



**SCHOOL YEAR 2022-2023** 



# Table of Contents:

Review by the Head: So Proud of the Community at UWC Mostar	2
Foundation Education in Action	5
Aims and Objectives	
Governing Board	
Founders Elisabeth Rehn & Lamija Tanović	
Chair of the Board	
Board members.	
United World College in Mostar (UWC Mostar)	9
College Board	11
Biographies	12
Welcome message from the Mayor of the City of Mostar	
Overview of UWC Mostar students 2022/2023	14
UWC Mostar Staff	15
School Statistics 2022/2023	16
University Entry Statistics	17
World countries represented at UWC Mostar since 2006-2023	18
Cooperations and Highlights	20
Project Week	20
UWC Mostar at the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference - COP27	21
Bald for a Cause	21
The World in One City	22
12 hours race	23
UWC Day	25
Exploring BiH	26
Professional development of teachers	27
Host Family Pogram	28
Outdoor Program	29
Bridging Cultures Short Course	30
Alumni Initiatives	
Alumni Initiatives	34
Endowment "Bridge to the Future"	
Overview of the Endowment	38
Financial Statement for the school year 2022/2023	
Financial Report 2022-23	42

Cover photo by Denis Kapetanović.



t is with great pride that I present to you, this Annual Report bringing to you a glimpse of the amazing work that continues to happen at UWC Mostar. Our life blood, our wonderful students from 70 countries in the world, our dedicated local and international staff, our willing local partners without whom much of our mission oriented work would not be possible, our enabling College Board & the Foundation Education in Action Board, our engaged alumni, our precious National Committee partners as well as our awesome colleagues at the UWC International Office; all contribute to making the intense mission-oriented work at the college possible.

Since the position of an Outdoor Coordinator was introduced at the college, the Outdoor Program has gone from strength to strength with wonderful weekend activities almost each weekend, Project Weeks that offer amazing Outdoor challenges and options, and in particular this year, offering the wider community of young people in Mostar to join the training for the prestigious Mostar Half-marathon. At least 15 young people from Mostar joined the students for the training and 45 runners participated from the college, winning us the award for the largest participation from any organisation! In addition, 35 of our student volunteers helped with the organisation of the race. It is no surprise that the Outdoor Program and the regular physical activity out in nature that it results in, contributes greatly to good physical as well as mental health of the students. With the pressures of the academic program, and sometimes what the IB is infamous for (probably not appropriately!), this is very important. In fact, in one of my regular one on one meetings with students, I had one of them exclaim to me "I am so grateful for the Outdoor Program, it has kept me sane! - I sign up for every activity that is offered!" To me, there is no better validation than this!

While this year has been a lot about focusing on the well-being of our students, we were also able to accomplish something we have been planning for a long time. Last year, we offered professional development sessions for local teachers from 16 different schools from across Bosnia & Herzegovina as part of the Teachers for Future program and this was very successful. However, we have wanted for a long time to also bring History educators in the country and beyond together to look at how History can be taught and questioned. This year we were very happy to have been able to do a webinar "History without borders" - Teaching History through a multiperspective approach in Bosnia & Herzegovina. While this had a session in the local language, it had a longer session in English making it more accessible for parents, partners and friends of UWC Mostar to login from various parts of the world. We also followed up with a workshop in the next term, specifically for History teachers in the country on "History teachers and their role in creating a vision of education". Teachers were able to exchange opinions and reflect on the teaching strategies and methods in the design of History teaching. In a country with a segregated education system, this is critical work that we are glad to be contributing to.

And all of this wonderful work continues to happen due to our staff and students who do this out of love; for, as one of my favourites of all time, Khalil Gibran says:

When you work you are a flute through whose heart the whispering of the hours turns to music. Which of you would be a reed, dumb and silent, when all else sings together in unison?

Read on to discover all that makes us want to do more...

Sonia Rawat, Head, UWC Mostar



# Aims and Objectives

UWC Mostar was founded by Foundation Education in Action, a legal successor of the Finnish Association "From Conflict to Internationalism", has been established with the aim of contributing to the educational reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina and advocating for the introduction of modern teaching and learning methods in the curriculum, by offering professional development possibilities to educators in BiH. More than 1000 teachers, headmasters, pedagogical institute employees and ministers have been part of the workshops, conferences and study visits organized under the Foundation's umbrella.

# **Governing Board**

Elisabeth Rehn and Lamija Tanović are founders of the Foundation Education in Action which is managed by the international Governing Board. The Chair of the Foundation's Governing Board is Dr Pilvi Torsti. The activities of Foundation Education in Action are managed by the Governing Board.



# Chair of the Board

**DR PILVI TORSTI** (Finland) is the Chair of the Foundation Education in Action. She is the Director of the European Training Foundation. Prior to this position she served as an MP of the national parliament being a member of education and future committees 2017-2019 and a State Secretary at the Finnish government.

Pilvi Torsti was one of the founders of an international educational initiative in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which resulted in the establishment of UWC Mostar in 2006.

