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EXERCISE



QUICK RESPONSE 15
13 - 22 October 2015

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IMPRESSUM

**Headquarters EUFOR,
Public Affairs Office**
Camp Butmir, Sarajevo,
71210 Iliđža, Bosna i Hercegovina
E-mail: teme@eufor.europa.eu
Web: www.euforbih.org

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Find us on:



Editorial Staff: Almina Bašić

Public Affairs Office:
Lieutenant Colonel Knut Scheutz
Lieutenant Commander Ben Timpson
Major Stefan Klocko

EUFOR photos: Herbert Pendl, Warrant Officer

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Editorial

Dear readers,

Commander EUFOR, Major General Johann Luif, has kindly offered me the opportunity to address you with a few words in this issue of Teme Magazine.

Holding the dual roles of NATO Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe and Operational Commander of EUFOR Althea, since February 2014 I have regularly visited COM EUFOR and Camp Butmir. In addition I have toured LOTs, Ammunition Storage Sites, military camps and facilities throughout the country, attending regular joint exercises in order to follow the whole range of our activities closely. As an example, during the Disaster Relief Operation 'Joint Effort 14' I witnessed the strong commitment and dedication of EUFOR Althea's partnership with AFBiH in reaction to the terrible flooding of summer 2014.

I would therefore like to express my sincere appreciation for all the positive contributions of EUFOR Althea's personnel in the past eleven years. From the LOTs' daily interaction with the local population, to CB&T activities in a wide range of areas such as bridge building, disaster relief training and mine risk awareness activities, the professionalism and dedication of all EUFOR personnel, alongside AFBiH and also alongside BiH citizens has been visible at all levels and in all areas. This record of achievement makes me confident that EUFOR Althea will continue to serve as a valuable contributor, supporting the BiH authorities in the maintenance of a Safe and Secure environment. Our efforts in these areas are a crucial element of the overall EU Comprehensive strategy for BiH.

During my regular meetings with Armed Forces BiH and government officials throughout the country, we collaborate together in our effort to support the 'Dual use of Forces' concept that is in both domestic disaster relief and contributing to international peace support operations abroad. We are developing our approach to support and respond to the needs of the AFBiH in the best way possible in these main tasks.



My main focus for the coming period will remain the pursuit of CB&T for the AFBiH and the preservation of the SASE within BiH, through our continued commitment and support to local authorities. By pursuing and improving our CB&T program in conjunction with NATO Headquarters Sarajevo and AFBiH, EUFOR will contribute to the development of more professional and capable Armed Forces BiH. By maintaining our current situational awareness and capabilities, we stress the importance of EUFOR Althea's presence as a reassuring element in BiH.

Looking ahead, during October Exercise Quick Response 15 we will see the co-operation between EUFOR and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina in action again. This annual exercise will train the two forces in Peace Support Operations, a key part of the EUFOR role. I am sure many involved will have memories of the last exercise, during which both EUFOR and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina responded to the real life flooding that affected so many around the region. The selflessness and courage displayed during this period was a great example of the benefits of such joint exercises and potentials of our partnership.

Sincerely Yours,
Sir Adrian Bradshaw

EUFOR Althea Operational Commander

EUFOR Events

Brigadier General Peter Wanner visit

In July 2015 Brigadier General Peter Wanner, Chief of International Relations Defence for Switzerland visited EUFOR. During the visit Brigadier General Wanner had an office call with Commander EUFOR Major General Johann Luif. They discussed the EUFOR mission and the Swiss contribution to it, which includes personnel working within the effort to store and destroy surplus ammunition within Bosnia and Herzegovina. Swiss Colonel Martin Trachsler works as EUFOR Special Advisor on Weapons and Ammunition Disposal within this sector. Swiss personnel also work in Capacity



Building & Training, running courses in areas such as forklift operation for the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Switzerland is one of 22 nations contributing to EUFOR in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Head of the European Union Command Element visit

In August, Lieutenant General Leonardo di Marco, Head of the European Union Command Element (EUCE) at the Allied Joint Force Command (JFC) Naples visited Commander EUFOR Major General Johann Luif at EUFOR Camp Butmir.

Collaboration and the Comprehensive Approach

The role of the EUCE is to ensure that EUFOR Althea is working as an integral part of the EU Comprehensive Approach within Bosnia and Herzegovina. EUFOR is responsible for the defence and security aspect of

the approach. The EUCE also supports collaboration between EUFOR and NATO within the Balkans, underpinned by the 'Berlin Plus' agreement of 2004.

Capacity Building & Training

During the office call with Commander EUFOR, Lieutenant General di Marco discussed the EUFOR Capacity Building & Training program. Commander NATO HQ Sarajevo Brigadier General Giselle Wilz also attended the meeting. The Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina are supported by EUFOR through a range of training and mentoring activities, all designed to improve capabilities that can be used in both Disaster Relief and Peace Support Operations.

Austrian Chief of Defence Staff visits EUFOR

On the 19th of August the Austrian Chief of the Defence Staff General Othmar Commenda visited EUFOR Camp Butmir. Greeted with an Honor Guard, General Commenda proceeded to an office call with Commander EUFOR Major General Johann Luif. Austria is a large contributor to the EUFOR Althea mission,

with personnel working in almost every facet of the operation including Capacity Building & Training, disposal of surplus ammunition and the Multinational Battalion. During the visit General Commenda also visited Austrian personnel in Camp Butmir.

EUFOR flag lowering ceremony recognises French troops

On the 31st of August, a flag lowering ceremony took place in EUFOR Camp Butmir, recognising the ending of the French military presence within EUFOR. Deputy of the French Ambassador, Madame Catherine Veber and Warrant Officer Gueneau of the French Defence Attache attended the ceremony.

Twenty Three Year Involvement

The departure of the last French military person from EUFOR brings to an end a commitment that has been unbroken for 23 years. During the course of this service, 116 French soldiers lost their lives, a fact that is recognised by a memorial within Camp Butmir.

'A significant commitment'

Speaking at the ceremony, Commander EUFOR Major General Johann Luif said, 'While the French military presence here is ending today we should



acknowledge that France remains a very important financial contributor to EUFOR Althea.'

'France has had a military presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina continuously since the establishment of 1992, through IFOR, SFOR and most recently, EUFOR. This very significant commitment is very much appreciated by all.'

Exercise Quick Response 15 Press Conference

On the 2nd of September, the EUFOR Althea Operation Commander General Sir Adrian Bradshaw discussed Exercise Quick Response 15 in a press conference at the Hotel Europe in Sarajevo. Exercise Quick Response 15 is an annual exercise in which EUFOR and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina train together in Peace Support Operations. This year it will take place in Manjača between the 13th to the 22nd of October.

