



Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe

COUNTRY MAPPING DOCUMENT FOR BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



2024

Commissioned by the
Enlarged Partial Agreement
on Cultural Routes of the
Council of Europe (EPA)

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



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COUNTRY MAPPING DOCUMENT FOR BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

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Table of Contents

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY INCLUDING A SHORT SUMMARY FOR THE EPA MEMBER STATE IN QUESTION AND A SHORT SUMMARY FOR CERTIFIED CULTURAL ROUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND CANDIDATE NETWORKS	7
2. FRAMING AND CONTEXT OF THE REPORT	11
3. HERITAGE POLICIES AND LEGISLATIONS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	14
4. INTERNATIONAL/EUROPEAN HERITAGE LABELS AND INITIATIVES IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	25
5. SWOT ANALYSIS OF THE POTENTIAL OF THE CULTURAL ROUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE PROGRAMME IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	34
6. INVENTORY OF CULTURAL ROUTES RELATED ACTIVITIES AT STATE LEVEL	36
7. POTENTIAL FOR NEW CULTURAL ROUTES INITIATIVES EMERGING AT STATE LEVEL	40
8. REVIEW OF FINANCING INSTRUMENTS	59
9. FIELD MISSION REPORT AND ANALYSIS	61
10. RECOMMENDATIONS	63
11. CONCLUSIONS	69
12. REFERENCES, ABBREVIATIONS AND GLOSSARY	72
13. ANNEXES	75



1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Country Mapping report, aimed at enhancing the development of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme in Bosnia and Herzegovina, has been crafted in accordance with the commitment of independent expert appointed by the Secretariat of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes (EPA) in August 2023.

This report adheres to the structure, content, and implementation guidelines outlined in the Act of Engagement, as well as the relevant documents of the Council of Europe. Close collaboration and consultation with the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina were integral in the preparation of this Country Mapping report.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has held membership within the Council of Europe since April 24, 2002.¹ In 2016, the country became a part of the Council of Europe's Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes (EPA). The Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, along with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Permanent Representation of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Council of Europe, holds responsibility for representing Bosnia and Herzegovina in matters related to the EPA. Membership in the Council of Europe comes with certain obligations and commitments, particularly in the areas of human rights, democracy, and the rule of law. In addition to its political and legal aspects, Council of Europe membership fosters cultural and educational cooperation. Bosnia and Herzegovina is part of the Council's initiatives related to cultural heritage, cultural routes, and educational programs that promote intercultural dialogue and understanding. Bosnia and Herzegovina's membership in the Council of Europe is a vital aspect of its integration into the broader European community. It signifies the country's commitment to democracy, human rights, and cultural cooperation while also serving as a platform for addressing challenges and advancing reforms in these areas.

The Council of Europe established the Cultural Routes initiative in 1987 with the aim of showcasing how the histories of diverse countries

and cultures in Europe contribute to a shared and contemporary cultural heritage.² This initiative promotes greater awareness and understanding of European cultural identity while safeguarding and nurturing natural and cultural heritage. Moreover, it provides a platform for fostering intercultural interactions. Currently, there are 47 certified Cultural Routes recognized by the Council of Europe. The establishment of the Advisory Council for Implementing the Enlarged Partial Agreement of the Council of Europe on Establishing Cultural Routes in Bosnia and Herzegovina has been approved by the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as proposed by the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina (as published in the Official Gazette of Bosnia and Herzegovina, issue number: 51/18).³ Through this decision, the Advisory Council for Implementing the Enlarged Partial Agreement of the Council of Europe on Establishing Cultural Routes in Bosnia and Herzegovina has been officially formed, its members appointed, and their roles and appointment duration defined.

Bosnia and Herzegovina presently holds formal membership in five of the Council of Europe's Cultural Routes. These include the European Route of Jewish Heritage (since 2004), European Cemeteries Route (since 2010), Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route (since 2015), Iron Age Danube Route (since 2021), and Iter Vitis (since 2021).⁴

The European Route of Jewish Heritage (2004) connects sites of historical and cultural significance related to Jewish history across Europe.

1 Council of Europe, <https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/bosnia-and-herzegovina>

2 Council of Europe, <https://www.coe.int/en/web/cultural-routes>

3 Official Gazette of Bosnia and Herzegovina, <https://www.isbih.gov.ba/uploads/dokumenti/O-nama/rulebook-on-preparation-official-gazzeta-no-51-18.pdf>

4 Council of Europe, <https://www.coe.int/en/web/cultural-routes/by-country>

Membership of Bosnia and Herzegovina involves the recognition and preservation of Jewish cultural sites, synagogues, cemeteries, and historical Jewish communities.

The European Cemeteries Route (2010) aims to highlight the cultural importance of cemeteries as repositories of history, art, and cultural diversity. Bosnia and Herzegovina's involvement entails the identification and preservation of unique cemetery sites, including those with historical, architectural, or artistic significance.

Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route (2015) is a route aimed at promoting the wine regions along the Danube River. The route covers various countries through which the Danube flows encouraging wine tourism, highlighting the diverse wine cultures, landscapes, and traditions along the Danube. The city of four rivers - Čapljina stands as a prominent destination along the Adriatic Trail.

Iron Age Danube Route (2021) explores the cultural heritage of the Iron Age civilizations along the Danube River, showcasing the historical and archaeological wealth of the region. Membership allows Bosnia and Herzegovina to spotlight its Iron Age archaeological sites and contribute to the broader understanding of European Iron Age culture.

Iter Vitis (2021) route focuses on the historical and cultural significance of wine and vineyards across Europe. It celebrates the wine-making traditions and the heritage of vine cultivation. Bosnia and Herzegovina's membership is associated with the recognition of its vineyard landscapes, wine-producing traditions, and the cultural significance of wine in the region.

Bosnia and Herzegovina's participation in these Cultural Routes signifies its dedication to preserving and sharing its unique cultural heritage with the broader European community. It involves collaboration with other countries along these routes, fostering cultural exchange, and contributing to the promotion of cultural tourism. Moreover, membership provides opportunities for the country to access resources and expertise from the Council of Europe to enhance the preservation and presentation of its cultural treasures. Furthermore, Bosnia and Herzegovina have taken strides towards becoming a part of two additional routes (Routes of the Olive Tree and European Route of Historic Thermal Towns). Based on the conclusions of the Advisory Council for Implementing the Enlarged Partial Agreement of the Council of Europe on Establishing Cultural

Routes in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in addition to those mentioned, activities have been initiated to join the following certified routes of the Council of Europe: TRANSROMANICA - The Romanesque Routes of European Heritage and Via Habsburg.

In 2012, the University Network for Cultural Routes Studies was established with the aim of fostering interaction between the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme, academic institutions dedicated to the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage, and recognized Cultural Routes.⁵ This network endeavors to promote scholarly research on Cultural Routes and related subjects, encourage students to engage in academic exploration of the program, jointly pursue European funding opportunities, participate in the program's annual activities, and offer expert guidance as needed. It serves as a platform for the engagement and exchange of ideas among scholars and students. Presently, the «University Network for Cultural Routes Studies» boasts twenty-two members universities. Despite their significant potential, universities from Bosnia and Herzegovina are not presently engaged in this network.

The Country Mapping Document for Bosnia and Herzegovina offers a comprehensive assessment of the current state of affairs and underscores the primary objectives, emphasizing the developmental potential of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme. This program represents a pivotal component in realizing the objectives of the Council of Europe and safeguarding the distinctive European heritage. Furthermore, it serves as a platform for fostering the inclusive participation of all interested stakeholders.



Una National Park © Embassy of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Montenegro

⁵ Council of Europe, <https://www.coe.int/en/web/cultural-routes/university-network>

Short summary for certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe and candidate networks

Since Bosnia and Herzegovina's membership in the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes (EPA) as a Council of Europe Member State, various activities and initiatives related to the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme have been undertaken by Ministries, other state and local authorities, as well as certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, numerous stakeholders have actively participated in, or are currently engaged in, a diverse range of events, projects, and initiatives broadly associated with cultural routes, not limited to just the Council of Europe's Cultural Routes.

The preparation of the Country Mapping report for Bosnia and Herzegovina involved a thorough analysis of the cultural heritage potential within the country, with a view to integrating it into the existing certified Cultural Routes. Considering the wide array of natural and cultural heritage resources in Bosnia and Herzegovina and their inherent value, beyond the specified five routes where formal membership has been established, the state possesses a substantial potential for alignment with 17 out of the 47 certified cultural routes established by the Council of Europe. Among these 17 routes, activities have been initiated for accession in a specific form for four of them.

Routes in which Bosnia and Herzegovina is already an active participant, and where the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, along with relevant stakeholders, has recognized a significant cultural heritage presence:

- These include the European Route of Jewish Heritage (since 2004), European Cemeteries Route (since 2010), Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route (since 2015), Iron Age Danube Route (since 2021), and Iter Vitis (since 2021). Future efforts should focus on expanding the network of sites and members.

Bosnia and Herzegovina possess substantial potential to become a part of various cultural routes within the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme:

- Routes where Bosnia and Herzegovina has certain sites included in some capacity, and activities for the accession process have been initiated. This category includes: The Routes

of the Olive Tree, European Route of Historic Thermal Towns, TRANSROMANICA - The Romanesque Routes of European Heritage and Via Habsburg;

- A route that Bosnia and Herzegovina is not yet part of but has the potential to join due to the quantity, significance, and state of research of its monuments and the legacy of the liberation war. This refers to the Liberation Route Europe and European Route of Industrial Heritage;
- Given the abundance and diversity of cultural heritage sites, Bosnia and Herzegovina has the potential to explore the possibility of connecting to the following routes: European Route of Megalithic Culture, Prehistoric Rock Art Trails, Cyril and Methodius Route, and Art Nouveau;
- Routes for potential participation in which Bosnia and Herzegovina, to a somewhat lesser extent than other countries, possess components of cultural heritage. There is an opportunity to explore options for involvement and conduct additional research as necessary: European Route of Ceramics, Impressionism Routes, Transhumance trails, Historic Cafés Route, European Fairy Tale Route and Women Writers Route. *When the route ATRIUM - Architecture of Totalitarian Regimes of the 20th century In Europe's Urban Memory is concerned, it should be examined at the regional level whether that category can include the Architecture in Yugoslavia between 1948 and 1980, whose special value has been recognised.*⁶

Bosnia and Herzegovina's rich cultural heritage offers numerous avenues for engagement and contribution to the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme across these diverse categories. Furthermore, apart from the mentioned 17 routes, numerous themes within Bosnia and Herzegovina have been identified as having the potential to establish new Cultural Routes. This potential extends not only at the state level but also within a broader regional context. In recent years, several topics have emerged that we believe offer unique opportunities, given their distinctive characteristics within cultural heritage and the substantial initiatives already undertaken in various disciplines. These themes include:

⁶ The author concurred with the provided proposal given in the document Country mapping document Montenegro,2020, Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, <https://rm.coe.int/cmd-montenegro-eng/1680a5c95c>

- Stećci - Medieval Tombstones
- Medieval Royal Towns
- Cultural route 'Franciscana'
- Drystone Constructions Route
- Route of European Epigraphic Heritage
- Route of European Folklore Heritage Festivals

These themes represent valuable cultural assets that can serve as foundations for the development of innovative and impactful Cultural Routes.



Location Radimlja - Stolac © Turistička zajednica Hercegovačko-neretvanskog kantona/županije

2. FRAMING AND CONTEXT OF THE REPORT

The Council of Europe stands as the preeminent organization on the European continent, dedicated to the core principles of defending, promoting, and safeguarding democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.

Its inception in 1949 was driven by the aspiration to foster greater solidarity among its member nations. Today, this intergovernmental organization boasts a membership of 46 nations, each of which has ratified the European Convention on Human Rights, underscoring their commitment to these fundamental values.¹

One of the remarkable initiatives launched by the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme, which was established in 1987.² This

program has been instrumental in encouraging cross-cultural interaction, the preservation of cultural heritage, and the advancement of tourism, all within the context of a shared European history. Under this initiative, a total of 47 Cultural Routes have been developed, serving as pathways for cultural exploration and exchange.

These Cultural Routes play a pivotal role in fostering sustainable and inclusive growth, transcending the geographical boundaries of the European continent and extending their impact to the global stage. In doing so, they embody the spirit of European identity, celebrating the rich tapestry of cultural diversity, upholding the principles of human dignity, and promoting interaction among diverse cultures.

The Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme is a testament to the organization's

1 Council of the European Union, EU annual report on human rights and democracy in the world in 2012 <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-9431-2013-INIT/en/pdf>

2 Cultural Routes of the Council of the Europe 2019, <https://rm.coe.int/en-brochure-cultural-routes-2019/168092594a#:~:text=The%20Cultural%20Routes%20of%20the%20Council%20of%20Europe%20programme%20was,to%20a%20shared%20cultural%20heritage.>

commitment to cultural enrichment and cooperation. These routes serve as living testaments to the shared heritage, traditions, and values that unite Europe, while simultaneously contributing to the economic and cultural well-being of the communities they touch.

The fundamental principles at the heart of the Council of Europe, those of human rights, cultural democracy, diversity, identity, dialogue, and the exchange of ideas are actualized through the Cultural Routes. These Cultural Routes offer a unique opportunity for collaboration with professional associations across Europe and active participation in events and expert discussions centered on the themes of cultural heritage and tourism.

