



A SUCCESSFUL STORY

Culture and Common Language for New Bridges is a project implemented by the NGO Avlija, supported through a small grant program under the Divided Past – Joined Future Project, implemented by the YCC Banja Luka, funded by the EU.



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ČASOPIS ZA KULTURU, KNJIŽEVNOST I DRUŠTVENE TEME

NGO AVLIJA, ROŽAJE

PROJECT TITLE:
CULTURE AND COMMON LANGUAGE FOR NEW BRIDGES

The project goal:

- Strengthening the belief that a common language (Bosnian, Serbian, Croatian, Montenegrin), literature in a common language, as well as a common cultural heritage are an advantage in the process of reconciliation and peace building in the Western Balkans;
- Promoting understanding of the concept of intercultural society by introducing and fostering tolerance, understanding and respect among young people of different identities, as well as preserving the common cultural and historical heritage in the local community;
- Strengthening regional cooperation with reconciliation and peace writers, and increasing influence in advocating reconciliation, suppressing hate speech and radicalization, and strengthening inter-ethnic dialogue.

Targeted group:

In addition to a group of about 40 young volunteers, the project included around 300 writers who participated in the Contest for Best Poetry and Prose on Reconciliation and Peacebuilding. The project also included hundreds of Facebook page members who participated in the anti-fascism strengthening campaign.

Some of the activities carried out during the project

- 1 To map the most important monuments in the local community;
- 2 Announcement of an international literary contest for the best story, poem, aphorism and essay with a theme of reconciliation between the people and building of a lasting and sustainable peace;
- 3 Celebrating the "Mother Tongue Day"
- 4 Workshops were organized on the topic "Participation of the People of Rožaje in the Anti-Fascist Movement"
- 5 Running a continuous campaign on anti-fascism and the participation of the People of Rožaje in the anti-fascist fight
- 6 Organizing an exhibition of 40 unpublished photographs of the Aladža mosque in Foča by Andrej Andrejević, PhD
- 7 Lecture on the topic "Youth and the Importance of Preserving Cultural and Historical Monuments" and "Youth and the Environment"

— ✨ — AWARD-WINNING — ✨ —
POEM AS PART OF THE RECONCILIATION AND PEACE CONTEST

LIGHT

**IN THE CENTENARY DARKNESS,
IN THE DARKNESS OF TODAY,
A RAY OF LIGHT
APPEARS, THE RAY OF SANITY.**

**IN THE DARKNESS OF DIVISIONS,
IN THE DARKNESS OF OUR SCHISM,
LIGHT OVERCOMES THE DARKNESS!
LET'S CELEBRATE THE LIGHT OF HOPE!**

**LET'S CELEBRATE THE PEOPLE'S SANITY,
EXTENDING OUR HANDS SELFLESSLY,
TO THE BROTHER IN DIVERSITY.
LET'S CELEBRATE THE DIFFERENCE AS OUR HOLY PLACE!**



AFTER CARRYING OUT OF THE ACTIVITIES THE COMMENTS WERE DIVIDED, SOME OF THEM EVEN CONTAIN HATE SPEECH, WHICH FURTHER DISPLAYS A NEED TO CONTINUE WORKING ON RECONCILIATION TOPICS IN THE FUTURE.
