

Projekat

Učesna i Hercegovina:

organizacije mladih za pomirenje

**BE THE INSPIRATION:
MOBILIZING YOUTH
FOR RECONCILIATION
IN BOSNIA AND
HERZEGOVINA**

From November 1, 2018 through February 14, 2020, the USAID funded "Be the inspiration" project brought together hundreds of young participants from the region, dozens of cities, great energy and great ideas, which navigated them through set of activities and help them create their vision of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). When it comes to INFOHOUSE's portion of the program, the objectives were twofold: (i) To foster greater understanding among youth of diverse narratives of the conflict in BiH, and (ii) To create more creative opportunities for positive intergroup actions in combating ethno-nationalist rhetoric.

As a result of the project's progressive support, the key legacies for the high school students are the creative opportunities, communication channels, comprehensive understanding of the reconciliation culture, and increased intergroup initiatives to help them to continue to combat ethno-nationalist rhetoric and promote the process of reconciliation in the future. For that, the high school students were equipped with a great number of reconciliation tools, painting techniques, memories of bike visits to the historical locations, as well as a lot of contacts and channels of communications, giving them ways to new inspirations for reconciliation.

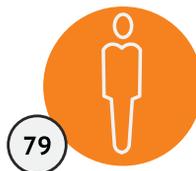
HIGHLIGHTS OF PROJECT RESULTS - INFOHOUSE ACTIVITIES



PARTICIPANTS



FEMALE



MALE



SCHOOLS FROM
BIH

TRANSFORMED
PUBLIC SPACES
IN BIH WITH
ULTRA-NATION-
ALIST
GRAFFITI
OR DISPLAYS
OF HATE
SPEECH



7 VISITS HISTORICAL LOCATIONS IN BIH WITH BIKES
WHERE THE MAJORITY OF CIVILIANS HAD BEEN
KILLED OR HAD BEEN CONCENTRATED IN THE CAMPS
DURING THE WAR (1992-1995)



STAND-UP
PERFORMA-
NCES
FOCUSING
ON RECON-
CILIATION
AND CROSS
-ETHNIC
COLLABORATION

Engagement of students -
32 media content produced by participants

**OUTREACH CAMPAIGN
THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA**

ENGAGEMENT: **21741**

REACH: **326896**

IMPRESSIONS: **510830**

PAINT BACK

CHALLENGE - transform public spaces with ultra-nationalist graffiti or displays of hate speech were in BiH. How did we face with this challenge?

4

ethno-nationalist graffiti;

145

students form BiH and region

4

PaintBack campaigns;

4

local street artist

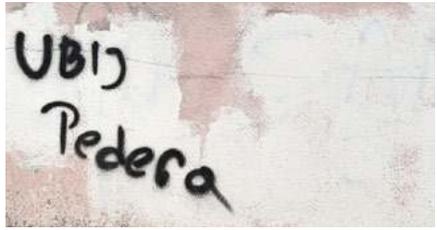
4

murals

14

inspirational videos
by participants
documenting their
work

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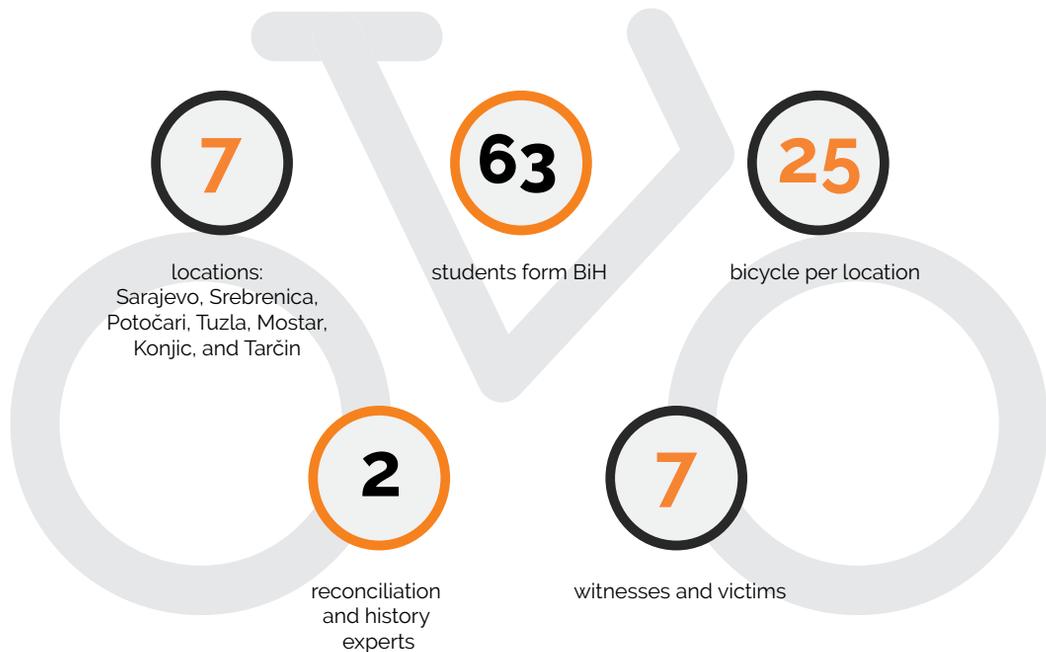


