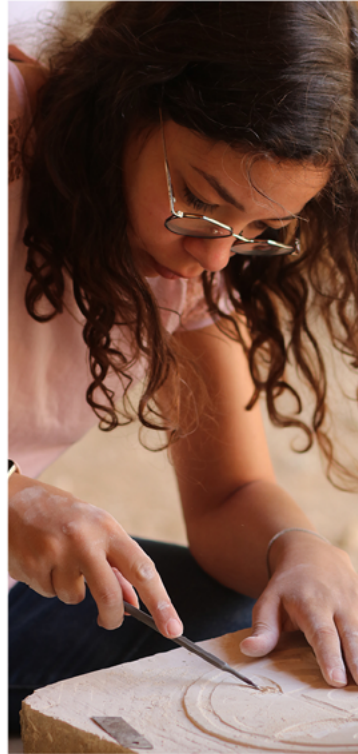




Apply now!



2025

July 3-5

Online

July 24-  
August 9

Sarajevo - Mostar - Stolac

# 20<sup>TH</sup> ISSYH

International Summer School Youth and Heritage



## INFORMATIONAL BOOKLET

[stolacsummerschool@gmail.com](mailto:stolacsummerschool@gmail.com)



20 Years of Uniting Global Youth for Peace and Heritage



# ISSYH2

## *20 Years of Uniting Global Youth for Peace and Heritage*

The International Summer School Youth and Heritage (ISSYH) proudly marks its 20th anniversary as a dynamic global learning platform, bringing together young people from diverse cultural and academic backgrounds. Established in 2005 in the war-ravaged historic town of Stolac, where its inhabitants faced severe humanitarian challenges, ISSYH began as a humble tent youth camp. It grew out of participatory heritage recovery actions led by its founders, becoming a catalyst for social recovery through the power of cultural heritage. Over the past two decades, the program has evolved into a unique blend of practical and theoretical learning, taking place in Sarajevo, Mostar, and Stolac—three historic Bosnian cities profoundly affected by the war of the early 1990s. It has paved the way for the theory and practice of participatory reconstruction of heritage as a social trauma healing agency. The program's impact has been profound: over 1,000 alumni from more than 40 countries across Europe, Australia, Asia, North America, South America, and Africa; lecturers and teachers from top institutions in over 20 countries; more than 40 complexes and cultural expressions in Stolac restored through direct community engagement; dozens of projects developed; and partnerships with more than 30 institutions, organizations, and universities worldwide. With participants from across the world, the Summer School fosters cross-cultural dialogue and shared learning in an environment where heritage plays a vital role in the long-term healing of communities. One of the key milestones of ISSYH's success has been its sustainability. Former students of the program have not only gone on to establish influential careers in heritage conservation, cultural policies and peacebuilding but have returned to ISSYH as coordinators and lecturers, ensuring that the next generation of leaders in cultural heritage continues to thrive. Set against Bosnia and Herzegovina's stunning landscapes, the Summer School continues to empower global youth by fostering cross-cultural dialogue and promoting the conservation of both tangible and intangible heritage as a force for renewal, reconciliation, and sustainability. As we celebrate two decades of impact, we remain dedicated to building a global network of future leaders committed to preserving and re-imagining heritage for a more inclusive and resilient world, where a culture of peace will prevail.

Amra Hadžimuhamedović

Head of ISSYH, Director of the Center for Cultural Heritage, International Forum Bosnia



20



Years of Uniting  
Global Youth for  
Peace and Heritage

100+  
teachers from  
20+ countries

30+  
partners and  
supporting  
organisations



10000+  
Alumni students from 40+ countries



40+  
heritage places  
and expressions







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# Program Dates and Locations

*20 Years of Uniting Global Youth for Peace and Heritage*

## Dates

Online Orientation & Introductory Lectures: July 3–5, 2025

On-Site Program: July 24–August 9, 2025

**Locations:** Sarajevo, Mostar, Stolac, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Participants will have access to the featured lectures held as part of the International Conference on Unity and Plurality in Europe in Mostar.