Regular training

In a statement during the press conference, General Bradshaw said, 'This exercise takes place every year, and demonstrates the ability of EUFOR to both



conduct Peace Support Operations alongside the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and to bring additional personnel from EUFOR nations into the Exercise.'

In the long term planning of this exercise, Manjača was chosen as it has an area large enough to both accommodate the soldiers taking part, and allow space for the exercise itself.'



Exercise Quick Response 15

During October of this year EUFOR and elements of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina will come together for Exercise Quick Response 15. Exercise Quick Response 15 is conducted annually, and its purpose is to exercise the ability of EUFOR and AFBiH soldiers to train together in Peace Support Operations. Exercise Quick Response 15 will take place between the 13th and the 22nd of October.

Exercise Quick Response 15 will feature soldiers from around Europe, supplementing those already working within EUFOR. They will join with the EUFOR soldiers already in the country before linking up with the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the exercise itself. EUFOR routinely has a small 'footprint' in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Although it has the capacity call on additional troops from around Europe to assist the Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities in the maintenance of a Safe and Secure environment, it has reduced its number of troops over the years in line with the improving security situation. This reduction is aided by the presence of Liaison and Observation or 'LOT' houses, which enable EUFOR to feel the pulse of the population and

respond appropriately to any emerging situations alongside the national authorities.



This year's exercise will take place in Manjača, with the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina hosting the personnel involved. Manjača was selected as the location for the exercise during the planning process because it offers a large space, ideal for exercising in Peace Support Operations. The barracks itself is also capable of hosting the extra personnel who will be take part.

EUFOR Althea Operation Commander General Sir Adrian Bradshaw described the importance of the exercise during a press conference.

‘Developing the capacity and capabilities of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina is a key task for EUFOR, and combined activities such as Exercise Quick Response 15 are important in the effort to attain the highest international military standards, in line with the concept of the Dual use of Forces.’

The Dual use of Forces concept is that the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina develop the capacity to take part on Peace Support Operations abroad, as well as being able to support domestic authorities in disaster relief situations. EUFOR has an established programme of training and mentoring for the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina in these two areas.

Peace Support Operations encompasses a range of military skills, and as such the exercise will feature elements including medical evacuation and Explosive Ordnance Disposal. As part of the EUFOR Capacity Building & Training programme for the AFBiH, the skills that will be used during Exercise Quick Response 15 have been trained together with the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina previously. EUFOR has a number of experts drawn from its troop contributing nations, who either train the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina directly or are involved in mentoring



them as they take ownership of the training itself. Therefore, Exercise Quick Response 15 should not be seen as an isolated training exercise. Although it has been designed to be realistic and test the capabilities of the participants, for the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina and EUFOR it is simply part of the long term commitment to Capacity Building & Training.

By Lt Cdr Ben Timpson, EUFOR Spokesperson



EUFOR - Quick Response





Joint Effort 2014 – Reflecting on past experiences

In 2014 Exercise Quick Response was planned to take place as it is this year. However, as personnel arrived in Bosnia and Herzegovina to take part in the exercise, heavy flooding occurred around the country. Quickly the decision was made by EUFOR to change its task from conducting the Peace Support Operations exercise to supporting the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina as they assisted the local authorities working to help civilians affected by the floods.



The devastating flooding had a significant impact on the civilian population. During this time however, the partnership between EUFOR and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina developed strongly.

Many of those involved felt that they learned a great deal from their experience, and some of the soldiers recall their experiences:



Sergeant Zoran Kutleša, 5th Infantry Brigade of the AF BiH

‘The scale of the disaster and the trouble people went through during the floods could hardly be conveyed by the journalist reports and television footage. It could be only be felt at the scene, as the staff of the 5th Infantry Brigade experienced during their contribution.

Members of my Infantry Battalion made an immeasurable contribution to the alleviation of the consequences of the floods together with the personnel of EUFOR. Aid in dealing with the consequences of the flooding was given in people’s homes and inside buildings of general interest such as schools, kindergartens, religious buildings and health centers. We all worked as a team.

The soldiers showed a high level of dedication. They gave all their best, they didn’t spare themselves, and no one showed any signs of fatigue or nervousness. Some soldiers themselves were injured, but even in this condition they helped the victims and didn’t give up.

I think that during this time we showed that we can act as a multinational unit in providing aid to the population affected by the consequences of natural disasters’.

Zoran Krajina, 5th Infantry Brigade of the AF BiH

"After the heavy floods that covered a significant part of the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, I had the opportunity to participate in helping local people in the affected areas together with the members of EUFOR. As an employee of the Armed Forces of BiH, I went to provide assistance in the area of Orašje and Domaljevac. What we faced over there was really surprising to us. I felt sorry for the vulnerable population and their destroyed property, but I had a real sense of pride that I could assist someone in this situation together with EUFOR



staff. Regions in which we gave assistance had very poor hygiene conditions, but nevertheless we successfully performed our mission".

Major Šefik Čamdžić, 5th Infantry Brigade of the AFBiH

"In 2014 we planned to conduct a joint training exercise between the AFBiH and EUFOR called Quick Response 14 in Manjača between the 7th and 13th of June. However, due to the heavy rainfall that engulfed BiH, the planned exercise changed to become 'Joint Effort 14' during this period. Joint Effort 14 was carried out with the resources and personnel of the AFBiH and EUFOR. It was an opportunity to test the operational capabilities of the Command of the 5th Infantry Brigade, developing dedicated units to complete the tasks. Their mission was to plan and execute operations related to the provision of military assistance to civil authorities in dealing with the consequences of natural disasters (floods and landslides).

This was our first experience as a team working in a multinational environment on such tasks. We worked together in an operational center consisting of representatives from the 5th Infantry Brigade Command and the Command of EUFOR. The command of the Task Force was staffed by members of the 5th Infantry Brigade and Multinational Battalion of EUFOR, which was a new challenge



for us. The organization tasks in the operations center, the work of the CIMIC teams in the field, the coordination of the involvement of the Armed Forces of BiH and EUFOR units and the general communication at all levels was an important experience for us. We have since used the lessons learned in our training and exercises.

However, the main goal of Joint Effort 14 was to help local authorities and the population to deal with the aftermath of floods. This effort was recognized by the population, and the AFBiH received positive feedback from the citizens it assisted during the period.



