

**ZAGORAC-JOZIĆ SANJA – Faith and Community Small Grant Award,
First Name – FACAD Follow – On Grant Report"**

A. Name of Recipient: Zagorac-Jozić Sanja

B. State: Bosnia and Herzegovina

C. Project Title: RELIGIOUS PROGRAM ON RADIO

D. Period: October 13th, 2008. - December 1st, 2008

E. Financial award: \$ 1.000

F. Your contribution: \$ 1.000

G. Money spent: \$ 2.000

About the project:

- **Describe the original project plan**

One of the stages in a very competitive process of choosing participants in program *Faith and Community: A Dialogue*, was the interview with all potential participants. During the interview, I was informed that all participants in the program will be able to apply for small grants valued up to \$1.000. The question that was posed to me was what I would do if I won the small grant. At that point, I couldn't give a concrete answer, but this question made me think, what to do with a grant of \$1.000 that is really quite modest, and how to achieve some remarkable impact in community. Since cooperation with our local radio station Radio Ilijas, and with our religious communities makes part of my everyday professional engagement, I decided to try to engage all aforementioned subjects in one joint project of interreligious dialogue for radio broadcast.

When I received the confirmation that I am one of the participants of the program *Faith and Community: A Dialogue*, before my travel to USA I made preliminary talks with religious dignitaries of the three most numerous religious communities in Ilijaš: our municipal *imam* Šerif effendi Čatić, orthodox priest Predrag Masalo and catholic priest don Anto Dominković and I introduced them with the idea of one joint radio broadcast and they welcomed the idea in a very positive way. I also made talks with management of the Institution "KSC-Catholic Schooling Center and Radio Ilijaš" about the possibility of commercial rent of one-hour broadcast time on Radio Ilijaš, once per week, for broadcasts about interreligious dialogue, that attracted the interest from both sides. I would like to say that before coming to USA I could already discern the exact contours of the project that I wanted to present before American colleagues from IREX, and while trying to win the sum of \$1.000. Project was presented in form of INDIVIDUAL PLAN and publicly represented to wider circle of employees of IREX on April 23rd, 2008. My personal impression is that such a plan for action rose interest and attention of listeners on the spot, and concrete questions were posed about the potential number of listeners of this broadcast, their personal involvement in creating this broadcast, plans for conducting a questionnaire in order to find out about impacts that these broadcasts made on listeners etc.

Upon return to Bosnia and Herzegovina, I sent my application for the Small Grant and it was approved, and on the 4th of September 2008, contract was signed between IREX and me, the recipient of small grant, Sanja Zagorac-Jozić.

After signing the agreement I started with concrete preparations for implementation of the project. Since, from 1st until 30th of September, it was the month of Ramadan, I was asked by municipal *imam* Mr.Šerif effendi Čatić to postpone the realization of this project for the month of October, as he was not able to participate in the project, because of his obligations during the month of Ramadan,. The request was taken into consideration, therefore the preparations for implementing project started at the beginning of October. In municipality Ilijaš, one meeting was held and attended by municipal imam Šerif effendi Čatić, orthodox priest Predrag Masal, catholic priest don Anto Dominković and me, the recipient of the Small grant, Sanja Zagorac-Jozić. I proudly single out hereby, that for the first time, one meeting was attended by both imam Šerif effendi Čatić and orthodox priest Predrag Masal who serves in eparchy of Ilijaš for four years. This literally means that in the period of these four years, two religious dignitaries had no chance to meet together at the same place. I was also proud that it turned out to be my merit, that this has happened, and that it was part of my idea and my project.

The meeting passed in a very concrete sprite. We agreed to prepare 8(eight) radio broadcasts that will deal with some important topics in life. The biggest problem was to choose the most suitable time for broadcasts that would go alive from studio. I wished them to be broadcasted in some afternoon period, when they can be listened by audience that is more mature. However, because of the obligations of religious dignitaries to attend and lead religious ceremony for burials of our deceased co-citizens (both Muslim and Christian burials), that are usually held in afternoon hours, we gave up the afternoon term, and we decided for the morning hours. We chose the best time to be on Monday at 10,00, and as part of the individual involvement of our community in the project, management of Radio Ilijaš decided to repeat broadcast of these radio-shows on Wednesday at 4 p.m. without any financial reward, and in this way, the project was accessible to listeners, who, because of their working obligations, couldn't follow the broadcast, during the morning hours. Consequently, dynamics of broadcasts and topics that will be talked about were decided:

Ordinal number	BRODACAST TOPIC	DATE OF BROADCAST
1.	RELIGIOUS FAST AND RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS	October 13 th , 2008.
2.	YOUNG PEOPLE-EDUCATION AND UPBRINING	October 20 th , 2008.
3.	CARE ABOUT THE OLD AND THE LANGUISHED	October, 27 th , 2008.
4.	INTERRELIGIOUS TOLERANCE	November 3 rd 2008.
5.	MEDIA INFLUENCE ON SOCIETY AND FAMILY	November 10 th , 2008.
6.	CULTURAL-HISTORICAL AND RELIGIOUS HERITAGE (I part)	November 17 th 2008.
7.	CULTURAL-HISTORICAL AND RELIGIOUS HERITAGE (II part)	November 24 th 2008.
8.	OUR PILGRIMAGES (MEKKA,JERUSALEM,HOLY MOUNTAIN)	December 1 st , 2008.