In 2010, the Council of Europe established the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes. The primary objective of this agreement is succinctly stated in Article 1 of the Committee of Ministers Resolution CM/Res(2013)66: «*The Enlarged Partial Agreement is designed to contribute to the promotion of European identity and citizenship by fostering knowledge and awareness of Europe's shared heritage, cultivating cultural connections and dialogues, both within Europe and with other countries and regions.*»³

Through its Governing Board meetings, the EPA bestows the prestigious certification of «*Cultural Route of the Council of Europe*». This certification is awarded based on established standards defined by the Committee of Ministers Resolution CM/Res(2013)67, signifying the recognized cultural and historical significance of the routes within the European context.⁴

Through the creation of Cultural Routes, a concerted effort is made to establish a shared cultural space with the overarching goal of fostering awareness and protection of cultural heritage. These routes serve as vehicles for education, networking, and the promotion of high-quality, eco-friendly international travel, among other pertinent activities. They are instrumental in promoting cultural exchange and preserving the rich historical tapestry of Europe.

The European Institute of Cultural Routes (EICR) is a pivotal institution in this context. Founded in 1998,

3 Council of Europe, <https://rm.coe.int/16807b7d5b>

4 Council of Europe, Resolution CM/Res(2015)23 concerning the budgetary management accounts of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes, https://search.coe.int/cm/Pages/result_details.aspx?ObjectId=09000016805c29a0

it resulted from a significant political agreement between the Council of Europe and the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg, specifically the Ministry of Culture, Higher Education and Research. This agreement solidified the EICR's location within the Centre Culturel de Rencontre - Abbaye de Neumünster in Luxembourg. In 2010, upon the entry into force of the Enlarged Partial Agreement on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe (EPA), the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg signed an agreement designating the EICR as the headquarters of the EPA. This arrangement emphasizes Luxembourg's pivotal role in supporting the EPA's initiatives related to Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme.

As part of its activities, the EICR plays an essential role in the evaluation cycles for recognized Cultural Routes and candidate networks aspiring to achieve «*Cultural Route of the Council of Europe*» certification. The Institute lends its expertise to support the EPA in its mission to uphold and expand the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme, furthering the promotion and preservation of Europe's diverse cultural heritage. The European Institute of Cultural Routes (EICR) also serves as a repository for valuable documentary resources related to the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme. Moreover, the EICR is a welcoming hub for project managers, researchers, and students who seek insights into these cultural networks.

One of the EICR's noteworthy responsibilities lies in overseeing a University Network for Cultural Routes Studies, which functions as a platform for academic collaboration and research dedicated to Cultural Routes. The Institute is actively involved in executing European programs aimed at raising awareness about the intricate connections between cultural heritage, tourism, regional development, and environmental sustainability.

A main mission of the Institute is to promote and disseminate knowledge concerning the approved Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe. These routes act as connectors, uniting all 50 member states under the European Cultural Convention and extending their reach beyond, facilitating cultural exchange and mutual understanding. The Council of Europe currently certifies 47 Cultural Routes⁵, each with its unique cultural and historical significance,

5 Finnish Heritage Agency, <https://www.museovirasto.fi/en/about-us/international-activities/euroopan-neuvosto-ja-kulttuuriperinto/euroopan-neuvoston-kulttuurireitti#:~:text=There%20are%20currently%20a%20total,European%20art%2C%20music%20and%20literature.>

contributing to the enrichment of Europe's shared heritage and fostering international cooperation (a comprehensive list is included in the Annex).

The Cultural Routes Country Mapping Document holds a pivotal role as an indispensable resource in the evaluation of Bosnia and Herzegovina's potential for engagement within the framework of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme. This extensive report thoroughly examines the circumstances, provides suggestions for the nation's participation in forward thinking projects focused on advancing shared European values.

The core objective of this report is to explore opportunities for growth and collaboration across various dimensions. This includes fostering research and development cooperation, preserving data and historical legacies, promoting European heritage, facilitating cultural and educational exchanges for young Europeans, encouraging contemporary cultural and artistic practices, and advancing sustainable cultural tourism and development. Importantly, this report aligns with the five primary areas of focus within the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme, ensuring that Bosnia and Herzegovina's potential contributions are aligned with the program's broader objectives.

The process of preparing the Cultural Routes Country Mapping Document undertaken by Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2023 was characterized by a multifaceted and thorough research approach, ensuring a comprehensive and holistic examination of the region. These efforts have generated diverse and important proposals aimed at guiding new development initiatives in the country. It is important to note that the geographical scope of this study is primarily the entirety of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The research initiative commenced with a series of desk research tasks, which encompassed a broad spectrum of activities. These tasks included not only the collection of web-based data but also on-site visits to various locations and consultations with relevant experts. Additionally, stakeholders in the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme were provided with access to a detailed questionnaire, allowing for their valuable input and insights.

To enhance the depth of the study and gather a broad spectrum of perspectives and ideas for program development, various levels of

government administration, as well as non-governmental organization (NGO), were inclusively engaged in a participatory manner. This engagement was facilitated through various means, including telephone calls, email correspondence, and in-person meetings. The goal was to tap into the diverse knowledge and experiences of these individuals to ensure a well-rounded and inclusive assessment of Bosnia and Herzegovina's potential within the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme. This research effort reflects the commitment of Bosnia and Herzegovina to thoroughly evaluate and plan for its engagement in the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme, taking into account a range of research methods and perspectives. The resulting set of proposals holds the promise of guiding and shaping the country's future endeavors in this cultural and heritage-rich domain.

The majority of the vital conclusions and findings within this document stem from extensive work conducted as an integral part of the research phase. During these online research and field missions, a series of interviews were meticulously carried out with representatives from a diverse array of potential stakeholders. These included individuals from state and entity governments, non-governmental organizations, and the like. These interviews served as an opportunity for these stakeholders to gain deeper insights into the program's objectives and aspirations. This project's contribution to the identification and classification of diverse groups that can potentially support different cultural paths was a significant aspect. This aspect of the research was crucial in pinpointing untapped avenues for collaboration and growth. Simultaneously, research efforts were dedicated to the formulation of programs that align with the country's goals and encompass innovative routes to further enrich Bosnia and Herzegovina's cultural heritage landscape.

In essence, this document represents a comprehensive assessment of both the present circumstances and latent potential within Bosnia and Herzegovina. It meticulously delineates the existing legal framework and current socioeconomic landscape, while also exploring prospective directions for development. Consequently, the report equips Bosnia and Herzegovina with the capacity to actively engage with not just the existing cultural routes but also newly emerging cultural routes at the state level. It serves as a valuable roadmap for unlocking the country's cultural and economic potential in the context of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme.



Kravica Waterfall, ©Zvonimir Madžar

3. HERITAGE POLICIES AND LEGISLATIONS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

The Council of Europe stands as the preeminent organization on the European continent, dedicated to the core principles of defending, promoting, and safeguarding democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.

Policy framework

The cultural-historical resources of Bosnia and Herzegovina are a reflection of its rich and diverse heritage, spanning a vast expanse of time, from prehistory to the medieval, Ottoman, Austro-Hungarian period and modern eras. These resources represent a tapestry woven with threads of influence from various civilizations, namely the Mediterranean, Central European, Byzantine, and Oriental-Islamic, all of which have left indelible imprints on this region. Situated at the crossroads of these major cultural spheres, Bosnia and Herzegovina has absorbed and synthesized these influences, shaping the course and substance of its cultural development and contributing to the extraordinary wealth of its cultural-historical legacy. This combination has produced a unique

legacy marked by an extensive number of architectural gems, both secular and religious, as well as enormous cultural landmarks.

However, this wealth of cultural heritage faced a tragic and devastating chapter in the country's history during the years 1992-1995. This period witnessed the deliberate destruction and damage of a substantial number of these precious assets, leaving indelible scars on the country's cultural landscape. Despite this painful period, the cultural-historical resources of Bosnia and Herzegovina continue to stand as a testament to the resilience of its peoples and the enduring value of their heritage. Efforts to restore, preserve, and protect these assets are ongoing, symbolizing a commitment to not only safeguarding the past but also forging a brighter cultural future. The tangible and intangible heritage of Bosnia and Herzegovina

remains a source of pride and a bridge to the country's multifaceted history, illustrating the capacity of culture to unite and transcend even the most challenging of circumstances.

It is important to outline the chronology of the adoption of significant strategic documents in the field of cultural heritage, without necessarily implying their current status, and to provide a brief overview.

Preserving cultural heritage stands as a paramount objective within Bosnia and Herzegovina's cultural policy framework, a commitment prominently underscored in the Cultural Policy Strategy for Bosnia and Herzegovina published in 2008. This strategic document delineates the enduring, foundational pillars of cultural policy in the country, emphasizing a multi-faceted approach.¹ These fundamental obligations include thorough investigation, devoted protection of cultural assets, promotion of these resources in many fields, and ongoing improvement of Bosnia and Herzegovina's entire cultural diversity. This includes the entire cultural resource as well as the heritage that has been accumulated within the varied traditions. The strategy places a strong emphasis on the imperative to control and maintain sovereignty over cultural values and objects that play a pivotal role in ensuring the long-term sustainability culture of Bosnia and Herzegovina's. This acknowledgment underscores the country's determination to safeguard its cultural legacy, recognizing its intrinsic value in shaping the identity, history, and future of the country.

The Action Plan for the Implementation of the Cultural Policy Strategy in Bosnia and Herzegovina, initially adopted in 2011, marked a significant milestone in shaping the cultural landscape of the country.² Covering the period from 2011 to 2014, this strategic document served as a blueprint for the development and promotion of culture within the country. This action plan outlined a series of well-defined objectives, activities, and measures designed to translate the broader cultural policy strategy into concrete and actionable steps. In recognition of the evolving needs and priorities of the cultural sector, an extended timeframe

was introduced in 2017, with the revised Action Plan for the Implementation of the Cultural Policy Strategy spanning the years 2018 to 2021. This extension provided an opportunity to recalibrate the approach to cultural development, aligning it with contemporary challenges and aspirations. The updated plan, which provides stakeholders in the field of culture with a road map, kept outlining the strategic vision for implementing cultural policies.³

Within the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the primary responsibility for cultural policy lies with the cantonal ministries. This decentralized entity guided by the broader cultural strategy of the country, take on the vital role of implementing cultural policies at the cantonal and local level. The management of cultural affairs is further extended to relevant municipal and city authorities.⁴ This multi-tiered approach ensures that cultural development is addressed comprehensively, tailoring policies to the specific needs and aspirations of various regions and communities.

On the other side, the Republic of Srpska, one of the entities within Bosnia and Herzegovina, has recently enacted a series of laws to regulate specific areas of culture in greater detail. The Law on Culture ('Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska' No. 66/18) has been enacted, and the new Law on Cultural Assets ('Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska' No. 38/22) is also in effect. All legislative solutions have been developed in accordance with modern legislation, and are harmonized with other laws of the Republic of Srpska as well as with European legislation⁵. In the recent period, it has adopted the Cultural Development Strategy of the Republic of Srpska for the period 2017-2022. This forward-looking strategy aimed to set a comprehensive framework and direction for cultural activities within the entity. By doing so, it sought to create a coherent and purposeful approach to cultural policy. Such strategies play a crucial role in engaging both decision-makers and the end-users of cultural initiatives, fostering a deeper sense of cultural identity and unity⁶. A new Cultural Development Strategy of the Republic

1 Strategija kulturne politike u BiH, Vijeće ministara BiH, Ministarstvo civilnih poslova, 2008 http://www.mcp.gov.ba/attachments/bs_Migrirani_dokumenti/Sektor/Nauka_i_kultura/Nauka_i_kultura-dokumenti/strategija_kulturne_politike_u_bih.pdf

2 Djuricic S., 2011, Upravljanje kulturom na lokalnom nivou u Bosni i Hercegovini - izazovi i mogućnosti, Fond otvoreno društvo Bosna i Hercegovina, https://osfbih.org.ba/images/Progs/00-16/PDFP/pdfp_13/BHS_S_78_Snjezana_Duricic.pdf

3 Council of Europe, Action Plan for Bosnia and Herzegovina 2018-2021, <https://rm.coe.int/bih-action-plan-2018-2021-en/16808b7563>

4 Delibasic E., Kulturna politika u Bosni i Hercegovini: entitet koji (ne) postoji, Gračanički glasnik, 2022, <https://gracanickiglasnik.ba/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/gg54-5.pdf>

5 Opinion of the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Srpska on the Country Mapping Document for Bosnia and Herzegovina, No. 07.033/052-9188-2/23 dated 10.05.2024.

6 [Cultural Development Strategy of Republic of Srpska for the period 2017-2022](https://www.srbija.gov.ba/Portals/0/Document/2022/07/07-033-052-9188-2-23-2024.pdf).

of Srpska for the period 2023-2030 has been developed and adopted ⁷.

These strategic plans and frameworks underscore the commitment of Bosnia and Herzegovina to nurture and celebrate its rich cultural heritage, adapt to contemporary challenges, and engage all levels of government and society in the pursuit of a vibrant and inclusive cultural landscape.

The Strategic Framework for Bosnia and Herzegovina, a key document adopted in August 2015, represents a comprehensive roadmap for the country's development.⁸ This strategic framework takes into account an array of existing strategic documents that have received approval from the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and it conscientiously acknowledges the commitments stemming from the Stabilization and Association Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the European Union.

