



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

UWC Mostar Newsletter –January Edition

Dear Friends of UWC Mostar,

As we step into the new year, we reflect on a month filled with energy, engagement, and inspiring initiatives.

From successful Open Days in Mostar, Sarajevo, and Banja Luka to student-led projects and acts of solidarity, professional development workshops attended by teachers from all over BiH, January has set a strong foundation for the months ahead.

In this edition, we bring you highlights from our community, stories of impact, and a glimpse into what's coming next.

Stay connected and join us in shaping a year of growth, learning, and meaningful change!

With gratitude,
UWC Mostar

News and Cooperations



Leadership Transition at UWC Mostar

UWC Mostar announces that the Head of UWC Mostar, Ms Sonia Rawat, is stepping down from her position as the Head of College on January 31st, 2025 due to health challenges.

During her tenure at UWC Mostar, Ms Rawat has been a driving force in advancing the college's mission of "Building bridges between people and cultures through inspiring, quality education." Her leadership, vision, and dedication have left an indelible mark on our community, and we are deeply grateful for her contributions.

As we bid farewell to Ms Rawat as our Head, we are delighted to welcome Mr Hendrik Flier who will officially assume the position as the Head of UWC Mostar on February 1st, 2025.

Mr Flier brings extensive expertise in education leadership and a strong commitment to fostering intercultural understanding and we are confident that he will build on the strong foundations of our community and continue to lead UWC Mostar towards a bright and impactful future.

"It brings me great joy to pass on the leadership of the college to Hendrik, as I am confident, he is the ideal leader for this crucial moment. Under his guidance, I am certain that UWC Mostar will achieve new milestones and remain steadfast in fulfilling its Mission."

We extend our heartfelt thank you to Ms Rawat for inspiring us with her passion for education, fostering a community of connection, and shaping the lives of so many students. Her legacy will remain a part of UWC Mostar's story and we wish her good health and all the best in her future endeavours.

Open Days in Mostar, Sarajevo and Banja Luka

Our Open Days this January took place in Mostar, Sarajevo, and Banja Luka and we are thrilled by so many visitors who engaged in inspiring conversations and showed incredible interest in our mission and educational opportunities. A huge thank you to everyone who joined us—we look forward to seeing you again soon!





Sustainable Cities Project

The launch of an exciting new initiative: "Sustainable Cities" has the primary aim to address some of the most pressing contemporary challenges. By focusing on fostering intercultural competencies among high school students, this project highlights the importance of youth capacity-building to tackle issues related to environmental and social sustainability. [Read more](#)





Workshops for Mathematics and History Teachers by Center for Professional Development of Teachers (CPDT)

UWC Mostar CPDT organized and hosted workshops on the subjects of Mathematics and History and gathered 31 history teachers from six cantons of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska, and Croatia, as well as 26 mathematics teachers from five cantons of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska.

The workshops were led by UWC Mostar teachers: Josipa Gotovac, Elmir Čatrnja, Marija Bencun, and Dženan Hakalović, along with long-time collaborators of UWC Mostar: Bojana Dujković Blagojević, Melisa Forić Plasto, and Ismar Volić. [Read more](#)



Successful Conclusion of the Final Teachers for Future 2 In-Person Workshop

We marked the successful completion of the in-person workshops of the Teachers for Future 2 project, with the final module dedicated to Physics. The module began with an online introductory session featuring Lamija Tanović, physicist and co-founder of UWC Mostar. She provided valuable

insights into the education system in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with a particular focus on the teaching of Physics. Having Prof. Tanović as our distinguished guest speaker was a true privilege. For the final in-person sessions, we welcomed 18 teachers from across Bosnia and Herzegovina, representing Mostar, Brčko, Stolac, Ilijaš, Hadžići, Sarajevo, Višegrad, Novi Travnik, Donji Vakuf, Tuzla, Velika Kladuša, Bihać, Visoko, and Breza. [Read more](#)

Events and Activities

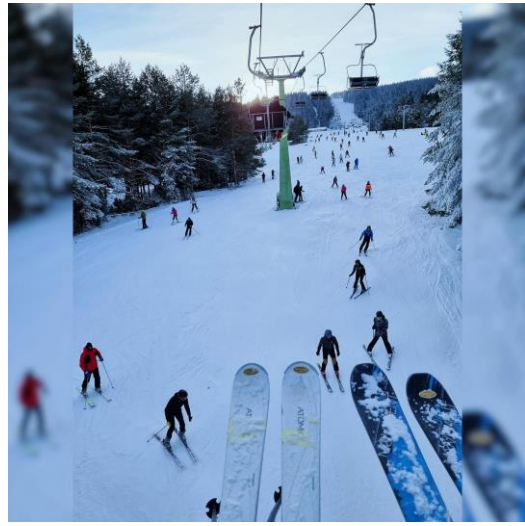


Recognition for UWC Mostar by Mostar Half Marathon

UWC Mostar was recognized as one of the key partners and supporters of the regional event Mostar Half Marathon. The school was also recognized as an important social actor that contributes to the development of Mostar at various levels.

"This school is not only an educational institution, but also an important social actor that contributes to the development of Mostar at various levels. The engagement of UWC staff and students during our event and the energy they bring through their participation is a great inspiration for our team!"

[Read more](#)



Outdoor Activities: Kupres - 2025

Alumni

ALUMNI TALK

Gain invaluable insights into the world of engineering, innovation, and making a difference.

The graphic features a portrait of Hilary Johnson on the left, smiling and holding a mechanical part. The background is a dark blue gradient with a teal triangle on the left. The text 'ALUMNI TALK' is in large, bold, teal letters, and the tagline is in white, bold letters below it.

Alumni Talk Series is Back

This January our alumna Hilary Johnson joined us for an inspiring alumni talk, sharing her journey from Mostar to a successful career as a mechanical engineer and human-centred designer. With a love for prototyping, Hilary explained how she tests ideas, both in her professional work and personal life, learning from successes and failures alike. She also shared many memories from Mostar and how those experiences stayed with her, fueling some of her ideas, such as *Brille It*, a low-cost Braille labeler inspired by her blind friend she used to run with during her time here in UWC. In response to student questions, Hilary discussed overcoming challenges and finding solutions, even when obstacles seem too harsh, again emphasizing her love for prototypes; if one thing doesn't work, another will! Her experience at UWC taught her the value of embracing diversity

and seeing differences as opportunities to learn and grow.

We are proud to have hosted one of our students who continues to make the world a better place.



UWC Mostar & Booking.com

Use the [UWC Mostar micropage](#) on Booking.com when reserving accommodation for your trip, Booking.com will automatically donate a small percentage of the amount to our school, more specifically, to the travel fund for scholarships students coming to study at UWC Mostar.

It's a really easy way to make a meaningful contribution, so please encourage parents, family and friends to use it!

Booking.com

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