROJECTS PLANNED FOR THE FUTURE:

- Hortus Niger: cross-border summer university on art;
- Conference about multiculturalism.

Local democracy embassy of OHRID ("the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia")

YEAR OF CREATION: 1997

DELEGATE: Gilbert DESPICH

PARTNERS:

■ Municipalities and other administrations: • KARDITSA (GREECE) • Versoix (Switzerland) • Piran (Slovenia) • Pendle (United Kingdom) • Ohrid.

■ NGOs: • Alliances Internationales

FINANCIAL SOURCES: Partners, Council of Europe (LODE Programme, LDE Special Account), Government of Liechtenstein .

SPECIFIC PROJECTS PLANNED FOR THE FUTURE:

- Newsletter.
- School of civil society.
- Training session for local leaders.
- Micro-economic activities.
- Library
- Training of social workers in the framework of a social programme in close cooperation with the town of Ohrid.
- Supporting local electronic media in organising round tables and conferences about the development of these communication systems.

Local democracy embassy of OSIJEK- SLAVONIA (Croatia)

YEAR OF CREATION: 1993

DELEGATE: François FRIEDERICH

PARTNERS:

■ Municipalities and other administrations: • LAUSANNE (Switzerland) • Camponogara (Italy) • Harlem (Netherlands) • Osijek (Croatia)

■ NGOs: • Amnesty international • Causes Communes Vaud • Parrains de l'Espoir Strasbourg • Peace Center Osijek • Balkan Peace Platform Harleem (The Netherlands)

■ OTHERS: War Child (London)

FINANCIAL SOURCES:

Council of Europe (Confidence Building Measures Programme, LODE Programme, etc), European Union (B7-7001 line), Cities of Osijek and Lausanne, Županija of Osijek-Baranja

SPECIFIC PROJECTS BEING RUN:

- Media project : conference on "democracy and freedom of press" launching of the programme Local Democracy Radio broadcasting (including in the Region under Transitional UN Administration), financing of "Boomerang", independent newspaper, cooperation between Gradski Radio and a French radio, publication of a Newsletter, production of two TV programmes "Linking Slavonia"
- Specific campaign consultancy and promotion activities for the preparation of the local elections of 13/14 April 1997 and follow up of their results.
- Reconstruction of Vukovar City Hall building, construction of a Center for handicapped children in Vinkovci and of a kinder garden in Pakrac; rehabilitation of public services.
- Exchanges of schools (both teachers and students) with Switzerland, Italy and the Netherlands ; cooperation between the Law Faculties of Osijek and Lausanne, including scholarships for Croatian students.
- Seminars for refugees and displaced persons ; conference on the role and position of women in the Croatian society, legal advice for war victims.
- Psychological rehabilitation project.
- Confidence building initiatives: School of Civil Society, expertises for local authorities, fundraising for local projects, training of local governments members.
- Human rights: translation, publication and distribution in the schools in Osijek of a booklet about the human rights universal chart , aid and support to local associations working in particular with the Serbian population of the region and other minorities
- Cultural events: concert in Vukovar, Peace week in Osijek, exhibition of children drawings in Vukovar.

Local democracy embassy of SARAJEVO (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

YEAR OF CREATION: 1996

DELEGATE: Eric HAUCK

PARTNERS:

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Municipalities and other administrations: • <u>BARCELONA</u> • Sabadell (Spain) • Canton of Sarajevo■ NGOs: • Association Dia (France) • CoMusa (United Kingdom / Bosnia and Herzegovina) • Medicos del Mundo (Spain)■ Others: • OHR • OSCE • UNHCR • Other LDEs • Students' Union of Sarajevo. |
|---|

FINANCIAL SOURCES: City of Barcelona, Council of Europe (Confidence-Building Measures Programme, LODE Programme), European Union, NGOs, private sponsors

SPECIFIC PROJECTS BEING RUN:

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Euroclub■ Round Tables "Let's talk about us"■ Help independent media■ Music therapy for disabled (physical and mental)■ Summer camps for youth and orphans■ Mine-awareness poster■ Street basket competition in Mojmiro (Sarajevo)■ Partnership between universities |
|---|

PROJECTS PLANNED FOR THE FUTURE:

- | |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">-LDE newsletter-Round tables to prepare the youth for local elections-Sport competition-II summer Festival (art, music, theater)-Assistance to the repatriated refugees (housing, jobs, human rights). |
|--|

Local democracy embassy of SISAK (Croatia)

YEAR OF CREATION: 1996

DELEGATE: Prof. Vincenzo MELONE

PARTNERS:

■ Municipalities and other administrations: Arese • Casale Monferrato • Lainate • Pregnana Milanese • Mogliano Veneto (Italy) • Martin (Slovakia) • Veneto Region (Italy)
■ NGOs: • ANCI VENETO • Association Peace and Development • Blessed are the Peacemaker • Brotherhood SOS Lipovljani • Committee Lainate for Lipovljani • Committee for the support of the forces and initiatives of peace • Reception group for ex-Yugoslavian families, etc (Italy) • Causes Communes Suisse (Switzerland) • Förderkreis (Germany)

FINANCIAL SOURCES:

Partners, Council of Europe (LODE Programme), European Union (B7-7001 line)

SPECIFIC PROJECTS BEING RUN :

- Promotion of freedom of information and interethnic communication
 - Opening of public " Information focal point in Sisak" concerning the international human rights protection system, presentation of the Lde's activities distributed to all the partners and to all the cities of the county, newsletter, internet project (creation of a web page linked to NGOs and human rights organizations), purchase of materials for the LDE's library.
 - Study visit in Strasbourg for two local journalists.
- Promotion of local democracy
 - Seminars for elected representatives and officers.
 - Data bank on population, monitoring on human rights, civil rights, the right of refugees to return to their home place.
- Socio-economic programme
 - Data bank on the economic situation of the partners available for the economic operators in the Sisak-Moslavina county.
 - Promotion of meetings between the economic representatives both of the partners and of Sisak
 - Restoration of a complex of traditional wooden houses in the village of Cigoc.

PROJECTS PLANNED FOR THE FUTURE:

- Seminars on freedom of information and communication ;
- Publishing of a booklet on human rights and minority rights, support to associations acting in favour of interethnic communication and to local independent medias;
- School of civil society;
- Socio-cultural exchanges : training of leaders of NGOs organizing voluntary initiatives and social aid ; school exchanges, intercultural and human rights education of pupils and students of the Sisak-Moslavina county.
- Promotion of economic development and rebuilding ;
- Promotion of village tourism and environmental protection.

Local democracy Agency of SUBOTICA (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia)

YEAR OF CREATION: 1993

DELEGATE: (a.i) Nadia SKENDEROVIĆ-ČUK

PARTNERS:

■ Municipalities and other administrations: • Tilburg (Netherlands) • Namur (Belgium).

■ NGOs: • COS-Tilburg (Netherlands) • Causes Communes Belgique (Belgium)

FINANCIAL SOURCES: Council of Europe (Confidence Building Measures programme and LDE Special Account), European Union (B7-7001 line)

SPECIFIC PROJECTS BEING RUN:

- International conference on Local Democracy.
- International conference on civic society in countries of transition.
- School of Civic Society.
- Seminar for Trade unions.
- Seminar on the European system of Human rights protection.
- Round table about freedom in the media.
- Round table about modernization versus traditionalism.
- Round table about the role of young generation in contemporary civic and political initiatives.