I use this opportunity to emphasize a very fair and correct attitude of the journalist in Radio Ilijas, Ms. Snježana Odović, who thoroughly prepared for each of the broadcasts. The journalists of Radio Ilijas made questionnaire for citizens of Ilijas, with the aim of making citizens contribute in creating the radio-broadcasts. The broadcasts went alive from studio, and the possibility was left to listeners to directly involve in the program.

- **Describe the results of the project and future plans**

Since most broadcasts are set on the official website of the project "Faith and Community: A Dialogue" I will make a short insight back into all broadcasts with the remark that some broadcasts are not on website, since there were some technical difficulties, the IT administrator could not install them, and the first show was not recorded because of the failure of equipment in Radio Ilijaš.

First broadcast: Since the month of Ramadan has just finished, and we were entering the period before Christmas fast for believers of both Catholic and Orthodox religion, we decided to dedicate one broadcast to this topic and to look back at the significance of fasting and its practice in all three religions. The listeners could learn what the differences in practicing fast in various religions are.

Second broadcast: We assessed that the two huge interest groups in our community: the young and the old, deserve one broadcast to be dedicated to them and that religious dignitaries give their opinion about religious communities, regarding many questions that remain and that these groups would like to respond to them. Within this broadcast, we talked about education and up-bringing of the young, their religious education, minors` delinquency, addiction, starting from the drug abuse and other toxic substances, until the addiction to internet and computer games. The joint conclusion was that all three religious communities can be a huge support for a family and school in order to raise young human that has to become the pillar of our community in the future. It is interesting that opinion was divided whether introducing religious education in pre-schooling institutions of Canton Sarajevo is justified or not, but the conclusion is that religious instruction cannot cause detriment, no matter what is the level or the institution in which it is delivered.

Third broadcast: Dedicated to our old, ill and languished co-citizens and we tried to make the analysis how much society does for these categories, and the issue of their material well-being, health care and the rest. The fact is that this is one of the categories that are socially the most endangered since the pensions are small and there are no other mechanisms of protection. Unfortunately, the war made many families separate, whose members went to different places in the world, and their parents are alone and unprotected. There is the great number of these individual households in our city. We tried to animate the listeners to visit our elderly co-citizens, to address them with the warm neighbor's word and to make the old days easy for them. This was the broadcast with the greatest number of listeners who made direct contact, and this speaks in favor of the fact that the retired were the most common audience of these radio-shows.

Fourth broadcast: In this broadcast we talked about interreligious tolerance. Since Ilijaš is the city where the majority of the population is of Islamic faith, Catholic and Orthodox priests reminded us of some ungraceful, unpleasant events that happened after the war in Ilijaš (destroying cemeteries, burning the interior of Orthodox church, smashing the painted-glass at the entrance of Catholic church) and with pleasure we stated that there are no such phenomena any more and also we stressed that level of inter-religious tolerance is constantly growing. It has been emphasized in public that all three religious dignitaries have to underline in their rituals with believers the importance of coexistence and tolerance.

Fifth broadcast: It was concerned with the influence of media on society and family. The communal assessment is that media, both written and electronic have huge influence on everyday life and that unfortunately they very often misuse the mission that has been entrusted upon them. The most common are negative phenomena in society, involving violence, corruption, and different misuse without concrete criticism, and therefore the media look more and more like black chronicles. Illustrative is the sample when you can't

read in the newspapers anything about the family of the child who won mathematics competition, but you will have an opportunity at the same time, to find out all about the family of those who committed the most serious crimes. About the "small", honest, honorable people who humbly raise their children and develop their talents, we will unfortunately know nothing. There was a lot of criticism about the programs of electronic media. It was concluded that there are no many deductive educational contents, and that programs are dominated by films and series full of violence, distraction, including the cartoons for the youngest. "Reality show" is a special category, therefore in case that very soon something is not changed, we will have generations considering that the least important is to be smart, and the most important to be beautiful and "musical".