Organized in collaboration with esteemed partners—including ICCROM, the UNESCO Arab Regional Centre for World Heritage (ARC-WH), Europa Nostra, the UNESCO Chair of World Heritage and Sustainable Tourism Management in the Arab Region, the German Technical University in Muscat, the University of Cambridge, and many others—ISSYH is supported by local, national, and international institutions committed to cultural heritage and its role in shaping a more inclusive world.







# Who Can Apply & What to Expect

*20 Years of Uniting Global Youth for Peace and Heritage*

The Twentieth International Summer School Youth and Heritage (ISSYH20) welcomes up to 30 dynamic young individuals aged 20 to 35, including students and emerging professionals with a passion for cultural heritage. To ensure full engagement in the program, participants should have a good command of English.

## A Unique and Immersive Experience

ISSYH is more than just an academic program—it's a vibrant, interactive journey. Alongside expert-led sessions and hands-on heritage experiences, participants will enjoy:

### Cultural Presentations

Share and celebrate diverse traditions through music, dance, storytelling, and cuisine.

### A Global Network

Engage with like-minded peers from different backgrounds in an inspiring and inclusive setting.

### Social & Recreational Activities

Build friendships through excursions, workshops, and informal gatherings.

## Academic Recognition

For those looking to earn academic credits, an optional summative assignment (a 2,000-word essay) is available. While ISSYH does not directly grant credits, we can provide official confirmation to your home institution that ISSYH, at Level 1 (FHEQ 4), offers knowledge equivalent to: 4 US credits | 7.5 ECTS | 15 FHEQ Those interested in applying for credit recognition should indicate this in their application form.





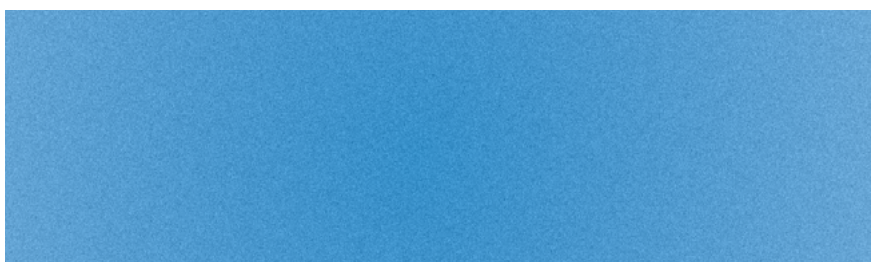
# Learn from a World-Class Faculty & Master Craftsmen

*20 Years of Uniting Global Youth for Peace and Heritage*

At ISSYH, you will engage with an exceptional group of experienced academics and professionals from leading universities and institutions worldwide, as well as Bosnia and Herzegovina. Our faculty includes experts in conservation, museology, archaeology, anthropology, interreligious studies, history, cultural tourism, cultural geography, and related disciplines—ensuring a truly interdisciplinary learning experience.

Over the years, ISSYH has welcomed dedicated scholars and specialists from Bosnia, France, Ireland, Great Britain, Belgium, Canada, Turkey, Libya, China, India, the United Arab Emirates, Italy, Egypt, the United States of America, Croatia, Greece, Spain, Czechia, Sweden, Serbia, Pakistan, and others, offering participants diverse perspectives on heritage and its role in society.

Beyond academic learning, ISSYH values the living traditions of heritage. Renowned masters of traditional arts and crafts share their expertise in woodcarving, stone carving, metalworking, masonry, and calligraphy, ensuring that participants not only study heritage but also experience the skills and craftsmanship that sustain it.







# Application & Selection Process

*20 Years of Uniting Global Youth for Peace and Heritage*

The application form must be completed online.  
You can find the link on:

[International Forum Bosnia website](#)

[ISSYH Instagram](#)

[ISSYH Facebook page](#)

[ISSYH LinkedIn](#)

## Application Submission

All applicants must complete and submit their application form by the specified deadline. Submissions received after April 10th, 2025, 23:59 UTC+1 will not be considered.

## Eligibility

Applicants must be between 20 and 35 years old and have a strong interest in cultural heritage as a catalyst for social recovery and cohesion. We welcome participants from diverse educational and cultural backgrounds. Good English language skills are required to fully engage in the program.

## Selection Process

Applications will be carefully reviewed, and shortlisted candidates will be invited for an online interview to assess their motivation, experience, and fit for the program.