Lieutenant Milan Crnogorac, The 5th Infantry Brigade AF BiH

“The residents from the flooded areas were evacuated to the “Stepa Stepanović” barracks in Bijeljina, where they were provided with food,

accommodation and medical care. During the floods in May, we cooperated very well with EUFOR members in the field. Tasks were coordinated effectively and completed in a timely manner. The coherent military approach we displayed alongside EUFOR gave a sense of optimism and security to the flood affected population. After completing the evacuation of civilians, we began the process of clearing the flood affected areas. This required the disinfecting of flooded buildings, in which we engaged the technical expertise of EUFOR personnel to help speed up the return of people to their homes.

I have to emphasize the role of EUFOR personnel during this time. They rapidly undertook a number of projects to help the vulnerable population. I had a very positive experience working within them, and I know that the civilians we helped certainly appreciated the partnership we formed.

Ultimately the knowledge, professionalism, training and equipment that they provided were of great assistance the population in the flooded areas.’

Lieutenant Hamdija Elezović, 5th Infantry Brigade of the AF BiH

‘Joint Effort 14 itself and the challenges that were posed in providing assistance to civilian authorities and institutions was a great opportunity to practice some standard operating procedures that include emergencies and natural disasters. Working with Austrian, Hungarian, British and Slovenian personnel was a perfect opportunity to see EU procedures and the equipment that are in use in their armies. During Joint Effort 14 I was one of the main links between the BiH Armed Forces personnel and EUFOR members. Interpersonal relations were excellent during our daily work. Basically, the work with members of EUFOR was a very valuable experience for me that will be of use in the coming challenges of my professional career.’





Interview with General Anto Jeleč

Which units from the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH) will take part in Exercise Quick Response 15?

General Jeleč: In the „Quick Response“ Exercise that is planned to take place at the Manjača Range in October 2015, the AF BiH will take part with the following units:

- 1st Company of the 2nd Infantry Battalion of the 5th Infantry Brigade of the AF BiH,
- EOD Team of the Tactical Support Brigade of the AF BiH,
- MP Team of the Tactical Support Brigade of the AF BiH,
- Medical Team of the Support Command of the AF BiH.

How long have they been trained and what is the duration of their training?

General Jeleč: As we move towards the exercise, preparations are beginning as part of the unit's

normal tasks. One month before the exercise the personnel will start dedicated training for the event.

What benefits will the AF BiH have from this exercise?

General Jeleč: The AFBiH will gain experience from this exercise, both in the skills of Peace Support Operations and of working in the multinational environment. These skills are in accordance with the Law of Defence in BiH.

Have the lessons learned from the previous exercises with EUFOR born any results?

General Jeleč: The lessons learned from the previous exercises with EUFOR have born positive results, which unequivocally show that EUFOR gives huge contribution to the development of independent and self-sustaining training capacities of the AF BiH.



Interview with the UK ambassador, H.E. Edward Ferguson

In November 2014 Great Britain and Germany launched an initiative aimed at drawing Bosnia and Herzegovina closer to the European Union. The initiative was later adopted by the EU as a positive move towards EU integration. In this interview from earlier this year, His Excellency Edward Ferguson, United Kingdom Ambassador to BiH discussed the creation on the initiative and his hopes for its future.

What are the advantages of the British-German initiative?

Ambassador Ferguson: Well, I'm pleased to say that what started out as a UK-German initiative has now been adopted as the EU's new strategy for BiH. And that's the first advantage. We now have an approach which has the full support of EU Member States, of many other international partners and, importantly, of the international financial institutions like the IMF (International Monetary Fund). All the major political parties signed up to the strategy, and the State and Entity Governments have now agreed on a positive and ambitious Reform Agenda.



In essence, the strategy is about unblocking BiH's EU accession path, but without lowering the bar in terms of the conditions that need to be met. So we have agreed to postpone some of the more difficult and divisive political and constitutional questions and, instead, to concentrate first on what we see as the most urgent needs of this country, and what the public most cares about: stabilising the economy, creating jobs (particularly for young people), strengthening the rule of law and tackling corruption. We saw the first major step forward recently with the new Labour Law adopted in the Federation. This is essential to help businesses to succeed and to grow in a competitive global economy. Only the private

sector can create sustainable jobs. And only the private sector can pay off this country's debts, rather than increase them.

How is this different from previous initiatives?

Ambassador Ferguson: I think there are a number of points. First, and most importantly, the context has changed. The economy is struggling. Young people are leaving the country in droves. The protests last year showed that people are running out of patience with political leaders who squabble endlessly but who fail to deliver reforms that put food on the table. Reforms are not optional; they are essential. I think most politicians now realise that.

It's also important that the EU's new focus on social and economic reforms means that, for the first time, we have aligned EU conditionality with the IMF. That's a big incentive, because without reforms there will be no more loans.

Finally, the leaders of all the major political parties have committed themselves to reform, and that commitment was endorsed by both Houses of the State Parliament. I think it's really important that the democratic institutions of BiH have taken ownership of the reform agenda. But it means that all parties – whether in government or opposition – have to work constructively together to move this country forward.

How confident are you of success?

Ambassador Ferguson: I'm not naïve. We have made a reasonable start, but there is a very long way to go. I know that past initiatives have failed. Although the vast majority of people in this country want to join the EU, when it comes to the detail, I know that the people and the leaders of this country lack a common vision of the future they want for themselves and their children. So I'm under no illusions that any of this will be straightforward. If we

are to make any progress on the issues that really matter, it will require a change of approach.

From obstruction to cooperation.

From criticism to negotiation. From ideology to compromise. People often blame the system, and it's true that this country undoubtedly has one of the most complicated and inefficient systems of government in the world. But, in the end, this is just an excuse. If the politicians and people of this country want to change things, they can.

Some say that the EU will give up on BiH if this initiative doesn't succeed. Is this true?

Ambassador Ferguson: I would rather say that this new approach is the best offer that BiH is likely to get from the EU, and it's a chance this country can't afford to miss. The world is moving on at breakneck speed, but it sometimes seems that BiH remains stuck in the past, with an unsustainable economy and a sectarian mindset. We and our EU partners want this country to succeed, and we firmly believe that it can. We're ready to help, including financially, but the days of the international community imposing its will on BiH are over. The people have to demand change. And the politicians have to deliver.

What do you think about greater involvement/engagement of the civilian sector and NGO's?

