

19<sup>TH</sup>

JULY 25 - AUGUST 10 2024

INTERNATIONAL  
SUMMER SCHOOL  
YOUTH AND HERITAGE

SARAJEVO - MOSTAR - STOLAC



INFORMATIONAL  
BOOKLET

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# WHAT IS ISSYH?



The **International Summer School Youth and Heritage** is an advanced educational platform intended to complement university syllabi. The curriculum is a unique combination of practical and theoretical learning methods, performed in **Sarajevo, Mostar, and Stolac** – historic Bosnian cities which suffered extensive damage during the early 1990s war. Since the end of the war, these cities have been a focus of post-war heritage reconstruction and social recovery.

This environment provides students with personal experience of working and living in a context where heritage reconstruction is a factor of the necessarily long-term process of healing societal and cultural trauma.

Since its inception, the Summer School programme has thus focused on promoting understanding and the conservation of significant expressions of tangible and intangible cultural heritage within a post-traumatic context.



# WHEN AND WHERE?



The 19th International Summer School Youth and Heritage will be organised between **July 25th** and **August 10th, 2024** in **Sarajevo, Mostar** and **Stolac**, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Introductory lectures will be held online between **July 1st** and **3rd, 2024**.

Participants of ISSYH will have access to public lectures organised as part of the International Conference on Unity and Plurality in Europe titled 'Twenty Years after the Reconstruction of the Old Bridge in Mostar'.

ISSHY 19 is organised in partnership with ICCROM, UNESCO Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH), UNESCO Chair of World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Management in the Arab Region, German Technical University, Muscat and the Cambridge Interfaith Programme - University of Cambridge.



# PARTICIPANTS



The ISSYH hosts up to 30 young people aged between 20 and 35, young professionals or students interested in cultural heritage, with good English language skills.

The ISSYH program features cultural presentations, social interactions, recreational activities, and fun, creating a lively atmosphere for participants of diverse backgrounds.

Those wishing to seek credits from their home institutions may opt for an additional summative assignment (a 2000-word essay) due two weeks after the ISSYH.

Whilst we do not offer credits ourselves, we can write to your home institution to indicate that the ISSYH, at Level 1 (FHEQ 4), offers knowledge equivalent to 4US credits, 7.5 ECTS or 15 FHEQ.



# TEACHERS



The lecturers are experienced academics, professionals from universities from across the world and from Bosnia – experts in the fields of conservation, museology, archaeology, anthropology, interreligious studies, history, cultural tourism, cultural geography, and other fields.

In previous years, this has included committed academics and experts from Bosnia, France, Ireland, Great Britain, Belgium, Canada, Turkey, Libya, Hong Kong, India, United Arab Emirates, Italy, Egypt, the United States, Croatia and Serbia.

The masters of traditional arts and crafts transfer the practical knowledge of traditional woodcarving, stone carving, metalworking, masonry and calligraphy.



# HOW TO APPLY?



The link to the Application form, to be filled in online, can be found on the Facebook page of the International Summer School Youth and Heritage, as well as on the website of the International Forum Bosnia.

[instagram.com/stolacsummerschool/](https://www.instagram.com/stolacsummerschool/)  
[facebook.com/youthandheritage](https://www.facebook.com/youthandheritage)  
[forumbosna.org/issyh](https://forumbosna.org/issyh)

1. Application Submission: All applicants must submit their completed application form by the specified deadline. All Submissions after May 6, 2024, 23:59 UTC+1 will not be considered.
2. Eligibility: Applicants should meet the age criteria of being between 20 and 35 years old. Participants of different educational and cultural backgrounds should have a strong interest in cultural heritage as an agent of social recovery and social cohesion and possess good English language skills.
3. Selection Process: Applicants will be shortlisted based on the information provided in their application form. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an online interview as part of the selection process.
4. Acceptance: Acceptance into ISSYH is not guaranteed solely by the completion of the application form. Successful completion of the interview stage is a prerequisite for final acceptance.

# LEARNING METHODS



The program is designed to provide participants with a comprehensive learning experience that spans over two weeks. The program includes seminars, fieldwork, practical activities, and recreational evenings. This experience aims to introduce participants to traditional crafts, intangible and tangible heritage forms and expressions, sustainable ways of life, and environmental practices, through a hands-on approach.

The participants are encouraged to consider how socially cohesive, yet fundamentally open communities can be built and maintained. Additionally, the importance of combining diversity with strong roots in local heritage is stressed.

The project is comprised of 5 complementary aspects:

- a) Coordinated working activities
- b) Practical craft workshops
- c) Theoretical master classes
- d) Site visits
- e) Recreational aspects for informal socializing and cultural exchanges.