## Final Acceptance

Submission of an application does not guarantee acceptance. Only candidates who successfully complete the interview stage will receive final confirmation of acceptance into ISSYH.







# A Unique and Immersive Learning Experience

*20 Years of Uniting Global Youth for Peace and Heritage*

The International Summer School Youth and Heritage (ISSYH) offers an innovative, hands-on, and interdisciplinary learning experience designed to immerse participants in the living realities of heritage. Spanning three weeks, the program blends online sessions, expert-led seminars, immersive fieldwork, practical craft workshops, and interactive cultural evenings—all carefully structured to create a dynamic and transformative journey.

ISSYH goes beyond traditional learning, embracing a holistic, post-humanist approach to heritage that highlights the interconnectedness of people, places, and the environment. Participants will engage directly with tangible and intangible heritage, traditional crafts, sustainable ways of life, and environmental practices while critically exploring how diverse yet socially cohesive communities can be nurtured.

## Five Integrated Learning Dimensions

### 1. Coordinated Working Activities

Collaborative projects that tackle real-world heritage challenges.

### 2. Practical Craft Workshops

Hands-on training in traditional skills like woodcarving, stone carving, metalworking, masonry, and calligraphy, guided by master artisans.

### 3. Theoretical Master Classes

Thought-provoking discussions led by leading experts in heritage conservation, history, anthropology, cultural geography, and beyond.

### 4. Site Visits & On-Site Work

Direct engagement with historic locations undergoing post-war recovery, offering unparalleled insight into heritage as a driver of social resilience building.

### 5. Recreational & Cultural Exchange Activities

Evenings filled with music, storytelling, shared meals, and interactive cultural presentations, fostering deep connections among participants.



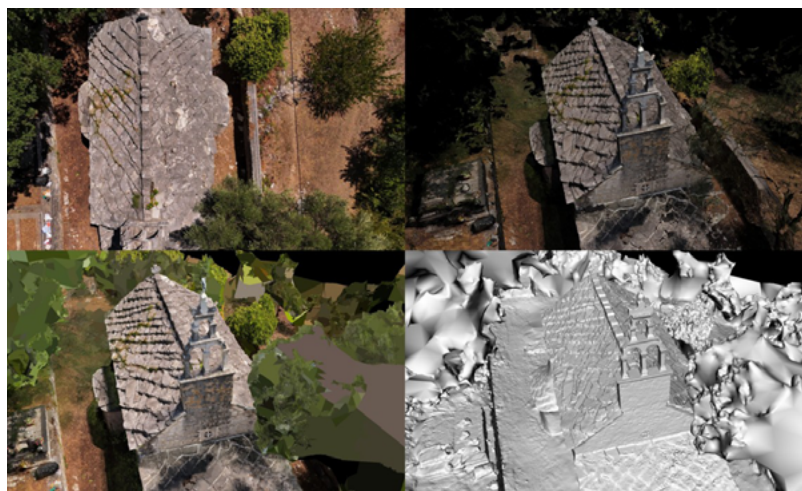
# Innovative Learning-Through Working Flagship Initiatives

*20 Years of Uniting Global Youth for Peace and Heritage*

Building on ISSYH's commitment to experiential learning, the 2025 edition will further refine and expand two pioneering initiatives, first introduced in 2024. These flagship programs embody the fusion of cutting-edge technology and time-honored traditions, offering participants an unparalleled opportunity to engage in heritage documentation, digital preservation, and resilience-building through Indigenous Knowledge Systems.

## 1 Heritage Documentation Studio (HEDS)

HEDS is an advanced heritage documentation initiative focused on photogrammetry, 3D modeling, LiDAR, and GIS technologies. Designed in collaboration with ICCROM, this initiative enhances the digital footprint of Stolac's indigenous heritage, creating an open-access database that ensures the long-term preservation and visibility of endangered cultural assets. By blending traditional documentation methods with cutting-edge digital tools, HEDS sets a new standard for sustainable heritage perpetuation. The involvement of ICCROM's expert team elevates this initiative, making it a benchmark for integrating digital transformation into conservation practices.