# Founders Elisabeth Rehn & Lamija Tanović



**ELISABETH REHN** was the Patron of the UWC-IBO Initiative in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Association "Education from Conflict to Internationalism", of which the UWC-IBO Initiative was a project. She was the United Nations Special Reporter on the situation of Human Rights in the Republic of Croatia, FRY, Bosnia and Herzegovina and FYROM (1995–1998) and the United Nations Under-Secretary General, Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Bosnia and Herzegovina (1998–1999), and she possesses an extensive knowledge of the country and region.



Lamija Tanović was the Chair of the Executive Committee of the UWC-IBO Initiative in Bosnia and Herzegovina and she held that position from the establishment of the Executive Committee in May 2005. Mrs Tanović is a Professor of Physics at the Sarajevo School of Science and Technology. She was the Head of the International Department for Education and Culture at the B&H Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2001-2004) and B&H Ambassador to Denmark (1994-2001).

"

The Foundation Education in Action is a non-governmental, nonpolitical and nonprofit organization registered in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Foundation is a successor to the UWC-IBO Initiative in BiH which established the UWC Mostar in 2006.

The Foundation's mission is to provide the next generations of young people in Bosnia and Herzegovina with the knowledge, skills, leadership qualities and international values, necessary to overcome the ethnic divides and move their nation into the 21st century.

# **Board members:**



JASMINKA BRATIĆ (BiH) Jasminka Bratić (Bosnia and Herzegovina) is the former secretary of the Faculty of Economics of the University "Džemal Bijedić" in Mostar and the former assistant minister of the Ministry of Justice, Administration and Local Self-Government of Herzegovina-Neretva Canton (Mostar). She has extensive professional experience in the legal system of BiH, as well as a long period of volunteer work in the educational system of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Mrs. Bratić firmly believes that education is key to building peace, and that the principle of unity of diversity is the foundation of human existence, which motivates her involvement in educational initiatives, and especially within the UWC movement. She enthusiastically supported the opening of UWC Mostar and served as the Chair of the School Board of Gimnazija Mostar since 2006 in several mandates, a position she remains in for the 2022-2026 term.



IVAN LORENČIĆ (Slovenia) is an education expert and former Headmaster of the 2nd Gymnasium Maribor, Slovenia. He was the Director of the National Education Institute of the Republic of Slovenia (1993-2000). He has also been leading the Centre for the Professional Development of Teachers in Bosnia and Herzegovina since 2005.



ADRIAAN DE MOL VAN OTTERLOO (The Netherlands) is the Chief Investment Officer at UWC Endowment, former Trustee of Amera (Africa and Middle East Refugee Assistance) and former Trustee of the Friends of the Tate Gallery. He is a graduate of the UWC of the Adriatic.



**UWC Mostar** is part of the broader UWC movement, founded in 1962, following the concept of the German educationalist Kurt Hahn, who believed that much could be done to overcome religious, cultural and racial misunderstanding and avoid conflict if young people from all over the world could be brought together.

We aim to reach and to influence those young people in Bosnia and Herzegovina who are seeking to shape their future in a society that has yet to come to terms with its past. They are the future of the country and its hope for reconciliation.

Furthermore, UWC Mostar broadens this special mission by offering the same opportunities to the young people from all over the world, especially those coming from other post-conflict countries, particularly from the Balkans.

UWC Mostar educates students to learn and appreciate their differences, at the same time promoting equality, tolerance and critical thinking.

# **UWC MOSTAR GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE**

**GOVERNING BOARD** OF THE FOUNDATION "EDUCATION IN ACTION" (Foundation Education in Action is the legal founder of UWC Mostar)

> **COLLEGE BOARD** OF UWC MOSTAR

WORKING BODIES OF THE COLLEGE BOARD (SUBCOMMITTEES)

**ACADEMIC** 

**PASTORAL AND** WELLBEING

**FINANCE** 

**CAS AND OUTDOOR** 

**IMPACT** AND OUTREACH

The subcommittee's task is to act as an advisory body that will propose solutions to any problems encountered in the work of the College at the invitation of the Head of College, or upon the College Board establishing itself that a problem exists, in close communication with the Head of College. In their work, the subcommittees cooperate closely with the coordinators who manage the subject area from whom they can request all the necessary information. Subcommittees submit the reports on their work, opinions and proposals on the necessary activities to the College Board, which then makes the final decision.

# College Board

**UWC MOSTAR** is registered as a private secondary school under the laws of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The College Board governs UWC Mostar, appoints the College Head (subject to the formal approval of the Foundation Education in Action), approves the annual budget, executes any of the functions and duties normally executed by a College board, and is directly accountable to the UWC International for adherence to UWC criteria and practices including participation in UWC meetings.

UWC Mostar College Board 2022/2023:

- 1. Jasminka Bratić (Chair)
- 2. Ivan Lorenčič
- 3. Augusta Campagne
- 4. Fleur Meijs
- 5. Mirna Doyle
- 6. Andrew Bennett
- 7. Sandra Ann Thomas
- 8. Sead Filipović
- 9. Robert Hilliard
- 10. Darko Gligorovski (Staff Representative)
- 11. Judy Peritz Wynne (Parent Representative)
- 12. Dara Bonomi (Staff Representative)
- 13. Jasmina Hodžić (Alumni Representative)

Non-voting members: Head of College, Student Council Leaders



# Biographies

JASMINKA BRATIĆ (Bosnia and Herzegovina) served as the Assistant to the Minister of Justice of the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton (Mostar), and has an extensive professional experience within the legal system of BiH. She enthusiastically supported the opening of the UWC in Mostar, while serving as the Chair of the School Board of Gymnasium Mostar. Mrs Bratic strongly believes in education as being crucial for peace-building, which motivates her involvement in educational initiatives.

