

Project title:

INITIATIVE, SENSE AND CONSCIOUSNESS (ISAC)

1. Organizational information:

Name of the organization: *Regional Centre of Civic Action LINGUA*

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Person responsible: Radovan Milicevic, director

2. Project description:

- Project purpose
 - To make the young to participate more active in all forms of society engagement,
 - To increase the awareness about significant role of the young as a driving force of modern society and the democratic reforms in the society,
 - To spread the citizens' activism among the young,
 - To attempt to bring politics closer to the young people, encouraging the young to place their ideas through politics and create their lives and future by political means,
 - To identify the young people's problems in public,
 - To train the young, included in ISAC project, for team work, a kick off for new initiatives that would, among other things, enable the project participants exchange new ideas and continue the started cooperation. Through activities (Multimedia- rallies and public watching videos) and with active participation of all guests.

- Description of the need for the project (locally, regionally)

Overall, new political elite, after the murder of Serbian Prime Minister, March 2003, has not been able to open a new source of necessary energy while facing crime. Being unprepared and disingenuous in relation to the previous past, as well as repeated revocation of Kosovo issues, current political elite is pushing Serbia towards retrograde process that will isolate it from the rest of the world. In the absence of modern vision of Serbia, chetnics and Serbian controversial opinion is revitalized, which creates two main characteristics: not giving up territories on which Serbian national project claims right and promoting a system of values against western civilization and culture. This orientation in the society is followed by the political radicalism. This is not just a matter of marginal conservative and extreme political powers. They are becoming a force with

the partial support of traditional national institutions such as military, SANU, Serbian Orthodox Church. Negation of democratic values scrapes thru the concept of human rights, which often results in violent actions against ethnic minorities, especially Roma population, homosexuals, and so on. Having in mind this kind of ideological support, it is then easy to understand numerous racist, anti-Semitic and anti-western campaigns that were intensively held during time period on 2004/2005. Finding themselves in a dispute between what was offered by the former regime and what they can get at the present, which is far from their expectations, the young loose their way of social and political problems solving. Underdeveloped democratic way of thinking inherited from the former regime, as well as mistakes constantly made by new authorities leave the young inactive and not interested for active participation in political life.

As a country of South- Eastern Europe, with the status “country in transition” Serbia is still facing bad inheritance of past systems and wrongful approach to the problem solving. Especially smaller local communities (like Kraljevo Region) are having problems with the acceptance of new approaches in behavior, and for younger population a chance to be introduced and involved into decision-making processes that are of a great importance for their community. Five years after the collapse of the former regime and establishing democratic society in our country, the problems that were present on relation the young – politics have not been overcome and still actual. Policy of the Milosevic regime was obedient subjects making, easily exploited class and prone to manipulation, and not free citizens aware of their own capabilities, independent in creating and deciding. As it was not a natural, but forced process, it was condemned to failure from the very beginning. Unfortunately, it lasted here for more than a decade. The young showed their power, probably of decisive character in the autumn of 2000. It was, however, the first step only of our journey towards civil society that is still far way to go. October 5th for most young people who were the carriers of October changes, has more symbolic meaning. Little has changed. Criminal affairs we learn about from media, related to both former and actual authorities, high degree of criminal and corruption, not reduced compared to the period prior to October changes, lack of civil control of various secret services, speech of hate and the like are still present. Personal responsibility facing and denazification (*social process of removing Nazis from official positions and giving up any allegiance to Nazism; "denazification was a slow process"*) issue has not been even touched. Fascistic-wise movements revival, xenophobia present, lustration not initiated, many deviant social phenomena remaining – discourage the young. Unfortunately, in Serbia we are facing “conspiracy of silence“ regarding crimes committed during last decade “in the name of Serbian people”, and that conspiracy during previous years has grown into a “silence as crime. Unprepared Serbian political elite for the recognition of responsibilities has inevitably created transfer of responsibilities onto somebody else, and in that contest, public opinion is filled with intolerance, xenophobia, anti-Semitism and ethnic conflicts.