In its formulation, the Strategic Framework also factors in the priorities articulated in the Strategic Document of the European Commission for Bosnia and Herzegovina. Furthermore, it aligns with the National Economic Reform Program (NERP) and integrates recommendations originating from the Agreement for Prosperity and Employment in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In this way, the framework embodies a truly collaborative and integrated approach, synthesizing inputs from various international organizations and research bodies⁹. The Strategic Framework for Bosnia and Herzegovina plays a key role as the foundational cornerstone for the medium-term and annual plans of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Within its comprehensive structure, it delineates a set of 12 strategic objectives, each addressing critical facets of the country's development. Strategic objectives underscore the country's commitment to nurturing and advancing its cultural assets and creative industries as integral components of its broader development strategy. It signifies a recognition of the vital role culture plays in shaping the identity, well-being, and prosperity of the country.

Cultural policy in Bosnia and Herzegovina is

⁷ Opinion of the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Srpska on the Country Mapping Document for Bosnia and Herzegovina, No. 07.033/052-9188-2/23 dated 10.05.2024.

⁸ [Bosnia and Herzegovina, Council of ministers, Directorate for economic planning](#),

⁹ United Nations Development Programme in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNDP in BiH), <https://www.undp.org/bosnia-herzegovina/publications/sdgs-framework-bosnia-and-herzegovina>

implemented at the level of both entities, the cantons, and Brčko District. The establishment and implementation of cultural policy, and thus the creation of cultural development strategies in the entities and Brčko District, are treated differently. In the Republic of Srpska, this falls under the jurisdiction of the entity, whereas in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, each canton is responsible for certain cultural activities within its territory. The Federal Ministry for Culture and Sport supports activities on a cantonal level, but also has its own activities. The laws and strategies in the fields of culture and cultural heritage are implemented by the relevant ministries of the entities and cantons, as well as by institutes that focus on the protection of cultural heritage and cultural institutions dedicated to heritage. Data on the number and condition of cultural assets are held by the Republic Institute for the Protection of Cultural, Historical, and Natural Heritage of the Republic of Srpska and the Institute for the Protection of Monuments of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. These institutes generally handle complex professional and administrative tasks related to the protection and preservation of cultural heritage and assets. As stated, the cantons have their own institutes that carry out activities prescribed by law.

The Commission for the Preservation of National Monuments, in accordance with Annex 8 of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), makes decisions on proclaiming properties as national monuments.¹⁰ According to the information obtained in communication with the Commission for the Preservation of National Monuments, the following indicators are presented:

Declared national monuments:

- Federation of BiH: 651 (386 petitions + 265 with expert reports)
- Republic of Srpska (RS): 253 (146 petitions + 107 with expert reports)
- Brčko District: 13 (8 petitions + 5 with expert reports)

Temporary list of national monuments:

From the Temporary List (out of the total declared):
377

- Negative decisions: 306

¹⁰ Komisija za očuvanje nacionalnih spomenika Bosne i Hercegovine, <http://kons.gov.ba/Publication/Read/nacionalni-spomenici-tabela>

- Federation of BiH: 225
- RS: 69
- Brčko District: 12

Categorization:

- of universal significance: 5
- of exceptional significance: 88
- of great significance: 61
- of significance: 36

Declared (total) by type of monument:

- movable property (individual and collections): 37
- historical monument/building: 203
- archaeological monument: 1
- group of monuments/buildings: 2
- site/area and remains of a building or complex: 66
- historical area: 191
- historical urban area: 6
- historical urban landscape: 2
- archaeological area/site: 82
- architectural complex: 244
- residential architectural complex: 15
- ambient complex: 3
- industrial heritage: 4
- natural-architectural complex: 11
- natural and historical area: 4
- cultural landscape: 13
- cemetery complex: 25
- serial property: 1

When it comes to cultural institutions, it is important to mention: the Art Gallery of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Cinematheque of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Libraries:

- National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Library for the Blind and Visually Impaired Persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- National and University Library of the Republic of Srpska
- Public Libraries in Tuzla, Maglaj, Mostar, Visoko, Zenica, Trebinje, Bihać, Bijeljina, and others.

Museums:

- National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo
- Gradiška local history museum
- Museum of the Republic of Srpska, Banja Luka
- Historical Museum, Sarajevo
- Museum of Literature and Performing Arts of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Museum of Sarajevo
- Homeland Museum, Travnik
- Museum of Eastern Bosnia, Mostar
- Museum of Herzegovina, Mostar
- Museum of Herzegovina, Trebinje
- Museum of Humac, Ljubuški
- Museum of Semberija, Bijeljina
- Museum in Doboј
- Regional Museum of Konjic
- Museum of the City of Zenica
- Franciscan Museum and Gallery, Široki Brijeg
- Franciscan Archaeological Collection of St. Stephen in Gorica, near Grude
- Franciscan Museum «In the House of My Father», Posušje

- Franciscan Museum and Gallery Gorica, Livno¹¹ and others.

Archives:

- Archive of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Archive of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Archive of the Republic of Srpska
- Historical Archive of Sarajevo
- Archive of Herzegovina - Neretva Canton
- Archive of Tuzla Canton
- Archive of Brčko District,
- Archive of West Herzegovina Canton,
- Archive of Bosnian - Podrinje Canton,

- Archive of Central Bosnia Canton
- Archive of Unsko-Sanski Canton and others.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has 12 protected areas, collectively spanning a vast expanse of 86,573.07 hectares¹². These protected areas have the potential to play a significant role in bolstering the local economy, facilitating development, and promoting the sustainable utilization of the region’s natural resources and ecosystem services. To ensure the effective management of each protected area while maintaining a delicate balance between conservation and utilization, it is imperative to establish robust protection measures, well-structured tourist activities, and the necessary infrastructure. This calls for meticulous planning and enhanced collaboration among various interrelated sectors, including tourism, environmental conservation, transportation, research, urban planning, and development. Initiating this collaboration at the strategic planning and policy levels is the critical first step toward achieving these goals.

No.	Name and National Category Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina:	IUCN category	Areas in hectares
1	Una National Park	II	19800.00
2	Blidinje Nature Park	III	35800.00
3	Hutovo Blato Nature Park	III	7411.00
4	Skakavac Waterfall Nature Monument	III	1430.70
5	Prokoško Lake Nature Monument	III	2225.00
6	Vrelo Bosne Nature Monument	III	631.00
7	Tajan Nature Monument	III	4948.35
8	Bijambare Protected Landscape	V	497.00
9	Konjuh Protected Landscape	V	8645.34
10	Trebević Protected Landscape	V	400.20
11	Bentbaša Protected Landscape	V	160.90
	Vjetrenica Cave-Popovo polje Protected		
12	Landscape	V	4623.58
TOTAL			86.573.07ha

Table 1: Protected areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina
Source: https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00ZVXG.pdf , page 115

11 Opinion of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture, and Sports of West Herzegovina Canton, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the Country Mapping Document for Bosnia and Herzegovina, No. 07-01-49-251-1/24 dated 09.04.2024.

12 Strategija razvoja turizma Federacije Bosne i Hercegovine 2022-2027, [https://www.fmoit.gov.ba/upload/file/2020/Kabinet%202020/NACRT%20-%20FBIH%20STRATEGIJA%20RAZVOJA%20TURIZMA%202022-2027%20BHS\(1\)\(1\).pdf](https://www.fmoit.gov.ba/upload/file/2020/Kabinet%202020/NACRT%20-%20FBIH%20STRATEGIJA%20RAZVOJA%20TURIZMA%202022-2027%20BHS(1)(1).pdf)

Bosnia and Herzegovina should provide its administration of protected areas, enhance revenue generation from these areas through meticulous planning and sustainable practices, while actively involving local communities and the private sector in conserving and delivering responsible, sustainable visitor experiences associated with these protected zones.

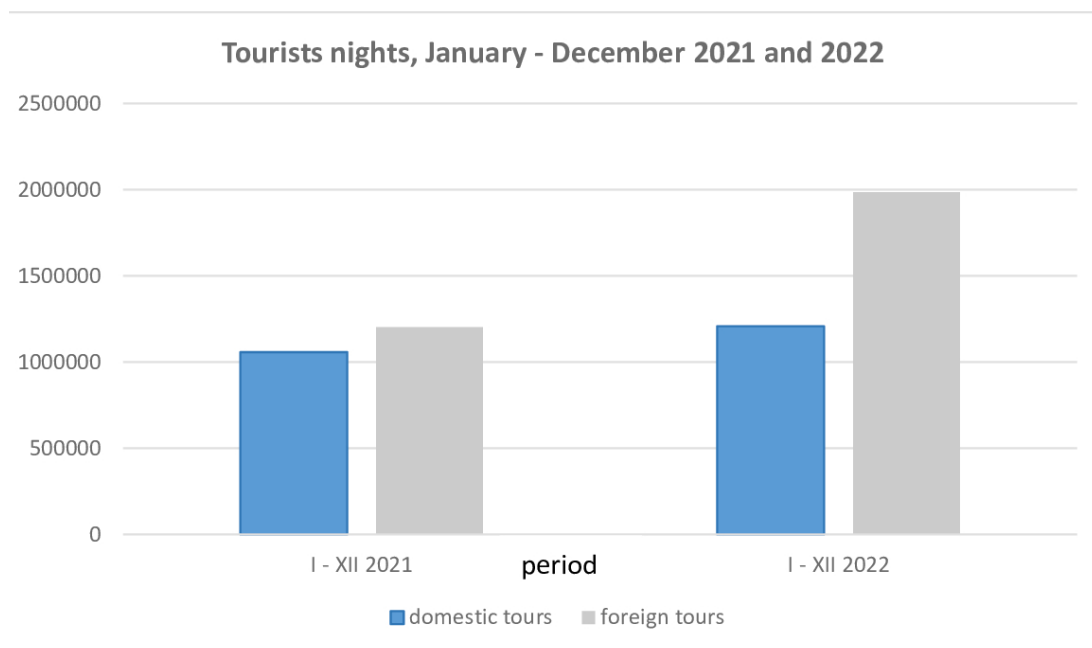
Cultural heritage has been recognized as a significant resource for tourism development through the tourism development strategies of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the period 2022-2027 and the Republic of Srpska for the period 2021-2027.

The development strategy for tourism in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina for the period 2022-2027 highlights the region's exceptionally rich tourist resources, with its tourism offerings grounded in abundant cultural and historical assets and the wealth of untouched natural landscapes and resources. Leveraging cultural and historical assets alongside pristine natural environments, adventure, religious, health, rural, and cultural tourism have, over the past decade, led to increased tourist visits and a variety of tourism models.¹³

As a result, the economy has benefited socioeconomically in a number of ways, including the creation of new job opportunities, the drawing of foreign capital, the encouragement of entrepreneurship, and infrastructure spending.

The Tourism Development Strategy of the Republic of Srpska for the period 2021–2027 builds upon the continuous system support policy initiated in 2011. Collaborating closely, representatives from the RS Ministry of Trade and Tourism, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of RS, and stakeholders from the tourism industry formed four working groups, each dedicated to a specific pillar within the value chain. These pillars were subsequently translated into the four strategic objectives outlined in the strategy document. Each strategic objective delineates its priorities and associated measures. The identified strategic objectives are: Revolutionize Tourism Destination and Product Development, Transform Destination Marketing, Develop World Class Human Capital, and Improve the Enabling Environment for Sustainable Growth.¹⁴

According to the available data of the Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in the period January - December 2022, tourists made 1,464,216



Overnight stays by tourists in the period from January to December 2021 and 2022
Source: https://bhas.gov.ba/data/Publikacije/Saopstenja/2023/TUR_02_2022_12_1_EN.pdf

¹³ Tourism Development Strategy, Chemonics International Inc, Tthe United States Agency for International Development, 2021, https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA002VXG.pdf

¹⁴ Implementation and Harmonization Plans for two entities Tourism Development strategies, Chemonics International Inc., USAID Developing Sustainable Tourism in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2022, https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA02112C.pdf

visits, which is more by 50.7%, and 3,194,681 overnight stays, which is more by 41.4% compared to the same period in 2021.¹⁵ The number of overnight stays by domestic tourists was higher by 14.2%, while the number of overnight stays by foreign tourists was higher by 65.4% compared to the same period in 2021. year. In the total number of overnight stays, the participation of domestic tourists is 37.8%, while the participation of foreign tourists is 62.2%. Table 1 gives a detailed overview of overnight stays by tourists in the period from January to December 2021 and 2022.

Legislative context in the field of culture

It's worth noting that there are numerous existing laws governing heritage protection at different levels within Bosnia and Herzegovina, including at the entity and cantonal levels. The laws and strategies in the fields of culture and cultural heritage are implemented by the relevant ministries of the entities and cantons, as well as by institutes that focus on the protection of cultural heritage and cultural institutions dedicated to heritage.

The General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina recognized the importance of heritage in post-war reconstruction, as well as the processes of return and reconciliation. Annex 8 of the GFAP, known as the Agreement on the Commission to Preserve National Monuments, addresses the protection of national monuments and outlines responsibilities for their preservation.¹⁶

Annex 8, Article 6 of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina outlines the criteria for designating properties as national monuments.¹⁷ These properties can be either movable or immovable and must hold significant cultural, historical, religious, or ethnic importance to a community. Examples include architectural, artistic, or historical monuments, archaeological sites, groups of buildings, and cemeteries. Additionally, the agreement introduces the concept of «rehabilitation,» defined as the restoration of a property to its pre-war condition if

it was damaged or destroyed during the 1992-1995 conflict.

