



"Building bridges between people and cultures through inspiring, quality education"

Message from the Head

Dear Friends of UWC Mostar,

In 1955, Kurt Hahn delivered a speech at the NATO Defense College in Paris. During his visit, he was inspired by the cooperation and loyalty shown by military men who had very recently been on opposite sides in World War Two. (<https://www.uwc.org/history>). This was the seed for the establishment of the first UWC, UWC Atlantic (originally called Atlantic College) in Wales in 1962. It was the world's first international college for teenagers aged 16 to 19. This commitment to getting young people to live and learn together for peace, understanding and resilience continues at all 18 UWC schools and colleges even today.

Recently, the UWC Heads met in Israel and Palestine for their retreat. In the words of the very experienced Laurence Nodder, the Rector at UWC Robert Bosch in Freiburg, Germany - to get to know how each of us thinks and acts, who we can turn to for advice and support, and to do so in a context where we can interact also with people strongly associated with UWC and in a part of the world with a powerful and complex history. Besides various meetings and visits to places of historical, emotional and religious importance and debate, we were able to stay with host families in the Aida refugee camp (<https://www.unrwa.org/where-we-work/west-bank/aida-camp>) and to also visit (in Palestine) the family of a student attending a UWC at the moment. The interaction with these families and with our alumni, both in the Israeli and the Palestinian NCs made us reflect on how the importance of UWCs as a space where young people from all over the world can come together to develop an understanding of each other and take this understanding with them to sow the seeds of a more peaceful and sustainable world; is even more relevant today than ever before.

UWC Mostar in its specific setting has an important purpose of contributing positively to a post-conflict society. The short course that we offer every year during the summer, Bridging Cultures (<https://www.facebook.com/Bridgingcultures2019>) is one way of bringing the youth in the region (BiH, Serbia, Croatia, Montenegro etc) together to foster multicultural understanding that contributes to the peace building process. Our staff and students also strengthen our commitment to contributing to a peaceful world with their initiatives throughout the year. The updates in this

newsletter and on our social media give you a glimpse of this continuous effort and our attempts to work towards a world as described in Rabindranath Tagore's words:

*Where the mind is without fear and the
head is held high*

Where knowledge is free

*Where the world has not been broken
up into fragments*

By narrow domestic walls

*Sonia Rawat,
Head of UWC Mostar*

Cooperations and activities



Educational Workshops at UWC Mostar

"History Teachers and their role in creating a vision of education"

Educational workshops "History Teachers and their role in creating a vision of education" welcomed 23 participants from BiH, including representatives of the Institute for Education Mostar and representatives of the OSCE Mission in Mostar, participating in three workshops held by Bojana Blagojević Dujković, Euro Clio HIP, Melisa Forić Plasto, Euro Clio HIP and UWC Mostar's History teacher Dženan Hakalović.

Workshops covered the topics of History through the eyes of an ordinary person - contribution to teaching social history, "Literate and obedient?" - educational policies in Kingdom of Yugoslavia and Teaching about controversial topics.

The goal of the educational workshops was to exchange opinions and raise awareness about the application of different teaching strategies and methods in the design of history teaching and to develop the ability to analyse and self-analyse the teaching of history.

[More](#)

MUN Conference at UWC Mostar





This March UWC Mostar organized and hosted Model United Nations Conference in Mostar 2023! With delegates from 33 countries of the world, students discussed a number of current world topics and issues through their work in MUN committees and councils, including the Security Council, United Nations Human Rights Council, United Nations Environmental Program, International Maritime Organization and United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

Model United Nations, also known as model UN or MUN, is an educational simulation in which students learn about diplomacy, international relations, and the United Nations. At a MUN conference, students work as the representative of a country, organization, or person, and must solve a problem with other delegates from around the world. MUN teaches participants skills like research, public speaking, debating, and writing, in addition to critical thinking, teamwork, and leadership.





Dr Pilvi Torsti appointed as Director of the European Training Foundation

We are happy to announce that Dr Pilvi Torsti, the co-founder of UWC Mostar, has been appointed as the new Director of the European Training Foundation!

The European Parliament has endorsed the appointment of Dr Pilvi Torsti as the new Director of the European Training Foundation (ETF), an EU agency based in Turin, Italy, that supports human capital development in the EU's neighbouring countries. Dr Torsti is an expert in education policy with extensive experience in the public sector, academia, and civil society.

Dr Torsti served as a State Secretary in three ministries: the Ministry of Education and Culture 2013-2015 and Ministry of Employment and Economic Affairs & Ministry of Transport and Communications 2019-2023. From 2017 to 2019, Pilvi Torsti was an MP and a member of the education and future committees of the Finnish parliament.

She holds a PhD in social sciences from the University of Helsinki, and is the co-founder of the United World College in Mostar (UWC Mostar).

She is the founder of HEI Schools, an education company co-owned by the University of Helsinki where she has been an adjunct professor since 2012 and was nominated as the adjunct professor of the year in 2020. She has published broadly, most recently co-authoring a series of articles on a Global Education Vision. Dr Torsti has been a member of the Eisenhower Fellowship program since 2013, granting her access to a diverse and influential global leadership network.

Read more: europa.eu/!Ny738D



Favourite cooperations this month:

- Visual Arts Workshop CAS - a workshop on Visual Arts in Čapljina high school. Students discussed the purpose, definition and significance of art, touched upon the history of art and its development, and had a wonderful opportunity to meet and exchange knowledge and experiences with their local peers.
- Workshop with Gimnazija Mostar - theme of this workshop was critical analysis and discussions of artwork by artist Banksy. Fun time, wonderful interaction and great cooperation between students!

Events and Initiatives



Bald for a Cause by UWC Mostar students

More than 40 UWC Mostar students donated their hair and supported this great cause second year

in a row. Hair was donated to the Association [Srce za djecu oboljelu od raka](#) whose representatives joined us during the event and made sure that all donated hair is properly prepared, packed and ready to be used for making medical wigs for children fighting temporary or permanent hair loss due to cancer.

All of the students who donated their hair received Certificates of Appreciation for their support and donation!

Our special thank you goes to students and teachers of [JU Srednja politehnička škola Mostar](#) who supported this initiative. [More](#)



UWC Mostar contributed to the "NOT ALONE" campaign organised by the Red Cross FBiH. Our students collected more than 40 hygiene product packages for women and girls of Turkey and Syria, affected by the recent earthquakes.

[More](#)

Gallery - Holi by UWC Mostar



Gallery - Spring Arts Exhibition



Alumni

13 MARCH 2023

CAREER DAY

With UWC Mostar alumni

15:00 CET

 <p>MONIKA VÁCLAVKOVÁ Class of 2016 Clinical Psychology and Chronobiology</p>	 <p>AMAR IDRIZOVIĆ Class of 2010 Software engineering</p>	 <p>MILA GAJIĆ Class of 2016 Digital Animation and Interactive Media</p>	 <p>TATENDA DZVIMBO Class of 2017 Managerial Economics and International Development</p>	 <p>ALICJA ZDANOWICZ Class of 2022 Medicine</p>
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**UWC Mostar, Alumni Stories:
Career day 2023!**

In cooperation with the University Counseling Department, 5 of our wonderful alumni participated in the Career Day discussing the topics of university applications, student life and career paths!

[More](#)



VACANCIES AT UWC MOSTAR

For information and details, please go to:

www.uwcmostar.ba

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