



# 21<sup>st</sup> INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL YOUTH & HERITAGE

JULY 23 - AUGUST 8, 2026  
(SARAJEVO - MOSTAR - STOLAC)



# PRACTICAL Guidebook



# Heritage as Wisdom. Dialogue as Method. Peace as Commitment.



After two decades of dedicated work within the International Forum Bosnia, and following more than 20 years of successfully led and implemented projects in cultural heritage, I am proud to announce that the HIDR – Centre for Peace and Heritage (HIDR-Centre) has been established and officially registered as an independent NGO. This institutional step is not a departure from our origins – it is their natural evolution.

From participatory heritage recovery actions in Stolac to global educational initiatives, our journey has demonstrated that heritage is not only about preservation of the past. It is about shaping the conditions for peace in the present and resilience for the future.

Today, the International Summer School Youth and Heritage (ISSYH) enters a new chapter. ISSYH21 marks a threshold.

What began in 2005 as a modest tent camp in the war-scarred town of Stolac – born from the urgency of humanitarian and cultural recovery – has grown into a globally recognized learning platform. Over 1,000 alumni from more than 40 countries, lecturers from leading institutions across the world, restored heritage complexes, community-based projects, and enduring international partnerships have shaped a living network of knowledge, solidarity, and action.

Now, under the umbrella of the HIDR-Centre, ISSYH evolves further – with the ambition to become a global flagship project.

Our vision is clear: To conceptualize heritage through the nexus of transmittance and learning, and to understand peace not as an abstract ideal, but as a process of formatting society through global dialogue, intergenerational knowledge transfer, and responsibility toward both human and non-human communities.

We recognize that heritage wisdom offers guidance in times of mounting pressures - environmental degradation, social fragmentation, political instability, and conflict.

Through careful conservation, adaptive reuse, community engagement, and ecological awareness, we seek to build resilience rooted in memory, knowledge, and shared responsibility. ISSYH21 will deepen its commitment to:

- Global dialogue across communities and disciplines
- Intergenerational exchange as a method of continuity
- Attention to environment and living landscapes
- Adaptation of heritage to risks and contemporary challenges
- Strengthening communities through participatory action
- Forming resilience grounded in heritage-based wisdom

Our alumni are no longer only participants. They are leaders, coordinators, lecturers, and ambassadors of a growing global movement. This continuity is our strength. This network is our living heritage. As President of the HIDR-Centre, I invite you to join ISSYH21 and live its motto: 'Heritage as Wisdom. Dialogue as Method. Peace as Commitment' by learning from the past, engaging with peers, and committing to creating a world defined by understanding and harmony.

**Dr Amra Hadzimuhamedovic**  
**President of the HIDR – Centre for Peace and Heritage**



## Who can apply?

The Twenty-First International Summer School Youth and Heritage (ISSYH21) brings together **up to 30 motivated young adults (ages 20–35)** - students, researchers, and emerging professionals - from diverse fields, including: **heritage studies, history, arts, anthropology, conservation, architecture, law, political studies, religious studies, pedagogy, museology, and human rights.**

We seek participants who understand that heritage is more than preservation; it is a tool to shape resilient futures amid crises, climate change, social fragmentation, and post-conflict recovery. Applicants should be prepared for interdisciplinary, intercultural engagement and have a **strong command of English** to participate fully in dialogue-based learning.

If you resonate with the credo: **Heritage as Wisdom. Dialogue as Method. Peace as Commitment**, ISSYH 21 is for you.

