



THE FOURTEENTH INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL
ON
YOUTH AND HERITAGE (ISSYH 14)
27th – 31st July 2019
Stolac – Mostar – Sarajevo
Bosnia and Herzegovina



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International Forum Bosnia

International Forum Bosnia (IFB) is a non-governmental organisation that brings together individuals and institutions from Bosnia and Herzegovina and abroad. Our mission is to support the creation of a harmonious and united society in Bosnia and Herzegovina, based on dialogue, trust, respect, and best practice in the fields of human rights protection, the rule of law, and democracy.

IFB members believe in

- *Bosnia and Herzegovina as a sustainable plural society within a unified polity,*
- *With a rich political and cultural heritage that exemplifies the best aspects of the European spirit.*

We believe that preservation and development of our common Bosnian heritage requires

- *The restoration of trust across society, based on*
- *The development of a new intellectual community and new perspectives, through social and political analysis, and an exploration of the diversity all our traditions.*

IFB approaches these goals in two ways:

- *Deconstructing divisive ideologies based on the abuse of ethnicity, religion, and other identity and belief systems to generate mistrust, intolerance, social tension, social exclusion, and conflict in the region.*
- *Developing and promoting a new synthesis for Bosnia and Herzegovina, based on a vision of social development free from fear, hostility and intolerance and a political model that mediates rather than exacerbates antagonisms.*

Just as Bosnia and Herzegovina must be sustained as a whole, IFB believes that any progressive understanding of the country's present condition and future prospects requires an comprehensive and holistic approach, seeking a new understanding of Bosnian unity in diversity that incorporates all aspects of society, but especially geopolitical aspects, education, cultural and religious traditions and dialogue, environmental and ecological perspectives, advanced and information technologies, energy policy and responsible use of natural and renewable resources, gender issues, regional co-operation, distributive justice, sustainable development, the rule of law, human rights, social inclusion, and other issues related to the efficient transition of Bosnia and Herzegovina towards harmonious membership in the community of European countries.

One major way in which IFB pursues its objectives is through the organisation of intellectual gatherings and undertakings (workshops, panels, symposia, conferences, public lectures, exhibitions, the advancement of knowledge about Bosnia and Herzegovina, etc.), and the presentation of significant perspectives on culture, society, scholarship, and politics related to Bosnia and Herzegovina and its place in the world through its journal Forum Bosnae, working documents, and the IFB web page: <http://www.ifbosna.org.ba>.

IFB was founded in Sarajevo in 1997. It operates through its members, projects, and associated ventures. Its headquarters are in Sarajevo and there are regional centres in Banja Luka, Mostar, and Tuzla. There are thirteen thematic-research centres: the Centres for Strategic Studies, Education, Language Studies, Media, Protection of Natural Heritage, Students Programs, Historical Studies, Regional Cooperation, Gender Issues, Cultural Heritage, Interreligious Dialogue, and Technology and Economic Development (with two sections: entrepreneurship and public/private partnership and advanced and information technology), and the Centre of Interdisciplinary Research for Visual Culture.

Map of Bosnia-and-Herzegovina



Programme Summary

International Forum Bosnia and its partners are pleased to announce the *Fourteenth International Summer School on Youth and Heritage*, to be held in Stolac (Bosnia and Herzegovina) in July 2019.

The School is a practical development of many years of research on tolerance and draws on an extensive network of partners, both individuals and organizations, committed to social and cultural reconstruction, reconciliation, and respect for diversity. The aim is to assist young people to reach a greater understanding and appreciation of the diversity and plurality in world cultures, particularly those that contribute to European diversity. Only in this way can the unity in diversity of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as a model of an open society, be recognised, conserved, and developed.

Through an integrated programme of seminars, fieldwork, practical activities, and recreational evenings, participants are provided expert introduction to and hands-on experience of traditional crafts and bodies of knowledge, architectural heritage, sustainable ways of life, and environmental practice. They are also encouraged to think about how socially cohesive, but fundamentally open communities can be developed and maintained, as well as the importance of combining diversity with strong roots in local heritage.

The school faculty is made up of local and visiting experts in the promotion of cultural and religious dialogue, specific areas of heritage preservation and promotion, traditional crafts and techniques, and similar fields. The school hosts up young people from Bosnia and Herzegovina and elsewhere in Europe and other parts of the world. The international mix ensures a lively encounter between members of different cultures.