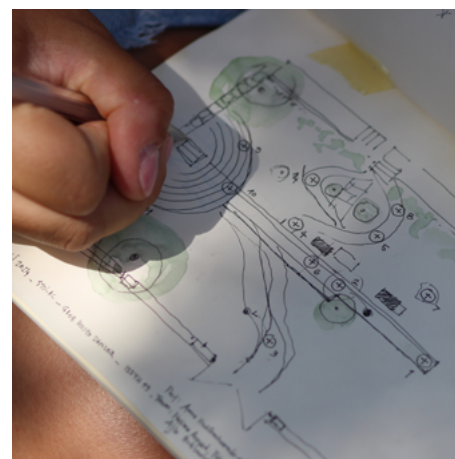
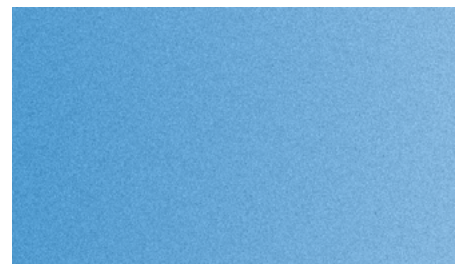
*20 Years of Uniting Global Youth for Peace and Heritage*

## 2 HeritageWISE – Integrating Traditional & Indigenous Knowledge for Resilience

HeritageWISE is an innovative research and project-based initiative where participants, guided by mentors, will develop collaborative proposals addressing:

- Climate change adaptation
- Sustainable and resilient cultural landscapes
- The intersection of cultural and biodiversity conservation
- Revitalization of traditional water recycling systems
- The recovery of seasonal feasts and ritual spaces
- Homeostatic places and structures that sustain environmental balance

This initiative underscores the importance of heritage as a living resource for resilience-building, ensuring that indigenous ecological knowledge and heritage practices are not only preserved but actively reinvented to address contemporary social and environmental challenges.





# Immersive Workshops: Learning Through Hands-On Heritage

*20 Years of Uniting Global Youth for Peace and Heritage*

The learning-through-working approach is brought to life through immersive workshops, where participants gain direct experience with traditional crafts and skills that are increasingly at risk of disappearing. These workshops are led by renowned master artisans, ensuring that age-old knowledge is not only preserved but passed on through active engagement. While workshop offerings evolve each year, the following categories provide an exciting glimpse into the diverse areas participants may explore. The program is carefully structured and curated to allow for deep discovery and skill-building across these domains:

## **Building Conservation**

Participants will engage in hands-on restoration at three 17th-18th century heritage houses in Stolac—HIDR1, HIDR2, and HIDR3 (Houses of International Dialogue and Research). Workshops may include:

- Woodcarving and traditional joinery
- Masonry, stone carving, and dry-stone & mortared wall building
- Mural restoration and calligraphy
- Conservation of indigenous heritage houses

## **Movable Heritage Conservation**







## 20 Years of Uniting Global Youth for Peace and Heritage

Focusing on craftsmanship and object restoration, these sessions introduce participants to techniques used in conserving and reviving traditional art forms, including:

- Carpet weaving and traditional embroidery
- Furniture restoration
- Copper artifact crafting and icon painting
- Manuscript and book preservation

### 3. Intangible Heritage: Preservation & Interpretation

*Beyond tangible heritage, the ISSYH workshops celebrate living traditions, allowing participants to engage, perform, and experience heritage beyond theory:*

- *Archery and traditional marksmanship*
- *Calligraphy and artistic inscription*
- *Falconry as an intangible cultural practice*
- *Herbal lore, foraging, and natural remedies*
- *Traditional music, folklore, and ritual performance*
- *Culinary heritage and the storytelling of food*





# Venues & Heritage Sites: Immersive Spaces for Learning and Collaboration

*20 Years of Uniting Global Youth for Peace and Heritage*

The core activities of the International Summer School Youth and Heritage (ISSYH) will take place in **Stolac**, a town steeped in history and resilience, included on the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List. Here, the rich cultural and natural landscapes provide a powerful backdrop for engaging with both tangible and intangible heritage. Stolac, which experienced near-total destruction during the 1992-1995 conflict, has since become a symbol of recovery and renewal, offering participants a unique opportunity to engage with the process of heritage revitalization in a post-trauma context.