IVAN LORENČIČ (Slovenia) was the Headmaster of the 2nd Gymnasium Maribor, Slovenia (an IB school since 1990). He was the Director of the National Education Institute of the Republic of Slovenia (1993-2000) and was responsible for curriculum development and implementation, teacher training, implementation of national external examinations and the reform of primary and secondary education. He has also been leading the Centre for the Professional Development of Teachers in Bosnia and Herzegovina since 2005.

SANDRA ANN THOMAS (United Kingdom) has 35 years of classroom experience, as a teacher of IB English, and A-level English Literature. At the United World College of the Adriatic (1995-2009) she worked as an English teacher, Head of Department and as Deputy Head (1997-2009), with responsibility for all aspects of the academic programme, pastoral care and university counseling. At UWC Adriatic, Mrs Thomas shared a residence with students for fourteen years. Her extensive experience includes participation in UWC student se-

lections, IB examinations, and UWC audits.

FLEUR MEIJS (The Netherlands) is a UWC IO Board member and serves as a permanent proxy for UWC Mostar College Board. As a partner at PwC in the City of London, she specialized in significant and complex audit and advisory projects with financial institutions in the City. She also served as a member of the Dutch Parliamentary Committee in respect of the Structure of Dutch Banks following the credit crisis. Mrs Meijs left PwC to become a non-executive director and to dedicate more time to charity work (as a non-executive director for Fidelity European Values plc, Invesco Asia Trust plc, and Ruffer LLP). In her efforts to give back to society she has worked for the children's development organization Plan International in West Africa, as a trustee of the British Museum Friends, and has set up with her husband the endowment for UWC Mostar, Bridge to the Future.

**ANDREW BENNETT** (United Kingdom) worked at UWCSEA in Singapore (1981-2004), the final 11 years as Head of College. He has also served as the Chair of the UWC Heads Committee. From 2006 to 2015, Mr Bennett was employed by St Joseph's Institution in Singapore, initially as the founding Principal of SII International. He is retired and living in the UK.

**AUGUSTA CAMPAGNE** (Austria, The Netherlands) was the president of the Austrian UWC National Committee and one of Europe's leading specialists in historical basso continuo performance practice. She is a former professor of harpsichord and figured

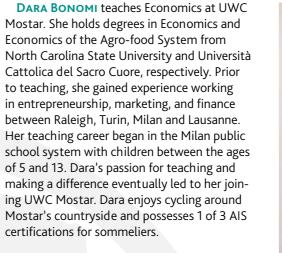
bass at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna, Austria. She is a UWC Atlantic alumni.

MIRNA DOYLE (Bosnia and Herzegovina) served as the Development Director of UWC in Mostar when the college was established in 2006. She is an experienced education policy analyst, advisor and project manager, specialising in education reform and civil society advocacy in BiH. Ms Doyle has worked in this capacity for several organisations in the country, including the European Union Special Representative, the state Agency for Preschool, Primary and Secondary Education, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the Open Society Fund in BiH. Ms Doyle is also an experienced writer and editor. She is currently living in The Netherlands.

SEAD FILIPOVIĆ (Bosnia and Herzegovina) is serving as the Chief Finance Officer at the Secretariat of the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) in Sarajevo. He holds a degree in Information Technologies and has worked for organisations including the Office of the High Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the International Commission on Missing Persons. He contributed to the development of the first budget of the UWC-IBO Initiative in BiH.

ROB HILLIARD (Australia) has worked in residential schools in the UK, India (UWC), Australia, Austria and Sweden. After completing his MPhil in Educational Research at Cambridge, he spent six years in the British Army. Beyond the classroom, Mr Hilliard has run large outdoor education and leadership programmes and facilitated trips around the world.

# Welcome message from the Mayor of the City of Mostar



DARKO GLIGOROVSKI (North Macedonia) teaches Global Politics and Theory of Knowledge at UWC Mostar. He is a UWC alumni (Li Po Chun United World College of Hong Kong 2008-2010).

JUDY PERITZ WYNNE (UK) is a parent member of the College Board. Judy is currently working as a Senior Business Development Consultant, and before that she has been Interim Head of International Sales at Firefly Learning, Head of Marketing, EMEA at 3P Learning Ltd. Her extensive international work experience also include positions in the USA and Israel and the main focus of her career has been working in companies that wanted to impact students' learning and in terms of enabling personalised learning routes and as well as access to quality educational content. Judy holds a Master's degree in Education from Trenton State College and is skilled and comfortable in multilingual and multicultural audiences across geographies.

JASMINA HODŽIĆ (Bosnia and Herzegovina) is an alumni member of the College Board. As a consultant at Boston Consulting Group (BCG), she specializes in renewable energy and sustainability consulting. She graduated as the first generation of UWC Mostar, and has gone on to earn degrees in the US, France, Austria and Italy. She is a strong believer in the power of the alumni base to support and advance UWC Mostar's mission.



