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# *Europe isn't Europe without all its parts*

## *Memorandum of Understanding*



## *H.E. Peter Sørensen Interview*





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### IMPRESSUM

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# Dear readers

Next month, economic union in Europe celebrates its 57th birthday - a day of the union that today brings together nearly half a billion people, different nationalities and traditions, with common aspirations and respect for democratic values. While the political will of European states, and the desires and ambitions of European leaders have created a space of peace, freedom and prosperity for all its citizens, BiH has seen the largest outbreak of public anger over political inertia for the last two decades. We all want prosperity, security, stability, and a decent life. Therefore, BiH leaders must offer its citizens opportunities for a better quality of life as well.

EUFOR, as a part of the EU family, is working together with other international organisations to help BiH on its path to future stability and prosperity. Nevertheless, it is also up to the citizens of BiH to take steps, to get involved in the process of further developing the future of the country.

EUFOR ALTHEA's main focus is to strengthen the BiH Armed Forces through a robust capacity building and training programme. These activities, whose aim it is to improve the capabilities of the country's defense sector, remain our main task and we will continue to provide invaluable support to them through various activities.

The Armed Forces of BiH (AF BiH) can be developed as a modern force at the level required for Euro-Atlantic integration and their troops are already contributing to overseas peacekeeping operations. However, AF BiH could be improved by playing a growing role in assisting civilian authorities in natural disaster response, emergency medical transport, firefighting, and rescue missions. This is exactly what many military forces all around Europe also do, delivering real benefits to ordinary people.



Major General Dieter Heidecker

The path to the future stability and prosperity of Bosnia and Herzegovina lies in accession to the European Union and with the common efforts of everyone, BiH will also celebrate Europe Day as an EU member state very soon.

*Yours Sincerely,*

*Major General  
Dieter Heidecker  
Commander EUFOR*



# Memorandum Of Understanding



**On 16 April 2014, in Army Hall, Sarajevo, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between EUFOR and the BiH Ministry of Defence.**

The MOU is the principal agreement that provides the framework for co-operation between EUFOR and the MoD / Armed Forces of BiH and it consolidates and streamlines 9 previous agreements between these two parties.

It has taken almost two years to reach this stage but should bring immediate advantages to the working relationship, especially with EUFOR's capacity building and training programme for the Armed Forces and the common training serial 'Quick Response' between EUFOR and the Armed Forces in June of this year.

**The Commander of EUFOR Major General Dieter Heidecker said:**

*"The signing of this MOU will develop a self-sustaining training system for the Armed Forces which, along with EUFOR's capacity building and training programme, will assist in the building of a more efficient multi-ethnic state institution and enable further Euro-Atlantic integration for BiH and its Armed Forces.*

*And of course the Armed Forces can be used, not only for conventional military operations, but also for other domestic tasks, such as demining, medical evacuation, disaster relief and other CIMIC duties. This 'double use of forces' is the most economical way of running the military and further contributes to a safer and more secure BiH, which will in turn lead to greater economic development in this beautiful country."*

**Minister Osmić stressed the importance of EUFOR's cooperation with the MoD for the ten years that EUFOR has been present in BiH:**

*"EUFOR's capacity building and training programme provides an enormous contribution to the development of the independent and self-sustaining capacity of the Armed Forces according to the standards of NATO and the EU. This enables the Armed Forces to develop a self-sustainable training system and to work together with other Euro-Atlantic forces. We expect that an agreement between BiH and the EU on the participation of the Armed Forces in EU crisis management operations will be signed this year, which will enable BiH to contribute to the joint foreign and security policy of the EU", Minister Osmić said.*

# EUFOR Althea Operation Commander, General Sir Richard Shirreff Farewell Parade

General Shirreff held the role of NATO Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe from March 2011 to March 2014. As the EUFOR Althea Operation Commander, he regularly visited BiH to meet not only the soldiers but also the politicians from all sides in the country.

As Major General Dieter Heidecker said at the farewell parade, General Shirreff pushed forward the disposal of surplus arms, weapons and explosives, but his main effort was the development of capacity building and training for the Armed Forces of BiH.

General Shirreff said that he remains deeply disappointed that no political progress has been achieved in BiH, whereas Croatia has become a full



General Sir Richard Shirreff and General Sir Adrian Bradshaw

EU member and, despite their differences, even Serbia and Kosovo are determined to join the EU. "In many ways, BiH is going backwards. However, the EUFOR, EUSR, NATO, and others in the International Community will continue to assist towards Euro-Atlantic integration."

## Progress is possible

"We are however beginning to see some progress with the disposal of surplus ammunition, weapons and explosives under the energetic leadership of Defence Minister Osmić and Major General Jeleč and it has been positive to see Bosnian and Herzegovinian 'Brothers and Sisters in Arms' putting aside their ethnic differences and operating in that most difficult and dangerous of theatres, Afghanistan".

## New Operation Commander

General Sir Adrian Bradshaw, who had previously served in BiH, took over from General Sir Richard Shirreff as the NATO Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe in March 2014 and is therefore the new EUFOR Althea Operation Commander.



*"Regionally the train is leaving the station and BiH has a stark choice - Mature politically and get on the train, or risk being left behind the other countries in the Western Balkans"*

# Promoting Gender Equality in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Last month, EUFOR together with the BiH Ministry of Defense, conducted a conference titled 'Gender in the Defence Sector' in Camp Butmir. The aim of the conference was to discuss experiences in gender issues.

The importance of Gender Mainstreaming in the defence sector was highlighted through the presence of Major General Anto Jeleč, Chief of the Joint Staff of the AF BiH. The conference program provided information about the experiences of Gender Focal Points in the AF BiH, the integration of Gender in peace support training and the importance of diversity in the defence sector. In addition, it also provided information, both about the position of the EU and the promotion of Gender equality in BiH.



Brigadier General András Szűcs, EUFOR Chief of Staff

*"It would be unforgivable not to make full use of the resources of skills, experience and knowledge of both men and women. I am extremely pleased to see that the Ministry of Defence and the AF BiH are strongly focused on increasing their human resources asset. When it comes to uniformed females, the numbers have been rising steadily. Nevertheless, I must say that we are only at the beginning of this process." - Brigadier General András Szűcs, EUFOR Chief of Staff.*

# Historical, cultural and economic liasion between Austria, Hungary and Bosnia and Herzegovina

## Austria and Hungary support BiH on its way to EU integrations

The Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Hungary and Austria, János Martonyi and Sebastian Kurz, visited BiH recently. After having a series of meetings with BiH's officials, both ministers also visited EUFOR Camp Butmir where they were welcomed by the EU Forces Commander, Major General Dieter Heidecker.

