

JANUARY 2023

NEWSLETTER



American Councils BiH
Kolodvorska 5, Sarajevo



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YES Abroad Participants Reflect and Connect at the Mid-Year Orientation

In January, YES Abroad participants celebrated the mid-point of their exchange program with a three-day mid-year orientation. Our office organized the event to recognize the students' achievements, reflect on the first part of the program, and prepare them for the upcoming challenges.

Held from January 3-5, on Mountain Igman, near Sarajevo, the orientation provided a scenic backdrop for the participants to engage in discussions, group and individual work, and reflection. Despite the absence of snow, the students enjoyed the fresh mountain air and stunning scenery.



The orientation was designed to strengthen ties within the cohort and provide participants with new insights and perspectives. They shared their experiences and reflections from the first part of the program and set goals and expectations for the remaining months of the exchange. They even explored the differences in how they perceived themselves versus how others perceived them.

Through these activities, the students were able to create new memories, ideas, and a sense of community. They left with plenty of food for thought and renewed energy for the program's second half.

Overall, the mid-year orientation was a great success, helping the YES Abroad participants to reflect, connect, and prepare for the next chapter of their exchange program.



YES Abroad Students Visit Vares to Learn About Local Culture

On Friday, January 27, YES Abroad participants and their Bosnian language teacher, Asmira, visited Vares, her hometown, to learn about the local culture.

Located in central Bosnia and Herzegovina, Vareš is known for its mining activities and production of iron. It's also home to one of the oldest preserved Catholic churches, Crkva sv. Mihovila, which the students had the opportunity to visit.

The students also stopped by Lake Zero, a semi-natural lake, before meeting up with local peers Dalia, Dzejla, and Hana, who showed them around even more.

For YES Abroad participants Anneliese, John, and Syarra, the visit to Vares was a chance to practice their language skills and learn about the local culture. The trip was a great success, providing the students with a unique and immersive experience that they will always remember.

Overall, the visit to Vareš was an excellent opportunity for the YES Abroad students to expand their understanding of Bosnia and Herzegovina and its rich culture. It also allowed them to form new connections with local peers and deepen their appreciation for the country.



YES Abroad Students Attend Ballet Performance at the National Theater in Sarajevo

On Saturday, January 21, YES Abroad participants had the opportunity to attend a ballet performance, "Scheherazade: The Last Evening," at the National Theater in Sarajevo. The performance was set to music from a symphonic suite by Russian composer Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov. The visit to the National Theater, founded in 1921, was an excellent opportunity for the YES Abroad students to experience the rich cultural offerings of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Overall, this event was a wonderful addition to the YES Abroad program, allowing the students to immerse themselves in the local culture and broaden their understanding of the arts in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



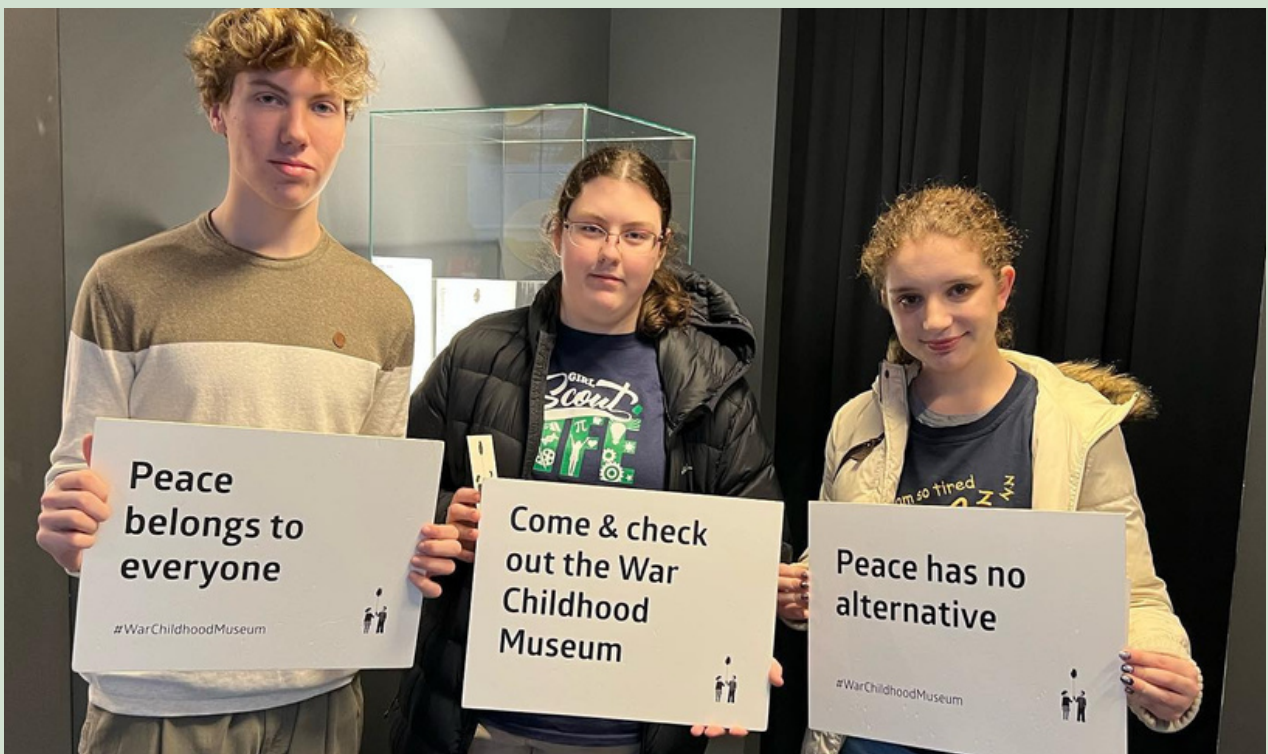
YES Abroad Students Visit Gazi Husrev-bey's Library and the War Childhood Museum in Sarajevo