Mayor of the City of Mostar, Dr. Mario Kordić, welcomed the 17th generation of students of the United World College in Mostar in the City Hall. "Dear friends,

It is a special honor to greet you on behalf of the City of Mostar. As Erasmus of Rotterdam once said: "The greatest hope of any country lies in the appropriate education of young people". It is this thought that adorns the mission and vision of the United World College in Mostar. We are happy that Mostar is the home to your extremely valued and globally established educational institution. I thank you for launching an initiative to establish the College back in 2006. I am convinced that we can all be proud today and say that we have succeeded.

According to the pedagogical thought that education and upbringing are greatly influenced by the place where the learning process takes place, I am sure that each of you will always carry with you our city, our Mostar"

> Mario Kordić, Mayor of the City of Mostar

# Overview of UWC Mostar students 2022/2023

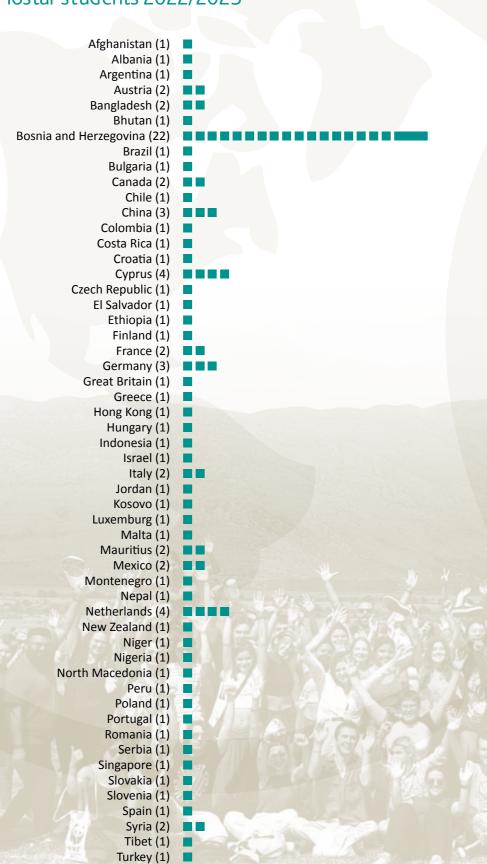


**97** students

58 countries

24 M

73 F



Uganda (1)

Venezuela (1)

United States of America (4)

Ukraine (2)

**16th** generation 2021-2023

110 students

53 countries

36 M

74 F



Spain (1)

Tanzania (1)

Venezuela (1)

United States of America (5)

Turkey (1)

Yemen (1)

Syria (2)

In the school year 2022/2023

the total number of staff at UWC Mostar was 65.

Our staff comes from 12 countries of the world: BiH, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Great Britain, India, Italy, North Macedonia, Poland, Serbia.

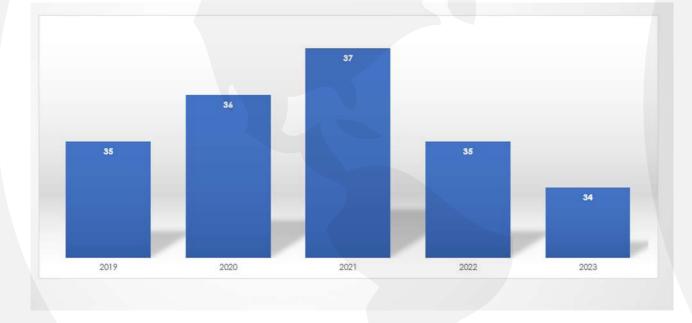
# School Statistics 2022/2023

107 students registered as Diploma 104 students obtained Diploma 97% diploma pass rate

The highest score is 44 points
The mean diploma point score is 34
The mean world point score is 30.24
The average grade obtained by all candidates is 5.33
The world average grade is 4.84

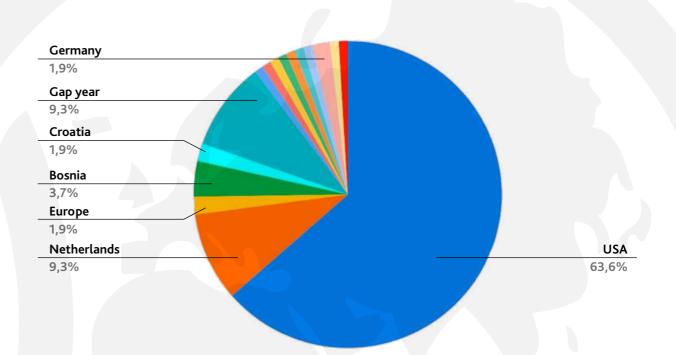


# Average 5 years score:



# **University Entry Statistics**

GENERATION 2021-2023 / University final decision



USA	Netherlands	Europe	ВіН	Croatia	Gap year	Slovenia	Ireland	France	Poland
68	10	2	4	2	10	1	1	1	1

China	Australia	Austria	Germany	Serbia	Canada
1	1	1	2	1	1

Total graduates: 107



# **Cooperations and Highlights**

UWC Mostar is recognized for it's educational, humanitarian, cultural, outdoor and sports activities together with the local community in the City of Mostar, Herzegovina-Neretva Canton, entities and State level. In this academic year we had 106 organized activities from Eco cleaning actions, Project week, professional development of teachers seminars/webinars, Model of United Nations, TEDx, to Open Day presentations, student led activities such as Bald for a Cause, World in One City etc. We love each and every one of them and we thank everyone involved in these activities. We are grateful for everyone involved in these activities and for their contribution to our mission.