The Austrian minister pointed out that cooperation between BiH and Austria is very important, especially when it comes to economy. He said



that Austria is the biggest investor in BiH and also the strongest EU troop contribution to the EUFOR Althea mission.



**The outgoing Chief of Staff of the European Union's military mission EUFOR, Hungarian Brigadier General József Szpisják, has left Bosnia and Herzegovina after spending a year in this country. One of the most important steps during his successful tour of duty as the second highest-ranking military officer in EUFOR Headquarters was surely the re-establishment of cooperation with the BiH Law Enforcement Agencies. Brigadier General József Szpisják gave an interview to TEME magazine in which he focused on current political issues, and on the BiH Armed Forces capacity building and training support as the main task of EUFOR.**

The Brigadier General has returned home to Hungary with mixed feelings. On the one hand, he is happy to be reunited with his family again, on the other hand he will miss the challenges and the great comradeship he experienced in this mission.

*If you are a good soldier, you always have to be ready to accomplish the tasks*

"I remember the beginning of my mission here. It was my first time in BiH, so I wasn't familiar with the situation in the country, and it was difficult to understand it. However, as a soldier, you always have to be ready to accomplish the tasks", General Szpisják said adding how excited he was about the chal-



Major General Heidecker, EUFOR Commander, gives a farewell present to Brigadier General Szpisják, Chief of Staff

lenges he faced at the beginning of the mission.

EUFOR's key role is to provide capacity-building and training support to the BiH Ministry of Defense and the Armed Forces. The outstanding cooperation with the Armed Forces of BiH is very well known, but after the European Union Police Mission (EUPM) had left Bosnia and Herzegovina, there was no close relationship with the Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) anymore. Thanks to his personal commitment, EUFOR re-established cooperation with the BiH LEAs.

"There was actually a requirement from the Operational Commander to reinvigorate the cooperation with the local agencies. First, I needed to understand how the system worked" the General said and remembers that due to the complexity of the system, with numerous local representatives in the cantons and the entities, the best way to move

forward was to communicate with the Directorate for the Coordination of Police Bodies (DCPB), representatives.

"At the time, our *Quick Response* exercise was happening, therefore I was looking for a way to cooperate within the exercise. I took advantages of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) that EUFOR had signed with 17 officials from law enforcement agencies in BiH, and paid a visit to the DCPB. The visit was focused on continuing the practical cooperation between the LEAs and our organization," and the Chief of Staff said.

The satisfaction with the development of the relationship was especially evident during the *Quick Response 2* Exercise as this clearly demonstrated our working together and was a great success.

Brigadier General József Szpisják was also very much involved with the Capacity Building and Training Division (CBTD) mission whose aim it is to provide the Armed Forces of BiH (AF BiH) with military expertise in the areas of capacity building and training support. He has a lot of respect for their abilities and he underlined that interoperability is of great importance to Euro-Atlantic integration.

"From last year to this year, I saw significant progress throughout two common exercises that we conducted together. The AF BiH's capabilities constantly improve and they are a good example for the population. The soldiers directly meet with international troops through EUFOR and they see that EUFOR consists of different nations too, but we are still able to work together", he said.

"With good assets, equipment, and manpower, the AF BiH can be used to support the population. I want to highlight this double use of forces: the helicopter and Medevac capabilities can be used not only for military but for civilian purposes as well (firefighting, natural disaster, etc) and this has to be their most important role in the future".



BiH undertook certain obligations with its commitment to join NATO and sending troops to Afghanistan is one of those obligations. General Szpisják says that the deployment of BiH troops in overseas missions is something that BiH needs to do, in order to fulfill its path to Euro Atlantic integration. "The Armed Forces of BiH also improve their abilities to participate in multinational peace support operations. They are highly trained and ready for that job and doing exactly what they are supposed to do. And this is important for BiH - to not only import but to export security too. We are here to support the AF BiH towards the Euro-Atlantic integration," said the Brigadier General.

Brigadier General József Szpisják will be appointed to a new position in Hungary, as the Training and Doctrine Centre Chief. He knows that this will be a new challenge for him but the experience that he has gained in EUFOR and in Bosnia and Herzegovina will stand him in good stead for his future appointment.

***We wish the outgoing EUFOR Chief of Staff all the best for his future career.***

# H.E. Peter Sørensen

## Interview

*The EU is involved in BiH for almost twenty years now and ever since is having the leading role in stabilization of the country, and its economical development. Together with international partners, the Office of the European Union Special Representative (EUSR) is supporting BiH on track towards EU membership. For the most of BiH's citizens, the EU is a vision of a better life, possibility for travelling, education, and a higher standard of living. As the EU Special Representative to BiH, H.E. Peter Sørensen, said in an interview to TEME, despite the little progress and discouraging speed of changes in BiH, the EU goes forward with the plan of BiH's joining the EU in the future.*



**Europe isn't Europe without all its parts**

**TEME: Three years ago you were appointed EU Special Representative in BiH. What is your take on the current political situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina?**

**Peter Sørensen:** Bosnia and Herzegovina's EU path is unchanged, it is there and it is open. When BiH is ready, the EU is ready. Indeed the political situation in BiH is complicated, but I strongly believe that the EU path should outweigh any other concern. Especially because of the potential it has to help deal with problems like unemployment and living standards. There's no doubt that the EU remains firmly committed to supporting Bosnia and Herzegovina and its citizens to fulfill their EU membership ambitions.

**TEME: The EU is here to help. However, some people in BiH think that the EU and the international community should solve their problems.**

**Peter Sørensen:** The EU is not the issue here. Our support is already ensured and strong. The issue is whether we have credible interlocutors, whether we will see leadership from the most prominent BiH politicians and office holders to make progress on the EU path. We are not going to change our well known position that the main responsibility lies with the leaders of BiH.

I want to be clear as well that EU integration will not, must not, stop because of national elections. The EU agenda remains fully active in 2014 and is an issue that must be above the daily and electoral politics. You can be sure that we will be active also with other partners such as civil society, citizens and the media during this year to keep the EU issues in focus.



**TEME: Why is BiH lagging behind other countries so much?**

**Peter Sørensen:** We have indeed seen in other countries in the region that the prospect of EU membership has led to a consensus between political forces. Agreements have been made and tough decisions taken, on the basis that all forces in those countries have a serious commitment to EU integration.

So Croatia has joined the EU. Serbia has candidate status, Montenegro is negotiating. Other countries have indeed advanced in the accession process – showing that the EU rewards reform and action.

It is still not too late for the political leaders to turn their declared commitment into agreement and concrete action. It is in the interest of Bosnia and Herzegovina's citizens that they do so and the citizens should demand it.