This year's school will be co-organized by International Forum Bosnia and the Stolac Youth Forum, the Association for the Restoration of Civic Trust in Stolac Municipality, and the Sarajevo Old Town Scouts and with great help and contribution of La Terra Nostra organisation. Particular attention will be given to the development and maintenance of open forms of identity under conditions of European integration and globalization. The school will involve seminars and workshops on issues of cultural dialogue, the complex interrelationships between cultures, and the causes and effects of conflict that targets cultural or religious difference. As a forum for exploring certain aspects of traditional culture at first hand, the school will involve practical workshops on forgotten skills. Fieldwork will focus on the renovation and rehabilitation of the damaged cultural and natural heritage of Stolac. There will also be a number of field trips to local sites.

History of the International Summer School on Youth and Heritage

The First International Summer School on Youth and Heritage took place in 2006 (July 23rd to August 9th). It was a unique event, with eighty young participants from seven countries living in a tent city. Thanks to the success of the programme, the organizers and participants committed to developing the project as a long-term annual gathering of young people. Schools have taken place every year since, in late July and early August. The scale has been considerably smaller than the first one, with between 20 and 30 participants from a variety of different countries.



The Podgradski Konak before and after destruction and after rebuilding as the Human Rights Centre

The initial schools used practical examples of cross-cultural cooperation to restore heritage as a tool against segregation and discrimination. This has stimulated local involvement in rebuilding the town's war-damaged



Poljuba and Bokulja graveyards during conservation works.

cultural heritage, including some of the most valuable gems of traditional Bosnian architecture. The first three schools thus involved major public works elements, including the rehabilitation of the 16th century mosque on the bridge, the mosque and school at Uzinovići, the Poljuba orthodox cemetery, cleaning of the old graveyards at Gorica and Bokulja, clearing and conservation works on the site of the Podgrad watermill, and cleaning the Bregava river bed, under the supervision of expert conservationists.



The Mosque on the Bridge in Stolac: before destruction, after being razed to the ground, during reconstruction, and restored.

A major component was the restoration of old buildings to serve as public spaces. The first three schools rehabilitated the Podgradski Konak and the Hadži Junuz-aga Mehmedbašić Endowment House. Restoration activities included every aspect of rebuilding under the expert supervision of professional conservationists and restorers.

As a result of these activities, the Hadži Junuz-aga Mehmedbašić House has been designated the International Youth Centre for Cultural Heritage and Education, while the Podgradski Konak is now the Human Rights Centre of the Stolac Youth Forum.

In addition to the public works, these schools involved lectures, seminars, and workshops on topics of religious and cultural coexistence and reconstruction.

Like the earlier schools, the fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth schools included physical reconstruction, but the focus shifted from public buildings to premises for institutionalising the school itself. Work in 2009-2018 focused on the 17th century house and garden complex in the Uzinovići part of the town that now houses the First House for International Dialogue and Reconciliation (HIDR 1/images below). It has been fully rebuilt and restored, in line with the strictest conservation guidelines for national monuments, including the use of traditional stonework, woodwork, and carpentry. It has been fully functional since the 2012 school. The building belongs to Forum Bosnia and is used for the activities of the school and other activities of Forum Bosnia during the year. During 2014, an additional covered, open-air teaching classroom was added in the garden.

There have also been rehabilitation activities on two further 17th century houses in Uzinovići, HIDR 2 and 3, one of which belongs to Forum Bosnia, while the other will be the object of a long-term contract of use. Work has continued on preliminary rehabilitation of the Podgrad watermill, a designated national monument in the centre of Stolac town, which has been allocated by the authorities to International Forum Bosnia for use, following restoration.

The 4th-13th schools have continued the lectures and seminars of earlier years, while also introducing workshops at which participants gained a basic proficiency in woodworking, bookbinding, copper-working and blacksmithing, carpet-weaving, stone-carving, archery, and falconry amongst other activities. The fruits of their work have been used to outfit and furnish the HIDR 1 and are being incorporated into both HIDR 2 and 3 as part of the ongoing works.

About Stolac

Stolac is in southern Bosnia and Herzegovina, 160 km from Sarajevo, 30 km from the Adriatic and 100 km from Dubrovnik. It lies at the juncture of two valleys, through one of which the Bregava River flows from East to West. During July and August, the Stolac region celebrates the fig and welcomes the ripening grape, watermelon, and muskmelon.

Throughout its history, Stolac has been a very open town, renowned for its rich cultural heritage, dating back to the Palaeolithic. Ancient roads lead from Illyrian forts and Roman settlements past mediaeval monuments to the coexisting forms of Christian, Muslim, and Jewish culture. Until the 1992 to 1995 war against Bosnia and Herzegovina, Stolac was a typical plural society. Due largely to the impact of outside forces, the town suffered extensive damage, much of its heritage was laid waste, and a large part of its population expelled. Since the war, Stolac has embarked on a difficult process of restoration and social reconstruction. The restoration of cultural memory and history is crucial to building its future, but for that public opinion and attitudes and behaviour must change. This has required international help and cooperation.

