

Peer to Peer Training 24 – 28 June, Kutaisi, Georgia

The Association of the Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA) together with Local Democracy Agency Georgia (LDAG) and the support of the European Commission organised Training for Peer Educators in Kutaisi. This training was the second activity implemented within the “Trainings of Peer Educators” (ToP) project which is a part of the “Youth: the Right Direction” programme. In order to offer young people from all countries involved in the project a chance to participate, the trainings are organised in three different countries. From May 26th till May 31st the first training took place in Nic, Serbia.

The training organised in Kutaisi was the second one and it took place from June 24th till June 28th. Representatives from local Georgian NGOs, authorities and universities together with representatives from Croatia (LDA Osijek and LDA Verteneglio), Serbia (LDA Nis and LDA CSS), Italy (City of Monfalcone and EXIST Trieste), and North Ireland (School for Peace) gathered to participate in this 4 day seminar.

The main objective of the “Youth: the Right Direction!” programme is to enhance the promotion and visibility of the “Youth in Action” programme in South Eastern Europe and the Caucasus. Through trainings for peer educators (multipliers) the programme aims at creating groups of Youth Ambassadors in the different participating countries. These Youth Ambassadors will act at the local level, promoting the “Youth in Action” programme and involving young people in youth projects and initiatives. Furthermore, the project aims at training reliable and capable young people and youth workers who will support the work of national agencies and the local youth Information points.

The training in Kutaisi was officially opened with a speech by the mayor of Kutaisi who was joined by the vice-mayor and several other people from the local authorities. Two experts in the field of youth trainings and informal education, Marco Boaria (ALDA) and Andrea Messori (REPLAY), acted as trainers and through various methods of non-formal education the participants acquired new knowledge, skills and competencies. Moreover, for the final activity the participants were divided in four multinational groups who were asked to create a “Youth in Action” project together. Finalisation of the project will continue after the end of the training, thus creating an international network and cooperation between the participants from different organisations and countries.

While trainings took place during the day, several activities that aimed at exploring the city of Kutaisi and Georgian culture were conducted in the evening. A guided tour took the participants to the ancient sites of Bagrati Cathedral and the Gelati Monastery. The local authorities organised a farewell dinner which was again attended by the mayor, vice-mayor and other representatives of the local authorities. During this authentic Georgian ‘Supra’ (feast) the participants got to experience Georgia’s rich cuisine while several traditional folk dances were being performed.

At the final evaluation, all participants evaluated the training to be of high quality and of great significance to the development of their personal skills and competencies. The third and final ToP will be held in Shkodra, Albania in October.