



JUNE 2023 NEWSLETTER

American Councils BiH
Kolodvorska 5, Sarajevo



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- YES Abroad Departure
- YES Students Return to BiH
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YES ABROAD

Host Family Farewell Gatherings in Banja Luka and Sarajevo

As we neared the conclusion of the YES Abroad program year, we expressed our heartfelt gratitude to the wonderful host families who generously opened their homes to YES Abroad participants this year. The Sarajevo and Banja Luka cohorts organized farewell gatherings to bid goodbye and commemorate the program's conclusion. While goodbyes are never easy, this particular farewell was infused with a strong sense of pride. We want to sincerely thank all the YES Abroad host families for their invaluable support and hospitality. Thank you for being an integral part of this incredible journey!



YES ABROAD

Departure from Bosnia and Herzegovina



YES Abroad students hosted in Banja Luka and Sarajevo successfully finished their program year and set off to the USA on June 7! We wish them all the best in their future endeavors and congratulate them on successfully finishing their exchange year in BiH!

YES

YES Program Participants Return to Bosnia and Herzegovina

On the same day that the YES Abroad students left Bosnia and Herzegovina from the Sarajevo International Airport, we welcomed back home the YES program participants from their program year spent in the USA! We were delighted to see 18 smiling faces reunited with their families and friends. We wish the newly returned alumni all the best and lots of community service projects in the future.



Balkan Language Initiative Program

BLI Student Sydney Arrives in Sarajevo

On June 9, we were thrilled to welcome our summer Balkan Language Initiative program participant, Sydney Stotter, who embarked on a two-month journey of learning about the language and culture of BiH, while living in Sarajevo.

Let Sarajevo be your home away from home as you create new memories, Sydney.



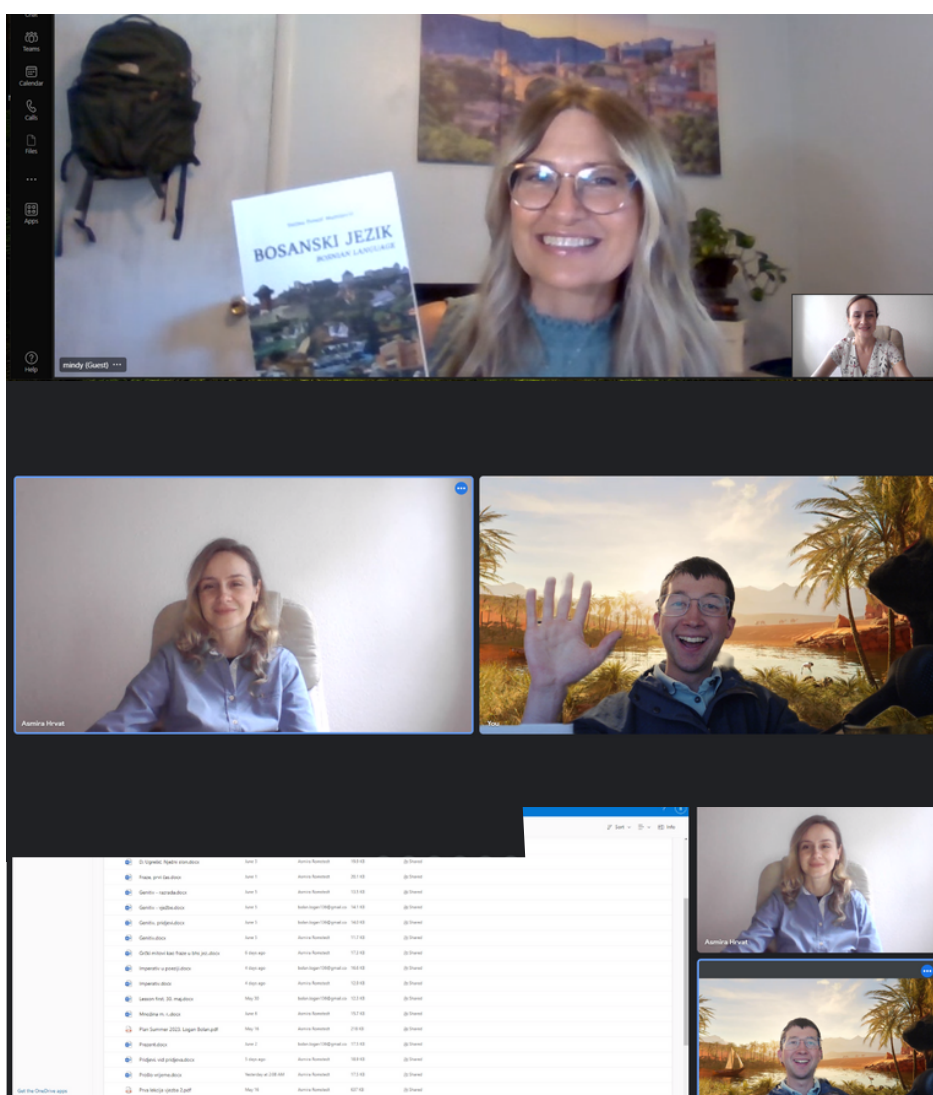
Balkan Language Initiative Program

Virtual BLI Summer Program

Through virtual language learning programs, such as the BLI program, participants can improve their B/C/S language skills by learning grammar, spelling, conversation, and much more from the comfort of their own homes.

As such, in June online Balkan Language Initiative program commenced with two participants from the United States, Logan, and Melinda. Until late August, these students will learn the B/C/S language and explore the culture of BiH.

We wish them both much fun and gained knowledge about Bosnia and Herzegovina and B/C/S!