# Project Week

Every year, all UWC students across all colleges participate in a week-long project. It is one of the most educational parts of co-curricular learning at UWC Mostar. Projects are designed by students and staff and aim to challenge students to better themselves, explore their passion, and share their experiences with the rest of the community. It is also a great opportunity to meet new friends and discover

oneself. Project weeks are also an important outreach activity of UWC Mostar. They offer us an opportunity to strengthen our connection to the local community, expand on our work with local partners, and live on our mission of building bridges between people and cultures. By participating in a project week, our students also become ambassadors of UWC Mostar which helps build connections across

Bosnia and Herzegovina. Our project weeks are grouped into three different categories:

- Service Project Weeks learning through service while partnering with local organizations
- Expedition Project Weeks learning through the discovery of nature or historical sites
- Creativity Project Weeks learning through creation





# Bald for a Cause

More than 40 students donated their hair to the Association "Srce za djecu oboljelu od raka", an association helping children fighting temporary or permanent hair loss due to cancer by making medical wigs. All of the students who donated their hair received Certificates of Appreciation for their support and donation. The students have also raised more than 3000 € in order to support the work of the Association "Novi Pogled", an association providing psychological help and support to the women with breast cancer and their families, during and after the treatment, as well as raising awareness on importance of health care.

Our special thank you goes to students and teachers of the Secondary Polytechnical School Mostar who supported this initiative with their hairdressing trainees who were in charge of cutting the hair and preparing it for donation. This is the second year of our successful cooperation with plans for more joint activities next year.

# UWC Mostar at the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference - **COP27**

UWC Mostar participated in the 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference - COP27.

The 2022 United Nations Climate Change Conference, more commonly referred to as Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC, or COP27, was the 27th United Nations Climate Change conference, took place in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.

The team was invited to participate at the Conference of Parties 27 as guests of the United Arab Emirates. Students met and interacted with some of the ministers of Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, former president of Iceland and the president of UAE. They had the opportunity to meet experts and leaders in different sectors and present the values of the UWC movement, UWC Mostar, and Bosnia and Herzegovina.







# The World in One City

"The World in One City", a project initiated by Tourism Studies, University "Džemal Bijedić" in Mostar, in cooperation with UWC Mostar and UWC Mostar students from 30 countries of the world, presented national costumes from different countries of the world to the Mostar community in the heart of the Old Town Mostar.

One of the aims of this project is also the creation of a promotional video that will send a message of unity from Mostar.

The event was supported by the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports of Herzegovina-Neretva Canton.

"The world in one city is a wonderful idea of showing diversity. And how to portray this, if not through the UWC Mostar attended by students from 78 countries of the world. Haris Idriz, Director of Advancement and Outreach, UWC Mostar.

"This event is a fantastic opportunity for the UWC community, which brings together people from all over the world, to learn from the local community and share our ideas with them. We came from all over the world to show our culture and beliefs, and to get feedback and establish a relationship with the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina." Alvaro Micocci, UWC Mostar, Class of 2024.

# 12 HOURS RACE

Organized by UWC Mostar students, the "12 hour race" took place as a part of the "24h Race" project, which aims to provide support in the fight against work of the "Dignitet" Association. human trafficking.

"24 Hour Race" is an organization that fights against human trafficking by organizing student relay races around the world. The event included a day of activities related to raising awareness about the topic and

collecting funds to help organizations fighting human trafficking. All funds collected were donated to support the

Aims and the mission of "Dignitet" Association in Mostar are directed towards the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, education, support and personality development of children, and the protection and preservation of the

family. Through education, advisory activities, research work, informing and raising the awareness of children and the public, "Dignitet" realizes their program goals, which are aimed at the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, education, support and personality development of children, and the protection and preservation of the family.







# Professional development of teachers

UWC Mostar organizes a series of workshops, conferences, seminars, webinars systematically in partnerships with relevant educational institutions. The lecturers at the workshops are usually experienced professors of the International Baccalaureate Program, who, based on their own experience teaching both in the national program and in the International Baccalaureate Program are able to present the best examples of innovative approaches

## 1. HISTORY WITHOUT **BORDERS WEBINAR**

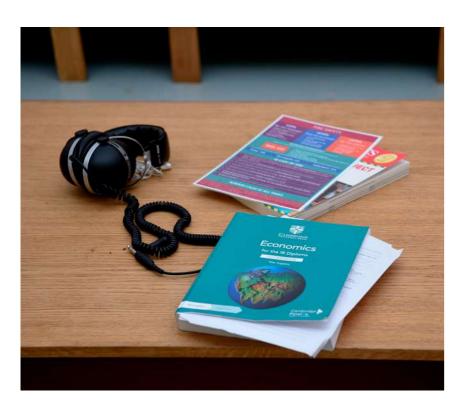
With close to 200 educators, webinar "History without borders" covered the topics of history teaching and creating a curriculum that allows multiple perspectives and main challenges for history teachers in BiH with expert panelists: Dr Pilvi Torsti, UWC Mostar Co-Founder, Adjunct Professor, Bojana Dujković Blagoje-

vić, EUROCLIO HIP BiH, Mirna Jančić Doyle, Member of the UWC Mostar Governing Board, Hendrik Flier, Director of Studies at UWC Mostar, Dženan Hakalović, History Teacher at UWC Mostar and Avinash Kashyap, History Teacher and IBDP Curriculum Consultant.