Ambassador Ferguson: I think it's essential. I have heard many people say that people in this country are apathetic about politics. That's not my experience at all. I've never met people who talk more about politics. But I think that many people have lost hope, and struggle to find politicians and parties they can support. I say, if you can't find a party to support, then support the reform agenda. These reforms won't be easy, but they offer the best chance to improve the lives of ordinary people in this country, and to create opportunities for all – not just for the well-connected elite.



What are the main goals of the British Embassy for the next years?

Ambassador Ferguson: One of the first things I did when I became Ambassador was to publish my Embassy's objectives in full. You can find them on my blog from October 2014. We talk a lot about the need for increased transparency, and I thought it was important that we practised what we preach. But, in essence, our role as an Embassy is to support the stability and prosperity of Bosnia and Herzegovina, including through our support to its gradual integration into the European institutions of the EU and NATO.

What are the most important projects run by the British Embassy in 2015?

Ambassador Ferguson: We support a great many projects. I'm pleased to say that we are a growing

The commitment to offer the opportunity to young men and women of Bosnia and Herzegovina to become commissioned officers of the BiH Armed Forces

As a result of a joint Ministry of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and British Embassy Sarajevo project, BiH introduced a more effective and transparent system to select and train the new generations of young military officers. The new selection system was introduced in 2013, and so far attracted the best young leaders from society. For the first time it was open to male and female applicants directly from the civilian sector. The decision to open the officer selection process to the best from the civilian sector comes as a result of a 10-month long study conducted jointly by the Ministry of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the British Embassy's Defence Section. Successful applicants from the process were put through a new and intensive military and leadership development training program.

Šerif Zjakić, soldier of the BiH Armed Forces, received the prize for best cadet at the Defense

Embassy – both in terms of staff and funding. All are designed to have a strategic impact, so we work mostly at the State and Entity level. For example, we do a lot of work to support the BiH Armed Forces. We have helped them to introduce a new, more transparent and merit-based system for selecting and training new officers. And we have been a long-term supporter of the Peace Support Operations Training Centre. We work in many other areas too, like building capacity within the justice system, supporting the State and Entity Governments on implementing their anti-corruption strategies, helping survivors of wartime rape to receive justice and support and, of course, encouraging and supporting economic reforms.



Academy of United Kingdom, where he stayed three months, and he was awarded the Hodson's Horse Merit Award for outstanding academic and military results at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst.

He is the first BiH soldier that has earned awards for his abilities, and the fifth soldier from Bosnia and Herzegovina who, with the support of Ministry of Defence of BiH and the British Embassy in Sarajevo, graduated from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. Šerif's desire is that through his example inspire young people who lack hope, desire and the will, but who would like to become part of a better future for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Multiethnic childrens climbing camp in Drežnica



Lieutenant Grassberger

Around 20 children from BiH multiethnic schools – Zenica, Tuzla, Mostar, Foča and Sarajevo, participated in the Drežnica climbing camp from 29th June to 3rd July. The camp was organized by the Austrian Civil Military Engagement (CIMIC) team who provided donations and supported the event. “We initiated this project with the EUFOR Embedded Advisory Team from Tuzla. We thought that climbing would be a perfect means to keep children of different ethnicities working together. From our prospective, it works very well”, said 1st Lieutenant Andreas Grassberger, former Austrian CIMIC Chief.



Colonel Lasser

Colonel Michael Lasser is one of the initiators of the multiethnic camp for BiH children. “The idea was to organize a multiethnic sports climbing camp for children aged between 10 and 15 in

order for them to form friendships across ethnical boundaries. Throughout this project we wanted to teach them how to trust to each other, but also to teach them the necessary skills and main techniques of this sport. I am very happy with the result. I am impressed by this very beautiful country that offers many possibilities for different types of climbing. I had the opportunity, together with Bosnian friends, to climb mountains, to ski and to do a variety of things that this country has to offer’.

EUFOR LOT Mine Risk Education for children



Mario Petrillo and local instructor Sendro Zijada giving the lectures

Although EUFOR and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH) continue to tackle the problem, for a long time to come, mines will continue to pose a threat in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

EUFOR supports the AFBiH with De-Mining training, supporting their teams as they remove and destroy the explosives around the country. However due to the amount of mines remaining, continuous education about the danger is essential to avoid more victims of mines and



unexploded ordinance (UXO). The safety of children must be one of the most important goals not only for the EUFOR MICC (Mine Education Coordination Center), but for all of society.

The Swiss LOT (Liaison Observation Team) House from Mostar, together with the EUFOR EOD (Demining and Explosive Ordnance Disposal) team organized a Mine Risk Education (MRE) lecture for participants of the climbing camp in Drežnica. The children had an opportunity to see how of BiH is still contaminated with mines, and the lethal effect of touching them.

It is estimated that in 9,185 locations within Bosnia and Herzegovina there is still around 120,000 mines remaining. An area 1,176.50 km² is still affected, which poses a direct threat to 540,000 people, or about 15% of the population. EUFOR contributes to the BiH Mine Action Strategy by conducting Mine Risk Education (MRE). "The aim of the MRE is to reduce the risk of landmines and unexploded ordinance for humans and to make BiH a safer and more secure place. That is why the LOT Houses are doing MRE for BiH schools with the aim of informing children about the mine and UXO danger. It is very important that they know where the mines are. We have maps showing where the mines are! Basically, if you walk on established roads you will never have a problem, but if you go into the woods or the mountains should always be careful. We know that children in school receive much more information than older people, but mines can move, and sometimes children forget. Therefore we are here to inform them and to remind them that still need to be careful because there are

Lessons learned

Gorica from Foča:

"Do not approach if you see a warning sign, if you find yourself in a place where the mines are call for help!"

Ivan from Sarajevo:

"We have learned a lot about mines, we learned that we are not allowed to approach certain areas to avoid casualties, in order not to become immobile or wounded".

Ivan from Mostar:

"I learned that I need to stop in, call for help, if I hit a mine I need to report to the police and the elderly, mark the area and remember where it is!"

Bernadette, a student from Austria:

"Before I came I did not know what to expect, but now when I'm here I really like nature and climbing here is excellent and I like Bosnian food also!"

still a lot of mines in this country. Thanks to the MRE, there were not as many incidents as in the past, and this is a big success for all of us. We are happy to see that the children's knowledge about the mine situation in this country is very good. However, some children still have to learn there is a threat, and how to deal with it", said private Mario Petrillo from the Swiss LOT house in Mostar who, together with certificated local instructor, provided the lecture for participants of the camp.

After the war, 1,500 people fell victim to mines and UXOs in BiH. Year on year, the number of victims has been reducing and the reason for this positive trend is the fact that the people in BiH are increasingly being included in mine awareness programs, especially in high risk areas.