Sixth and seventh broadcast dealt with the topics of cultural-historical and religious heritage. These broadcasts took us back into the far history, all the way to the first written traces about life in these areas. There was much talk about our construction heritage, cultural-artistic heritage, religious heritage and also culinary heritage. There was the significant talk about measures to preserve this heritage and some really very valuable monuments of culture. Also we talked about the designated monuments of culture on the territory of municipality Ilijas: the construction unit "Old town Dubrovnik" from the Middle Ages, necropolis of *stecak* tombstones, only 25 of them on the territory of municipality.

The last in series of eight broadcasts within this cycle was a sort of travel itinerary. I talked about my visit to the States, and religious dignitaries talked about the visit to Mecca and Medina (imam Šerif effendi Čatić talked about his departure to Hadž), Jerusalem (don Anto Dominković) and it was conceived for the orthodox priest Predrag Masal to talk about his visit to "Holy Mountain" and monastery "Hilandar", but since he had some obligations for the seat of Metropolitan he was hindered from taking part in a show.

In this way, the project was completed and what I can personally say, that has been confirmed by religious dignitaries is that we all missed our social gatherings on "Monday at 10,00".

The employees of Radio Ilijaš confirmed that they miss us, because it was common for all of us to sit together after the show, to drink coffee together and to socialize among us.

What could also be significant is thinking that this experience should be the basis for organizing Inter-religious Council in Ilijaš and that the support of broader community is necessary for this.

Program criteria

- **How and in which way your project promoted the goals of the program *Faith and Community*?**

I am personally very pleased with the project that I managed to implement. It has been my special pleasure to try to meet and make discussion among us about the topics from our everyday life. I hope that the project promoted goals that were set and this is confirmed by numerous congratulations and calls for support from my co-citizens.

Everyone agrees that this is the most unique and most noticeable radio project in the past year. The implementation of this project entered all official reports about the work of the institution "Center for sports and culture and Radio Ilijaš" and report about the work of the steering committee of this Institution.

- **Have you used knowledge and ideas you acquired in the States while implementing your project?**

I think that on the basis of positive experiences acquired during our stay in the USA about the indispensability of interreligious dialogue in multiethnic and multireligious communities,

as our community is, I learnt that we need to find within ourselves what is communal to all of us and on the basis of that, to create a platform for conflict resolution and overcoming differences that put us apart from each other. The most difficult are in fact modifications inside of people. In that case everyone would realize that we are the creatures of God and that no one should hate anyone else, because they cannot understand learning of their religion.

I got impression that in the States there are better mechanisms for more successful ways of preventing religious conflicts. I have to say that in the States this is lifted to the level of scientific approach. One of the most significant projects is "Project pluralism" implemented by Harvard University. What particularly fascinated me is, that complicated, and for laics puzzling, theological questions can be discussed in a very understandable way.

- **How this project contributed to your professional development?**

I still work the same job that I worked 12 months ago and somehow with the feeling of being privileged and I have a chance to live through one such American experience.

If I succeeded to transfer at least one part of these positive experiences acquired in the States to our Bosnian microcosms, I think I helped the sustainability of this country.

Results

- **Who had benefits from your project and in which way?**

These are not exact things and they cannot be viewed simply, but they speak in favor of the fact that with symbolic resources something that will be noticeable in community can be initiated. However, for our post-war conditions in Ilijaš, this was a new thing, to gather all three religious communities through personalization of religious dignitaries on one spot and at the same time. This was a message for all, that we wish to live together in these regions and the broadcast spread this atmosphere, of tolerance and respect.

- **How many people were influenced by your project?**

It is difficult for me to answer this question. The broadcast was likely to be listened to. The news about this project was on official web portal of municipality Ilijas that has been visited since the 1st of August 2008 by 14.000 visitors.

- **Write down the list of publications, articles etc, that resulted from your project?**

Publications were not planned in this project. There are electronic records of the broadcasts on CD and in Archive of IMIC in Sarajevo.

- **Make a list of potential contacts that could be established thanks to your project**

CONTACT PERSON	CONTACT TELEPHONE
Municipal <i>imam</i> Šerif ef. Čatić	00387/ 61499982
Catholic priest don Anto Dominković	00387/ 61799718
Orthodox priest Predrag Masal	00387/ 65865134
Director of Institution `Center for sports and	00387/ 62336250

What have you learnt?

- **Can you explain what was the success of your project and what you could do to make this project more successful**

I already talked about the achievements...

Project would be more successful if we managed to organize the arrival of 250 pupils in final years of elementary school to visit Sarajevo and see the Catholic Cathedral, Bey Mosque and Jewish synagogue.

Conclusion

- **What would be your conclusion about the project and your opinion of the same**

In everything I have written up to now, I expressed my opinion about the project. I expect now the official assessment of the project, by IREX.

Ilijas, March 16th 2009.

Sanja Zagorac-Jozic