## 2. "HISTORY TEACHERS AND THEIR ROLE IN CREATING A **VISION OF EDUCATION" SEMINAR**

Educational workshops "History Teachers and their role in creating a vision of education" welcomed 23 participants from BiH, including





history teachers from HNK, representatives of the Institute for Education Mostar and representatives of the OSCE Mission in Mostar, paricipating 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.

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.

## 3. WORKSHOP WITH SECOND **GIMNAZIJA SARAJEVO**

27 teachers from all IB schools in BiH participated in the workshops on the implementation of the IB Diploma program of the II Gimnazija with lectures and practical work presentations. The aim of the workshops was to strengthen the bond between all four IB schools in Bosnia and Herzegovina through the development of ideas and joint projects. The twoday event was primarily focused on the subject groups of languages and literature and natural science. The workshop and cooperation between teachers was an excellent opportunity to exchange ideas, experiences, plan new projects, and to improve the learning and teaching process.

## 4. WORKSHOP WITH **UNIVERSITY OF MOSTAR**

Our language teachers led a workshop on the topic of "Modern assessment criteria in foreign language teaching" at the Faculty of Philosophical Studies (FFMO), University of Mostar. The workshop was intended mostly for up-and-coming teachers, but also for teachers open to new methods of evaluating students' performance.

# **Outdoor Program**

In August 2021, UWC Mostar introduced the position of an Outdoor Coordinator and has had a very robust Outdoor Program since then. The surroundings in Mostar lend themselves to all kinds of outdoor activities like hiking, cycling, canoeing, skiing, via ferrata, half marathons etc. and we try to make the most of these opportunities at the college. Nearly every weekend, there are one or more outdoor

activities organised and students sign up for them. These provide the chance for physical exercise as well as contribute to good mental health of the students that is a priority for all schools and colleges today.

Engaging in physical activity produces similar benefits and oftentimes relaxes and cheers people up. UWC Mostar outdoor program is one of the best ways to relax and enjoy the surroundings at Mostar.

IT'S AMAZING! I LOVE OUT-DOOR ACTIVITIES AND HOPE THEY CONTINUE TO BE AS **EQUALLY AS AMAZING IN THE NEXT YEAR!** 

DANILO, UWC MOSTAR, 21-23

ENJOYED EVERY SINGLE OUT-DOOR ACTIVITY VERY MUCH. SOPHIA, UWC MOSTAR 21-23





# **Host Family Pogram**

Through the Host Family Volunteer Program, Mostar and families in Bosnia and Herzegovina play a vital role in the UWC Mostar community by providing a homey atmosphere for hard-working students during scheduled academic breaks. Through this volunteer program, families welcome students into their homes for a night, a weekend or for a longer break.

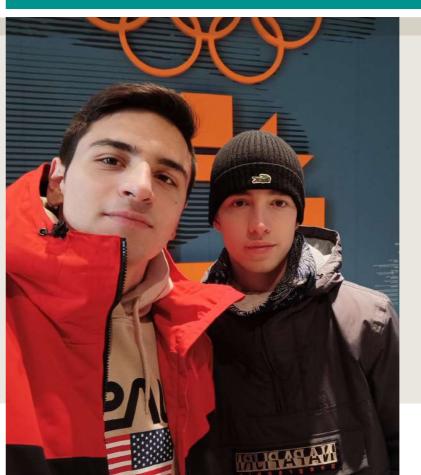
"Last year, upon my arrival at UWC Mostar, I had the pleasureof encountering my closest friend and colleague, Alessio, hailing from Luxembourg. I spent each day in the company of Alessio, engaging in

collaborative study sessions, social interactions, and the shared exploration of challenges, both scholastic and existential. We navigated through the rigors of the initial semester, a period marked by considerable academic demands for all, yet in the face of these challenges, our camaraderie endured steadfastly. As the winter break approached, presenting an opportunity for respite and the summoning of friends to partake in moments away from school preoccupations, I extended an invitation to Alessio to visit my home.

Alessio spent a week at my home before returning to Luxembourg.

During this period, we traversed my modest hometown situated in the heart of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Alessio acquainted himself with my circle of friends, the locales frequented by the local youth for social gatherings in my town.

Our exploration extended to two Bosnian-Herzegovinian cities, Zenica and Sarajevo, where we engaged with my friends from the music school and observed key landmarks. Some of the most cherished moments were shared with my parents and extended family, as Alessio partook in a family gathering, gaining insight into both my immediate and



extended familial relationships and experiencing a distinctive Bosnian-Herzegovinian cultural

My parents expressed contentment at the opportunity to host a UWC friend, gaining a clearer understanding of the cultural exchanges inherent in the school's ethos, and appreciating diverse perspectives. Hosting Alessio was not merely a gesture of hospitality; it provided an avenue for fostering friendship.