Introduction

As in previous years, the programme of the Fourteenth International Summer School is being organised by International Forum Bosnia, with the support of the Stolac Youth Forum, the Association for the Restoration of Civic Trust in Stolac Municipality and Scout units from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The summer school brings together young people from across the globe, providing an opportunity to contribute to the rehabilitation and reconstruction of a plural community devastated by war and by ideological images of irreconcilable difference. By countering current conceptions of identity and difference, the school strengthens the development of civil society based on mutual tolerance and trust.

The programme has four complementary aspects:

1. a set of coordinated working activities,
2. a series of practical craft or forgotten skills workshops,
3. a number of educational activities, and
4. a recreational aspect for informal socializing and cultural encounter.

The activities of the school will be based around the three buildings restored by the schools in previous years – the Podgradski Konak and the House of International Dialogue and Reconciliation 1, while also using the cleared premises of the Houses of International Dialogue and Reconciliation 2 and 3.

1. Working activities

Working activities play a central role in the concept of the school. The aim of the school is to develop social engagement and reconciliation through a combination of practical activities and discussion-based activities. There is a special sense of achievement to be gained from seeing how the themes discussed in abstract or historical terms can take on concrete form in the restoration of historical treasures or the creation of new works in traditional modes. This sense of achievement is reinforced by the knowledge that the results of group work are put to use for the community, restoring a sense of continuity and providing modernity with roots in the past.

In previous years, the schools have involved reconstruction of a number of historic buildings in Stolac, communal works on the Bregava River, the development of town green spaces, and the protection of local natural heritage. Participants have played a very active role in the reconstruction of the Podgradski Konak, the Hadži



The Hadži Junuz-aga Mehmedbašić Endowment House – the International Youth Centre for Cultural Heritage and Education during and after renovation



Junuz-aga Mehmedbašić Endowment House, a 17th century traditional residential complex in the Brade area of the town, and three 17th century houses in the Uzinovići area of the town, as well as number of mosques, graveyards, and other public buildings. Restoration activities

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included every aspect from rebuilding walls to reroofing and finishing works, under the expert supervision of professional conservationists and restorers. As a result of these activities, the Hadži Junuz-aga Mehmedbašić House is now the International Youth Centre for Cultural Heritage and Education, while the Podgradski Konak is the Human Rights Centre of the Youth Forum of Stolac. One of the houses in Uzinovići is already in use as the First House of International Dialogue and Reconciliation (HIDR 1). Rehabilitation of the other two houses in Uzinovići is still ongoing. On completion, they will be HIDR 2 and HIDR 3. Details of these projects may be found at www.forumbosna.org



HIDR 1 before and after reconstruction

In 2018, participants will perform a range of conservation tasks, learning both the how and why of responsible conservation and reconstruction.

Final decision regarding which projects participants will be working on is pending agreement with the local authorities. All reconstruction activities will be accompanied by the appropriate technical documentation and supervised by conservationists authorised by the Commission for the Protection of National Monuments. Working activities are envisaged on the following sites:

1. Site preparation and reconstruction works along the course of the Bregava river bed and particularly at the Podgrad mill.
2. Continued rehabilitation of HIDR 2 and HIDR 3.

Each working group will include 5 - 7 persons, including the group leader. This format has proved successful in previous years. In order to support openness and to stimulate intercultural behaviour, young people and adults from Stolac will be invited to join the working activities.

2. *Forgotten Skills Workshops*

Working activities are accompanied by practical workshops that introduce the participants to hands-on experience of traditional crafts and forgotten skills. These workshops help participants connect in a highly personal way with the texture of the past as lived experience. Participants are introduced to the nature of a craft or skill, how it functioned as a part of social life, and how it was imbued by the symbolism of the traditional world-view. Participants thus learn not just the basic skills involved in a craft, but how to “read” their own cultural heritage and that of others from the inside and how to use it to enrich their own lives. In previous years, participants carved chests, furniture, and doors and made carpets for use in the buildings under restoration. Others provided much needed first aid to journal collections and archival materials of importance to the local history of Stolac.