As part of language and cultural enhancement activities, the Kennedy-Lugar YES Abroad students in Sarajevo visited two important cultural sites: Gazi Husrev-bey's Library and the War Childhood Museum.

The Gazi Husrev-bey's library, dating back to 1537, is a public library in Sarajevo that houses a collection of significant Islamic manuscripts in Bosnia and Herzegovina, many of which were donated by its founder, Gazi Husrev-bey. The students enjoyed a guided tour of the library and learned about the restoration of old manuscripts and books.



The students also visited the War Childhood Museum, which opened in 2017. The museum presents the experiences of children who lived through the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the 1990s, told through objects, video testimonies, and excerpts from oral histories. The day ended with a warm cup of tea at one of Sarajevo's most famous tea cafes, "Franz & Sophie."



Classroom Decoration Project Brings Joy to Butmir Students

The YES Alumni and YES Abroad students have worked hard for the past two months on a super fun project. They decided to decorate one wall in a hallway of the "Amer Cenovic" middle school located in Butmir, a suburb of Sarajevo. Their goal was to provide the school children with a nicer environment to study in, and they certainly succeeded!

The team prepared a world map for decoration, and YES Alumna, Mia Krcum '22, drew famous persons from various countries to be placed on this map and how they contributed to the world. These included inspiring figures such as Malala, Socrates, Muhamed Darwish, Du Fu, Frida Khalo, Mesa Selimovic, and many more!

We hope that this decoration will bring the school children in Butmir more joy and inspire them to learn more about the world. The project was a true success and a great example of how our YES alumni and YES Abroad students are making a positive impact in their communities!





Russian Language Program

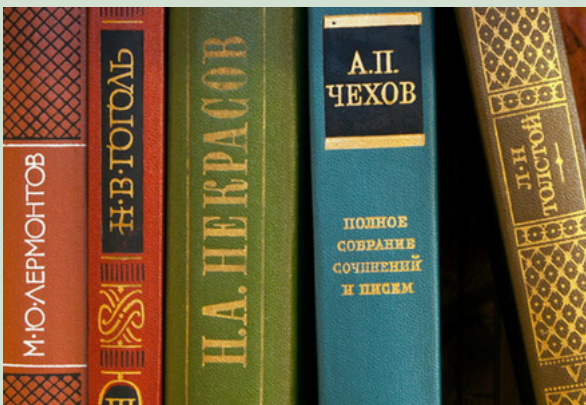
Short-Term Russian Language Program in Sarajevo

In January, our office hosted an intensive short-term Russian Language Program for the first time in Sarajevo. The two participants had the opportunity to work closely with their Russian language teacher, Masa, to improve their knowledge and learn more about the language.

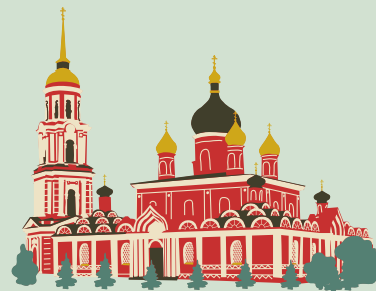
The program also included cultural activities allowing participants to immerse themselves in the local culture. They went on a tour of museums, took lessons in making traditional Bosnian dishes, watched a Russian ballet performance at the Sarajevo National Theatre, and visited the Sarajevo War tunnel.

In addition to these activities, the students also learned about Russian culture through presentations, books, and various sources as part of their language classes.

The program was considered a success, and we hope to continue hosting similar programs in the future.



РУССКИЙ ЯЗЫК



Thanks for reading American Councils January Newsletter, see you next month!