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RECYCLE THE PAST SITE VISITS

CHALLENGE - dealing with the past with students from BiH and learning about the historical events where the majority of civilians had been killed or had been concentrated in the camps during the war (1992-1995). How did we face with this challenge?





Sarajevo – Museum exhibition siege of the city



Potočari - Genocide memorial



Lunch meeting with students from Srebrenica



Tuzla - Tuzla massacre memorial



Mostar - Concentration camp Potoci



Konjic - place where civilians was killed



Tarčin - Concentration camp



Students with bicycle's visited 7 location

PUBLIC SPEAKING AND COMMUNITY DIALOGUE

CHALLENGE - How to fight for reconciliation in BiH in another innovative way? How did we face with this challenge? Hmm, with jokes? Public Speaking and Community Dialogue which provided 13 students with the stand-up form of storytelling, focusing on their experiences with reconciliation and cross-ethnic collaboration developed during the program.

13

Stand-up performances focusing
on reconciliation and cross-ethnic
collaboration



Student performance

3

professional artists



Stand up performance winners, Sarajevo
in December 2019.

OUTREACH CAMPAIGN THROUGH MEDIAS: SOCIAL AND TRADICIONAL MEDIA



Facebook likes / 1084
engagement: 21741
reach: 326896
impressions: 510830



30 followers



469 followers

Content created / shared by project participants on social
media networks through INFOHOUSE project activities:

32



23



142



6

Total content produced and covered by tradicional media:

171

interview

Online media portal, which is run by INFOHOUSE, published the different online contents, including 36 interviews with the high school students, professors and other key actors involved in the project activities and 17 different contributions, who spoke about their impressions, and what they mean to them.



TESTIMONIALS OF PARTICIPANTS:

"After a while, I was invited to participate in bike-ride visits to historical locations in Sarajevo, Srebrenica and Tuzla. I was so glad to get the chance to be a part of this fantastic project, its organization and positive story, which inspire and encourage youth to live together a better life in the future." - Šejla Palić from Travnik

When we got the call to join for the bike tour, I couldn't even imagine how it would look like. I thought that it would be a boring bike ride and that we would not get anything from that... Listening to the man, who talked about his experience and how he lived through the genocide, made me shiver with anger.

Silence and rustling Handkerchiefs were the only sounds that surrounded me. Of course, the man who talked about his memories and difficult time, explaining to us how it had happened. But then we realized that though we should talk about the past, we should never live in it, and that the past should be the ground for the future. We realized that we should not be like people who live before us, that we should be better! We also learned that we should stay together so that the same thing that happened to the people from Srebrenica, never happen to us... the last day of our bike touring was in beautiful Tuzla, a city of salt and freedom. In Tuzla, we first visited the Alley of Youth and cycled to the Gate. This is where one of the witnesses told us a sad story about the great number of young people from Tuzla who were killed on this location. He told us that when he was our age, he buried his friends. And as he were telling us about the past, one can see the pain and huge sadness on his face that had not faded over the years, and he talked about it with a hope that it would never happen again to anyone! His words were "hold on to love, love wins, and hatred loses." I think we should have been listening much more about the past, not allowing it to happen again to us, to future generations, or to other nations." - Irma Durakovic from Cazin

“We were amazed to see the change, especially when we compared the wall before and after the PaintBack. I believe that we cannot completely defeat hatred, but that with this kind of action we have taken a step forward, and that if we continue like this, we will remove most of these hate symbols.” - Marko Velimirovic, Damir Bajraktarevic and Amina Terzic from Sarajevo

“The feeling is wonderful, just because we did some useful and community-friendly work. We have removed a graffiti that has offended other people and thus learned that every form of hate speech, regardless of religion, nation or other affiliation, is a very ugly and bad act.” - Eldar Abidovic from Zavidovic

“Stand-up form can certainly be a driver of changes in our society, because our society has great potentials for inspiring others to make jokes.” - Vedran Mujic from Gradacac”

“Stand-up form can change our society, especially when it comes to changing the views of the masses. It is easier to show people the wrongness of their judgments through humor and satire than through serious speeches, since our society really has a sense of humor. Of course, a comedian must be careful when speak about difficult topics, which in the context of our social problems are many.” - Ahmed Calkic from Zenica



SARAJEVO, 2020.