



JULY 2023

NEWSLETTER

American Councils BiH
Kolodvorska 5, Sarajevo



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YES PY 2023-24

YES PY 2023-24 Pre-Departure Orientation in Montenegro

YES program 2023-24 finalists from Albania and Bosnia and FLEX program finalists from Montenegro participated in a regional pre-departure orientation in Podgorica in early July.



At the two-day event, students got the chance to prepare for their upcoming year-long stay in the U.S. by addressing important topics such as attending a U.S. high school, making friends, adjusting to a new culture and taking care of some of the logistics for their upcoming travel such as visa applications.

Congratulations to all, and we wish you safe travels to the U.S. in August and a successful year there!

YES PY 2023-24



YES Abroad

YES Abroad Alumni Visit Sarajevo

In July, we had the chance to meet up with not just one but two YES Abroad alumni: Olivia and Evan (2018-19), who were in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, visiting!



Besides catching up over coffee, alumni also helped as guests at the YES alumni re-entry orientation in Konjic and the PDO for the next generation of YES program participants in Sarajevo.

We love to catch up with past participants in our programs!

YES Alumni

YES PY 2022-23 Re-Entry Orientation in Konjic

From July 7-9, a re-entry orientation for the YES 2022-23 generation took place in Konjic, the northernmost town of Herzegovina.

During a series of workshops held over three days, the newly returned alumni were able to exchange their personal experiences during their time in the U.S., discuss the challenges of reverse culture shock upon returning to Bosnia and Herzegovina, familiarize themselves with the activities alumni engage in, and interact with our more senior alumni including a YES Abroad alumnus too.



YES Alumni

Special thanks go out to our alumni mentors Amela Bektic (YES '09), Dajana Brnada (YES '20), Korina Tomicic (YES '22), and Mia Krcum (YES '22) who assisted at the re-entry orientation. YES alumnus Irfan Durmic (YES '16) hosted a session on "How to Study in the U.S."

Thanks to all for being a constant support and for sharing their experiences on how to be active alumni, including on how to sign up to become city representatives in their communities.



YES Alumni

On the final day of the re-entry orientation in Konjic, the alumni visited the “Andalus Association” where they delivered clothing donations for people in need and did a tour of Konjic! It was a great opportunity for alumni to hear about the work of this NGO, which is focused on youth education, humanitarian aid, and helping youth become more active members of their community!



YES Alumni

Community Service Activities

In July, a city representative in Sarajevo, Silma Jahic '22, organized a healthy lifestyle workshop for local children. Participants got the opportunity to make jams and talk about the importance of healthy living with Silma!

It is a great way to educate children about the importance of homemade and healthy food!



YES Alumni

A Goodbye/Welcome YES Alumni Gathering

In late July, our office team, YES alumni and Balkan Language Initiative student Sydney, gathered for a goodbye/welcome lunch as the YES Alumni Coordinator role switch occurred.

A huge thank you and good luck went to our outgoing YES Alumni Coordinator, Amina, and a welcome to our new YES Alumni Coordinator, Mia, who will take on the role for the 2023-24 program year!



Balkan Language Initiative Program

Visit to the Museum of Sarajevo 1878-1918 and the Art Sevdah House Museum

In July, as part of cultural enhancement activities, we visited the Museum of Sarajevo 1878-1918 with Balkan Language Initiative participant Sydney.

Sydney was able to dwell into the city's captivating past and learn about the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand by Gavrilo Princip. This event was one of the triggers that started World War I.



After that, Sydney visited the Art Sevdah House Museum in Sarajevo in the Old Town (Baščaršija).

This space celebrates traditional Bosnian “Sevdah” music, and we had a chance to see some beautiful exhibits and hear some soulful melodies.

Balkan Language Initiative Program

One-Day Trip to Mostar and Blagaj

During July, BLI program participant Sydney spent one day visiting two mesmerizing places, Mostar and Blagaj, in Herzegovina.

In Mostar, Sydney was enchanted by the iconic Stari Most, the majestic old bridge that stands tall over the Neretva River.

Next, she went to Blagaj and the stunning Blagaj Tekija, a mystical Dervish House built right into the cliffs above the Buna River.

It is amazing how travel can foster connections and open our minds to new perspectives, even at very high summer temperatures!



**Thank You for Reading Our
Monthly Newsletter!**

