



## THE TWELFTH INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL

ON

### YOUTH AND HERITAGE (ISSYH 12)

July 25<sup>th</sup> – August 7<sup>th</sup> 2017

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 Twelfth *International Summer School on Youth and Heritage*, to be held in Stolac (Bosnia and Herzegovina) in July/August, 2017.

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 two-week 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 to 30 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. 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 of interest on the Adriatic coast and in the hinterland.

## ***History of the International Summer School on Youth and Heritage***

The First International Summer School on Youth and Heritage took place in 2006 (July 23<sup>rd</sup> to August 9<sup>th</sup>). 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 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



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



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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 2009-2015 focused on the 17<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 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 Twelfth 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 17<sup>th</sup> century traditional residential complex in the Brade area of the town, and three 17<sup>th</sup> century houses in the Uzinovići area of the town, as well as number of mosques, graveyards, and other public buildings. Restoration activities 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](http://www.forumbosna.org)





HIDR 1 before and after reconstruction

In 2016, 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:



Participants and teachers busy in the forgotten skills workshops

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 2017. 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. Recreational activities envisaged for this year include Archery and Falconry.



workshops will have a competitive aspect and participants will receive awards for creativity. Each workshop will last 5 days. Participants will be able to take part in all workshops and contribute to the revival of forgotten skills.



### **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, 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:

- Neum (a Bosnian coastal resort),
- Međugorje, Mostar, Blagaj, Sarajevo,
- Žitomislići, Počitelj,
- Trebinje.

### **Participants**

Participants at the International Summer School on Youth and Heritage will be selected by means of a public invitation to be announced in March 2017. Young people between 17 and 28 years of age can apply. All candidates must complete the application form accompanying this document. The total number of participants will be up to 30.

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

The application fee of 450 Euro 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.

## ***Accommodation***

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

1. Hostel Orhideja (6 rooms),
2. The House of International Dialogue and Reconciliation, (3 rooms sleeping 3 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.