PROJECTS PLANNED FOR THE FUTURE:

- International conference about NGO'S and their role in the development of civic society;
- Conference about economic reconstruction of a country;
- Conference about needed reforms in foreign policy;
- Seminars on human rights protection with a specific regard to refugees and displaced persons ;
- II school of civic society;
- Round table about consensual democracy and multicultural society;
- Round table about decentralization

Local democracy embassy of TUZLA (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

YEAR OF CREATION: 1995

DELEGATE: Igor PELLICCIARI

PARTNERS:

- Municipalities and other administrations: • BOLOGNA (ITALY) • Barcelona • Rubí • L'Hospitalet • Terrassa • Stockholm (Spain) • Göteborg (Sweden) • Antwerp (Belgium) • Hamburg (Germany) • Strasbourg • Rennes • Nantes (France) • Maribor (Slovenia) • Osijek (Croatia), etc
- NGOs: European Association of Towns "Eurocities".

FINANCIAL SOURCES: Municipality of Bologna, Council of Europe (Confidence Building Measures, LODE programme), European Union, NGOs, UNHCR, SFOR, UNOPS/UNDP.

SPECIFIC PROJECTS BEING RUN:

■ Field of Politics, Culture and Local Authorities.

- School of Civic Society run in 1996 and 1997 ;
- Various activities to promote local democracy, multiculturalism, human rights and democratic elections in the Municipality of Tuzla and in the Tuzla-Podrinje Canton (TV seminars, conferences, radio broadcasts, editorial activities, surveys) ;
- Round Table in Belgrade on reconciliation and democratization in the Balkans ;
- Broadcasting of legal advising for the refugees, in cooperation with Tuzla TV Station and UNCHR;
- Political briefing delivered weekly by the LDE for: SFOR, UNHCR, ECMM, OSCE ;
- Atlas project in cooperation with UNOPS/UNDP.

■ Field of Economics and Formation.

- Promo 1997: organization of the International Exposition Fair of Tuzla with participation of Italian institutions and enterprises. In cooperation with Emilia-Romagna Region, the Municipality of Bologna and with the Italo-Bosnian Chamber of Commerce ;
- Conference on "Coordination among NGO's and transition from an economy of humanitarian aids towards a productive one" ;
- International trade Fair of Bologna: bilateral contacts between the Tuzla Fair agency and the Bologna's one, Bosnian businessmen present at the Fair in Bologna ;
- 18 months training of enterprise manager in cooperation with Sinnea International and financed by the Italian Trade Minister; - Internet/E-Mail project: technical and financial support of the E-Mail network in Tuzla ;
- Training in Bologna of technicians responsible for waste and garbage collecting in cooperation with COSEA.

■ Field of Solidarity

- Project Scholarships for peace both in Tuzla and in Belgrade;
- Financial aid for handicapped and orphans children;
- Traitment for seriously ill children at Rizzoli Hospital in Bologna;
- Summer camp for children in Bologna and its Province.

Local democracy embassy of ZAVIDOVICI (Bosnia et Herzegovina)

