



MAY 2023

NEWSLETTER

American Councils BiH
Kolodvorska 5, Sarajevo



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YES ABROAD

Meeting Ambassador Murphy



On May 4, the YES Abroad cohort had the opportunity to visit the U.S. Embassy in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The students had the chance to meet Mr. Michael J. Murphy, the U.S. Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as engage with embassy personnel from various departments. The U.S. Embassy graciously hosted the students; it was an insightful experience for all involved.



Hiking on Bjelasnica Mountain

The YES Abroad Sarajevo cohort wrapped up their program year in Bosnia and Herzegovina with a refreshing out-of-town hike on Bjelasnica Mountain over the past weekend. The group embarked on this adventure to celebrate their collective journey and immerse themselves in the beauty of nature while breathing in the fresh air. It was a memorable way for the students to conclude their time together in Bosnia, creating lasting memories in the great outdoors.



YES ABROAD

End-Year Orientation

From May 7-9, the YES Abroad participants in Bosnia and Herzegovina engaged in a re-entry orientation to facilitate their transition back home. This annual event allows students to reflect on their program year and prepare for their return to the United States.



During the orientation, the students reminisced about their transformative ten months and contemplated their future plans upon returning to the U.S. It was a time for introspection and processing the wealth of experiences they gained during their time in Bosnia.

In addition to the reflective activities, the students had the opportunity to explore the southern part of Bosnia and Herzegovina—Herzegovina itself.

First, in Mostar, the largest town in the region, the students embarked on captivating adventures. The highlight of their exploration was a visit to the mesmerizing Vjetrenica cave near Ravno, where students were immersed in this natural wonder.



They also had the chance to visit the charming towns of Blagaj and Pocitelj.

John humorously found himself almost securing a job selling ice cream. His amusing encounter added an extra layer of laughter and camaraderie to the experience.



YES

20th Anniversary of YES

This year marks a momentous occasion as the YES Program celebrates its 20th anniversary. In May, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, we commemorated this milestone with a series of engaging activities that brought together participants from various backgrounds.



On May 5, Prof. Sam Potolicchio, the founding Executive Director of American Councils Center for Global Leaders Forum, conducted a dynamic two-hour workshop. The workshop focused on enhancing critical thinking and presentation skills, benefiting teachers, professors, and NGO staff in attendance.

Marija Karic, YES Programs Local Coordinator also presented on the YES Programs to our attendees.



To further celebrate the occasion, a special YES-themed reception took place on May 5. The event brought together a diverse group of participants, including Ms. Sarah Hennessey, a representative from the U.S. Embassy to BiH, 17 YES alumni, five YES Abroad students, and program staff.



The festivities surrounding the 20th anniversary of the YES Program in Bosnia and Herzegovina were a testament to the program's enduring impact and the dedication of its participants and supporters.

Leadership Workshop at IBU

On May 6, Dr. Potolicchio delivered an interactive lecture on "Leadership in the 21st Century" at the International Burch University. The audience included esteemed professors, Ph.D. candidates, IBU students, YES Alumni, and YES Abroad participants.



The session offered valuable insights, fostering engaging discussions on modern leadership practices. This event added to the celebration of the YES Programs 20th anniversary, leaving a lasting impact on all participants.



CR Conference in Mostar

The BiH city representative alumni team recently wrapped up their final conference in Mostar. They reflected on the past year, discussed projects and challenges, and honed their skills for the remaining months. Exciting things are expected from these talented individuals!



Thank you for reading American Councils May Newsletter!