**TEME: Can we expect any action from the EU since the politicians fail to agree on the implementation of the Sejdić-Finci judgment of the European Court of Human Rights?**

**ment of the European Court of Human Rights?**

**Peter Sørensen:** Well, implementing the judgment in the case 'Sejdić and Finci vs Bosnia and Herzegovina' is only one thing on the to-do list. There are many steps that need to be taken in the economic field, the justice sector and in the public administration to bring BiH closer to the EU.

For example, we need to see the country set up an efficient mechanism to ensure co-ordination between the State, Entities and Cantons on EU issues.

Other matters of high priority vis à vis EU standards are the implementation of measures to tackle corruption and reform of the social protection system so that benefits are based on need and not on status. Many people with serious disabilities are not getting the support they should have. There are many more issues I could name where BiH needs to come into line with the EU.

**TEME: In your opinion, is there a way for the local leaders to agree on any important issue for this country?**

**Peter Sørensen:** Yes! Those in authority need to step up, take responsibility and find the agreements, with ethnic or partisan interests no longer used as an excuse.

**TEME: Due to a decade-long political disagreement, BiH has lost millions from IPA funds which could have been used in the field of tourism and agriculture. What amount of money are we exactly talking about?**

**Peter Sørensen:** The financial assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina under the National IPA Programme 2013 has been reduced by 45 million €. The rationale of this reduction



was clear: it is difficult to justify continuing to grant EU pre-accession assistance when the lack of an agreement on the Sejdić-Finci issue blocks progress towards EU accession.

These cuts affect all levels of government and locations, both state as well as entities. However, almost 42 million euros worth of projects of direct benefit to the BiH citizens such as social inclusion projects and human rights projects are not affected by the cuts.

The total budget planned for IPA II (2014-2020) for all the Enlargement countries is EUR 11.7 billion. Bosnia and Herzegovina would stand to get hundreds of millions of euros from this total amount – if it can agree on coordination and develop appropriate strategies to use the money. IPA II preparations for BiH are still at the beginning and there have not yet been any official consultations with BiH on IPA II. However, we think BiH should not miss this next major opportunity.

**TEME: Can we expect from the EU a new designed strategy for BiH?**

**Peter Sørensen:** High Representative/Vice-President Ashton stressed before the European Parliament Committee on Foreign Affairs that indeed we need to do more. Let me underline that does not mean BiH has to do less!

A number of discussions have been going on within the EU; between Member States, with the European Commission, and with EU partners to see what further things the EU might be able to do. But equally Bosnia and Herzegovina should not join the EU before it is ready. Its economy needs to be ready, its society needs to be ready. It helps no one to do this prematurely because the country would suffer in the long run.

In the meantime, engagement in the economic governance and competitiveness



strategy proposed by Commissioner Füle is required for all Western Balkan countries. Since its core element is the elaboration of a national programme for economic reforms it requires coordination between all levels of government. We are confident that BiH can manage to participate in the new approach as all other countries in the region do. The work of the joint BiH-EU working group which is accelerating the contracting and implementation of the already agreed projects, all in all amounting to some 350 million Euro will continue.

**TEME: Is there a risk that the EU will give up on Bosnia and Herzegovina?**

**Peter Sørensen:** No. The European Union cares about Bosnia and Herzegovina; we want its citizens to get the benefits from the path to the EU – and then EU membership.

**TEME: Are you an optimist? Do you see BiH as a member of the EU family?**

**Peter Sørensen:** Yes and yes! People need to know that the EU remains committed to the European perspective of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Western Balkans. Europe is the only place where BiH belongs. And Europe isn't Europe without all its parts.



## The Silent Threat

*According to the Dayton Agreement, as well as the BiH Defence Law, the Armed Forces are supporting demining actions in order to reduce the danger of mines and Unexploded Ordnance (UXO).*

During the implementation of mine action, the AF BiH are faced with many difficulties and challenges, especially in the field of logistics support. Thanks to the support of the international community and the BiH Mine Action Center (BHMAC), demining activities continue at a faster pace. Humanitarian demining operations are taking place in both entities and the Brčko district. Apart of demining activities, the AF BiH also work on Mine Risk Education (MRE) activities carried out in cooperation with EUFOR.

During last year, the specialized companies of the AF Demining battalion, achieved to clear approximately 1,622,000 m<sup>2</sup> of mines. Day by day the EOD companies Armed Forces beneath several NGOs work under extremely difficult circumstances in order to remove and clear the deadly threat in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Every day they face many problems. The rugged and mountainous terrain makes the daily work to a huge challenge. As the 1st Company Commander Captain Mešić explained, very often they work hidden beside main roads in the forests and covered terrain, and then it is utmost important to be prepared in case of emergency in order to save own lives.



### Exercise in Camp Dubrave: How the teams get trained during emergency cases

The Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) teams established a standardised training including procedures how to deal in case of mine accidents during the work. The situation simulated a routine demining operation during which an explosion occurred - one soldier got wounded. Immediately the platoon presented a highly professional procedure in order to stabilize and evacuate the injured soldier from the danger zone.



The plan of the Armed Forces EOD team for this year is to clear about 1,400, 000 m<sup>2</sup> of the landscape.

# Highways For A Better Future

## A driving force of economic growth of BiH

### BiH is becoming an important transit country on the path to EU integration

The most important highway route through BiH is Corridor 5C, which is a part of the European transport system, connecting Kiev via Budapest to the Adriatic Sea.

### Highways – the capital investment that stimulates economic growth and development

Economic development cannot be achieved without adequate infrastructure, particularly highway infrastructure. The improvement of existing roads is very important as the bad condition of the roads is harming the economic and social progress of the country. Roads play a vital role in the economic development of any country, but particularly BiH. According to the feasibility study, the total cost of the construction of Corridor 5C, with a length of 337 km through BiH, will be up to 3.77 billion euros.

The route of Corridor 5C is important for the European transport policy. It belongs to the pan-European network of corridors linking the middle part of the Adriatic coast, which has a great tourism potential, particularly the port of Ploče, with the corridor between Zagreb and Belgrade and ending at the corridor hub in Budapest. The corridor represents a link to northern, central and southern Europe, particularly in the context of economic and transport integration of the Central European area. For the population and the economy of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the corridor will mean easier and faster travel from one part of the country to another, much faster transit to the sea, but also to strengthen trade and business ties within the country. The highway through Bosnia and Herzegovina is being built from state funds, but mostly from the credit resources of the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.



Corridor 5C important for Europe – 337 km of modern European highways



The 2.85 km tunnel, located near Sarajevo, is on highway corridor 5C, which connects central Europe to the Croatian coastline.