In reflection, I am grateful for the privilege of forming a meaningful friendship, and the College's role as a catalyst for this experience. Beyond the acquisition of historical knowledge and the responsibility of elucidating inquiries from friends, this encounter has become an indelible memory of my high school years."

Ishak Sikira, UWC Mostar, Class of 2023

# **Bridging Cultures Short Course**

"BRIDGING CULTURES" is a short course intended for young people from Bosnia and Herzegovina and countries of the Balkan region. It takes place in Mostar, and covers the topics of diversity and acceptance, identity, non-violent communication, peace building and activism. "Bridging Cultures" short course is a short programme with the focus on the topic of multicultural understanding from the perspectives of various disciplines: anthropology, international relations, arts and literature, psychology, and others. In order to set the foundations of multicultural understanding, we build awareness of the impact of our own culture for our identity, while acknowledging the other axes of our identity and their relationship culture. The course explores the space of co-existing cultures and presents the idea of cultural relativism. Furthermore, the focus is on intercultural communication on various levels, from non-violent communication as a tool useful for any individual, to skills of cooperation in diverse work settings. The topic

is situated in multicultural understanding within the context of Bosnia and Herzegovina, exploring multiculturalism in this state and focusing on peace building, but also approaching it from a large scale point of view, introducing the notion of systems of oppression, which we further explore through literature and theatre. The course also focuses on social activism in order to equip our participants with the tools necessary to act within their home communities.

The course is carried through an experiential learning approach that encourages engagement, action and reflection rather than just observation and listening and is focused on students from the countries of the region.

A group of facilitators, together with guest speakers, representing a range of local NGO's deliver workshops and activities. Bridging cultures short course 2023 took place in Mostar and welcomed 19 participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, North Macedonia, Albania.



UWC Mostar | Annual Report School Year 2022-2023



ALUMNI INITIATIVES ALUMNI INITIATIVES

# **ALUMNI INITIATIVES**

WC Mostar is grateful and happy to have an active alumni body and that our alumni contribute to the UWC Mostar mission in many ways. This school year, we have been able to track for the first time three categories of our Alumni engagement - Time, Treasure and Talent.

Here are some of the successful Alumni Initiatives for this year:

### **ALUMNI TALK SESSION**

"Climate issues - everyone's issue" welcomed Kasia Tokarska (Class of '08) and Melanie De Vicentiis (Class of '17). Kasia is a climate data scientist, providing insights on physical climate risk to different industries

across various sectors helping global companies adapt to, and mitigate the impacts of climate change. Kasia holds a PhD in climate modelling and was a contributing author to the recent IPCC AR6 report (Chapter 4 on constraining future warming projections). Melanie De Vicentiis (Class of '17) is an Italian-American master's student in environmental policy. Melanie is working as a Sustainability Intern at Albright Stonebridge Group in Washington, D.C. where she helps international businesses and foundations improve their socio environmental impact.

### **CAREER DAY**

Career day 2023 took place March 13<sup>th</sup> 2023, and was an opportunity

for students to get insight in different careers alumni have been pursuing. This Alumni Board led event brought together 5 alumni:

- Amar Idrizović (Class of '10), a software engineer currently working for Volvo Cars as one of the Lead Android developers.
- Monika Václavková (Class of '16), currently working as a junior psychologist at a Bipolar disorder clinic and a graduate student of Clinical psychology at Utrecht University in the Netherlands and doing masters of Sleep Medicine at University of Oxford, in the UK, where she is pursuing her passion for chronobiology.
- Tatenda Dzvimbo (Class of '17), currently working as the Special

Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer and President at the Housing Assistance Council. She founded the African Women's League, a student organization that seeks to empower female African international students in the diaspora.

- Mila Gajić (Class of '16), a designer with a focus on mixed reality and interactive media, currently pursuing an MFA degree in Design with a concentration in Digital Animation and Interactive Media at The Ohio State University, where she also works as a Graduate Research Associate at the Advanced Computing Center for the Arts and Design in Columbus, Ohio.
- Alicja Zdanowicz (Class of '22), recent UWC Mostar alumna currently studying medicine in IMS Messina, Italy.

### **PROJECT WEEK**

47%

Petr Knor (Class of '10) joined UWC Mostar Project week team during September and October 2022 in the

role of content coordinator and a supervisor of Hiking project week. This was an amazing way for him to give back to the movement in his time and talent, and we hope to engage more alumni in similar roles.

### **ALUMNI IN CLASSROOM**

Alumni in classroom initiative piloted in spring 2023. By participating in engaging virtual sessions on zoom, alumni connect with classrooms of current students in their respective professional fields, providing students with practical insights and real-world perspectives. The initiative will fully be implemented from the beginning of school year 2023-24.

### **REUNION**

UWC Mostar - Share of alumni giving back

■ Time ■ Talent ■ Treasure

30 alumni from class of 2013 and small group of their "firsties" took part in 4-day series of events marking their 10-year graduation anniversary. The reunion not only provided platform for meeting and remembering time at UWC Mostar, but was also

a place to initiate new projects and grasp new adventures.