In addition to Stolac, ISSYH activities will also unfold in **Sarajevo and Mostar**—two cities that bear the scars of war yet have emerged as focal points for cultural regeneration and intercultural exchange. These vibrant cities will serve as important venues for lectures, discussions, and collaborative activities.

## Houses of International Dialogue and Research (HIDR)

A cornerstone of ISSYH is the use of restored traditional residences in Stolac, known as the **Houses of International Dialogue and Research (HIDR)**. These historical homes, painstakingly restored through ISSYH activities, will serve as the primary venues for workshops, lectures, and social events. The HIDR houses act as both





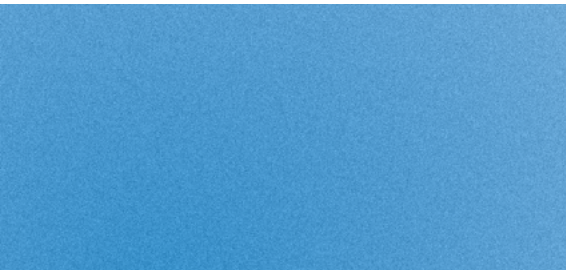


## *20 Years of Uniting Global Youth for Peace and Heritage*

living laboratories for heritage conservation and spaces for cross-cultural dialogue, where participants can engage directly with traditional craftsmanship and practices while fostering global connections.

### **Field Excursions to Key Heritage Sites**

Beyond the main venues, participants will have the opportunity to explore several historic and natural sites on day trips to **Žitomislići, Počitelj, Konjic, Blagaj, and Zabrđe**. Each of these destinations offers a glimpse into Bosnia's rich cultural landscape, from medieval architecture to ancient natural landmarks, providing participants with hands-on opportunities to witness heritage preservation efforts in action







# Field Trips

*20 Years of Uniting Global Youth for Peace and Heritage*

The ISSYH program includes three immersive field trips, each designed to deepen participants' understanding of Bosnia's rich cultural and natural heritage while encouraging hands-on learning and reflection.

**Počitelj, Žitomislići, and Mostar** This excursion takes participants through some of the most historic and culturally diverse sites in Bosnia. In Počitelj, Žitomislići, and Mostar, participants will learn about the complex history of these places, exploring the reconstruction challenges they faced, both successful and challenging, and the ongoing efforts to preserve their cultural significance.

**Zabrđe and Cultural Landscape Workshop** The second field trip takes participants to Zabrđe, a cultural landscape that holds deep significance in Bosnia's interreligious history. The tradition of interfaith encounters on 2nd August (St. Eliyah Day - Ilindan in the Christian tradition and Alidjun in the Muslim tradition) has faded over time and been pushed into oblivion due to the war and post-war policies. The trip includes a day-long workshop on the importance of associative cultural landscapes and the strategies for revitalizing these spaces to honor the tradition of peaceful coexistence.

**Konjic and Museum of Woodcarving** The trip to Konjic blends heritage and adventure. Participants will explore the historic town of Konjic, known for its strong cultural identity. The trip includes a visit to the Museum of Woodcarving, which showcases a craft tradition listed on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. In addition to learning about the town's remarkable heritage, participants will enjoy a white-water rafting adventure on the Neretva River, surrounded by breathtaking natural beauty.





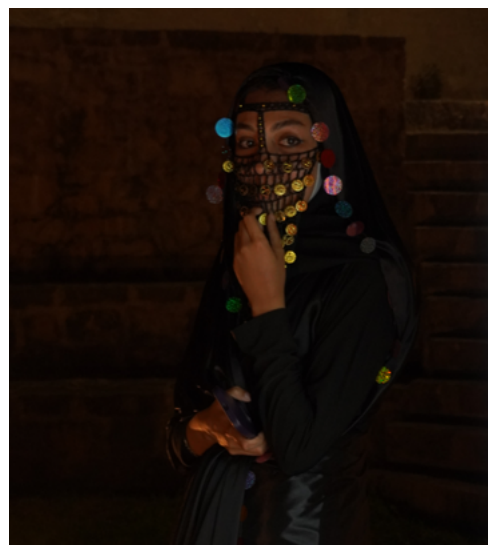
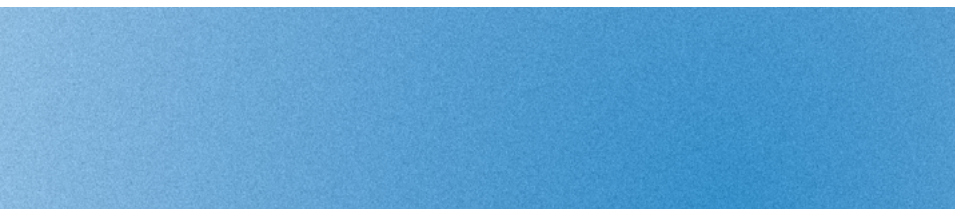