The EUFOR MICC (Mine Education Coordination Center) and its LOT houses are credited with a major role and contribution to different aspects of mine risk education. Over 250,000 people attended the educational program over recent years.



Colonel Jürgen Schlechter

Building trust

The EUFOR Joint Military Action Chief (JMA), Colonel Jürgen Schlechter (Austrian Army) was also delighted about the camp in Drežnica. "I am quite impressed with what is going on here because it is fun for the kids. I think climbing is a special sport because it relies on people trusting one another, you are relying on your partner, you have the same rope as they do –regardless of whether you know that person or not. We are all proud to be involved in this project for the children of Bosnia and Herzegovina", he said.

The team of instructors were led by experienced Austrian Armed Forces Mountain Guides and supported by Bosnian Alpine Association Instructors. Training methods met the highest possible safety standards of the International Mountaineering Association. Representatives of the CIMIC provided administrative background organization and with support of the Austrian Contingent Logistic Elements also provided transportation for instructors and children. Children and Instructors were accommodated in the school nearby the climbing park, a very good location due to its sports hall and green schoolyard for other outdoor activities like Volleyball and Football.

Friendship between Austrian and Bosnian students

Children from all constituent parts of BiH were represented in the groups. Each climbing-group was under supervision of one Austrian and one Bosnian instructor who checked safety. A partnership between an Austrian Sports High School (Sportgymnasium HIB Saalfelden) and the Bosnian Alpine Camp was organized and raised funds for the Camp. It is planned to be a pilot-project which might lead to a long-term partnership.

Ambassador Wigemark: 'The Reform Agenda: Bosnia and Herzegovina's best chance'

The Reform Agenda adopted by all three levels of government is an opportunity for the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina to catch up with the rest of Europe and join the EU family. Many of these reforms are long overdue and should be swiftly implemented. The Reform Agenda is unique and has a broad scope covering economic, social, administrative and rule of law measures. It is the culmination of a year-long effort to agree on a set of priority measures to boost the economy and to create more and better jobs for everyone. The new Labour Law in the BiH Federation is a major step forward. But it only represents one part of the Reform Agenda and needs to be complemented with a number of other measures to be successful.

The Reform Agenda is a result of the most extensive consultation process BiH has ever seen. It is firmly based on the political programmes of the three governments; that is, the Council of Ministers, the Federation of BiH and Republika Srpska. The 'Forum for Prosperity and Jobs' in May 2014, attended by a spectrum of civil, academic, business and political society provided initial inspiration. Further inputs were received at expert and public events including local gatherings with citizens throughout the country, and online. The Reform Agenda went through many drafts and much discussion. It can be confidently said that it reflects the collective desire of both the governments and the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina to move ahead to a better future. Moreover, it has been endorsed by the European Union, the International Monetary

Fund, the World Bank Group and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development as well as the representatives of supportive governments, including the United States of America. Major countries such as Japan, Russia and Turkey have also expressed their support for a set of comprehensive reforms, for instance at the most recent Peace Implementation Council for Bosnia and Herzegovina. In other words, there is a striking consensus in support of a serious reform effort.

Everyone supporting the Reform Agenda agrees that it is time to move beyond the rhetoric of reform and get to work. With each year passing, Bosnia and Herzegovina is falling further behind its neighbours in terms of the business environment and other policies necessary to encourage investment and create new jobs. According to Eurostat's latest figures, BiH now has the lowest relative GDP in Europe and is lagging behind comparable neighbours in the Western Balkans region. As a result, the overall unemployment rate stands at over a quarter of the workforce and the rate of youth unemployment is the highest in Europe. It is time to begin to reverse this trend and offer to all citizens, regardless of their political or ethnic affiliation, real access to good jobs that match their skills and qualifications. The days of a privileged system with "jobs for the boys" in return for political favours must, and I believe can come to an end.

A simple and inexpensive step is to strengthen the links between education, and the labour market.

Education and vocational training should be in line with the requirements of the labour market, in particular the private sector. Sometimes it is simply a matter of improved information about already existing opportunities. For instance, through the two Education and Jobs Fairs organised by my office in Zenica and Banja Luka, more than 4000 people were offered a job. Young people and jobseekers had the chance to see what vacancies are available, they were also advised on how to improve their self-presentation and consider what training or new skills they might need. Such 'joined-up thinking' needs to happen more. It is necessary to inform the youth about the latest trends in the labour market to efficiently assist job seekers to acquire the knowledge and skills that are really needed in the labour market here.

There is an opportunity now to reform the business environment and make tax systems and public finances sustainable. The size and role of the government sector must be reduced. The public sector is far too expensive for a country the size of Bosnia and Herzegovina. And this is not simply because of the complex and multi-layered Dayton structures; it is also the result of decades of political cronyism. A serious public administration reform will, moreover, increase the confidence of investors and, hopefully, get domestic banks to start to lend again at significant levels. Make no mistake: BiH does not suffer from a liquidity problem. Rather, banks hold more money at the Central Bank than is required of them because they cannot find adequate projects to finance. The money is there. But investors and company leaders have to see a brighter future through the fog of government regulation and taxes before they are willing to start hiring people again. A freeze on wages and on hiring of new staff in the public sector will also send a strong signal to the voters that it is not just them who are expected to change their behaviour but institutions too.

New labour laws and practices will be a crucial element in improving this business environment.

Flexibility in the labour market must be increased and people's chance of finding decent employment, especially young people, needs to improve dramatically. Everybody having equal access to employment opportunities is a fundamental economic and social right enshrined in many international conventions. The new labour laws are intended to make employment secure and fair, rather than exclusive. The Labour Law adopted by the FBiH Government and Parliament last week includes 26 articles strengthening the rights of workers, for example through generous maternity and paternity benefits; these are more in line with European standards than the previous law. But the new law will also allow employees and employers to adapt to changing circumstances and this is very important when promoting investment.

Business-related reforms need to go hand in hand with the further entrenchment of the rule of law and good governance principles. Criminal investigations must be expeditious, efficient and thorough, while sanctions must be a deterrent and actually enforced. A corrupt-free business environment supported by an accountable, professional and efficient judiciary is an essential pre-condition to restore citizens' confidence and foreign investors' trust.