To implement these principles, a set of harmonized laws was enacted in 2002, applicable in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Srpska, and the Brčko District. These laws define national monuments, rehabilitation procedures, and the responsibilities and relationships between institutions responsible for heritage protection. A National Monument is a public property declared as such by the Commission to Preserve National Monuments and listed on the Provisional List of National Monuments of Bosnia and Herzegovina. These national monuments receive the highest level of legal protection. The laws also make the decisions of the Commission legally binding, detailing the responsible bodies, site boundaries, protection zones, and measures to ensure the preservation and future interventions on monuments and protected sites.

In addition to these laws, the country's heritage protection framework includes the Law on the Protection of the Cultural, Historical, and Natural Heritage of 1985, with subsequent amendments. This law applies in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and in cantons that lack their own legislation.¹⁸ It defines heritage as a public asset, requiring public investment in its protection and restoration, regardless of whether it is in public or private ownership. This legal framework dates back to 1945, establishing the institutional foundation for heritage protection.

The Republic of Srpska has its own legislation regarding cultural property. In 1995, the Law on Cultural Property was enacted, and in 2008, amendments were made to this law.¹⁹ These laws governed the protection, ownership, and use of cultural property, categorizing them into three categories based on their significance. It's worth noting that in 2022, a new law, the Law on Cultural Property, was adopted in the Republic of Srpska and published in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska under No. 38/22.²⁰

Regional Planning Laws in both Republic of Srpska

15 Agency for Statistics of Bosnia and Herzegovina, <https://bhas.gov.ba/>

16 Commission to Preserve National Monuments, Law on the protection of properties designated as national monuments of Bosnia and Herzegovina by decision of the commission to preserve national monuments, 2002, http://old.kons.gov.ba/main.php?id_struct=83&lang=4

17 United Nations, General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Dayton Agreement), 1995, <https://peacemaker.un.org/bosniadaytonagreement95>

18 Sistemi i načini organizacije zaštite kulturnohistorijskog naslijeđa/ baštine u Bosni i Hercegovini, Asocijacija za interkulturalne aktivnosti i spašavanje naslijeđa u Bosni i Hercegovini / AIASN_a, Sarajevo 2021, <https://www.kulturnonaslijedje.ba/assets/files/1655123456-sistemi-i-nacini-organizacije-zastite-kulturno-historijskog-naslijedjabastine-u-bih.pdf>

19 Službeni glasnik Republike Srpske broj 11/95, https://naslijedje.org/docs/pdf/zakon_o_kulturnim_dobrima.pdf

20 Službeni glasnik Republike Srpske, broj 38/22, <https://www.slglasnik.org/sr/aktuelno/obavjestenja/sluzbeni-glasnik-rs-broj-3822>

and the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina manage land use at the entity level and define planning, land use, and area protection. Additionally, the Criminal Codes specify penalties for damaging cultural monuments and protected natural sites and properties and for unauthorized interventions on these sites. Laws on the Protection of Nature and the Protection of the Environment govern various aspects related to the preservation and protection of nature, as well as environmental conservation.

All of these laws and regulations are accessible through the official gazettes in local languages, including Bosnian, Serbian, and Croatian, and are available on the Commission's website.

This legal framework provides the foundation for heritage protection in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republic of Srpska:²¹

Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Law on the Implementation of Decisions of the Commission for the Protection of National Monuments Pursuant to Annex 8 (51-2007)
- Law on the Protection of Properties Declared National Monuments by Decisions of the Commission for the Protection of National Monuments (6-2004)
- Law on the Implementation of Decisions of the Commission for the Protection of National Monuments Pursuant to Annex 8 (06-2004)
- Law on Library Activities of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (28-2003)
- Law on the Protection of Properties Declared National Monuments by Decisions of the Commission for the Protection of National Monuments (2-2002)
- Law on the Protection of Properties Declared National Monuments by Decisions of the Commission for the Protection of National Monuments (8-2002)
- Law on the Protection of Properties Declared National Monuments by Decisions of the Commission for the Protection of National Monuments (27-2002)

21 Mulalic Handan M.,(2011) Report on assessment of the architectural and archaeological heritage bosnia and herzegovina,https://www.academia.edu/50850689/Report_IRPP_SAAH_2011

- Law on Archival Material of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (45-2002)
- Law on the Protection and Use of Cultural and Historical Heritage (Official Gazette of West Herzegovina Canton No. 6/99)²²
- Law on Library Activities of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (37-1995)
- Dayton Peace Agreement Annex 8 (translation), 1995

Republic of Srpska

- Regulation on the Procedure for Establishing Compliance with the Conditions for the Establishment and Commencement of Operation of a Museum Institution (Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska, No. 70/23)
- Law on Cultural Heritage (Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska, No. 38/22)
- Law on the Protection, Preservation, and Use of the Serbian Language and Cyrillic Script (Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska, No. 81/22)
- Law on Audiovisual Activities (Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska, No. 56/22)
- Law on Museum Activities (Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska, No. 112/21)
- Law on the Acquisition of the Status of an Independent Artist and Independent Expert in Culture (Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska, No. 41/21)
- Law on Amendments and Supplements to the Law on Library and Information Activities (Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska, No. 62/18)
- Law on Culture (Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska, No. 66/18)
- Strategy for the Development of Culture of the Republic of Srpska for the Period 2017-2022 (Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska, No. 73/17)

22 Opinion of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture, and Sports of West Herzegovina Canton, Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the Country Mapping Document for Bosnia and Herzegovina, No. 07-01-49-251-1/24 dated 09.04.2024.

- Law on Theater Activities (Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska, No. 92/16)
- Law on Library and Information Activities (Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska, No. 44/16)
- Law on Amendments and Supplements to the Law on the Memorial Area - Donja Gradina (Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska, No. 1/09)
- Law on Amendments and Supplements to the Law on Entertainment Activities (Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska, No. 106/09)
- Law on Amendments to the Law on the Implementation of Decisions of the Commission for the Protection of National Monuments Established in Accordance with Annex 8 of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina («Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska» No. 64/08)
- Law on Archival Activities (Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska, No. 119/08)
- Law on Entertainment Activities (Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska, No. 46/06)
- Law on the Implementation of Decisions of the Commission for the Protection of National Monuments Established in Accordance with Annex 8 of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina («Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska» No. 70/06)
- Law on Publishing Activities (Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska, No. 46/04)
- Law on Urban Planning of Republika Srpska (Republika Srpska), 2002
- Decision imposing the RS Law on Implementation of Decisions of the Commission to Preserve National Monuments established under Annex 8 of the Dayton Peace Agreement (translation), Criteria to Designate the Properties as National Monuments (translation), 2002
- Rulebook on the activities of the commission to preserve national monuments as regards international corporation, 2002
- Decree on the Promulgation of the Law on the Protection of Properties designated as National Monuments of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Decision of the Commission to Preserve National Monuments (translation), 2002
- Law on implementation of the decision of the Annex 8 Commission to Preserve National Monuments (translation), 2001
- Law on the Memorial Area - Donja Gradina (Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska, No. 16/96)
- Dayton Peace Agreement Annex 8 (translation), 1995

Institutional context in the field of culture

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the cultural landscape operates on a decentralized model, as specified in the Dayton Agreement, excluding specific exceptions such as the Commission for the Preservation of National Monuments (as outlined in Annex 8 of the Dayton Agreement²³). The Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina plays a pivotal role in establishing fundamental coordination principles, harmonizing the strategies of entity government bodies, and formulating an international cultural strategy. At the entity level, distinct ministries are entrusted with the oversight of cultural affairs. In the Republic of Srpska, this role is fulfilled by the Ministry of Education and Culture, while in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, it falls under the purview of the Ministry of Culture and Sports. Moreover, within the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, cultural responsibilities are further decentralized to the cantonal level, where individual cantonal ministries handle cultural matters in a more localized context. Notably, the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina boasts its own dedicated department responsible for the management of cultural affairs.

Institutions at the state level:

- Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina (MCP) – responsible for conducting activities in the field of culture (among other areas), including the determination of the basic principles for coordinating activities, aligning the plans of entity authorities, and defining strategies on an international level.²⁴

²³ United Nations, General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Dayton Agreement), 1995, <https://peacemaker.un.org/bosniadaytonagreement95>

²⁴ Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, <http://www.mcp.gov.ba/?lang=en>

- Commission for the Preservation of National Monuments of Bosnia and Herzegovina (established under Annex 8 of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in BiH). Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina – appoints members of the Commission based on Article 2, Paragraph 2 of Annex 8 of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in BiH and Article 5, Paragraph 1 of the Decision on the Commission for the Preservation of National Monuments («Official Gazette of BiH,» No. 1/02, 10/02, 42/16, and 50/17)²⁵.
- State Commission for Cooperation between Bosnia and Herzegovina and UNESCO (State Commission) – established as an advisory body of the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina for cooperation with UNESCO in the fields of education, science, culture, and information.²⁶
- Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina (MOFTER) – responsible for coordinating all activities and aligning plans between entity authorities and international institutions in the fields of natural resources, environmental protection, agriculture, and energy, as well as issuing permits for the export and import of artworks and antiques.²⁷
- The Archives of Bosnia and Herzegovina - the first modern archival institution in Bosnia-Herzegovina is established 1947. by decision of The Government of Peoples Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina No. 1061 on December 12, 1947. Nowadays this date is known as Archives Day in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Institutions at the entity level:

The Ministry of Culture and Sports of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is responsible for creating, implementing, and overseeing cultural policies and strategies in the Federation of BiH. Its responsibilities include the preservation and protection of cultural heritage, support for the development of the arts and cultural industries, and regulation of cultural activities. The Ministry

²⁵ Službeni list Bosne i Hercegovine, <http://sluzbenilist.ba/page/akt/DCP6rXpqHP8=>

²⁶ UNESCO, https://fr.unesco.org/creativity/sites/creativity/files/cdis/cdis_analytical_brief_-_bosnia_and_herzegovina_0_1.pdf

²⁷ Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, <http://www.mvteo.gov.ba/?lang=en>

coordinates the work of cultural institutions such as museums, libraries, theaters, and galleries, and supports activities related to intangible cultural heritage. It is also tasked with the promotion of culture and the arts, as well as international cooperation in the fields of culture and sports. The Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Srpska is responsible for the development, enhancement, and protection of cultural heritage, as well as the support of cultural institutions and organizations. Its duties include the formulation and implementation of cultural policies, legal regulation, and oversight in the field of culture. The Ministry coordinates the work of public libraries, museums, galleries, and archives, as well as the preservation of intangible cultural heritage. Additionally, it supports artistic creation through various programs and projects and is involved in the education and professional development of cultural workers.

Entities' institutions in general, they carry out complex professional and related administrative tasks for the protection and preservation of cultural heritage and cultural assets. Their activities include the preparation and implementation of restoration and conservation measures, as well as providing expert opinions and permits for work on protected sites. They are also engaged in educating and raising public awareness about the importance of preserving cultural and natural heritage.. These institutions are:

- Institute for the Protection of Monuments, which is part of the Federal Ministry of Culture and Sports.
- Republic Institute for the Protection of Cultural and Historical Heritage of the Republic of Srpska.

Ministries responsible for spatial planning in the entities and the competent authority in the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina issue permits for works on national monuments and construction within the protected areas of national monuments. These are:

- Federal Ministry of Spatial Planning
- Ministry of Spatial Planning, Construction, and Ecology of Republic of Srpska
- Department of Spatial Planning and Property-Legal Affairs of the Government of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Entity inspections carry out inspection and supervision tasks within the protected areas where these properties are located and are authorized to

take legal protection measures, including decisions to halt any actions that do not comply with the law or restore the properties to their state before unlawful or unprofessional interventions. These inspections are:

- Urban Planning and Building Inspections in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Inspections of the Republic of Srpska
- Government of the Brčko District.

At the **cantonal level** in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (out of 10 cantons, there are established cantonal institutes in 6 cantons):

- Cantonal Institute for the Protection of Cultural, Historical, and Natural Heritage of Sarajevo, Sarajevo
- Cantonal Institute for Urbanism, Spatial Planning, and Protection of Cultural-Historical/ Historical Heritage of the Central Bosnia Canton, Bugojno
- Institute for the Protection and Use of Cultural-Historical and Natural Heritage of the Tuzla Canton, Tuzla
- Institute for the Protection of Cultural-Historical Heritage of the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton, Mostar
- Cantonal Institute for the Protection of Cultural-Historical and Natural Heritage of the Una-Sana Canton in Bihać
- Institute for the Protection of Cultural and Historical Heritage of West Herzegovina Canton, Široki Brijeg.

At the local level:

- Municipal services responsible for cadastre and spatial planning
- Land Registry Offices within municipal courts (in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina) or the Republic Administration for Geodetic and Property-Legal Affairs (in Republic of Srpska)
- Agency «Stari Grad,» Mostar
- Public Institution for Cultural-Historical and

Natural Heritage and the Development of Touristic Potentials of the City of Jajce, Jajce.

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), cultural and environmental associations, and community-led initiatives also play a vital role in cultural and natural heritage preservation. They often collaborate with government authorities at various levels and engage in grassroots efforts to safeguard and promote heritage.



Prokosko Lake, ©Boris Trogrančić

4. INTERNATIONAL/EUROPEAN HERITAGE LABELS AND INITIATIVES IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Bosnia and Herzegovina has been involved in various international and European heritage labels and initiatives aimed at preserving and promoting cultural and natural heritage.