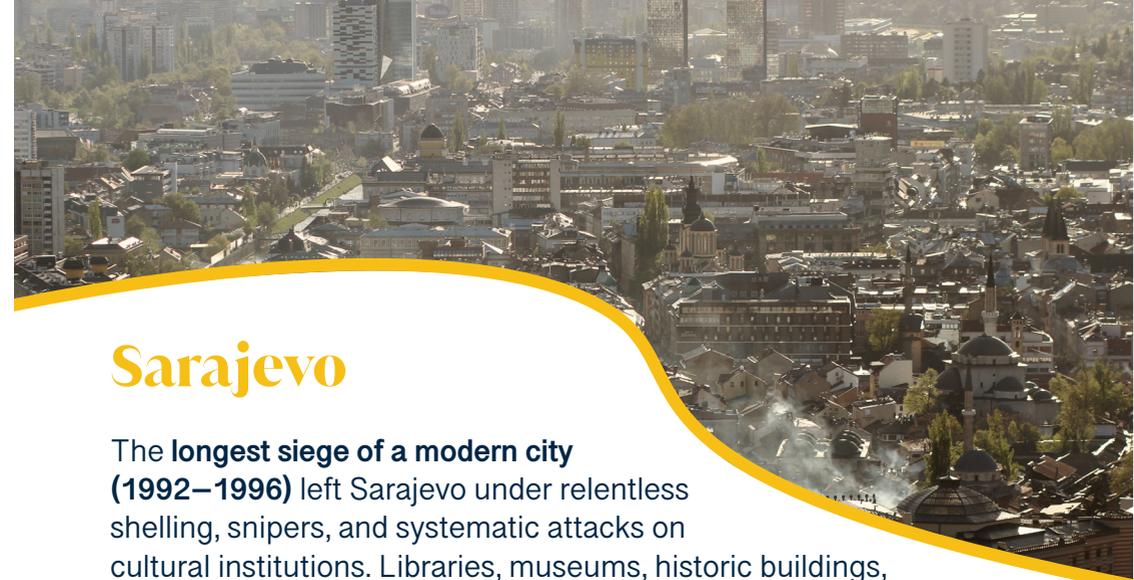
## When?

Online Orientation & Introductory Sessions: **July 4–7, 2026**  
On-Site Program (Sarajevo, Mostar, Stolac): **July 23–August 8, 2026**

## Where?

### In Living Laboratories: Sarajevo, Mostar, Stolac

ISSYH21 activities unfold in **three cities that experienced targeted destruction of cultural heritage**, making them powerful case studies for **heritage-led urban and societal resilience.**

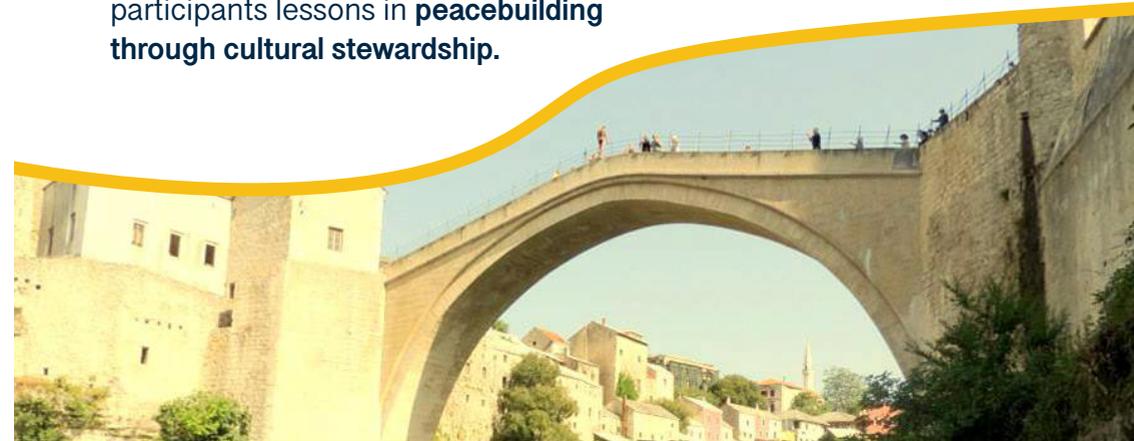


## Sarajevo

The **longest siege of a modern city (1992–1996)** left Sarajevo under relentless shelling, snipers, and systematic attacks on cultural institutions. Libraries, museums, historic buildings, and public spaces were destroyed. Today, the city is a **model of culture-based urban recovery**, where restored landmarks, memorials, and museums demonstrate heritage's role in memory, civic identity, and reconciliation. Participants analyze **successes, failures, challenges, and opportunities in using heritage to rebuild society from trauma.**

## Mostar

The **Old Bridge (Stari Most)** and the historic core were deliberately destroyed in 1993. Cultural heritage was targeted as a weapon and as evidence of ethnic cleansing. Reconstruction and restoration highlight the **transformative power of heritage** in healing societal trauma. Mostar exemplifies **memory-driven resilience**, community-led engagement, and reconciliation strategies, offering participants lessons in **peacebuilding through cultural stewardship.**





## Stolac

Stolac's historic core and UNESCO-inscribed sites were heavily damaged during conflict. Churches, mosques, and heritage houses became targets and, in some cases, instruments of crimes against humanity. The city now serves as a **living laboratory**, where participants engage in hands-on restoration, witnessing how heritage contributes to **recovery, reconciliation, and community resilience**. A cornerstone of the program is the use of restored traditional residences in Stolac, known as the **Houses of International Dialogue and Research (HIDR)**. These historical homes, carefully restored through ISSYH initiatives, serve as primary **venues for workshops, lectures, and social events**, creating immersive spaces for hands-on learning and collaboration.

