

ŽELJKO ĐURICA
Eparchy of Livno
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In Livno, Bosnia and Herzegovina

IREX

Subject: Final Report

Name of the Small Grant Recipient: Željko Đurica
State: Bosnia and Herzegovina
Project Title: Memory of Forgotten
Period: January 30th- April 30th, 2009
Financial Award: 1500,00\$ (one thousand five hundred dollars)
Contribution: 1500,00\$ (one thousand five hundred dollars)
Money spent: 3000,00\$ (three thousand dollars)

The plan of the project was to establish contacts with Jewish community in B&H, Serbia and Croatia, to work out and set the memorial plaque for Jews in Livno, and to organize service (celebration lunch) where the representatives of religious communities in Livno and wider region would gather (of Islamic, Roman Catholic and Orthodox faiths), and also Jewish from B&H and wider region, with representatives of local political authorities.

The result of the project is the memorial plaque, and its setting is now dependent of responsible authorities of municipality Livno. Namely, before receiving that small grant, I reported that setting of memorial board in public space is questionable, but since the representatives of municipal authorities responded to initiative and attended setting of the plaque and ceremonial lunch, this was the opportunity for them to promise to find the adequate place for it in the city. Result of the project is the fact that for the first time, since the cease of the war conflicts, representatives of the above mentioned religious communities, representatives of municipal authorities and a few reputable citizens of Livno gathered, and through this pleasant socializing, while talking about different topics, they showed that we can and that we should live in peace, not just next to one another, but also to go one step further and live one with another. This is why my future plans, besides the church service, will involve work on all projects that contribute to collective good and preventing everything that is bad. Concretely, we are in course of preparations for celebration of 150 years of SPC (Assumption of the Holy Mother of God) in Livno where besides different cultural events people of various nationalities and religions will gather, both as guests or active participants. Furthermore, my wish is to organize one concert of spiritual music performed by different choruses. In the meantime, as cooperator of many other non-governmental organizations, I realize similar plans and activities. As a proof, I enclose here in supplement, the material about one project that has been completed: What is common for all of us?

The goals of the program *Faith and Community: A Dialogue* were promoted by accomplishing aim of this project, the one that proposes reaching multiculturalism and tolerance in this region. Apart from this, every conversation and each activity in

implementation of this project was not completed without emphasizing the significance of work of State Department and IREX.

Naturally, in realization of this project, I applied knowledge and ideas acquired in the States. That is, before all, one way of achieving communication, written and practical part of work etc.

This project contributed to my professional development, because every similar activity and work in community and close surroundings cannot pass without leaving trace on formation of human personality, broadening horizons, and also on intellectual and spiritual plan.

Long-term benefits of this project were gained by all those who live here or who will live here. At the moment, this is not so much noticeable, but I am certain that every good deed, even the smallest one, cannot pass without leaving a trace behind. In short-term perspective, all those who heard about this project, received one clear message: We must and we can live and work together, without fears that this could endanger someone's religious or national identity. By receiving this message I expect changes among people themselves, and the change towards better. More positive way of thinking, and feeling that everyone can and should, and that God has given them the opportunity to build in themselves and in this world, one small portion of something good.

I believe that more or less, this project positively influenced all the people who heard of it, and they heard about it through media (radio Livno...) journals (Jewish, catholic...) and by the sole participation of individuals in implementation of this project (those who participated both as guests or colleagues).

The list of publications and articles, up to now, there are some in Jewish Herald, Light of Word...

Contacts are established in the way I earlier explained, and I think that they can be established on broader level in the region, with follow-up projects, with religious representatives and with other organizations involved in similar work.

To what extent this project is successful, it can be seen from material enclosed, and I am inclined to think that it can be even better. I certainly think that there are some justified reasons like for example: other obligations and lack of the spare time, lack of people ready to help voluntarily similar activities (to be more precise deficit of conscience about the importance of voluntary work) and several other reasons.

Though, I consider that we should not surrender when such activities are in question, but rather we should correct flaws, and this is the conclusion of my report.

Željko Đurica