Reforms will be difficult, but will ultimately benefit everybody. BiH needs to establish a system where pensions and social benefits, including healthcare, can be secured for those who are most in need. Vulnerable people, such as the elderly, invalids, and those who suffer the scars of one of the worst conflicts Europe has seen, need to be given decent support. But, at the same time, people who are ready and able to work need to have an opportunity to do so. Far too many have already left the country, or are considering doing so if there is no improvement in sight. BiH needs to get to a situation where government is seen as a help rather than a hindrance and most of all, where people can look forward to a fruitful life in their own country.

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Some are objecting to these reforms, and will try to hold onto their privileged positions. But it is time for everybody to have an equal opportunity and I urge people to support their elected governments' reform efforts. It is also time to set aside political party differences and look at the greater good for everyone. In February this year, all 14 major political parties signed a commitment to the EU that they will support the reform process and move forward towards closer integration with the EU. It is time for everybody to demonstrate courage and determination. No one will be impressed by political squabbling.

The Reform Agenda will begin the process of recovery. The EU and the International Financial Institutions are expected to provide up to one billion euro over three years in direct support to meet the cost of the reforms and will put aside another half a billion euro for investment. This money will, in turn, encourage more private investment and boost the overall economy, creating more jobs.

BiH stands at a crossroads and needs to take the correct path in the coming months. That path could lead to membership of the EU, and our Foreign Affairs Council has already promised that measurable progress in implementing the Reform Agenda could lead to an early application being accepted. It is time for the leaders and people of BiH to pull together and move forward.



Towards a common future for Western Balkans and the EU - by EU High Representative Federica Mogherini, Vice President in charge of the EU Energy Union Šeščović and EU Commissioner for European Neighborhood Policy & Enlargement Negotiations, Johanness Hahn

On 27 August 2015, the Government of Austria hosted the leaders of the Western Balkans in a high-level meeting in support of the European Union perspective for this region. Together with leaders from Germany, France, Italy, Slovenia and Croatia, we as representatives of the EU attended this important Summit – a continuation of a conference hosted by the German government in Berlin a year ago – in the wake of a crucial step forward in the EU-facilitated dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina. The four agreements reached on 25 August in Brussels – on energy, telecoms, the establishment of the Association/Community of Serb majority municipalities and Freedom of Movement/Mitrovica Bridge – are a milestone in the normalisation of relations between the two countries. They send a powerful message to the whole region.

With a clear European perspective set out for the Western Balkans, this region is the closest to the European Union in terms of not only geography, but of values and aspirations. The citizens in the region want better socio-economic conditions at home, a strengthened rule of law and accountability, improved connections inside their countries as well as to their neighbours and to the whole EU. The youth seeks avenues to realise their hopes for education and good jobs, together with a safe basis for starting their own family life.

To achieve progress, it is clear that local leaders must put aside domestic rivalries and focus on their countries' common interest, that is regional cooperation and the European perspective. The important domestic agreements in early 2015 in Bosnia and Herzegovina and more recently in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, together with the latest step in the Belgrade-Pristina dialogue, are examples of the dynamic needed.





The progress on connectivity is a very good example in this respect. The Western Balkan countries have taken ownership: their leaders should be commended for showing their political will and leadership in putting aside the differences of the past. They agreed to build bridges – not only physical ones but also ones of peace and reconciliation.

Reaching agreements to overcome outstanding disputes is a clear goal where the EU can offer support, but the fundamental political will must be garnered in the region's capitals.

This summer's events reminded us of how crucial the Western Balkans are to the European Union for yet another reason. Europe is facing the most serious refugee crisis since the end of World War II, and our whole continent is affected. No country can pretend to address such an exceptional issue alone, every country has to do its part in this common challenge. We need a coordinated EU response, and the highest level of cooperation between our Union and our neighbors. We are ready for enhanced support and major financial aid to our partners, to help them with capacity building on border control and on fighting human smuggling. But we also need them to do their fair share in dealing with the crisis.

The European debate on migration, so far, has too often turned into a useless blame game. We have to stop pointing fingers at each other and work together to find common solutions. This cannot

be delayed anymore: at stake is the life and dignity of so many people who flee from war, poverty, persecution. No one advocates the opening of the EU's frontiers. But we hold a responsibility toward these people. The door of Europe cannot be shut in the face of the refugee, the exile, the outcast. If that happens, it is not Europe anymore.

Managing this crisis will be an important test for the EU, the Western Balkans and their European perspective.

This region can and should be integrated further into the European networks. In preparation of the enhanced integration with and into the EU, the inter-connectivity of this region is moving forward. Transport has to be facilitated along core routes. Also, energy grids should be improved and their capacity enhanced.

We believe that the Vienna Declaration adopted at our Summit sends a solid message of support for the EU perspective, regional cooperation, interconnectivity in the region and improved socio-economic conditions for all, including the youth. As the recent achievement in the Belgrade-Pristina dialogue shows, an increased EU role in the Western Balkans can only benefit our partners and ourselves. The EU and the Western Balkans share the same space and the same interests – and, we believe, we can share the same European future.

LOT Bratunac and LOT Travnik activities

Austrian soldiers support the multiethnic Kindergarten 'Cheerfulness' in Bratunac

An Austrian infantry company from the EUFOR Multinational Battalion alongside the Austrian CIMIC (Civil-Military Cooperation) team identified the Kindergarten 'Cheerfulness' as a project that would allow them to positively impact future generations in the Bratunac area. They launched a fundraising campaign resulting in the opening of a climbing frame for the Kindergarten in Bratunac.



Director of the Kindergarten, Ms. Jadranka Magazin and Captain Jürgen Gruber during a ribbon cutting ceremony honoring the opening of the climbing frame

Every soldier within the infantry company became involved, and through their efforts the money for the climbing frame was raised within only two weeks. The opening ceremony for the climbing frame on the 23rd of July was attended by Austrian Company Commander Captain Jürgen Gruber, alongside a number of his soldiers who worked on the project. The children of the Kindergarten sang a traditional BiH children's song for the soldiers as thanks for their contribution.

Members of the Turkish EUFOR contingent finance library renovation in Zavidovići

As a part of the Civilian-Military Cooperation activities, the EUFOR Turkish Military Contingent purchased materials for the Central Public Library in Zavidovići. The project included the replacement of windows and doors, painting and the provision of new shelves for library materials. A large number of books were donated, allowing the creation of a new reading corner.

The director of the Central Public Library, Ms. Melisa Mujanović, pointed out that the opening of this department is a significant symbol of the Turkey's lasting friendship and commitment to Bosnia and Herzegovina. She also stressed that the support of the Turkish Contingent is very important and expressed her appreciation on behalf of the citizens and employees of the library.