# LEARNING METHODS



The learning-through-working method will be employed through 2 flagship activities for 2024:

1. **Heritage Documentation Studio (HEDS)** focused on photogrammetry, 3D, and GIS documentation methods. The creation of an accessible database for vernacular heritage in Stolac enhances the digital footprint, ensuring a comprehensive, technologically advanced approach to preservation.

2. **Integrating Vernacular Traditions and Indigenous Wisdom for Climate Resilience (HeritageWISE)** – project proposal will be developed through a collaborative work of participants and their mentors. It will address climate change and enhance sustainability by revitalizing vernacular heritage practices, employing a learning-through-working method for recovery of seasonal feasts, water recycling systems, homeostatic places, and structures.



# WORKSHOPS



Learning-through-working involves practical workshops led by masters that introduce the participants to hands-on experience of traditional crafts and skills in peril. Workshops fluctuate from year to year, and the following list provides a glimpse of what to expect, serving as an idea of the diverse areas to explore. While school time may not suffice to delve into all of them, it will be structured and curated to facilitate discovery within these realms.

1. **Building conservation:** Practical workshops on woodcarving, masonry and stone-carving, dry-stone and mortared wall building, murals and calligraphy, and the restoration of vernacular houses carried out in three 17th-18th century houses in Stolac, known as the Houses of International Dialogue and Research or HIDR1, HIDR2, and HIDR3.

2. **Movable heritage conservation:** Workshop on the making or restoration of carpets, weaving, traditional embroidery, furniture, copper artefacts, icons, and old manuscripts.

3. **Intangible heritage preservation:** Archery, calligraphy, falconry, herbal lore and foraging, traditional music, folklore and local traditions, including religious rituals and local feast days.

# VENUES



The core activities of ISSYH occur in and around **Stolac**, a historic Bosnian town that has been included in the World Heritage Tentative List. During the 1992 to 1995 war against Bosnia, the town suffered near complete destruction, and the local population was expelled. Parts of the Program will take place in **Sarajevo** and **Mostar**. Additionally, there are day trips to nearby heritage sites in **Žitomislići, Počitelj, Konjic, and Blagaj**.

Workshops, lectures and social activities take place in the vernacular houses in Stolac, which have been restored through the ISSYH activities and which serve as **Houses of International Dialogue and Research (HIDR)**.



# FIELD TRIPS AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES



The ISSYH program involves **two field trips**. The first trip includes a visit to Počitelj, Žitomislići, and Mostar. This trip provides a chance to experience the historical diversity of Bosnia at the local level, as well as an introduction to the history of these sites, the challenges they have faced, and the various approaches taken to reconstruct and revitalize them – both positive and negative. The second field trip to Konjic includes an exciting white water rafting adventure on the beautiful river Neretva.

**Recreational activities** such as poetry readings, dance, music, and sports are an essential part of the program. These activities aim to promote community and friendship, and complement the educational program.



# LOGISTIC DETAILS



The working language of the School is **English**.

Accommodation and meals are provided in hostel-type **accommodation** with air-conditioned double and triple rooms, with three meals per day at a local **restaurant**.

**Transportation** from the airport and between places in Bosnia for the duration of the School is provided by the organisers. Participants should arrange their own visas for Bosnia, travel to and from Bosnia, and any other requirements that are not part of the official program of the ISSYH. ISSYH provides participants with **invitation letters** should they be necessary for visa applications.

Organizers provide stationery, working materials, and basic health care kits. Participants must have **travel health insurance**, but emergency health care is available on-site.

Weather conditions in Stolac during August are hot, with an average high of 29.4°C (84.9°F), an average low of 18.5°C (65.3°F). However during recent summers the temperatures were higher than those reported as climate normals in the weather statistics. The average maximum UV index is 6. The average relative humidity is 58%. Participants are advised to bring **sunscreen lotions** and **hats**, appropriate **light clothing** and **comfortable sneakers**.

# FEES AND COSTS



1. **Financial Responsibility:** The participation costs totalling 1900 Euro cover the fee, provision of materials, meals, accommodation, transportation, stationary, utilities technical assistance, etc., essential for the program.

2. **Grant Consideration:** Candidates are encouraged to seek financial support from various sources, such as government institutions, employers, and funding agencies. If sponsorship is required, we are prepared to provide a letter of support upon request. Grants are available to accepted participants and are awarded based on merit. Priority is granted to participants from regions worldwide affected by ongoing or past conflicts, or to those whose work is associated with heritage-based recovery endeavours in these regions. Grant decisions are made at the discretion of the School Board and the project partners, subject to fund availability.

3. **Administrative Fees:** A non-refundable administrative fee of 70 euros is charged upon successful interviews as part of the school fees.

4. **Withdrawal Policy:** Participants may withdraw from ISSYH19 up to five weeks prior to the start of the event, with the latest date being May 31st, 2024, 23:59 UTC+1. After this period, no refunds will be issued for withdrawals.

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