### Creating new jobs

It is important to note that a significant part of the construction works has been provided to BiH companies. Thousands of workers from around a hundred local companies have been engaged in this great project. And the purchase of local building supplies, also have a very important effect on the BiH economy.



### Investment For The Future

It is true that the pace of construction of roads through Bosnia and Herzegovina has been very slow in recent years. However, the fact that certain shifts have occurred recently in the realization of this project, is very reassuring. It is estimated that 337 km of the 5C highway should be built by 2020, on both the Federation and RS territory. By then, the entire Balkan region should be covered with highways, and Bosnia and Herzegovina will certainly become more attractive for foreign investments.

# EU Funds – the importance of European Integration

## The IPA fund (the Instrument for Pre-Accession) – one of the EU financial instruments which stimulates the process of integration

The EU has developed a broad spectrum of assistance programs for transition countries in support of the European integration process. One of them is the model of pre-accession support for the West Balkan countries, called the Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA).

### Granting the country candidate status for accession to the EU is very important for BiH

The failure of political agreement on the implementation of the ruling of the European Court of Human Rights regarding the Sejdić-Finci case has resulted in a loss of 45 million Euros from IPA funds last year. That money could have been of great importance for both entities, for projects in the field of transport infrastructure, support for the development of small and medium enterprises and the so-called payment for the 'entry ticket' for BiH participation in EU programs. Nevertheless, due to the irresponsibility of the political parties, for the first time in the history of the European Union, a country, in its process of accession, was denied the planned funds from the IPA.

Fortunately, when deciding on the suspension of IPA funds in 2013, the EU has taken into account that the damage caused by the suspension should impact the most vulnerable citizens in our country as little as possible. They supported the projects of education, demining, implementation of action plans for Roma and support to returnees.



**Further integration of BiH into the European family would give access to a large number of financial packages designed for government and entity projects. Millions of Euros could have been used for projects to boost agriculture and tourism or help small enterprises. However, due to internal disagreements, BiH political leaders have lost enormous resources that could have been very important for the country and its citizens.**

### **The millions for projects from which citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina could benefit**

A country that is a potential candidate for EU membership can use two of the five components of these funds - the Transition and Institution Building and the Regional and Cross-Border Cooperation funds. Only after BiH is awarded candidate status can the remaining three components be used - Regional Development, Development of Human Resources, and Rural Development, providing billions of Euros in grants. Some of these have already been used by Serbia after being given candidate status two years ago and that country was given around five billion Euros.

### **Transition Assistance and Institution Building**

*This program supports activities aimed at building and strengthening the institutional framework related to the adoption and implementation of the 'acquis communautaire'. Potential beneficiaries of this are governmental and non-governmental organisations, the business community and non-profit entities.*

### **Regional and Cross-Border Cooperation**

*This supports activities related to cross border cooperation with Member States and beneficiary countries of the IPA, and is based on a multi-annual program of cross-border cooperation.*

### **Regional Development**

*This supports infrastructure projects in the sectors of transport and environment as well as programs to encourage competitiveness and regional development. Potential beneficiaries are governmental organisations, public and research institutions and the business community.*

### **Development of Human Resources**

*This supports measures aimed at stimulating employment, education, training and social inclusion. Potential beneficiaries are governmental organisations, public institutions, social partners and NGOs.*

### **Rural Development**

*This component is a precursor of agricultural policy and rural development. Potential beneficiaries include local governments, farms and other institutions and individuals.*



**In the period between 2007 and 2013, BiH received a total of 624,802,360 Euros for the first component, and 33,698,878 Euros for the second component.**

IPA components	Beneficiaries
• Transition Assistance and Institution Building	Potential candidate and candidate countries
• Regional and Cross-Border Cooperation	
• Regional Development	Only candidate countries
• Development of Human Resources	
• Rural Development	

### **EU financial injection for recovery of BiH economy**

In every direction, BiH is lagging behind its neighbors. The coordination mechanism is essential in order for the country to benefit from the financial resources available with IPA II and relates to the budget for the next seven years between 2014 and 2020 – if this is not agreed soon, this will be another huge blow for the BiH economy, and this will impact the citizens of BiH the most.

However, if political leaders achieve consensus on issues related to the European Union, it is certain that there will be no risk of losing funds in the next period. Thanks to this financial support, the quality of life of BiH's people would be enormously improved.

IPA funds are directly invested into specific projects. The possibility of re-routing and manipulating these funds does not exist and therefore they cannot be under the control of any political party. As is repeatedly pointed out by officials from Brussels, BiH has a future and regardless of the many internal issues that exist, it will remain as a priority for the European Union.



# Bosnia and Herzegovina **free of mines** by 2019 ?

**Even 20 years after the war, there are still 1,218.5 km<sup>2</sup> of suspected mine areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Leftover mines pose a major threat to all people, but particularly those living in rural areas who are in constant danger from this evil which continues to claim lives. Has the mine action strategy relating to the prevention of mine accidents been effective so far, and will BiH by 2019 be cleared of mines, as planned, we asked Saša Obradović, the BiH Mine Action Center (BHMAC) senior associate for Mine Risk Education (MRE).**

BHMAC anticipates a BiH free of mines by the end of 2019. Current estimates suggest that for resolving mine problems, BiH needs about 600 million KM. Unfortunately, due to a lack of funds, the results in strategy implementation are not satisfactory. If, in the future, the dynamic of its implementation stays at a level typical for the period 2009 – 2013, it is expected that this process in BiH will not end up as it was planned", said Saša Obradović.

## **Support from the international community**

Mine action in BiH began in 1996 with the establishment of a United Nations Mine Action Center – UNMAC. As Saša Obradović says, the greatest credit is due to IFOR for the collection of available minefield records (18,600), and the establishment of a central database without which future planning and reporting would not be possible. „In July 1998, national structures took over the responsibilities for conducting demining activities, but with continued financial, professional, and technical support from the international community. At the time, demining continued to be carried out by foreign agencies, but there was also the building up of local capacities“, he said.



Despite the efforts made and the improvements in mine action management, mines still represent one of the main obstacles for the safety of citizens and for the economic development of the country.

“The BH Mine Action Center’s (BHMAC) mission, and the mission of all stakeholders, is to have a “BiH free of mines by 2019“. This refers to the establishment of a secure environment for BiH citizens, as well as providing the best conditions for socio-economic development in mine affected municipalities. Our goal is to get BiH free of mines in the next five years“, Saša emphasizes.

2,981 km<sup>2</sup> has been cleared to date (65,000 mines and 51,000 pieces of explosive remnants of war (ERW) but 1,219 km<sup>2</sup> remains to be cleared.