The set of practical or learning-by-doing workshops has been expanded for 2019. The following workshops will be on offer, dependent on demand from participants: a Woodcarving Workshop, a Workshop on the Podgrad Mill, a Workshop on Artisan Metal Crafts, a Workshop on the HIDR II house, a Stone Carving Workshop and a Workshop on the Vernacular Architecture of the Stolac Region. There will be two new workshops this year: a Workshop on Calligraphy and Wall Art, led by Hazim Numanagić, involving practical demonstrations of calligraphic techniques and work on the decorative ornamentation in the HIDR 1 and 3 and a Workshop on the Preservation and Conservation of

Paper Documents and Old Books, led by Ida Fazlić, which will involve practical work on the deacidification and other forms of treatment of old paper documents and books.



Participants and teachers busy in the forgotten skills workshops



A carpet and a carved chest made by participants during the woodcarving and weaving workshops



Students learning at the Metal Working Craft Workshops

workshops will have a competitive aspect and participants will receive awards for creativity. Participants will be able to take part in all workshops and contribute to the revival of forgotten skills.



Students learning at the Stolac Stone and Wood Carving Workshops

3. Education

A number of more formal educational activities will supplement the practical aspects of the school. They will include lectures, seminars, and discussions on various aspects of the contemporary world, cultural heritage, the sources of conflict and the abuse of religious and ethnic identities, interfaith and intercultural dialogue and tolerance, democratic plurality and social cohesion, and the ways in which a critical encounter with the past can promote a deepening of modern ways of life. Some of these lectures will take the form of participation in the proceedings of the International Conference on Unity and Plurality in Europe organised concurrently in Mostar by International Forum Bosnia. Participants will be introduced to traditionalist, anthropological, ecological, environmentalist, and conservationist approaches to recapturing *the art of living*. In particular, they will consider the need for memory and the fair and balanced memorialisation of injustice for the purposes of reconciliation and coexistence as part of a balance life in a plural society. A particular emphasis will be placed on the balance between personal, group, and institutional responsibility for social injustice and for social reconstruction.

These workshops will be led by experienced academics and activists. In previous years, this has included committed academics from Sarajevo, Switzerland, France, Ireland, Great Britain, the United States, as well as leading members of human rights organizations from Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia.

In this way, young participants are provided an opportunity to develop their understanding of and apply tolerance in discussion, while at the same time gaining a deeper understanding of their own background through discussion and solidarity with others. The educational component will also involve films, site visits, and exhibitions.

4. Recreation

Recreational activities are an integral part of the summer school programme. They will include poetry readings, dancing, and music and form an extension to the educational aspects of the programme in order to promote community and fellow feeling. There will be workshops on archery and falconry, building on the successful introduction of these activities in previous years. Participants will be invited to add their own suggestions. Their creativity will be rewarded.

As in previous years, a number of outings is also planned. Provisional day trips include:

- Mostar, Blagaj,
- Žitomislići, Počitelj.

Participants

Participants at the International Summer School on Youth and Heritage will be selected by means of a public invitation to be announced in July 2019. Young people between 18 and 28 years of age can apply. All candidates must complete the application form accompanying this document.

Participants will have to cover their own travel costs to Stolac.

The application fee covers all the costs of student participation, including bed, board and all programme activities. In cases of verified need, the organisers may be in a position to waive some or all of the fee. Further details are available on request.

In the case of clear and demonstrated need, applicants can apply for a stipend and we will do our best to meet their needs.

Applications should be made no later than 18th of July 2019.

Accommodation

As in previous years, participants will be housed in four different locations:

1. Hostel in Uzinovici (5 rooms),
2. The House of International Dialogue and Reconciliation, (5 rooms sleeping 1-2 each).

Meals

Meals are communal and, facilities allowing, will be prepared by a professional caterer, assisted by the working groups in rotation and served on the HIDR premises. Should the facilities not be ready for use in time, meals will be provided by agreement with a local restaurant, as in previous years. Lunch packages will be provided for field trips.

Follow up

Participants at International Summer School are expected to build long-lasting friendships, which it is hoped will be continue to grow in the future, as participants become involved in similar enterprises across the world. The organisers believe that the entire programme can be expanded and developed as an important contribution to developing new approaches, building tolerance, and increasing understanding between people from different cultures and religions. The implementation of School will be used to explore different possibilities and options for future continuation.

APPENDIX 1

Podgrad mill

Like many other Bosnian towns, Stolac is built on a river, which historically provided not merely a source of water for drinking and irrigation, but was also exploited for use in various mills, forming part of a more general system of making maximum use of the river for communal and commercial life (e.g. by the construction of water channels running parallel to the river and bringing river water to the houses of the town as well as the construction of a large public washing area with dedicated watercourses).