# Recreational Activities and Cultural Exchange

*20 Years of Uniting Global Youth for Peace and Heritage*

In addition to the educational field trips, recreational activities form an essential part of the ISSYH experience. These activities — including poetry readings, traditional dance, music, and sports — foster a spirit of community, friendship, and cultural exchange.

A key highlight of the recreational program is the Cultural Mosaic Nights, where participants design and lead events showcasing their own cultural identities. This celebratory and creative atmosphere encourages the exchange of traditions, stories, and values in an informal, friendship-building setting.





# Logistic Details

*20 Years of Uniting Global Youth for Peace and Heritage*

The working language of ISSYH program will be English. Accommodation will be provided in **hostel-style settings with air conditioned double and triple rooms**, and three meals per day will be served at a local restaurant. There will be no mixed gender rooms.

Transportation will be organized from the airport and between locations in Bosnia for the duration of the program. Participants are responsible for arranging their own visas and travel to and from Bosnia. Organizers can provide invitation letters for visa applications if needed.

While the organizers will supply **stationery, working materials, and basic health care kits**, participants are required to have their own **travel health insurance**. Emergency health care will be available on-site.

**Weather** in Sarajevo, Mostar, and Stolac during late July and early August is typically hot, with average highs of 30-34°C (86-93°F) and lows of 18-20°C (64-68°F). **Participants are advised to bring light clothing, sunscreen, hats, and comfortable shoes to stay cool and protected.**

Further detailed guidance will be provided to successful candidates during the preparatory phase before arrival.



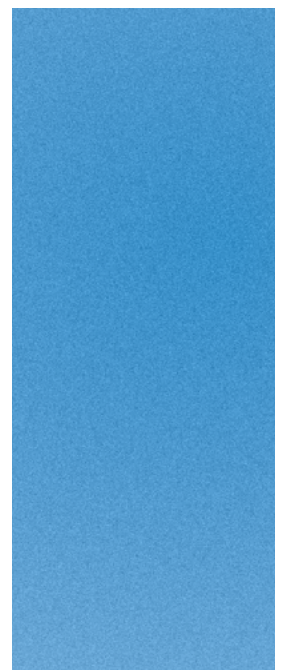




# Fees and Costs

*20 Years of Uniting Global Youth for Peace and Heritage*

- 1. Financial Responsibility:** The participation costs, totaling 1900 Euros (+ all bank charges), cover the fee, provision of materials, meals, accommodation, transportation, stationery, utilities, technical assistance, and other essentials for the program.
- 2. Grant Consideration:** Candidates are encouraged to seek financial support from various sources, such as government institutions, employers, and funding agencies. If sponsorship is required, we are prepared to provide a letter of support upon request. Grants are available to accepted participants and are awarded based on merit. Priority is granted to participants from regions worldwide affected by ongoing or past conflicts, or to those whose work is associated with heritage-based recovery endeavors in these regions. Grant decisions are made at the discretion of the School Board and the project partners, subject to fund availability.
- 3. Administrative Fees:** A non-refundable administrative fee of 100 Euros (+all bank charges) is charged upon successful interviews as part of the school fees.
- 4. Withdrawal Policy:** Participants may withdraw from ISSYH20 up to six weeks prior to the start of the event, with the latest date being May 22nd, 2025, 23:59 UTC+1. After this period, no refunds will be issued for withdrawals.







**2025**

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*20 Years of Uniting Global Youth for Peace and Heritage*



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