The ceremony was attended by the Colonel Savaş Celepoğlu, the former Senior National Representative of the Turkish Contingent, the personnel from the Turkish Contingent of EUFOR, the Mayor of Municipality of Zavidovići and the Director of the Zavidovići Library.



BiH on the way to fulfilling European food standards

The opportunity of exporting food to the EU is a challenge Bosnia and Herzegovina is starting to meet. In complying with EU regulations pertaining to the quality, cleanliness and packaging of its foodstuffs the country is starting to show its potential in this area.

In the past, with the exception of fish, Bosnia and Herzegovina was unable to export animal products or products of animal origin because they did not meet EU food safety standards. Some vegetables were also affected.

However, on the 17th of July, the EU Commission recognized Bosnia and Herzegovina as being free of the disease 'Potato Ring Rot', the key stage in allowing potatoes to be exported. This decision came as a result of a concerted effort among farmers and authorities such as the Bosnia and Herzegovina Plant Health Administration to eradicate the disease and bring their produce to an exportable condition.



Zoran Jakšić

Commenting on the decision the Commission stated, "The potato sector is an example where BiH demonstrated efficient controls and surveillance systems, and functional coordination, with staff and authorities working as a team across institutions. This is a positive example to be followed in other areas"

The precedent set by the potato sector is not the only area within Bosnia and Herzegovina where produce is breaking into the EU market. Honey has been eligible for export since the National Residue Monitoring Plan was accepted by the EU in 2003.

However, progress has been hampered in this area for a variety of reasons.

Zoran Jakšić, director of the “Herzeg-med” company from Trebinje has over 30 subcontractors from the region. Crucially, although his company does not operate any hives directly, it was the first to introduce the HACCP system (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points) for collecting and bottling the honey it receives from its beekeepers. The HACCP system is a rigorous food standards procedure that guarantees the safety of the product based on checks at each stage of its manufacture. This means it is acceptable within the EU and increases its chance of being exported.

Zoran says that the lack of honey export is partly due to the lack of competition within the country. Only four honey bottling plants have the capacity to package the product under HACCP conditions, meaning little can be produced and the market is uncompetitive.

Zoran continues, ‘The import lobbies are very strong, and domestic products are absolutely unprotected, so that our competition in fact is those producers who are not from Bosnia and Herzegovina.’

‘Bosnia and Herzegovina as a country has many good laws, but laws that no-one follows. There is also a danger of black market honey sales, which is of course much more profitable for beekeepers. I suppose you have witnessed yourself how honey

can be found along the roads on stands wherever you go in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but you cannot know the quality of these products.’

‘So far, the marketing of our products outside Bosnia and Herzegovina depends of political will and speed of compliance with the EU requirements. However we hope that in the near future this will develop further.’



NGO “Centers for civic initiative (CCI)”

Centers for Civic Initiatives (CCI) is an organization whose origins date back to the period between 1998 and 1999, when the local activists decided to form the first Bosnian-Herzegovinian non-governmental organization. Its foundations rest on the territorial and programmatic coverage of the whole country and all its citizens which is even after 16 years one of the greatest qualities of this organization. With its programs, projects, campaigns and actions, the CCI deals with strengthening the accountability



Mr. Adis Arapović

of government institutions by raising the level of public participation in decision-making, transparent management systems and good governance in general. All these topics are significant for the wider community.

We talked to Mr. Adis Arapović, political scientist and the CCI project manager, about the work of the organization, its plans and current projects. The purpose of establishing this organization, says Mr. Arapović, was to encourage and promote the active participation of citizens in democratic processes and to strengthen the capacity of organizations and individuals to effectively solve problems in communities throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. "Based on this, our goal is that the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina understand and participate in the development of democratic processes and civil society. Besides the general objectives, through the implementation of its activities, the Centers for Civic Initiatives strive for changes that will help in creating a responsible institutional governance, the rule of law, articulating civil claims and the daily problems they are facing with, as well as creating conditions for a prosperous country that is based on democratic postulates", he explains.

Through of all these years of active work, the CCI led and conducted dozens of campaigns and projects aimed to improve the level of political culture, and to form the basis for synergistic effect of ruling political elites and participatory citizenry. Explicitly stated, from 1998 to now, the CCI has been working on the following major projects and campaigns they are proud of, producing the visible and long-lasting results pointed out by Mr. Arapović:



In 2000 and 2002 the CCI conducted a campaign of domestic non-partisan election observation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In 2003 the CCI successfully completed the campaign for adoption of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities.

In 2004 the CCI successfully carried out a campaign for the direct election of mayors in the Federation BiH (FBiH), which changed the FBiH Constitution, enabling the citizens to directly elect their community leaders.



and promotion of the so-called Civic Platform and the expansion of the GROZD coalition promoting voting rights and fight against electoral abstention", he said.



In 2005 the CCI launched an initiative to take money from gambling companies for social and humanitarian purposes. In the Republika Srpska, this initiative was soon transformed into law. After the initiative of the CCI, the Government and FBiH Parliament adopted the law on gambling, which enables organizations of persons with disabilities and other civil society organizations with a prominent social, humanitarian component, to have the right to apply for funds raised through gambling.

In 2005 and 2006 became the crucial time for the CCI in several aspects. As Mr. Arapović emphasizes, the first factor was that the CCI, became a kind of foundation, ie. an organization that provides financial resources for other NGOs. "In 2005 and 2006, based on the action platform of the GROZD movement and coalition, the CCI with the support of international donors, provided support for more than 20 NGO projects that were focused on advocacy

and promotion of the so-called Civic Platform and the expansion of the GROZD coalition promoting voting rights and fight against electoral abstention", he said.

Between 2007 and 2015, the CCI introduces and establishes a system for monitoring the work of government and their commitment to tackling the key problems of the citizens. As part of its efforts, in addition to quarterly report on the work of state, entity and cantonal executive and legislative authorities, Mr. Arapović says that the CCI in its reports offers recommendations to improve government accountability, efficiency and effectiveness, and recommendations concerning necessary steps in order to achieve improvements in living standards in BiH.



After many years of experience, gained in the context of work on projects of vital importance for citizens, the CCI continues actively to contribute in building a democratic political and social environment. One of the important projects, in this context, is a "Project of sustainability of civil society," with the support of USAID. About the project, whose implementation is

still in progress, Mr. Arapović says, "The monitoring the work of the executive and legislative bodies in BiH (FBiH and RS) project implementation seeks to strengthen civil society organizations (CSOs) to more strongly influence the processes of creation, adoption and implementation of public policies and those policies that are of interest for many citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina".