There are fourteen old stone mills along the course of the River Bregava as it runs through the town. The mills were used as a source of power for a variety of activities, from fulling cloth to milling grain. In recent decades they have fallen into considerable disrepair and, in some cases, the buildings have crumbled and disappeared and the watercourses and mill races been concreted over.

These mills are in principle public property, but the right of use (usufruct) was traditionally allocated to those who paid for their maintenance and provided the services required by the town.

Over the past ten years, International Forum Bosnia has, as part of its International Summer Schools on Youth and Heritage, included a number of work activities whereby the young participants have cleaned up and cleared large parts of the riverbank and done preliminary clearance works on the old monuments in the river. In recent years, there has been a focus on the Podgrad watermill. This mill had been particularly damaged and almost all trace of the monument obliterated. Thanks to the dedicated work of our volunteers, the concrete and other rubble has been cleared away and some of remaining walls and structures cleaned and conserved, while the surrounding area of the river has been cleaned and restored to a healthy natural condition. During the last year, in recognition of these activities, International Forum Bosnia was allocated the right of use of the mill by the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. An application has been lodged for planning permission to fully reconstruct the mill, in its original form, but with sufficient adaptation to allow the resulting space to be used for lectures and exhibitions and other cultural activities.

The plan for 2019 is for the volunteers to work on conservation and partial restoration of the impoundment, mill races, tail races and sluices (the surviving structures which were uncovered by the removal of concrete in previous years). This will prepare the ground for more serious reconstruction works, once planning permission is given.

The mills in Stolac have been declared national monuments.

APPENDIX 2

Workshop on the Vernacular Architecture of the Stolac Region

Its vernacular architecture is one of the glories of the Stolac region and of the karst areas of Southern Bosnia generally. With roots that go back to the Hellenistic period and Greek and Roman settlement patterns and forms of domestic architecture (which lie at the root of the so-called Mediterranean house type), the traditional native Southern Bosnian house types and settlement patterns form a comprehensive system of human habitation that informs not merely the towns and settlements, but the very landscape of the region. This includes the ubiquitous use of dry stone walls in the construction of complex field patterns, orchards and garden enclosures, as well as the extensive irrigation systems that served them, with their stone wells, cisterns and channels. The use of the native stone as the basic building material continued in the stone-built dwelling complexes, with their traditional stone-roofed house-forms, paved courtyards, outhouses, gardens and orchards, that, alongside the various communal buildings and structures - bridges, shops, market places, paved streets, water mills (for flour, fulling, and other purposes), washing places, threshing circles, and so forth - made up the characteristic form of local settlement. The resulting structures have a rare elegance and beauty that is both in extraordinary harmony with their natural environment and extraordinarily human in scale. It lacks almost entirely those elements of ostentation and pride that mark more monumental traditions and whose major purpose was to legitimate social orders based on distinction and exploitation. This is because the function of the vernacular architecture of the Stolac region was to reflect a social order whose ideal was of harmony and solidarity with the natural and cosmic order, which was reflected in its internal harmony and discretion.

Unfortunately, this built heritage and its extensions into the landscape have suffered over the past century or more a certain process of obliteration, partly due to modernization and the changes it has brought to traditional modes of life, but even more as a result of deliberate destruction. The record of past human communities is thus being wiped away and replaced by a void, producing an anomic anti-community. One important way of rebuilding a sense of meaningful community and inclusive pride in one's locality is to re-engage with the traditions that have shaped it and have left their mark across it, have made it beautiful and, if restored and cherished provide grounds not merely for a local patriotism, but for attracting others, as tourists and as guests. Re-engagement with the communities of the past, in their positive and negative aspects, is a precondition to rebuilding any form of community in the present and for the future.

This workshop will have three components. There will be introductory lectures on vernacular architecture as a general concept, as well as on historical patterns of settlement, types of building, methods of construction and the relationship between traditional vernacular architectural forms and the traditional way of life. These lectures will include extensive discussion of the importance of preserving and conserving such structures, both for the reconstruction and re-rooting of community and for the re-orientation of that community both inwards towards itself and outwards towards visitors and guests. In this way, what is special about the region becomes something to celebrate and share with others. There will also be a hands-on introduction to specific buildings and complexes, including extensive field work to discover and explore vernacular forms in the landscape and to understand their function

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in the traditional way of life through interaction with them. The third element of the workshop will be a photographic competition, whereby teams of participants will be provided with photographic equipment and tasked with recording the vernacular architectural heritage of the region. The teams, under expert supervision and guidance, will then use their photographic materials to prepare an exhibition on the vernacular architectural heritage of the region, to be presented in Stolac, Mostar and Sarajevo.