The presence of the **Council of Europe Office in Sarajevo** signifies Bosnia and Herzegovina's membership in the Council of Europe since 2002. Actively engaging in the organization's mission, Bosnia and Herzegovina collaborates on all fronts. The Council of Europe Office in Sarajevo plays a pivotal role in reinforcing this partnership by offering support to the country, its authorities, institutions, and citizens. Its primary objective is to give practical meaning to the shared principles of human rights, democracy, and the rule of law, upheld by all 46 member states of the Council of Europe, into practical reality. ¹

In addition to the UNESCO headquarters in Paris, the Regional UNESCO office in Venice called the UNESCO Regional Bureau for Science and Culture in Europe (UNESCO BRESCE) and its branch office in Sarajevo play a significant role in supporting the endeavors of Bosnia and Herzegovina. UNESCO BRESCE functions as a regional office of UNESCO, offering specialized expertise in the domains of culture and natural sciences with a particular focus on Southeastern Europe. The UNESCO BRESCE serves as a hub helping to promote cultural preservation, heritage conservation and the advancement of natural sciences. UNESCO regional offices like BRESCE collaborate with member states and local partners to implement UNESCO's programs and initiatives. The specific activities and projects undertaken by UNESCO regional offices

¹ Council of Europe, <https://www.coe.int/en/web/sarajevo>

can vary depending on the needs and priorities of the countries and regions.²

The **International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)** gained official recognition and was ratified by the National Committee of ICOMOS in Bosnia and Herzegovina during a session of the Executive Committee held in Paris in January 2007. Subsequently, the Ministry of Justice of Bosnia and Herzegovina formally registered the National Committee of ICOMOS in Bosnia and Herzegovina, entering it into the register book no. I Under serial number 771 in Sarajevo on January 9, 2009. With the issuance of this decision, the Association obtained the legal mandate to operate throughout the entire territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, facilitating its role in the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage and sites within the country.³

The **Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)** is an international organization that plays a crucial role in fostering cooperation and development in Southeast Europe. The RCC was established in 2008 and includes countries in the Southeast European region. The primary goal of the RCC is to enhance stability, prosperity, and overall well-being in Southeast Europe by promoting regional cooperation on various fronts. The RCC focuses on a wide range of issues, including economic development, trade, investment, infrastructure, energy, and environmental sustainability. It also addresses matters related to security, justice, and home affairs, which are critical for stability in the region. The organization facilitates dialogue and partnerships among member countries, helping them work together to address common challenges and opportunities. This collaboration extends to both governmental and non-governmental actors. The RCC's ultimate aim is to contribute to the development of a stable and prosperous Southeast Europe, ensuring that the region continues to move toward a brighter future.⁴

Cultural Heritage Without Borders (CHwB) is an independent nonprofit organization that was founded in Sweden in 1995 after the war in

Bosnia and Herzegovina. Its primary objective is to protect cultural treasures in challenging situations like armed conflicts, natural disasters, neglect, poverty, and times of political and social upheaval. Currently, CHwB's impact and activities span across Sweden, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo⁵ and Albania. This local presence of CHwB works towards protecting and promoting the rich cultural heritage of the region, particularly in the context of post-war recovery, preservation, and revitalization of cultural assets. CHwB in Bosnia and Herzegovina is actively engaged in various cultural heritage projects and initiatives within the country to ensure the conservation and celebration of its cultural treasures.⁶

European Year of Cultural Heritage - In 2018, Bosnia and Herzegovina, along with other European countries, participated in the European Year of Cultural Heritage, which aimed to raise awareness about the importance of heritage preservation.⁷

These international and European heritage labels and initiatives play a significant role in raising awareness, promoting heritage conservation, and fostering cultural exchange and cooperation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

International conventions

In the table below is presented an overview of international multilateral agreements involving Bosnia and Herzegovina or with which it is affiliated in the realm of cultural heritage. Bosnia and Herzegovina, as a nation rich in cultural heritage, has actively engaged in numerous international multilateral agreements and conventions pertaining to the safeguarding and promotion of its cultural assets. These agreements not only connect the country with the global community but also outline commitments to protect and preserve its cultural heritage for future generations.

2 Državna komisija za saradnju sa UNESCO-m, http://unescobih.mcp.gov.ba/UNESCO_u_BiH/Default.aspx?id=14229

3 Nacionalni komitet u Bosni i Hercegovini, <https://icomosubih.ba/otz/nama.html>

4 Regional Cooperation Council, <https://www.rcc.int/home>

5 All references to Kosovo, whether the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations' Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

6 Cultural Heritage Without Borders, <https://wbc-rti.info/object/organisation/24408>

7 European Year of Cultural Heritage, <https://culture.ec.europa.eu/cultural-heritage/eu-policy-for-cultural-heritage/european-year-of-cultural-heritage-2018>

Table 3: Overview of international multilateral agreements involving Bosnia and Herzegovina

Name of the convention	Adoption date of the Convention	Acceded by the B&H
Convention on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage	Paris, 1972	The former Yugoslavia ratified the Convention in 1974, and Bosnia and Herzegovina confirmed its membership in 1993. ⁸
Convention on Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property	Paris, 1970	July 12, 1993 ⁹
Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict (The Hague Convention - Rulebook, Protocol I, Protocol II)	Hague, 1954	April 10th 1956 ¹⁰
Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage	Paris, 2001	22 April 2009 ¹¹
Convention on the Protection of Intangible Cultural Heritage	Paris, 2003	23 February 2009 ¹²
Convention on the Protection and Promotion of Cultural Diversity	Paris, 2005	27 January 2009 ¹³
European Cultural Convention	Paris, 1954	Bosnia and Herzegovina ratified in 1994 ¹⁴
European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage	London, 1969, revised in Valletta in 1992	Bosnia and Herzegovina signed in 2008, ratified in 2010, applied since 2011 ¹⁵
Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe	Granada, 1985	Bosnia and Herzegovina ratified it in 1994, and it has been in force since 1995 ¹⁶
Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society	Faro, 2005	Bosnia and Herzegovina signed in 2008, ratified in 2009, applied in BiH since 2011 ¹⁷
European Landscape Convention	Florence, 2000	Bosnia and Herzegovina signed in 2010, ratified in 2012, applied since 2012 ¹⁸
Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works from 1886	Revised in Paris in 1971, and amended in 1979	March 1, 1992 ¹⁹

8 Cantonal Institute for the Protection of Cultural, Historical and Natural Heritage Sarajevo, <https://www.spomenici-sa.ba/propisi/>

9 Bosnian-Podrinje canton of Goražde, http://www.bpkg.gov.ba/mo/media/uploads_mo/2013/02/Konvencija-o-mjerama-za-zabranu-i-sprije%C4%8Davanje-nedozvoljenog-uvoza-izvoza-i-prenosa-svojjine-kulturnih-dobara-iz-1970.-godine.pdf

10 Ministry of Culture, Republic of Serbia, [https://www.kultura.gov.rs/extfile/sr/5165/9.%20Konvencija%20za%20za%C5%A1titu%20kulturnih%20dobara%20u%20slu%C4%8Daju%20oru%C5%BEanog%20sukoba%20\(Hag,1954\).pdf](https://www.kultura.gov.rs/extfile/sr/5165/9.%20Konvencija%20za%20za%C5%A1titu%20kulturnih%20dobara%20u%20slu%C4%8Daju%20oru%C5%BEanog%20sukoba%20(Hag,1954).pdf)

11 UNESCO, <https://www.unesco.org/en/countries/ba/conventions>

12 UNESCO, <https://www.unesco.org/en/countries/ba/conventions>

13 UNESCO, <https://www.unesco.org/en/countries/ba/conventions>

14 Commission to Preserve National Monuments, <http://kons.gov.ba/Content/Read/pregled-konvencija?lang=bs>

15 Commission to Preserve National Monuments, <http://kons.gov.ba/Content/Read/pregled-konvencija?lang=bs>

16 Commission to Preserve National Monuments, <http://kons.gov.ba/Content/Read/pregled-konvencija?lang=bs>

17 Commission to Preserve National Monuments, <http://kons.gov.ba/Content/Read/pregled-konvencija?lang=bs>

18 Commission to Preserve National Monuments, <http://kons.gov.ba/Content/Read/pregled-konvencija?lang=bs>

19 University of Vienna, https://unternehmensrecht.univie.ac.at/fileadmin/user_upload/i_unternehmensrecht/Lehre/SS_2017/Kurse/Walter/Mitgliedstaaten_RBUE_2017.pdf

Agreement between the BiH Council of Ministers and the Government of the United States on the protection and preservation of certain cultural properties	Signed on 2 July 2002, ratified on 21 July 2004	Signed in 2002, ratified in 2004
Agreement between the BiH Government and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany on cooperation in culture, education and science	Signed on 21 July 2004, ratified on 26 October 2005	Signed on 21 July 2004, ratified on 26 October 2005
UNIDROIT Convention on the International Return of Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Properties	Rome, 1995	May, 2017 ²⁰
Recommendation concerning the Safeguarding of Beauty and Character of Landscapes and Sites	11 December 1962	1962 ²¹
Vienna Memorandum on «World Heritage and contemporary architecture - Managing the historic urban landscape»	October, 2005	October, 2005 ²²
ICOMOS Charter for the interpretation and presentation of cultural heritage – prepared under the auspices of the ICOMOS International Scientific Committee for the interpretation and presentation of cultural heritage, ratified at the 16th General Assembly of ICOMOS, Quebec	Canada, 4 October 2008	October 2008

Source: <http://kons.gov.ba/Content/Read/pregled-konvencija?lang=bs>

²⁰ The International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), <https://www.unidroit.org/instruments/cultural-property/1995-convention/status/>

²¹ UNESCO, <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000114582.page=142>

²² UNESCO, <https://whc.unesco.org/en/documents/5965>

World heritage list

Since the adoption of the Convention for the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage in 1972, until today a total of 1199 properties, 48 transboundary and 168 states parties with properties out of 195 have been added to the UNESCO World Heritage List.²³ These inscribed properties, as per the provisions of the convention, are recognized as integral components of our global heritage due to their outstanding and universal value. List of World Heritage Sites in Bosnia and Herzegovina are :

Cultural:

- Mehmed Paša Sokolović Bridge in Višegrad (2007)
- Old Bridge Area of the Old City of Mostar (2005)
- Stećci Medieval Tombstone Graveyards (2016)

Natural:

- Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe (2007, 2011, 2017, 2021)

Furthermore, Bosnia and Herzegovina has included eight properties on its Tentative List, signifying their potential candidacy for nomination in the coming years. The Tentative list serves as an inventory of sites within the country that are deemed suitable for eventual inclusion on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Member States populate their Tentative lists with properties of exceptional universal value, both in the cultural and natural domains, which they plan to propose for nomination in the near future. It's important to note that a nomination for the World Heritage list is only considered if the property is already on the tentative list of the respective country. In the case of Bosnia and Herzegovina, several properties have been submitted for consideration on this Tentative list:

- Complex of travertine waterfalls in Martin Brod - Una National Park (2019)
- Strict Nature Reserve - Primeval forest

²³ UNESCO World Heritage List, <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/>

- “Perućica” (2017)
- Jewish Cemetery in Sarajevo (2008)
- The historic urban site of Počitelj (2007)
- The natural and architectural ensemble of Blagaj (2007)
- The natural and architectural ensemble of Blidinje (2007)

- The natural and architectural ensemble of Stolac (2007)
- The natural and architectural ensemble of Jajce (2006)
- Sarajevo - unique symbol of universal multicultural - continual open city (1997)

World Heritage Sites in Bosnia and Herzegovina, ©UNESCO.



Properties inscribed on the World Heritage List ⁵



Cultural ³

- Mehmed Paša Sokolović Bridge in Višegrad (2007)
- Old Bridge Area of the Old City of Mostar (2005)
- Stećci Medieval Tombstone Graveyards (2016)

Natural ²

- Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathian and Other Regions of Europe (2007, 2011, 2017, 2021)
- Vjetrenica Cave, Ravno (2024)

Source: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/statesparties/ba>



Blagaj, ©The Islamic Community Council of Mostar

Mehmed Paša Sokolović Bridge in Višegrad



Mehmed Paša Sokolović Bridge in Višegrad ©UNESCO

In the late 16th century, the Mehmed Paša Sokolović Bridge, spanning the Drina River in eastern Bosnia and Herzegovina, was constructed under the direction of the court architect Mimar Koca Sinan, following the orders of Grand Vizier Mehmed Paša Sokolović. This bridge stands as a remarkable example of Ottoman monumental architecture and civil engineering at its zenith. Comprising 11 sturdy masonry arches with spans ranging from 11 to 15 meters, the structure also features an access ramp intersecting the left bank of the river, with four additional arches. The bridge stretches across a length of 179.5 meters and serves as an exquisite showcase of Sinan's talents, who was one of the foremost architects and engineers of the classical Ottoman era, existing in parallel with the Italian Renaissance.²⁴ This bridge's exceptional harmony of proportions and its grandeur as a whole are a testament to the architectural excellence of this style.

Old Bridge Area of the Old City of Mostar

Situated across a profound gorge of the Neretva River, the historic town of Mostar emerged in the

²⁴ UNESCO World Heritage Centre, <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1260/>

15th and 16th centuries as an Ottoman border town. It continued to evolve during the Austro-Hungarian era in the 19th and 20th centuries. Mostar has been celebrated for its ancient Turkish residences and the iconic Old Bridge, Stari Most, from which the town derives its name.