## What to Expect? A Transformative and Immersive Learning Experience

The program combines reflection with action, treating dialogue as a methodical way to learn across diversities, embracing an inclusive concept of heritage, tangible and intangible, human and non-human, living and non-living, visible and invisible.

ISSYH values plurality, critically examines exclusivist narratives, and channels heritage wisdom as a resource for peace-formatting and sustainable development.

ISSYH21 is a combination of theory, practice, field engagement, cultural exchange, and applied research in six integrated learning streams:

### 1. Theoretical Master Classes

Expert-led seminars explore heritage ethics, conservation, reconstruction, sustainability, governance, law, education, and peace-building. Participants gain critical frameworks to inform practical work.

### 2. Extended Immersive Workshops

Ten-day hands-on workshops in stonecarving, woodcarving, and gardening & cultural landscapes. Participants work under master artisans and heritage professionals, gaining embodied knowledge and learning how craftsmanship sustains cultural continuity and community identity.

### 3. Shorter Demonstration Workshops

Focused sessions introduce additional traditional crafts and living heritage practices, broadening participants' experience of tangible and intangible heritage.



## 4. Field Excursions & On-Site Study

Participants study heritage directly in post-conflict urban cores, sacred sites, and cultural landscapes across **Sarajevo, Mostar, Stolac**, and surrounding areas. Excursions include:

- **Počitelj, Žitomislići, and Blagaj:** complex reconstruction and heritage resilience in post-war contexts
- **Zabrđe & Ilindan / Alidjun:** revival of interfaith associative landscapes and rituals
- **Konjic & Museum of Woodcarving:** exploration of intangible craftsmanship and environmental context

## 5. Cultural Exchange Activities

Through **storytelling, music, performance, and shared meals**, participants engage in intercultural dialogue, friendship-building, and creative exchange. **Cultural Mosaic Nights** allow participants to share their own heritage in vibrant interactive settings.

## 6. Mentored Capstone Studio

Collaborative, team-based applied projects integrate field observations, research, and ethical reflection into practical proposals. Mentors guide participants to translate learning into actionable heritage strategies, emphasizing societal impact.



# Learning Through Working Flagship Initiatives

Building on ISSYH's commitment to **experiential learning**, the 2026 edition expands two initiatives introduced in 2024. These programs merge **cutting-edge technology with time-honored traditions**, offering hands-on experience in heritage documentation, digital preservation, and resilience-building through Indigenous Knowledge Systems.

## 1. Heritage Documentation Studio (HEDS)

HEDS leverages **photogrammetry, 3D modeling, LiDAR, and GIS technologies** to digitally preserve Stolac's indigenous heritage. De-veloped in collaboration with **ICCROM (International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property)**, participants contribute to an **open-access database**, combining traditional documentation methods with digital innovation.



## 2. HeritageWISE – Integrating Traditional & Indigenous Knowledge for Resilience

HeritageWISE is a **project-based initiative** where participants develop proposals applying traditional and Indigenous knowledge systems to contemporary challenges, including:

- Climate change adaptation
- Sustainable and resilient cultural landscapes
- The intersection of cultural and biodiversity conservation
- Revitalization of traditional water recycling systems
- Recovery of seasonal feasts and ritual spaces
- Homeostatic places and structures that sustain environmental balance

HeritageWISE treats heritage as a living resource for resilience, ensuring that Indigenous ecological knowledge and traditional practices are preserved and actively adapted to modern challenges



# Learn from International Faculty Masters of Living Heritage

ISSYH21 is realized in partnership with ICCROM, International Forum Bosnia, the History Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina, together with leading universities and heritage institutions worldwide.

Participants engage directly with an **international faculty of renowned scholars**, conservation experts, and practitioners working at the forefront of ethical reconstruction, post-crisis recovery, and heritage-led resilience. Their fields span conservation ethics, archaeology, anthropology, museology, interreligious studies, cultural geography, environmental humanities, and more — ensuring a **truly interdisciplinary experience**.

Alongside them, masters of traditional arts and crafts share **living, embodied knowledge** passed down through generations.