## **In the most affected areas of BiH, two-thirds of the affected population are returnees**

Tragically, mine accidents occur in marked minefields where the local population consciously enter for mostly existential reasons. The largest number of accidents occur in the spring and autumn as this is when agricultural activities take place. Considering the number of impacted communities and the level of mine influence, as Saša says, Bosnia and Herzegovina is one of the most mine affected countries in the world.

“The size of the mine suspected area is currently 1,219 km<sup>2</sup> in more than 9,400 micro-locations. The varied nature of this distribution is a problem in itself as the general assessment of the mine prob-



Saša Obradović

lem in BiH has identified 1,417 communities at risk from landmines or ERW with 540,000 inhabitants, which is 15% of the total population. The most vulnerable areas are Dobož, Maglaj, Una-Sana Canton and Posavina.

### Mines continue to claim lives

According to the data in use by BHM MAC, since the end of the war to date, 1,723 people have been affected by mines, of which 600 were killed. Of these numbers, 115 de-miners were affected, of which 46 were killed, 38 suffered serious and 31 minor injuries. And of the total number of 1,723 affected, 245 of them were children.

### “Land Release” – supported by the EU Delegation

In addition to its regular duties, BHM MAC is currently working on a project “IPA 2011 Land Release”, which is being implemented in the areas of 4 BHM MAC regional offices – Mostar, Travnik, Tuzla and Pale.

“The aim of project is to reduce 70 km<sup>2</sup> of mine suspected area and to define 30 km<sup>2</sup> of mine risk area for further demining operations. The project has been supported by the EU Delegation. In this way, the new process of land release in BiH has been defined”, said Saša.

### Cooperation with EUFOR and Armed Forces of BiH

For a number of years, BHM MAC has worked with both EUFOR and the Armed Forces of BiH (AF BiH). UNMAC and SFOR, EUFOR’s predecessor, began mine and Explosive remnants of war (ERW) risk education in 1998. “Today EUFOR and BHM MAC have excellent cooperation when it comes to mine and ERW awareness. The AF BiH joined us in 2011 and today, 17 EUFOR Liaison Observation Teams (LOT) mine awareness instructors, together with AF BiH instructors, educate the population all around the country and directly contribute to raising awareness, as a preventive measure. Our common interest is to achieve the goals set by the Mine Action Strategy 2009-2019. The current assessments show that 600 million KM must be invested for mine clearance in BiH. Unfortunately, due to lack of funds, the implementation of the Strategy is not being carried out according to our plans. If this trend continues, we do not expect BiH to be cleared of mines by 2019”, concludes Saša.

### Once all the mines are gone, then the world will have solved one of its major problems

Although a great deal of work has been invested in the process of identification and clearance of mine contaminated areas, they can still be found almost all over BiH. It is impossible to be certain that all mines will ever be removed. Many mines have been laid without any record showing where they were laid and how many were used. Without this information there can be no certainty that all have been removed.

### Do not walk past signs that warn of mines in that area!



# Transparency International BiH

## *The civil society organization leading the fight against corruption*

Corruption is one of the biggest challenges of the contemporary world. It undermines good governance, leads to misallocation of resources, harms the private sector development and particularly hurts the poor. Controlling it is only possible with the cooperation of a wide range of stakeholders, including most importantly the state, civil society, and the private sector.

Transparency International has operated in Bosnia and Herzegovina for 13 years. The primary purpose of its activity is the fight against corruption, including efforts to prevent corruption through improved legal framework and practices, as well as legal assistance to citizens and operation of the institutions on the basis of individual cases of corruption.

Transparency International BiH (TI BiH) has already implemented a number of successful projects. Among them, and perhaps the most important, is the Legal Advice Centre which provides legal assistance to citizens in the fight against corruption. According to Ivana Korajlić, a spokeswoman for Transparency International, this project has provided legal advice to more than 10,000 people to date.

“Activities that we run are numerous – informing and education of citizens, their active participation in actions against corruption, providing protection for those who report corruption, monitoring the national institutions during the anti-corruption procedures and cases. Our focus areas are conflicts of interest, funding of political parties, free access to information, public procurement, public financial management, and many other areas”, said Ivana and stresses that all these activities are aimed at increasing transparency and responsibility of public institutions and the work of public employees.

The project “Time to Wake Up Bosnia and Herze-



Ivana Korajlić

govina” was also one of the most important TI campaigns whose aim was to increase the number of people and organizations involved in stopping corruption and promoting transparency, accountability and good governance, along with integrity, as well as supporting them significantly in their work against corruption in BiH.

“This campaign was a global anti-corruption campaign, implemented by TI chapters across the globe, and TI BiH is implementing the same campaign here in BiH, recognizing the need to motivate and empower people to stand up to corruption”, Ivana said.

“The main objective is to inspire greater number of people and BiH society to reject corruption as a major social, economic and political wrongdoing that infringes upon people’s basic human rights”, she added.

## *Time to wake up*

### **Each of us should be pro-active and fight for a better tomorrow**

Corruption, unemployment, injustice are all problems of this society and are also increasing concerns for the young population in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This is also why about one hundred and fifty thousand young people have left the country.

# You can stop CORRUPTION

According to the UNDP (UN Development Programme), every sixth household in BiH live in poverty, while half the population feel threatened by poverty. Corruption is clearly the root cause of all the population problems in this country who have expressed their displeasure in demonstrations all around BiH.

As Ivana believes, unfortunately, all these facts are true and there is a certain degree of fear that if these young people leave the country, then nothing will change for the better. "Perhaps, I'm one of the few who decided to stay after my studies, and tried to contribute to a better future for BiH. It's difficult, the young people are apathetic, but what would happen if we all leave?! Therefore, each of us in every way should be pro-active and fight for a better tomorrow. Through various forms of activities, especially during the elections, we can make significant improvements and progress for society. We need changes, and at Transparency International, through various projects and campaigns, we work towards healing society and on the changes that will bring a better future for all citizens", says Ivana.

## **The reform of the public administration – a fundamental requirement for EU accession**

A few days ago Transparency International started a new four-year project called "The Public Administration Reform Monitoring". Together with Center for Investigative Reporting, they put a new focus on the funding of political parties and general election campaign costs. As we know, reform of public administration is a basic precondition for joining the European Union. Asked what this reform implies additionally, Ivana explains:

"This reform includes activities which have to improve strategic planning, public finance, human resource management, communication and e-government. The main aim is changing the current public administration which is characterized by low skills, non-merit and non-transparent recruitment, and poor public communication."



According to the most recent EU progress report, it was noted that public administrative reform lacks the necessary political support.

"Reforms implementation was very problematic so far, with very limited progress in strengthening administrative capacity for legal harmonization and implementation of the acquis. As the main reasons they said are the lack of skills, overlapping responsibilities between the entities and cantons, the absence of a cooperative management culture and improper political interference", said Ivana.