YEAR OF CREATION: 1997

DELEGATE: Paolo MACCONI

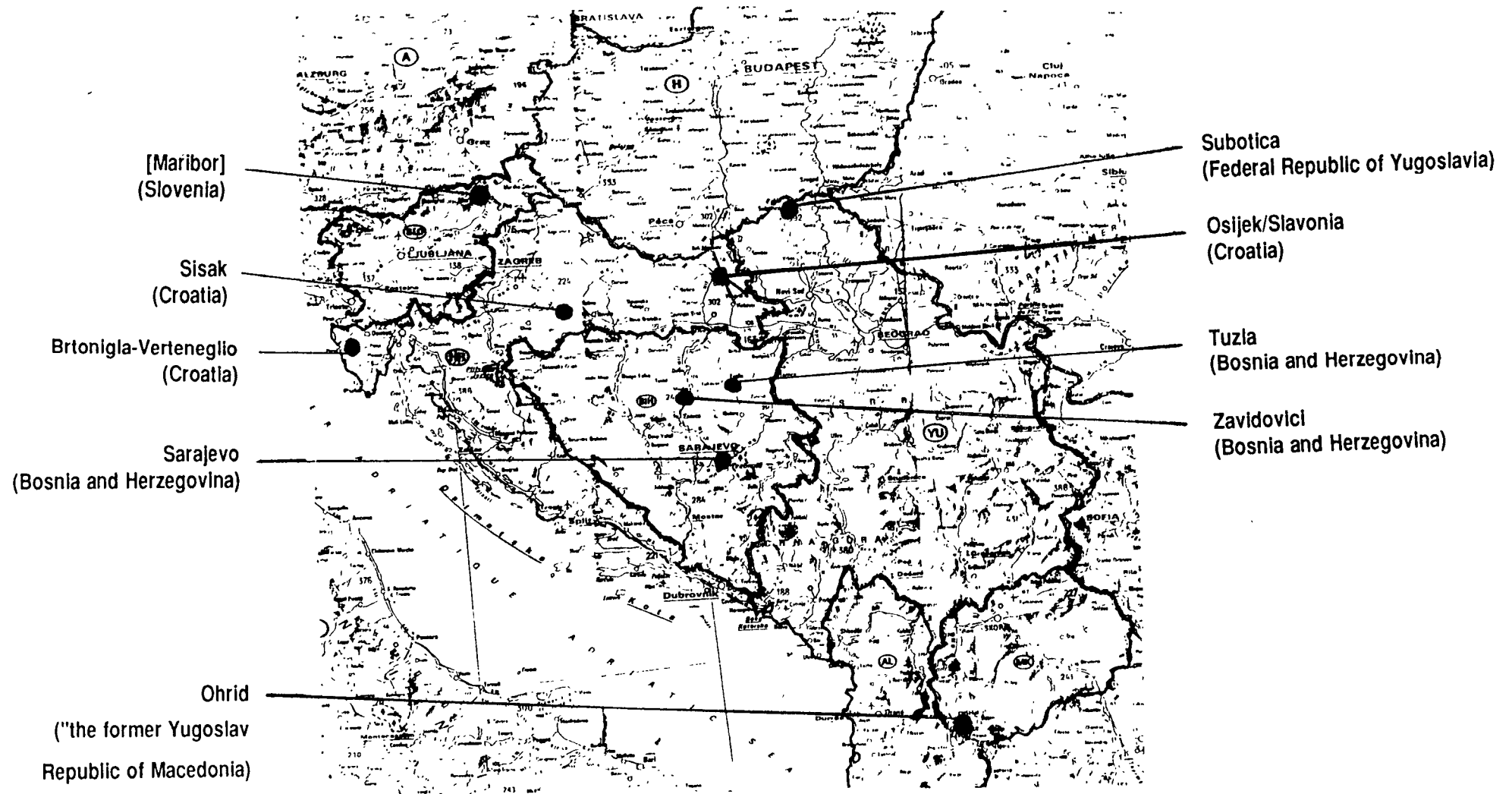
PARTNERS:

- Cities and other administrations: • ACB Associazione Comuni Bresciani • City of Alba • Province of Cremona (Italy), Southlanarkshire County (United Kingdom), Province of Brescia (Italy)
- NGOs: ASSOCIATION FOR THE LDE OF ZAVIDOVICI • Coordinamento Bresciano iniziative di solidarietà (Italy), Causes Communes Belgique (Belgium), Movimento Sviluppo e Pace (Italy)

FINANCIAL SOURCES: Partners, Council of Europe (Confidence Building Measures programme), UNOPS (United Nations Office Project Service), NGOs.

SPECIFIC PROJECTS PLANNED FOR THE FUTURE:

- Health project to improve sanitary conditions (especially in the prevention of tuberculosis), and sanitary education.
- School of civil society.
- Media project for a free, democratic and independent information, in co-operation with Radio Zavidovici
- Retired people project: housing restructuring, entertainment and assistance.
- School project: teachers' training, exchange programme "adopt a class".
- MUAP project: workers' training courses and donation of a production unit.
- Help to refugees through the supplying of seeds and other materials.
- UNOPS project in cooperation with the Italian bilateral cooperation (project Atlas)



MAP OF LOCAL DEMOCRACY EMBASSIES CURRENTLY IN OPERATION