Mostar Bridge, ©Wikipedia

Regrettably, during the turbulent events of the 1990s, much of the historic town and the Old Bridge, an architectural marvel crafted by the renowned architect Sinan, fell victim to destruction. More recently, the Old Bridge has been painstakingly reconstructed, and numerous structures in the Old Town have been either restored or rebuilt with the collaboration of an international panel of experts sanctioned by UNESCO.²⁵ The Old Bridge precinct is a splendid illustration of a multicultural urban settlement, embodying pre-Ottoman, eastern Ottoman, Mediterranean, and western European architectural influences. The restored Old Bridge and the revitalized Old City of Mostar now symbolize reconciliation, international unity, and the harmonious coexistence of diverse cultural, ethnic, and religious communities.

Stećci Medieval Tombstone Graveyards

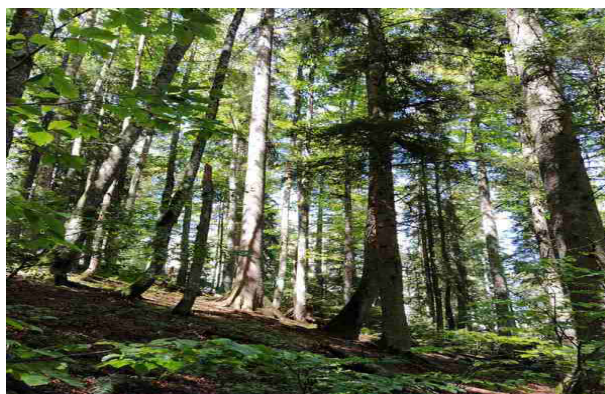


„Olovci Kladanj“

25 UNESCO World Heritage Centre, <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/946>

This collection of sites encompasses 28 locations across Bosnia and Herzegovina, western Serbia, western Montenegro, and central and southern Croatia. These sites are notable for their cemeteries and unique medieval tombstones known as stećci. Dating back to the 12th to 16th centuries CE, these cemeteries are arranged in rows, a typical European burial practice during the Middle Ages.²⁶ The stećci themselves are primarily crafted from limestone and exhibit a rich variety of decorative patterns and inscriptions. These motifs and writings not only reflect common iconographic themes prevalent in medieval Europe but also showcase distinct regional traditions.

Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe



Forest ©Rosa Rakita

This international site comprises a total of 93 individual components distributed across 18 countries. Following the conclusion of the most recent Ice Age, the European Beech began its gradual spread from a handful of isolated sheltered regions in the Alps, Carpathians, Dinarides, Mediterranean, and Pyrenees.²⁷ This remarkable expansion, which has persisted and continues to this day, transpired over the course of several millennia. The tree's ability to adapt and thrive in a wide range of climatic, geographic, and environmental conditions played a crucial role in its triumphant colonization of an entire continent.

Intangible cultural heritage as recognized by UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) refers to the living cultural expressions, practices, traditions,

26 UNESCO, <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1504/>

27 UNESCO World Heritage Centre, <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1133>

knowledge and skills that communities and groups pass down from one generation to the next. Unlike tangible heritage, such as historical buildings or artifacts, intangible cultural heritage is dynamic and rooted in the daily lives and rituals of people. UNESCO has taken significant steps to safeguard and protect this important aspect of cultural diversity. There are several elements of intangible cultural heritage from Bosnia and Herzegovina inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity²⁸ :

- Lipizzan horse breeding traditions.
Inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2020 within the serial nomination in 2022 (Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Hungary, Italy, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia)
- Grass mowing competition custom in Kupres.
Inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2020
- Picking of iva grass on Ozren mountain.
Inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2018
- Konjic woodcarving
Inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2017
- Zmijanje embroidery
Inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2014

Lipizzan horse breeding traditions (2022)



Ergela Vučijak

Originally Lipizzan horse breeding traditions served the purpose of supplying horses for the Habsburg imperial court in Vienna. However, in contemporary

times, the Lipizzan horse has taken on a unique and integral role in the daily cultural and social life of rural communities.

These majestic horses participate in various events, celebrations, and festivities, including horse blessings, carnival processions, and parades, thereby becoming significant symbols of community identity. Lipizzan horses have found new roles in therapeutic riding programs, contributing to the well-being and rehabilitation of individuals with various needs.

This tradition plays a vital part in the promotion of sustainable tourism, offering visitors the opportunity to engage with these magnificent creatures while exploring the rich heritage and landscapes of the regions where these traditions are cherished.²⁹

Grass mowing competition custom in Kupres (2020)



Grass mowing competition custom in Kupres, ©Stojan Lasic –Stole; Društvo za DTKB, Široki Brijeg

The Kupres municipality in Bosnia and Herzegovina hosts an annual social event of great significance, known as the grass mowing competition. This event, which occurs in July, is held at a specific meadow named Strljanica. The competition is deeply rooted in the community's culture and holds considerable importance. The competition revolves around the act of mowing grass and traditionally men from the age of eighteen onwards participate as competitors. This practice is passed down through generations within families, with fathers transmitting the skills and knowledge to their sons.

While the men undertake the challenging task of mowing, women play an essential role by raking the freshly cut grass and preparing food for the

28 UNESCO, <https://ich.unesco.org/en/state/bosnia-and-herzegovina-BA>

29 UNESCO, <https://ich.unesco.org/en/RL/lipizzan-horse-breeding-traditions-01687>

event's guests, what makes the grass mowing competition in Kupres truly remarkable.

It welcomes participants from all ethnic and religious backgrounds, allowing everyone to participate in this cherished tradition. The grass mowing competition not only showcases the community's intangible heritage but also emphasizes the spirit of cooperation and the preservation of traditional skills, making it a unique and unifying celebration in the Kupres municipality.³⁰

Picking of iva grass on Ozren mountain (2018)

Every year on September 11th, coinciding with the day of the St. John the Baptist, a unique and cherished tradition unfolds in the villages surrounding Ozren Mountain. On this special day, residents gather in the village of Gostilij to partake in the time-honored practice of collecting iva grass. People of all ages and backgrounds come together to embark on a journey into the hills surrounding Gostilij. Picking iva grass is a skill that requires patience and a discerning eye, as the grass is often concealed among taller vegetation.



Picking of iva grass on Ozren mountain, ©Museum in Dobo

This delicate process typically spans several hours, with individuals and groups venturing out to seek and collect the iva grass. Once the gathering is complete, the participants ascend the heights of Gostilij, coming together in traditional Ozren folk costumes, adding a colorful and culturally significant element to the celebration. As the day unfolds, the air is filled with the lively sounds of traditional music, dance, and song. These kinds of festivities serve not only as preserving a valuable tradition but also celebrating the shared cultural

identity of the region.³¹

Konjic woodcarving (2017)

The artistic craft of Konjic woodcarving boasts a rich and enduring tradition within the Konjic municipality. It is a creative practice that encompasses wood carved items, including furniture, intricately designed interiors, and charming decorative objects. Beyond being a craft, Konjic woodcarving holds a profound cultural significance within the local community. It serves as a measure of the beauty and comfort of home interiors and stands as a tradition that fosters a strong sense of community and belonging. Konjic woodcarving is not merely a craft. At the heart of the preservation and continuation of this cherished tradition are the proprietors of family run woodcarving workshops.



Konjic woodcarving, Konjic,
©Almin Zrno and Denisa Šećerbajtarević; Rukotvorine doo

They bear the significant responsibility of safeguarding the practice, imparting their knowledge and skills to apprentice woodcarvers, and popularizing the craft. Konjic woodcarving is not merely an artistic craft; it is a cultural treasure that weaves together a community, transcends boundaries, and serves as a source of livelihood, unity, and dialogue. This time-honored tradition remains a symbol of the enduring connection between craftsmanship, culture, and heritage.³²

30 UNESCO, <https://ich.unesco.org/en/RL/grass-mowing-competition-custom-in-kupres-01512>

31 UNESCO, <https://ich.unesco.org/en/RL/picking-of-iva-grass-on-ozren-mountain-01289>

32 UNESCO, <https://ich.unesco.org/en/RL/konjic-woodcarving-01288>

Zmijanje embroidery (2014)



Zmijanje embroidery, ©Dejan Kosic

Zmijanje embroidery is a unique and intricate technique practiced exclusively by the skilled women of the Zmijanje villages in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This traditional form of embroidery has a rich history and is integral to the cultural and artistic heritage of the region. The primary application of Zmijanje embroidery is for adorning a range of items, with a particular emphasis on female costumes and household articles. These include wedding dresses, scarves, clothing, and bed linens, where the exquisite embroidered designs add a touch of elegance and cultural significance. For many women these embroidered garments become more than just pieces of clothing; they are powerful expressions of national and local identity, serving as symbols of pride and belonging. They carry the memories of home, tradition, and cultural roots, connecting individuals to their heritage, even in distant lands.³³

33 UNESCO, <https://ich.unesco.org/en/RL/zmijanje-embroidery-00990>



The necropolis Čengića Bara, Kalinovik, ©The Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina

5. SWOT ANALYSIS OF THE POTENTIAL OF THE CULTURAL ROUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE PROGRAMME IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Within the context of the Country Mapping Document for Bosnia and Herzegovina, an analysis was carried out using the SWOT framework.

This analysis aimed to uncover the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats associated with Bosnia and Herzegovina's involvement in the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme while also delineating the potential pathways for development.

STRENGTHS

- Rich natural and cultural heritage and multicultural environment
- Rich local intangible heritage (art, crafts, and cuisine)
- Existing experience with the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme

- Existing initiatives for establishing new cultural routes at different levels
- Existing cultural tourism initiatives
- Progressive increase in tourist visits
- Encouraging interest from various governmental and other levels, as well as organizations, in the development of Program

WEAKNESSES

- Limited information about the Culture Routes of the Council of Europe programme in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Inadequate communication strategy and

infrastructure, with information scattered and not easily accessible to everyone

- Deficiencies in information and knowledge regarding natural and cultural heritage
- Lack of, and underutilization of, human resources
- Insufficient collaborative efforts at all levels, particularly in the field of culture-tourism
- Disparities in the development of tourist infrastructure and interests in different regions
- Unfavorable development of infrastructure and management of cultural sites
- Non-existence of the Cultural Tourism Development Strategy

OPPORTUNITIES

- Enhancing existing cultural and tourism products and creating new ones with the aim of improving social and economic indicators
- Establishing connections with prominent Culture Routes of the Council of Europe programme networks, exchanging experiences, and broadening understanding regarding the utilization of EU and other funds and grants
- Participation in existing international initiatives and platforms, networks, as well as utilization of available EU funds.
- Networking stakeholders and consolidating human resource capacities
- A new approach to valuing both tangible and intangible heritage and the cultural landscape
- The operational implementation of strategies designed for the development of cultural and rural tourism

THREATS

- Ramifications of geopolitical complexities, particularly their impact on economic and societal conditions
- Administrative challenges and a lack of adequate funding
- Climate Changes that have a detrimental impact on the tourism sector and the state of preservation of natural and cultural heritage.



Sarajevo Haggadah, ©The National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina

6. INVENTORY OF CULTURAL ROUTES RELATED ACTIVITIES AT BIH LEVEL

One of the pivotal initiatives involved the meticulous preparation of the Country Mapping Document, specifically tailored for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The primary aim was to propel and advance the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme within Bosnia and Herzegovina, illuminating the European dimension of its rich cultural heritage. The necessity for more intensive presentations designed to engage diverse stakeholders, with a specific focus on cultural institutions, civil society, and other relevant organizations, is emphasized. This approach aims to foster a deeper understanding of the program and active participation in its initiatives, ultimately promoting the cultural richness of the region on the European stage.

European countries, including Bosnia and Herzegovina. This route is dedicated to preserving and promoting the rich Jewish heritage and history of Europe.¹ Bosnia and Herzegovina has a long history of Jewish presence, with Jewish communities settling in various cities and towns, particularly in Sarajevo, Mostar, Tuzla, Doboj and Banjaluka. The Jewish presence in this region dates back centuries. Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina, features a well-preserved Jewish Quarter known as the Jewish Sarajevo.² Visitors can explore the Jewish Museum, synagogues, and other historical sites that bear witness to the Jewish history of the city. The country is home to several

European Route of Jewish Heritage

The European Route of Jewish Heritage is an important cultural route that traverses various

1 The European Association for the Preservation and Promotion of Jewish Culture and Heritage (AEPJ), <https://jewisheritage.org/european-routes>

2 Association Haggadah, <http://haggadah.org.ba/history-of-jews-in-bih/>

historic synagogues, such as the Old Temple (Stara Sinagoga) in Sarajevo, which is one of the oldest synagogues in Europe still in use. These synagogues showcase architectural and cultural elements that are unique to the Jewish community.

Emerging in Northern Spain during the latter part of the 14th century, the "Sarajevo Haggadah" is a precious manuscript crafted on parchment, adorned with exquisite illuminations. The intriguing tale of its origin and its voyage to Sarajevo, where it has found residence at the National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina since the late 19th century, remains veiled in mystery.³ The European Route of Jewish Heritage promotes cultural and educational initiatives to raise awareness of the Jewish history in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It provides opportunities for residents and visitors to learn about the Jewish heritage through exhibitions, lectures, and cultural events.

The cultural route in Bosnia and Herzegovina contributes to the preservation of the memory of the Holocaust and the experiences of the Jewish community during World War II. It also serves as a platform for remembrance and education. The Jewish heritage route in Bosnia and Herzegovina supports interfaith dialogue and understanding, promoting tolerance and coexistence among different religious and cultural communities in the country. Some areas have commemorative sites and memorials dedicated to the Jewish victims of the Holocaust, emphasizing the importance of remembering and honoring their history.