This project will be financed by the Kingdoms of Sweden and Denmark. Investigative stories and public events are expected to raise awareness and increase transparency of the whole process.

"Engaging civil society should empower citizens to understand and engage themselves in the process of public administration reform, leading to better results. We do hope that this project will bring more tangible results, and that finally we put more light on what is working or what is not working. Our intent is to create a more transparent, efficient and effective public administration in BiH that will be of service to all its citizens", concludes the spokeswoman to Transparency International BiH, Ivana Korajlić.

# Jewish heritage and a long history of extremely rich culture and tradition in BiH



the Old Temple

For two decades, the Jewish people have been officially declared as 'Others' in BiH. And yet, they have lived here for 500 years, as an integral part of BiH society and an inseparable part of its cultural and historical landscape.

After being expelled from Spain five centuries ago, Jewish people began to arrive in BiH and become an integral part of this country. This community once made up 18% of Sarajevan society but after many successive wars, only a few hundred Jewish people remained. After their persecution in Spain, many found refuge in this part of the Balkans, bringing their culture, habits, tradition, and language.

The first Jews arrived in Sarajevo in 1541. They were artisans, merchants, doctors, and pharmacists. In 1577, the Ottomans gave permission for the Jewish community to build their quarter that they named El Cortillo - The Court, and few years later, the Turkish benefactor, Sijamush-pasha, let them construct one of the most beautiful edifices in BiH at the time - the famous Old Temple Synagogue.

## ***The Jewish people have lived and worked in Sarajevo and BiH for centuries and contributed to its development***

Under the reign of Ottoman empire, the Jewish community in Sarajevo received certain rights that allowed them to develop their community. In the 17th century, the Ashkenazi Jews who were fleeing persecution in Europe, joined the Sephardi Jews in Sarajevo. In 1697, Prince Eugen of Savoy burned Sarajevo and completely destroyed the Jewish quarter and synagogue as well. When the Ottomans retook the city in 1739, they granted an official recognition to Jewish people. Finally, in 1856 they obtained the same rights as the rest of the population.

## **The Sarajevo Haggadah – symbol of survival**

The history of the Sarajevo Haggadah is one that is truly inspiring, as it is a history of survival against all odds. It tells us that the idea of tolerance can overcome all man-made disasters as long as there are people brave enough to stand in for their beliefs, even in times of crisis.

Life of the Jewish people in BiH and Sarajevo was very prosperous. It was a Little Jerusalem by 1941, when 10.000 Jews lived in the city. In 1948 most of them went to Israel. About 1.000 Jews now live in BiH, and 700 in the capital.

Created in Barcelona around the year 1350, the Sarajevo Haggadah is the oldest surviving Sephardic book of its kind that is known today. When the Jewish population of Spain was expelled from the country in 1492, some refugees took the precious book with them. A small note in it shows that it somehow made its way to Italy, where it was spared from the flames of the Inquisition – by the efforts of a catholic clergyman.

***By their spiritual significance and centuries-old presence, the Bosnian Jewish Community will continue a bright tradition of their ancestors who left a remarkable trace in this area***



Bosnia and Herzegovina and its capital city Sarajevo has always been unique in terms of fostering tradition and rich diversity of cultures. Multiethnicity and common living for centuries were part of this area. Only the will for common coexistence is needed, since this country is going to join the great European family, then it is necessary to show that no one should be discriminated, nor differences among people should exist. Especially not in a country that was once the first to provide a welcome hand to the Jewish people in their most difficult times.

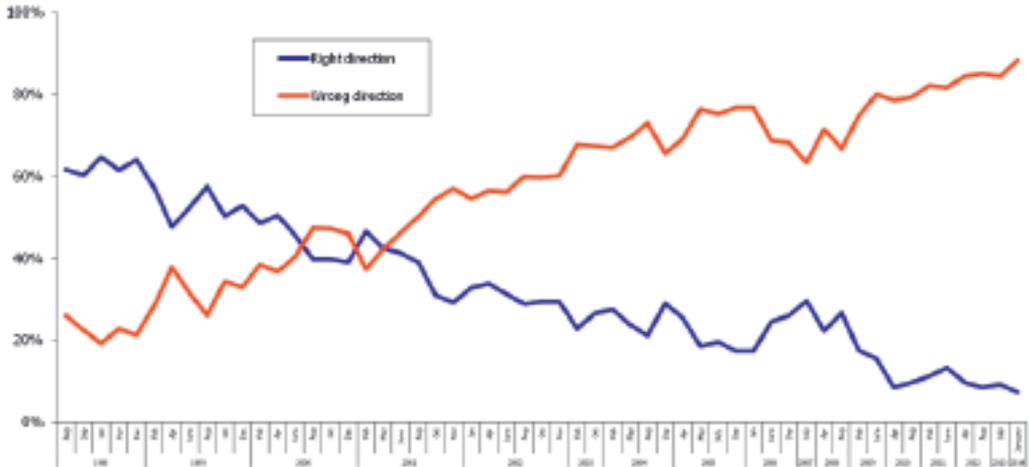


# Public Opinion Survey

## Public Optimism of BiH citizens - TREND

Question: "Are things heading in the RIGHT or WRONG direction?"

Source: Mareco Index Bosnia 'Omnibus' surveys 1998-2014  
(n: 2,500 respondents per survey)



According to the latest public opinion survey (Omnibus) conducted by Mareco Index Bosnia agency, the outlook BiH citizens have about the future of the country is the most pessimistic than ever.

Nearly nine out of ten respondents (88.4%) participating in the poll conducted in January this year stated that they believe BiH is moving in a wrong direction. Only one out of fifteen BiH citizens (7.4%) believe the country is moving in the right direction.

Level of optimism in BiH has been steadily decreasing over the past 15 years. The public perception

was diametrically different in 1998, nearly two thirds of BiH citizens thought country was moving in the right direction and only 26% thought the opposite.

According to the latest results, BiH citizens are the most pessimistic in Europe and possibly in the world. According to the 'Eurobarometer' polls data more than 40% of the EU citizens still believe their countries are moving in the right direction, and little less than one third think the opposite.

\* 'Omnibus' survey is conducted several times per year on a representative sample of 2,500 adult respondents from every municipality in BiH.

\*\* Mareco Index Bosnia (MIB), BiH affiliate of the Gallup international, is the leading public opinion research agency in BiH.

# Young Bosnian returned after the studies

A great number of people left BiH for foreign countries. Some of them stayed there for work, others for schooling. Still, a number of them returned to Bosnia and Herzegovina because they believe that this country can still offer them opportunities for a better future. Despite the bad economic situation, some young men and women think that going overseas is not always a certain guarantee for success or happiness.