As our interlocutor pointed out, a very important project is the "Edu & Job" program, which aims to contribute to a new normative framework for adult education, retraining and lifelong learning, which was supported by the EU. "The CCI, implemented the "TV Initiative" project - emitting and producing the content designed to educate and inform the public of BiH on BiH society and citizens problems, and promoting and improving understanding of the civil society organizations work in BiH. On the other hand, the sub-goals derive from the desire to ensure quality media content unconstrained by political and commercial issues, and by the inclusion of citizens in the issues and problems of BiH society, encouraging citizens to update and highlight the problems faced on a daily basis'

In addition to these projects, the CCI is also part of the "DAM" network which, as pointed out by Mr. Arapović, through its activities aims to contribute to the transparency of the recovery process in flood damaged areas and thus strengthen the overall transparency and responsibility in work of the public institutions in BiH, but also the private sector and donors. One of the most important projects also is

the "Right to Life" project. With it we strengthen the FBiH Solidarity Fund intended to support severely ill citizens. Finally, the CCI on a daily basis works in service of the citizens of BiH, so that citizens can contact the staff of our regional offices, and ask for help to communicate the problems they are faced with and which are of general interest and contribute to the common good of Bosnia and Herzegovina", Arapović highlights.

In the context of cooperation with the government sector, there is a need for better cooperation with government institutions and the accent has been put on the present level of cooperation through the previous and current project activities the CCI works on. "The cooperation is relatively satisfactory. It is necessary to intensify the relationship through further concrete and constructive activities of Government-NGO relations" he says.



When it comes to the support of the EU institutions and organizations, our interlocutor points out that it is crucial in terms of measuring the success of projects and the program activities of the CCI. "Selfless support, consulting and financial partnership which is based on the principle of mutual and synergistic action, and a mentoring role in the process of realization of projects are benefits of which not only the CCI, but the entire BiH society can profit. This year, the CCI is conducting a large project funded by the EU (Edu & Job). In recent years, there were three additional projects supported by the EU, and in the coming year we will compete for two new projects", he concludes at the end of the interview.

Promotion of the tourism in BiH

The tourism sector is one of the main contributors to the economic development of a country. Thanks to its geographical location, natural beauty, cultural and historical value and favorable climatic conditions, Bosnia and Herzegovina is a very appealing tourist destination. The different cultures, religions and traditions of Bosnia and Herzegovina territory have intersected each other for centuries, which gives additional value to the tourism product and enriches the tourist experience.

In the world of tourism, the advertisement and promotion of the area is the most crucial factor. After this it is the experience of the tourist that decides whether they return to the destination. Providing a positive experience is the only guarantee of long term development in the sector.

The natural beauty and the culinary variety within BiH is the greatest source of tourist potential in the country. Sarajevo, Mostar and Međugorje have for a long time already been established as the leading micro destinations in BiH

However, the last few years, more BiH destinations and types of tourism have emerged, such as - rafting, hiking, mount biking and eco-tourism. Destinations such as Banja Luka, Jajce, Neum, Trebinje, Kraljeva Sutjeska, Jahorina, Bjelašnica, Kupres and Vlačić have also become more popular, especially during the winter season.

Rafting has become a national pastime with three rivers: the beautiful Una in the Northwest, emerald Neretva in Herzegovina and the magnificent Tara river and the deepest canyon in Europe, which is located near the National Park Sutjeska.

There are many fascinating destinations in Bosnia and Herzegovina for all types of tourists. The most interesting and attractive sites are a wonderful blend of cultural and natural heritage.

With the intention to share the traditions, customs and beauties of the local environment with as many visitors as possible, many parties contribute to the development of rural tourism in BiH. There are more and more of those who are interested in rural areas visiting the slopes of beautiful mountains. Ethno-village Stanišić near Bijeljina, Herceg ethno-village in Međugorje and Ethno Bey's village on Bijambare are just some of many that offer an opportunity for rest and relaxation.

Many natural resources in BiH remain preserved. These include the canyons of Rakitnica and Krušnica, the bird reserve in Hutovo, the rain forest Perućica, lakes such as Blidinje, Prokoško, and Boračko, waterfalls of Kravice and Skakavac, the river Una with its waterfalls, the upper course of the Neretva River, the source of Buna River, and many others.





Religious Tourism occupies an important place in the tourism sector at the global level. For thirty years, Međugorje has been the center of religious tourism. Sarajevo is the only city besides Jerusalem which has an Orthodox church, a mosque, a Catholic church and a synagogue 100 meters from each other. The most important exhibit in the National Museum in Sarajevo is the Sarajevo Haggadah, the traditional Jewish books brought by the Jews to Sarajevo upon their expulsion from Spain.

Statistics show that in the tourism sector on a global level has the biggest number of employees. As an economic activity, tourism requires investment and development from those involved directly in the business. However, it also requires good will and cooperation from the local population around it. Only with this understanding can an area become truly tourist friendly.

BiH has great tourist potential based on its natural beauty and its culture, which can make a significant contribution to its economic development. The

An unspoiled natural haven

The most famous and most impressive waterfalls on the Trebižat River are the waterfalls of Kravice, a geomorphological natural monument. Its height is 26 meters, with a beautiful lake below the falls. Behind the waterfalls there is a travertine lake and greenery that surrounds it which gives the whole area a look of magnificent pristine nature. As the water levels of the Trebižat River change, the waterfalls change at different times of the year. This place is best to visit in spring when the waterfall is at its highest level and the surrounding nature is shiny green.

industry stimulates employment and therefore raises the living standards around it. BiH has the potential to keep expanding its tourist industry, and to take full advantage of the many attractions which it possesses.

Spa centers Ilidža, Fojnica, Kiseljak, Teslić, Tuzla, Olovo, Srebrenica, Višegrad, Teslić represent a wealth of thermal springs and mineral waters, which have been used for a long period of time.

According to the BiH Agency for Statistics from 2014, the percentage of visits by tourists is increasing every year. The arrival of tourists, in the last fifteen years, rose by an average of 24% per annum. According to the World Tourism Organization (WTO), Bosnia and Herzegovina is located in the top of the list of countries increasing their number of tourists, with an increase of 20%. In 2014, Bosnia and Herzegovina

registered the arrival of 844,189 tourists, which means an increase of 12.9%, while the recorded 1,822,927 overnight stays represents an increase of 10.8% compared to the previous year. According to estimates by the WTO, Bosnia and Herzegovina will have the third highest tourism growth rate in the world for the period between 1995 and 2020.



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