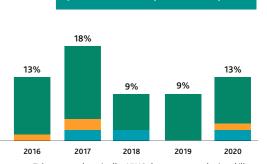
### **ALUMNI GIVING**

The "Inspire" section of the UWC Strategy '2018 and beyond' explains that UWC will: "encourage alumni to support a generational commitment to give to UWC according to their circumstances in terms of time, treasure and talent. The focus at UWC Mostar has been put on alumni giving in three categories, following the UWC Pledge idea. The Alumni board engaged into communication with alumni encouraging them to give back to the UWC in terms of time, for example volunteering for a UWC National Committee; treasure - regularly donating money to the UWC Mostar, Endowment Bridge to the future or their own National Committee; and talent, for example by joining Alumni talks or Career Day.

# **ALUMNI BOARD:**

Jasmina Hodžić (Class of '08) Vera Plumer (Class of '09) Anita Vieu-Robson (Class of '11) Ivor Pekarić (Class of '14) Tanya Samiliv (Class of '16) Bruno Stojčić (Class of '17) Gema Benavides Jimenez (Class of '18) Lamija Kovačević (Class of '18) Benjamin Selimotić (Class of '20)

Alumni representative to the **College Board** Jasmina Hodžić (Class of '08)



Time – volunteering for the UWC movement, e.g. national committee; Treasure – donating money to the Endowment; Talent – e.g. alumni talks, UWC short course or sharing skills.



34 UWC Mostar | Annual Report School Year 2022-2023

Annual Report School Year 2022-2023 | UWC Mostar 35



ENDOWMENT "BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE"



### **BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE**

The UWC Mostar Endowment "Bridge to the Future" was set up in October 2013 with an objective to create an endowment to secure permanent funding for the College.

Bridge to the Future funds scholarships for students to attend UWC Mostar. The endowment has been set up as a charity in the UK to ensure good governance and best-in-class stewardship of donor funds. The capital of the endowment is invested and the income and capital gains are used to distribute to UWC Mostar to cover scholarships. One endowment to provide funding for a scholarship at UWC Mostar every year into perpetuity "costs" €300,000.

WHAT IS AN ENDOWMENT?

The endowment is a fund to provide long term financing for scholarships.

The gifts of donors become the assets of the endowment and are invested in

stock markets and other financial investments. The income and capital gains

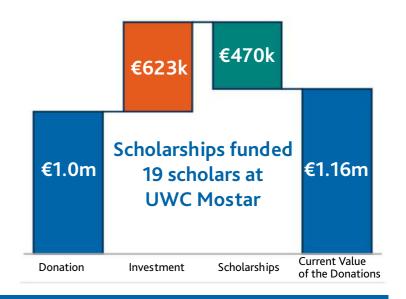
### **REVIEW OF THE YEAR**

The endowment fund has a total of EUR 21 million in assets. In the last 2022-23 financial year, the endowment fund benefited from EUR 950k of additional donations. The investment performance was good with a 10% increase, but due to the increased school fee as a result of inflation, it is challenging to achieve the overall long-term investment objective of 5% on top of inflation. The total value of the fund increased to EUR 21.3 mln.

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# MPACT OF 1M DONATION GIVEN TO ENDOWMENT IN 2014:

To illustrate how the endowment works, below is a graph which sets out what the impact is of EUR1 million donation in 2014. invested as an endowment.



# "Every little helps" – the alumni €1 campaign

With more than 1000 alumni, UWC Mostar alumni can make a significant contribution by all donating a small amount every month. The €1 alumni giving campaign was started in 2017 to encourage alumni to give back to the College in the hope to set up an annual scholarship funded by UWC Mostar alumni. Two donors have generously agreed to match any €1 donated by UWC Mostar alumni, thus tripling any donation immediately. So please join us and sign up via https://www.mostarendowment.com/alumni.html

of the investments are used to make donations to UWC Mostar to cover the costs of students receiving a scholarship. The aim of the endowment is to preserve the value of the assets over the long term.

by UWC Mostar alumni. Two donors have generously agreed to match any €1 donated by UWC Mostar alumni, thus tripling any donation immediately. So please join us and sign up via https://www.mostarendowment.com/alumni.html

38 UWC Mostar | Annual Report School Year 2022-2023

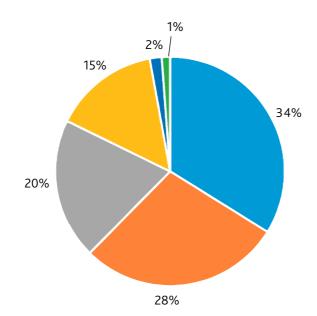


# **FINANCIAL REPORT 2022-23**

(all figures in Euros)

# **OPERATING INCOME**

1,048,228
883,036
615,000
461,303
52,113
36,331



# **OPERATING EXPENSES**

Staff costs	1,380,511
<ul><li>Boarding</li></ul>	993,596
<ul><li>Educational program</li></ul>	280,323
Administration and Governance	246,722
<ul><li>Depreciation</li></ul>	117,692

# NOTES

Income and expenses in respect of large capital projects have not been included above.

Capital investments were €47,196.