One of them is Božo Goluža, a 24 year old young man who returned home after studying overseas. After the graduated from high school in Stolac, Božo joined the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering in Mostar. In his final school year, he had the opportunity to leave the country to study abroad and also to work.



Božo Goluža

The experiences and challenges of life abroad develop one as a person, teach new skills and experiencing other cultures also gives you new attitudes to life too. He is aware that problem of unemployment among young people exists everywhere in the world, not only in BiH. However, he says that everyone should think of how they can contribute to the development of their country too.

*Share your knowledge with others, and contribute to the development of your country*

"I can say that this trip abroad, and the experience with this, changed my life. I met a lot of good people from all over the world and some of them live in worse situations at home than we do in BiH - but they don't give up. They struggle to do more for themselves, and society in general. This was my first studying and working experience abroad and we were like a family, always together, working, travelling, having fun, but learning too", he says.

If one person immerses him or herself in a new culture, experiments with new ways of thinking, or tries different ways of living, they will naturally experience



"I got the opportunity to spend several months in Poland, in the city of Lodz, at the Institute of Turbomachinery. It was actually the practical work for students of the final year and it was an unforgettable experience. I worked on quality assessments for wind tunnel testing and my pay was very good, enough to live on, but also for holiday trips all around Poland", said Božo.



some sort of personal growth. This happened to Božo too, although having the opportunity to stay longer in Poland, Božo decided to return home.

'Studying and working abroad at the same time broadens your horizons. I would say that I returned home much wiser, having had a successful time there and I am lucky and grateful for the opportunity that I got. This was a memorable experience that changed my life completely and this is why I would say to other young people to use the chance for studies abroad because this is a chance to meet new people and cultures, to learn about different ways of life, but also, to appreciate your own country too,' he said.

He finished 'There is a saying 'The heart yearns for the south, to stand on our native land'. All places are beautiful but there is no place like home and our Herzegovina is truly one of a kind. Therefore, my colleagues and fellow students, you should take the chance and go overseas for studies, to take the opportunity to practice and enrich your knowledge. After the experience that you have gained, return to your country and share your knowledge with others, contribute to the development of our Herzegovina, the greatest heaven on earth!'

## The National contingent support for local population

The only way to acquaint the Bosnian people with a country like Chile, which is more than 14 000 kilometers away, is the presence of the Chilean soldiers. To win the heart and the mind of the local population is a very important task for them. Apart from their regular duties, the Chilean Liaison Observation Team (LOT) personnel made a contact with a teacher working in rural school named "Branko Čopić" in the municipality of Krupa na Uni, one of the poorest communities of BiH. The Chilean patrol could witness the poor condition and lack of appropriate clothing of four children who attend this school.



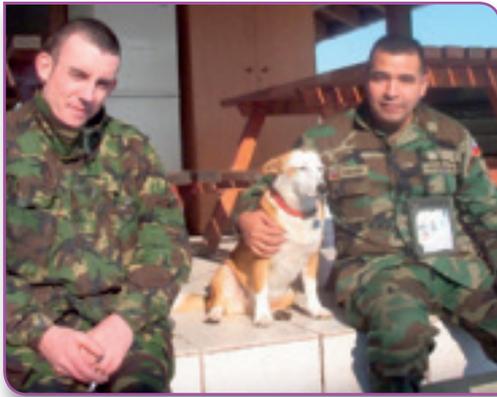
After remedying this situation, the happiness and the sympathy of the children towards their military visitors, increased the interest of the Chilean personnel and they decided to cooperate in the development of the children in this school.

On March 15, the National contingent decided to give a donation to these children consisting of desktop items for school, clothing for winter, as well as to share sweets.

The school teacher said at the end of activity: "The children and the Krupa na Uni community will never forget this beautiful act of solidarity done by the "Chilean friends".

## Who is Dobra?

To answer that question we must go back to the year 2002, when British soldiers were deployed to the town of Bosanska Gradiška in BiH and lived in what were the first Platoon Houses. Dobra was their pet and they cared for her and gave her affection, and in return they got even more affection back and this is good for the morale of the troops serving there.



Her first contact with Chilean troops was in February 2004, when CHILFOR took over from British soldiers. Later that year, the British left the mission area, which became the responsibility of Chilean troops, and Dobra was handed over to CHILFOR to begin her career with the Chilean Army in the city of Prnjavor.

From that moment, she was loved by all Chileans who met her, and by the time she also became known to the HQ in Sarajevo due to many visits of HQ officials to the Chilean LOT House.

Dobra was sent to all the cities where Chilean personnel was deployed to - Bosanska Gradiška, Prnjavor, Prijedor and she currently serves in the city of Banja Luka.

She is very sociable, loveable and kind to all who live in the LOT House. She is meek and has unparalleled patience, considering that every six months there is a new rotation and she must meet bond with new members, even some people who do not like dogs. But she always knows how to win over people's hearts and minds.

Today Dobra is not as agile and fast as she was in her younger years as she is already 13 years old and this is a very old age for a dog. In August 2012 she had a benign tumor removed from her stomach but after this, she returned to good health.

# “Sarajevo Winter” Peace, Art, Freedom – The motto of the 30<sup>th</sup> Sarajevo Winter Festival

**The first Sarajevo Winter Festival was organized at a time when the BiH capital was the host of the 14th Winter Olympic Games in 1984. It was an event that was supposed to enrich Sarajevo and Bosnia and Herzegovina culturally, during the Olympics. The 30th anniversary of one of the biggest cultural events in the country has been celebrated under the motto Peace, Art, Freedom.**

From 7 February to 21 March the Festival gathered thousands of participants from all over the world, who found their inspiration and creativity in the Olympic city. The artists were involved in different forms of artistic expression through theatre performances, concerts, ballet, and exhibitions.

***To achieve something called a real harmony between peace, art and freedom***

“Welcome, in the year of great jubilees of BiH, European and world artists and institutions, to the festival which celebrates the culture of diversity and connects civilizations”, said the Festival Director Ibrahim Spahić who is the most credited for the festival’s existence and rating in the world. He invited all the participants of the modern history of Sarajevo to promote peace, and the freedom of creativity, as they do every year in the capital of BiH during the festival. This year’s guest of honour is the Republic of Greece. “This country was very important for Sarajevo in 1984, when we brought the flame from Olympia to Sarajevo on 8th of February. This date marked the beginning of a new history of the city and the country”, said Mr. Spahić and

adds “By coincidence, the current presidency of the Council of the EU is held by Greece. This country has been hit by the fiercest crisis in recent years, and it is currently undergoing many changes. On the other hand, BiH is waiting at the doors of the EU to join the common family, therefore Greece is entirely a symbolic country for us and it was natural to choose this country as our guest of honor”.