Balkan Language Initiative Program

BLI Cultural Activities

In June, our program staff and BLI participant, Sydney, had an amazing time participating in various cultural activities in Sarajevo! First, we visited the National Museum of BiH and the History Museum, discovering Bosnia's rich history and diverse traditions.



From the Natural History Department and the Botanical Garden of the National Museum to the room dedicated to refugees and the history of former Yugoslavia at the History Museum, the audio gallery about traditional music called Sevdalinka, and charming rooms showcasing the traditional Bosnian houses, Sydney was able to learn a lot about Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Balkan Language Initiative Program

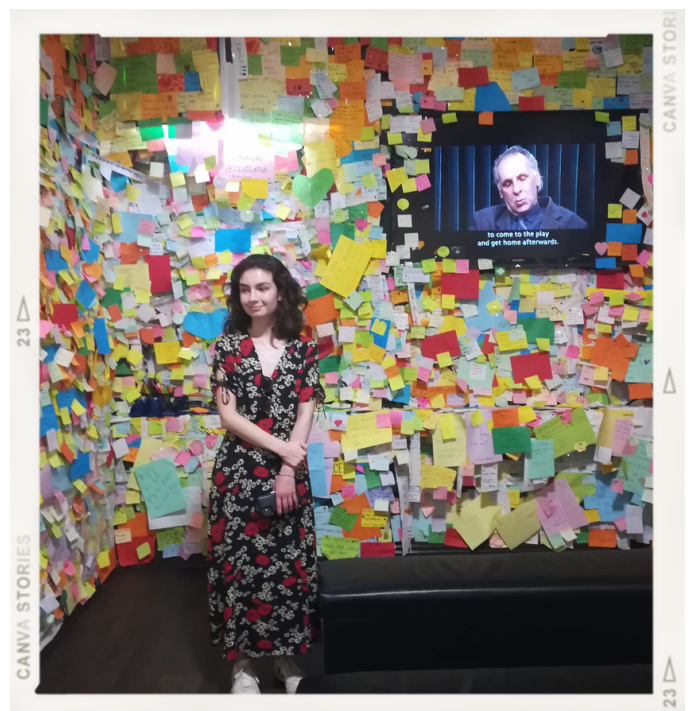
Visiting the War Childhood Museum and Museum of Crimes Against Humanity and Genocide

We also visited the War Childhood Museum and Museum of Crimes Against Humanity and Genocide with our Balkan Language Initiative program participant Sydney.

As we explored the museums, we had the opportunity to witness a collection of childhood objects and stories that belonged to those who grew up in war zones.

We also discovered a room filled with peace messages from all over the world. It was a powerful testament to the universal desire for harmony and understanding, transcending nationalities and borders.

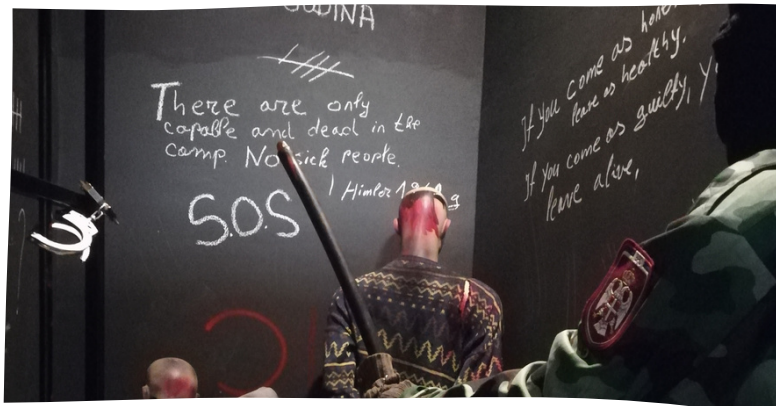
Once again, we are reminded of the importance of promoting peace and unity!



Balkan Language Initiative Program

Visiting the War Childhood Museum and the Museum of Crimes Against Humanity and Genocide in Sarajevo

Sydney also had the opportunity to listen to the war stories of ordinary people in the Bosnian language, and at the same time practice the language while conversing with museum staff.



YES Alumni

Community Service Activities

During May, Silma Jahic '22 and Mia Krcum '22, both city representatives for Sarajevo, volunteered at the Maarif Schools of Sarajevo library and the American Corner Sarajevo.

Mia and Silma helped the staff by sorting books, digitalizing the library's book collection into their online library website, and helping students with various activities, including preparations for the school's science fair.

Proud of our CRs! Keep up the good work!



YES Alumni

City Representative of the Month



YES Alumni program
City Representative of the Month

for April 2023 is

Silma Jahic '22

from Bosnia and Herzegovina

PURPOSEFUL WORK



Silma Jahic '22 has been awarded for her exemplary work as a City Representative for **Sarajevo**. Silma's work as CR stood out for its consistency and innovation. She held a project every month since starting her position in September 2022, despite the challenges of being a college student. Silma is also actively involved in other events and activities and consistently gets good grades.

One of Silma's projects, held on February 16, was an English language workshop for nine students from Osma osnovna skola "Amer Cenanovic" in Butmir, a suburb of Sarajevo. The workshop was designed to help participants develop critical thinking and English language skills through a series of language-based activities. Another project held on March 11 was a presentation and trivia session for International Women's Day, which was attended by two alumnae, seven high school and college students. The session was informative, fun, and aimed to raise awareness about women's issues.



Silma's work as CR is having a positive impact on the community, especially youth. She consistently includes young people in her projects and creates educational and innovative sessions that help participants learn new skills and gain knowledge. Her projects, designed to educate and inform young people, have been well-received and successful.



We are proud to share that our City Representative for Sarajevo, Silma Jahic '22, was selected as a City Representative of the Month for April 2023! Thank you Silma for working hard for our community and being a positive influence for the youth!

**Thank you for reading our
monthly newsletter!**