This encounter between **global expertise and local knowledge** embodies ISSYH21's core philosophy:

**Heritage as Wisdom** — transmitted through living practice

**Dialogue as Method** — bridging disciplines, cultures, and generations

**Peace as Commitment** — formatted through shared responsibility and skilled hands



## Recreational activities

As part of the official ISSYH21 program, all participants enjoy a full day on the river beach, combining relaxation, exploration, and outdoor adventure in a **beautiful natural setting**. The day includes **exploring the surrounding area, swimming, and leisure time** to unwind and connect with fellow attendees.

A highlight of the program will be organized **boat rides to the stunning waterfalls**, offering a memorable shared experience in nature.



## Academic Recognition

For participants wishing to obtain academic recognition, an optional summative assignment (2,000-word analytical essay) is available.

While ISSYH21 does not directly award university credits, the program can provide official confirmation to participants' home institutions that ISSYH21 (Level 1, FHEQ 4) offers learning outcomes equivalent to:

- **4 US credits**
- **7.5 ECTS**
- **15 FHEQ credits**

Participants seeking credit recognition should indicate this in their application form.

ISSYH21 invites a new generation of heritage practitioners and thinkers to move beyond preservation toward responsibility, where heritage becomes living wisdom, dialogue becomes structured engagement, and peace becomes a shared horizon.

## Academic Recognition

- **Language:** The working language of ISSYH21 is **English**.
- **Accommodation & Meals:** Participants will stay in hostel-style accommodation with air-conditioned double and triple rooms. There will be no mixed-gender rooms. Three meals per day will be provided at a local restaurant.
- **Transportation:** Transfers from the airport and between program locations in Bosnia will be arranged. Participants are responsible for their own travel to and from Bosnia and for securing any necessary visas. Organizers can provide invitation letters to support visa applications if needed.
- **Materials & Health:** ISSYH21 provides stationery, working materials, and basic health care kits. Participants must have their own travel health insurance. On-site emergency healthcare will be available.

- **Weather & Attire:** In late July and early August, Sarajevo, Mostar, and Stolac typically experience highs of 30–34°C (86–93°F) and lows of 18–20°C (64–68°F). Participants are advised to bring light clothing, sunscreen, hats, and comfortable shoes.

- **Pre-Arrival Guidance:** Detailed logistical instructions and preparatory guidance will be shared with successful candidates prior to arrival.

## Fees and Costs

### 1. Financial Responsibility

The total participation fee is **1,900 Euros (+ bank charges)**. This covers program tuition, accommodation, meals, transportation, materials, stationery, utilities, technical support, and other essentials.

### 2. Grant Consideration

Candidates are encouraged to seek financial support from government bodies, employers, or funding agencies. Upon request, ISSYH21 can provide a letter of support for sponsorship applications.

A restricted number of merit-based grants are available for accepted participants, with priority given to those from regions affected by past or ongoing conflicts and from Western Balkans. Grant decisions are made by the School Board and project partners, subject to fund availability.

### 3. Administrative Fees

A **non-refundable administrative fee of 100 Euros (+ bank charges)** is required upon successful completion of the interview and is applied toward the total program fee.

### 4. Withdrawal Policy

Participants may withdraw **up to four weeks before the program start date**, with the final deadline being June 6th, 2026 | 23:59 (UTC+1). Withdrawals after this date are non-refundable.

# Application and Selection Process

## How to apply?

Applications for the **Twenty-First International Summer School Youth and Heritage (ISSYH21)** must be submitted online.

The application link is available on:

- International Forum Bosnia website
- ISSYH Instagram
- ISSYH Facebook page
- ISSYH LinkedIn

## Application Deadline

All applicants must complete and submit the online form by:

**April 11th, 2026 | 23:59 (UTC+1)**

Late submissions will not be considered.

## Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Be **between 20 and 35 years old**
- Demonstrate a strong interest in heritage as a catalyst for **social recovery, resilience, and cohesion**
- Be motivated to engage in interdisciplinary and intercultural dialogue

- Have a **good command of English** to actively participate in the program

ISSYH21 welcomes participants from diverse academic, professional, and cultural backgrounds.

## Selection Process

Applications are reviewed carefully based on **motivation, and alignment with the ISSYH21 philosophy.**

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an **online interview** to further assess their engagement, commitment, and contribution to the learning environment.

## Final Acceptance

Submission of an application does not guarantee admission.

Only candidates who successfully complete the interview stage will receive official confirmation of acceptance to ISSYH21.



# Apply Now!

[stolacsummerschool@gmail.com](mailto:stolacsummerschool@gmail.com)

Deadline:

April 11th 2026