**The place where Olympic history was made in 1984**

At the Opening ceremony at the Zetra Sports Hall, a brilliant performance was given by the legends of ice dancing, the then European and World champions, the British skaters Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean. 30 years ago the famous pair became the highest scoring figure skaters of all time, and won the gold medal in Sarajevo. The show on ice marked the beginning of a campaign for the Ice Hall building that will be used for the preparation





of the state representatives for the Winter Youth Olympics that will be held in 2017 in Sarajevo and East Sarajevo.

### Celebrating cultural diversity

In the framework of the Festival, the 60th anniversary of the European Cultural Convention was also celebrated this year. Europe's cultural diversity is one of its defining qualities as well as one of its greatest assets. This spectacular event represents an extraordinary contribution to the European intercultural dialogue as musicians, writers, artists, from all over Europe are coming to express their cultural messages. The Festival has become a symbol of freedom of creativity and a place for familiarizing with diverse cultures and civilizations.

### From Sarajevo to Sochi

The five BiH representatives returned home with excellent results. At the 22nd Winter Olympics in Sochi, the best results have been achieved by Žana Novaković who won the 26th place in slalom, and



Igor Laikert who won the 27th in super-combined skiing. These skiing results must be considered a great success, taking into account the conditions in which they trained for this big sporting event.

The best BiH competitor, the skier Žana Novaković, who was carrying the country's flag at the Sochi Games' Opening Ceremony of 2014, said that all five colleagues did their best, but the results would have been even better if they had more support from the state institutions.

Bosnian ski resorts have always been a popular destination for different winter sports. Nevertheless, the beautiful mountains that surround Sarajevo and that hosted the Olympic Games 30 years ago, Bjelašnica, Igman, and Jahorina, are still waiting for the day when the European and World competitions will again take place. Hosting an important sporting event contributes to the promotional and economic success of the country. We hope that BiH will one day reappear on the map of the most popular winter destinations in the world.

For that to happen, these beautiful mountains need to be cleared of mines completely so that once again they reclaim the beauty to be indulged in by sport lovers of all generations. Mine affected areas are largely indicated and pose no threat to hiking enthusiasts. Nevertheless, it is very important to climb the mountains only with the help of many experienced and well-trained mountain guides who will be able to tell you many stories and legends regarding these wonderful parts.



# The importance of BiH cultural heritage

## Traces of the Old Bosnian Kingdom

The country in which we live today was a kingdom from the latter half of the 14th century and had its towns, army and kings. Mile village, near Visoko, was the place of coronation of Tvrtko Kotromanić, the first Bosnian king, in 1377, and continued to be the coronation site for all Bosnian kings.

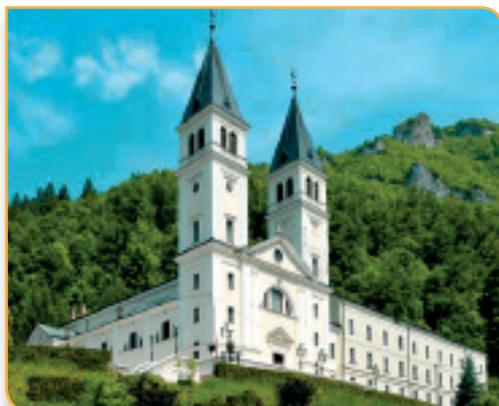
During Tvrtko's rule, Bosnia was the most powerful country in the Balkans. Influences of various cultures, from the Roman and the German to the Byzantine, merged with the Slavonic culture, resulting in a colorful mixture which engendered the distinctive Bosnian spirit, which is felt even today. The BiH culture, monuments and style are probably the reason why they are so interesting to Europe and the world, and what foreigners, even more than local population, find so fascinating about this country. The alphabet, the medieval tombstones, castles and seals, and the entire legacy speak of the glorious times of the Bosnian kingdom. What the ancestors bequeathed to us still stands where it once stood and is readily there for everyone to see. These ideas inspired this story about traces of the Bosnian kingdom.

### Cultural events in the spirit of the medieval Bosnian state

Creative people from the Mozaik NGO designed a project to offer a tour of medieval Bosnian towns-fortresses to foreigners and BiH citizens as a tourist attraction and to students as an excursion. The project, titled "Along the Traces of the Old Bosnian Kingdom" includes ten medieval towns connected through their cultural and historical



heritage and events dating back to the medieval Bosnia: Kraljeva Sutjeska (today Kakanj), Bobovac (Vareš), Čajengrad (Visoko), the Old Town Fortress (Vranduk, Zenica, Maglaj, Tešanj, Travnik, Jajce), Kozovgrad (Fojnica), and Prusac Old Town Fortress (Donji Vakuf). This project is just a step further in Mozaik's activities over the past years. Some of the above locations have been restored and adapted for the current purpose, tourism. The initiator of this action is Samir Softić. The route is his idea. He told us about this project and its implementation. "In short, our idea is reconstruction and renovation of cultural monuments, minor repair and restoration of fortresses as cultural monuments, opening



Kraljeva Sutjeska



Vranduk

and equipping info points, bringing old crafts back to life, opening souvenir shops and ethnographic collections, and bringing to life customs, traditional costumes and dances. Then, training of tourist employees, issuance of publications, compilation of legends, short stories, regional tourist guide books, local promotion material – leaflets and postcards, and engagement of experts, setting the route, media promotion of the event, organization of study trips, competition for the best route, visits to international tourist fairs”, Softić said.

### **To raise awareness of the importance of our cultural heritage**

Cultural events in the spirit of the medieval Bosnian state usually take place in the fortresses, with the active participation of all participants in the project. It can include plays, music and other festivals, sports events, and etc.

The aim is to make this manifestation a tradition to attract a large number of visitors every year. The project should generally, ensure that this event survives and continues to live. It would then be given to municipalities, governmental institutions, private sector (hoteliers, catering facilities, tourist agencies). The idea is to raise awareness of the importance of our cultural heritage, to attract local and foreign tourists, and to improve BiH's chances in the field of cultural tourism.



Travnik

Local authorities, the Federation Ministry of Culture, and the Institute for Protection of Monuments recognized this idea as good and useful for the country. Until tourists start walking the route along the traces of the Bosnian Kingdom, local authorities will be there to give financial support.

It is over five centuries since the fall of the last Bosnian king, Stjepan Tomašević, in 1463, but remnants of the old rich culture remain a source of knowledge and profit.

After all, maybe this project will awaken memories of our dead ancestors, if not in us, then in generations to come.

# Share your thoughts, add a comment, we want to hear from you!

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