The European Route of Jewish Heritage in Bosnia and Herzegovina is not only a testament to the country's multicultural and multi-ethnic history but also a significant part of the broader European Jewish heritage. It offers an enriching experience for visitors interested in exploring the Jewish legacy, history, and culture within the heart of the Balkans.

European Cemeteries Route

The European Cemeteries Route is a unique cultural route that celebrates and preserves the diverse cemetery heritage across Europe. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, this route offers a compelling journey through the region's cemeteries, each of which tells a story of the area's rich history, multiculturalism, and traditions. Bosnia and Herzegovina's cemeteries reflect the coexistence

³ UNESCO, <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/secret-story-sarajevo-haggadah>

of various ethnic and religious communities, including Bosniaks, Croats, Serbs, and others.⁴ The cemeteries often have distinct sections or areas dedicated to different religious and cultural groups.



© European Cemeteries Route

Covering an expansive 33 hectares, the Bare Cemetery stands as one of the largest in Europe. Its landscape design and terrain configuration make it not only one of the most extensive but also one of the most captivating final resting places in this region. Complete with essential infrastructure such as drainage, water supply, sewage, and electricity installations, the cemetery, situated at the foothill of Hum on the east side, was inaugurated in 1962.

At the heart of the Bare Cemetery lies a central area featuring a staircase and a porch that interconnects the Catholic, Orthodox, Muslim, Jewish, and atheist chapels.⁵ Reflecting the multicultural fabric of Sarajevo, the Bare Cemetery dedicates burial areas to Muslims, Orthodox and Catholic Christians, Judaists, Evangelists, Old Catholics, and atheists, aligning with the city's demographic structure.

The European Cemeteries Route in Bosnia and Herzegovina provides a meaningful and enriching experience for those interested in the region's history, culture, and heritage. It offers a journey through time, revealing the multicultural tapestry of this unique part of Europe.

Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route

The Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route is a fascinating cultural route that meanders through Europe, celebrating the historical significance of wine production and trade during the Roman

⁴ European Cemeteries Route, <https://cemeteriesroute.eu/cemetery-poi.aspx?t=1291>

⁵ European Cemeteries Route, <https://cemeteriesroute.eu/poi-details.aspx?t=1291&p=5908>

Empire. This route connects various regions that have a shared history of viticulture and wine culture, and it includes Bosnia and Herzegovina as one of its destinations.⁶

The temperate climate, suitable soils, and geographic location made Bosnia and Herzegovina an ideal region for viticulture. The country boasts archaeological sites that provide insights into the Roman presence and their wine production. These sites offer a glimpse into the techniques and tools used for winemaking during that era. The route takes visitors through ancient Roman roads, some of which may have been used for transporting wine. Čapljina city in Bosnia and Herzegovina has a growing wine industry with several wineries and wine cellars producing high-quality wines.

These wineries often offer tours and tastings, providing an opportunity for visitors to experience the modern interpretation of the ancient winemaking traditions. In addition to wine, the region offers a rich culinary experience that complements wine tasting. Visitors can savor traditional Herzegovinian dishes, making the journey along the route a complete cultural and gastronomic experience.⁷

By participating in the route, Bosnia and Herzegovina collaborates with neighboring countries and contributes to regional cooperation in promoting cultural and historical tourism. The Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route presents an opportunity for visitors to explore the intersection of ancient Roman history, viticulture, and contemporary wine culture.



© Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route

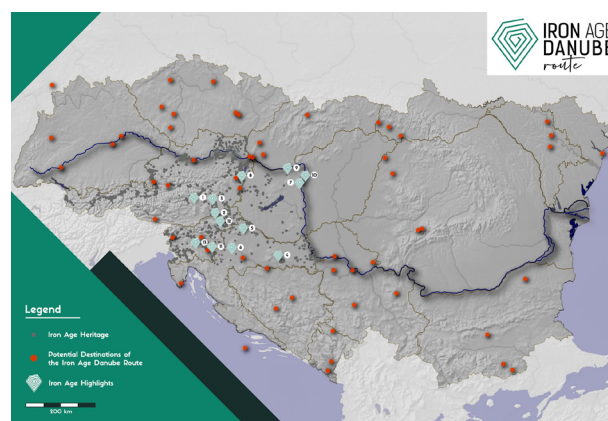
6 Council of Europe, <https://www.coe.int/en/web/cultural-routes/the-roman-emperors-and-danube-wine-route>

7 Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route, <https://romanemperorsroute.org/mogorjelo-capljina-bosnia-and-herzegovina/>

Iron Age Danube Route

The Iron Age Danube Route is a cultural journey that traces the historical significance of the Iron Age civilizations along the banks of the Danube River, one of Europe's major waterways. Bosnia and Herzegovina plays an intriguing role in this route due to its rich archaeological heritage and connections to the Iron Age period. The region, with its diverse landscapes, was home to various cultures during the Iron Age, including the Illyrians and Celts. Several archaeological sites and findings in Bosnia and Herzegovina provide valuable insights into the lifestyles, technologies, and trade networks of these ancient peoples.

The following are listed as potential locations: Donja Dolina, Glasinac (area of several localities - settlements, tumuli in the vicinity of Sokolac) and Gradina in Čipuljić (part of Bugojno).⁸ The route offers visitors an opportunity to explore these archaeological sites and experience the cultural legacy of the Iron Age civilizations in the heart of the Balkans. Bosnia and Herzegovina's contribution to the Iron Age Danube Route underscores its historical significance in the broader context of European Iron Age culture and heritage.



© Iron Age Danube Route

Iter Vitis Route

In September 2022, the Wine Road of Herzegovina was officially accepted into the "Iter Vitis" cultural route of the Council of Europe, marking a significant step for the tourism industry of Bosnia and Herzegovina, particularly for the Herzegovina region and the six included local communities of Ljubuški, Čitluk, Čapljina, Mostar, Stolac, and Trebinje. Membership in this important international initiative further contributes to

8 Iron Age Danube Route, <https://www.ironagedanuberoute.com/copy-of-austria>

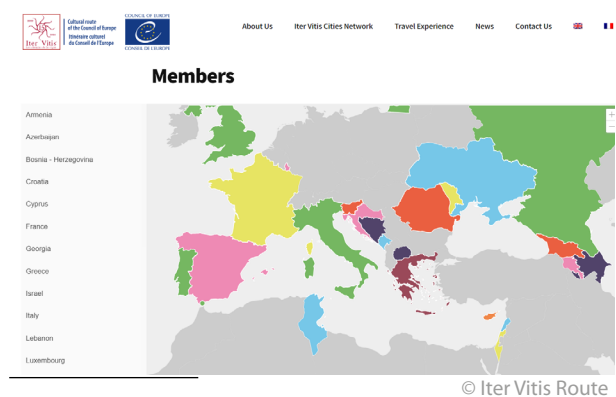
the promotion of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a tourist destination, enhances business, promotes Herzegovinian winemakers, and improves the operations of numerous related services.

At the fifth edition of the "Iter Vitis 2022" awards in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, three awards were bestowed upon Bosnia and Herzegovina, the newest member of the Council of Europe's cultural route "Iter Vitis." The awards went to the City of Mostar for the best wine city, the City of Trebinje for the best sustainable destination, and the Tvrdoš Monastery for the best practice that enhances cultural-historical heritage and wine.

The Iter Vitis Route is a captivating cultural and wine route that highlights the historical and contemporary significance of viticulture and wine production in Europe. Bosnia and Herzegovina, with its centuries-old winemaking traditions and burgeoning wine industry, plays a noteworthy role in this route. The country's temperate climate, fertile soils, and geographic diversity have provided an ideal environment for vine cultivation.

Bosnia and Herzegovina boasts a range of indigenous grape varieties and winemaking techniques, reflecting the country's unique cultural and historical heritage.⁹ Traveling along the Iter Vitis Route in Bosnia and Herzegovina allows visitors to explore ancient vineyards, wine cellars, and wineries, providing a delightful and educational experience.¹⁰

In July 2023, the prestigious title of "European City of Wine Dionysios 2024" was awarded to the city of Mostar by the European Network of Wine Cities (RECEVIN) during a ceremony held at the European Parliament in Brussels. The country's participation in this route highlights its commitment to preserving and promoting its viticultural heritage and showcasing its contribution to the broader European wine culture.



⁹ Iter Vitis Route, <https://itervitis.eu/>

¹⁰ Cultural Route of the Council of Europe, <https://itervitis.eu/mostar-was-declared-the-european-city-of-wine-dionisio-2024/>



Grass mowing competition custom in Kupres, ©Stojan Lasic –Stole; Društvo za DTKB, Široki Brijeg

7. POTENTIAL FOR NEW CULTURAL ROUTES INITIATIVES EMERGING IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Bosnia and Herzegovina holds significant potential for the emergence of new Cultural Routes initiatives. This potential is rooted in the country's diverse cultural heritage, rich history, and its desire to contribute to the broader European cultural landscape.

As Bosnia and Herzegovina continues to promote its rich cultural heritage on the international stage, there is great potential for the emergence of innovative Cultural Routes that celebrate the country's unique history and traditions. These initiatives can contribute to cultural exchange, tourism development, and fostering a deeper appreciation of the region's cultural wealth.

The preparation of the CMD for Bosnia and Herzegovina has encompassed an analysis of the potential natural and cultural resources of Bosnia and Herzegovina, available literature, data obtained through communication with stakeholders, and field missions. It is estimated that Bosnia and Herzegovina, in addition to the existing 5 routes in which it is already involved, holds significant potential to join 17 certified cultural routes of the Council of Europe, taking into account the

ongoing certification process for some of them. Existing initiatives in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which involve specific sites in various capacities, and activities for the accession process have been initiated, encompass: The Routes of the Olive Tree, European Route of Historic Thermal Towns, TRANSROMANICA - The Romanesque Routes of European Heritage and Via Habsburg.

Efforts should be made to expand the network through participation in routes such as Liberation Route Europe and European Route of Industrial Heritage, considering the substantial material and historical heritage.

Given the abundance and diversity of cultural heritage sites, Bosnia and Herzegovina has the potential to explore the possibility of connecting to the following routes: European Route of

Megalithic Culture, Prehistoric Rock Art Trails, Cyril and Methodius Route, and Art Nouveau. Routes for potential participation in which Bosnia and Herzegovina, to a somewhat lesser extent than other countries, possess components of cultural heritage. There is an opportunity to explore options for involvement and conduct additional research as necessary: European Route of Ceramics, Impressionism Routes, Transhumance trails, Historic Cafés Route, European Fairy Tale Route and Women Writers Route. *When the route ATRIUM - Architecture*

*of Totalitarian Regimes of the 20th century In Europe's Urban Memory is concerned, it should be examined at the regional level whether that category can include the Architecture in Yugoslavia between 1948 and 1980, whose special value has been recognised.*¹

¹ The author concurred with the provided proposal given in the document Country mapping document Montenegro,2020, Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, <https://rm.coe.int/cmd-montenegro-eng/1680a5c95c>

Certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe	Member	In the process	Potential	Potential sites, towns
Santiago de Compostela Pilgrim Routes,1987	-	-	-	-
The Hansa,1991	-	-	-	-
Viking Route,1993	-	-	-	-
Via Francigena,1994	-	-	-	-
Routes of El legado andalusí,1997	-	-	-	-
Phoenicians' Route,2003	-	-	-	-
European Mozart Ways,2004	-	-	-	-
European Route of Jewish Heritage,2004	YES	-	-	-
Saint Martin of Tours Route,2005	-	-	-	-
Cluniac Sites in Europe,2005	-	-	-	-
Routes of the Olive Tree,2005	-	YES	-	Mostar, Hercegovina region, Additional research needed
VIA REGIA,2005	-	-	-	-
TRANSROMANICA,2007	-	YES	-	Banja Luka, Ilidža near Sarajevo, Kreševo, Donja Višnjica near Kiseljak, Ruševac - Brestovsko near Kiseljak, Gradac - Kotorac near Hažići, Kazanci near Gacko, Ševelj near Stolac, Vinjani near Posušje, and Šćit in Rama
Iter Vitis Route,2009	YES	-	-	-
European Cemeteries Route,2010	YES	-	-	-
Prehistoric Rock Art Trails,2010	-	-	YES	Badanj Cave
European Route of Historic Thermal Towns,2010	-	YES	-	Laktaši, Vrucica, Ilidza, Aquaterm in Olovo
Route of Saint Olav Ways,2010	-	-	-	-
European Route of Ceramics,2012	-	-	YES	Additional research needed
European Route of Megalithic Culture,2013	-	-	YES	Neumski Gradac
Huguenot and Waldensian Trail,2013	-	-	-	-
ATRIUM,2014	-	-	YES	Additional research needed
Réseau Art Nouveau Network,2014	-	-	YES	Central Post Office in Sarajevo , Hermina Rädisch Villa, Ješua D. Salom Mansion, City Hall (Vijećnica) and historical tramway bridge (Vijadukt)
Via Habsburg,2014	-	YES	-	Sarajevo City Hall (Vijećnica) Sarajevo Cathedral

Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route,2015	YES	-	-	-
European Routes of Emperor Charles V,2015	-	-	-	-
Destination Napoleon,2015	-	-	-	-
In the Footsteps of Robert Louis Stevenson,2015	-	-	-	-
Fortified Towns of the Grande Region,2016	-	-	-	-
Impressionisms Routes,2018	-	-	YES	Additional research needed
European Route of Industrial Heritage,2019	-	-	YES	Solana's Museum in Tuzla and Mostar city (the Old Bridge and museum)
Iron Curtain Trail - EuroVelo 13,2019	-	-	-	-
Le Corbusier Destinations: Architectural Promenades,2019	-	-	-	-
Liberation Route Europe,2019	-	-	YES	Partisan Memorial Cemetery in Mostar, Titoe's Partisan Memorial Complex in Jajce, Sutjeska National Park and the Kozara Memorial Complex
Routes of Reformation,2019	-	-	-	-
European Route of Historic Gardens,2020	-	-	-	-
Via Romea Germanica,2020	-	-	-	-
Aeneas Route,2021	-	-	-	-
Alvar Aalto Route,2021	-	-	-	-
Cyril and Methodius Route,2021	-	-	YES	Additional research needed
European Route d'Artagnan,2021	-	-	-	-
Iron Age Danube Route,2021	YES	-	-	-
Historic Cafés Route, 2022	-	-	YES	"Dibek", "Morica Han" and others, additional research needed
European Fairy Tale Route,2022	-	-	YES	«Titiz and Džomet»
Women Writers Route,2022	-	-	YES	Umihana Čuvidina, Laura Papo Bohoreta, Ognjenka Milićević Lukač, Additional research needed
Transhumance trails,2023	-	-	YES	Vranički katuni
Leonardo Da Vinci Route	-	-	-	-
European Route of Historic Pharmacies	-	-	-	-

Potentials for joining some of the emerging initiatives for Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe

The Routes of the Olive Tree

Certified by the Council of Europe in 2005, the Routes of the Olive Tree represent pathways of intercultural exploration and dialogue centered around the olive tree, a universal symbol of peace. These routes serve as a portal for fostering collaboration across diverse regions. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, at the end of 2020, there were 71,960 olive trees, with an average yield of 13.7 kilograms per tree. In 2022, olive trees covered an area of

350 hectares.¹ In 2022, construction work began on the establishment of an olive center in Mostar, aimed at supporting research and advising olive growers.

The international project is co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and IPA II funds of the European Union. It is part of a regional cross-border project involving the city of Mostar, along with Split and Boka. In addition to Mostar, the project is led by the Chamber of Commerce of the Federation of Bosnia and

¹ Foreign Trade Chamber of Bosnia and Herzegovina, <https://komorabih.ba/odrzan-sastanak-vtk-stk-bih-s-predstavnicima-federalnog-agromediterranskog-zavoda-i-hercegovacke-udruge-uljara-i-maslinara/>

Herzegovina.² Bosnia and Herzegovina has the potential to engage in this route, subject to additional research.



The Škegro Family Winery, from Bosnia and Herzegovina, has won a Gold Award at the 2020 NYIOOC World Olive Oil Competition, ©Nikola Matić

European Route of Historic Thermal Towns

Bosnia and Herzegovina is known for numerous natural thermal and thermal mineral springs with healing properties. Since ancient times, people have been attracted to the hot healing mineral waters of Europe. During the centuries, the Greeks, Romans, Ottomans and others established the tradition of bathing and built bathing complexes in order to use the thermal water. Under Austro-Hungarian rule, the first systematic analyses of these natural resources were conducted in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Today renowned spa centers offer treatment and rehabilitation at these springs.

In the Banja Luka and Krajina region, thorough geological and hydrogeological assessments were conducted, along with geophysical surveys and deep well drilling. These investigations covered various locations, including Laktaši and Slatina in the Laktaši municipality, Gornji Šeher in the city of Banja Luka, and Lešljani in the Novi Grad municipality.³

The thermal mineral water at Terme Laktaši serves a multi-faceted purpose.⁴ The procedure for Terme Laktaši's accession to the European Route of Historic Thermal Towns began in 2019. Application

forms have been submitted, and experts from the Council of Europe have visited the site. Their final decision is pending.

Located in Sarajevo there is one of the oldest terme spa resorts in Southeastern Europe, Terme Ilidža. Its history is steeped in the therapeutic use of thermal sulfurous-oligomineral water, a tradition that traces back to the Roman era. In 19th century hotel complex from the Austro-Hungarian period and a contemporary bath and spa resort hotel called Banja Terme Ilidža, is recognized as a spa town. The Legislative and Legal Commission of the Sarajevo Canton Assembly, at the session held on March 24, 2010, determined the Revised Text of the Law on the Proclamation of the Natural Monument "Vrelo Bosne" by which Banjski Park in Ilidža and Velika Aleja are classified as the second protected zone (buffer) of the III category of the protected area - Natural Monument.⁵ The efficacy of mineral water's healing properties has been well known. What draws both patients and tourists alike is the thermal mineral sulfur water, boasting a 57.5 degrees Celsius temperature.

Terme "Aquaterm" is located in the very center of the city of Olovo. This renowned establishment is famous for its healing oligomineral water, which is low in salt content.

The natural thermal mineral water found at the Ilidža term in Gradačac town boasts alkaline, carbonate, sulfate, and mild muriatic properties. It's rich in sodium, calcium, and magnesium, and features a mild level of radioactivity, including radon. The Center for Physical Medicine, Rehabilitation, and Spa Treatment "Ilidža" in Gradačac was built in the year 1980.

The thermal mineral waters of Vrućica term in Teslić municipality is highly advisable for a range of health concerns.⁶ After the completion of the First World War, research and analyses of the healing properties of the water of Banja Vrućica began in 1919, and it was opened in 1928. The significance of these waters is evident from the fact that Banja Vrućica was protected and included in the Registry of spas of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia by state acts in 1926 and 1930. Unfortunately, during the Second

2 Newspapers Faktor, <https://faktor.ba/vijest/namjera-je-da-se-u-hercegovini-zasade-maslinjaci-na-hiljadu-hektara/153819>

3 Wikipedia, https://sr.wikipedia.org/wiki/T%D0%B5%D1%80%D0%BC%D0%B0%D0%BB%D0%BD%D0%B5_%D0%B2%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B5_%D0%A0%D0%B5%D0%BF%D1%83%D0%B1%D0%BB%D0%B8%D0%BA%D0%B5_%D0%A1%D1%80%D0%BF%D1%81%D0%BA%D0%B5

4 Terme Laktasi, <https://termelaktasi.ba/termalna-voda/>

5 Hadzidervisagic D., (2014) Analiza historijskog razvoja Banjskog parka Ilidža - Sarajevo / Analysis of Historical Development of Spa Park Ilidza - Sarajevo, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/338215889_Analiza_historijskog_razvoja_Banjskog_parka_Ilidza_-_Sarajevo_Analysis_of_Historical_Development_of_Spa_Park_Ilidza_-_Sarajevo

6 Web site Visit B&H, <https://visitbih.ba/bosna-i-hercegovina-je-poznata-po-termalnim-izvorima-ljekovite-vode-koriste-se-jos-od-vremena-rimljana/>

World War, this spa complex was almost entirely destroyed, but reconstruction efforts began in 1946.⁷

Due to its medicinal thermal waters and abundant water resources, Bosnia and Herzegovina holds significant potential for the advancement of thermal tourism. Health-related tourism, particularly focused on thermal treatments, is still in the developmental phase within the region.



Health and tourism center Banja Vrućica

TRANSROMANICA - The Romanesque Routes of European Heritage

There are several Roman archaeological sites in Bosnia and Herzegovina such as: Argentaria, Archaeological site Vranjevo Selo, Basilica in Žitomislíci, Bistua Novae, Churches on Rivina, Delminij, Diluntum, Domavia, Gradina (Domavia), Mogorjelo, Roman military camp in Humac, Salinae (Tuzla), Archaeological site Stari Majdan, Sutina (Uskoplje), Kastel Fortress in Banja Luka, Vašarovine, Vrba (Gnojnice).⁸

Roman monuments in Bosnia and Herzegovina provide fascinating insights into the region's rich history and its importance as a crossroads of civilizations. While not as well-known as Roman sites in some other parts of Europe, this region boasts several significant archaeological remains and historical sites from the Roman era. Additionally, these monuments can be found in areas such as Banja Luka, Ilidža near Sarajevo, Kreševo, Donja Višnjica near Kiseljak, Ruševac - Brestovsko near Kiseljak, Gradac - Kotorac near Hažići, Kazanci near Gacko, Ševelj near Stolac, Vinjani near Posušje, Ščit in Rama and Roman municipium in Skelani.⁹

⁷ Banja Vrucica, <https://banja-vrucica.com/resort/istorijat/>

⁸ Wikipedia, https://hr.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kategorija:Rimski_arheolo%C5%A1ki_lokaliteti_u_Bosni_i_Hercegovini

⁹ A. Škegro: Rimski spomenici iz Bosne i Hercegovine, VAMZ,(2003), <https://hrcak.srce.hr/file/39959>

The presence of Roman monuments in Bosnia and Herzegovina is a testament to the Roman Empire's influence on the region, as it served as a crucial part of the Roman province of Illyricum. The Romans established settlements, roads, and infrastructure that played a vital role in the development of the area. Roman monuments in Bosnia and Herzegovina can provide a unique opportunity to better understand a region's multicultural heritage and its historical significance as a bridge between East and West.



Roman monuments from Tomislavgrad, © The Museum of the Franciscan Monastery in Tomislavgrad

Via Habsburg

The Via Habsburg route is a cultural and historical tourism initiative that traces the legacy of the Habsburg Monarchy across several European countries. While Bosnia and Herzegovina was not historically a part of the core Habsburg Monarchy, it did have some historical connections with the Habsburgs, particularly during the late 19th and early 20th centuries when Bosnia and Herzegovina was administered by Austria-Hungary, a component of the Habsburg Empire.¹⁰

Sarajevo City Hall (Vijećnica) is a significant architectural landmark in the city. In the same architectural style, the City Hall (Vijećnica) in Novi Grad and the Municipality Building in Brčko were constructed. It was built in the pseudo-Moorish style during the Austro-Hungarian period and is considered a symbol of Sarajevo.¹¹ Sarajevo Cathedral is a neo-gothic catholic cathedral constructed during the Habsburg era and is one of the largest sacral buildings in Bosnia

¹⁰ De Gruyter, <https://www.degruyter.com/document/doi/10.1515/9781789207750-006/html?lang=de>

¹¹ Gradska vijećnica Sarajevo, <https://www.vijecnica.ba/en/construction-of-city-hall-sarajevo>

and Herzegovina.¹² Bosnia and Herzegovina's association with the Habsburg Monarchy can make it a relevant addition to a route that aims to explore the Habsburg heritage.



Sarajevo City Hall, ©Yunus Demirbaş

Routes where Bosnia and Herzegovina is not yet a participant but has the potential to join, considering the quantity, significance, and state of research of its monuments and the legacy of the liberation war

Liberation Route Europe

Liberation Route Europe is a cultural and historical tourism project that aims to commemorate and honor the events of World War II and the liberation of Europe from Nazi occupation. The project was initiated in 2008, and it encompasses a network of sites, museums, and various cultural institutions across Europe.¹³

Bosnia and Herzegovina has several cultural monuments and historical sites related to World War II, many of which commemorate the events, struggles, and sacrifices of that period. These monuments and sites serve as a reminder of the wartime history of the region and the impact of the conflict.¹⁴ Partisan Memorial Cemetery in Mostar in the Balkans boasts one of the largest anti-fascist

¹² Sarajevo Travel, <https://sarajevo.travel/en/things-to-do/the-cathedral-of-jesus-sacred-heart/78>

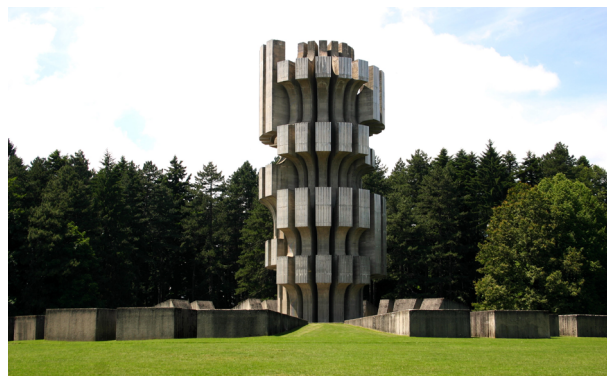
¹³ Liberation Route Europe, <https://www.liberationroute.com/>

¹⁴ Redzic E., (2006) Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Second World War, Routledge, <https://www.routledge.com/Bosnia-and-Herzegovina-in-the-Second-World-War/Redzic/p/book/9780714685106>

monuments and sites, featuring a sprawling, 300-meter-long paved ceremonial pathway.¹⁵ Bosnia and Herzegovina presents a wealth of attractions, such as the Tito's Partisan Memorial Complex in Jajce, which features a museum and multiple monuments.

The Battle of Kozara was fought in June 1942 between the Axis forces, primarily the German Wehrmacht, and the Yugoslav Partisans, the communist-led resistance movement. Several monuments dedicated to the Battle of Kozara as a tribute to the significant events that took place during World War II: Kozara Memorial Complex, Monument to the Revolution in Mrakovica and Partisan Cemetery in Kozarac. The Battle of Sutjeska in June 1943 was a decisive engagement during the fifth enemy offensive, in which Yugoslav Partisans successfully broke through the Axis encirclement, defeating German forces near the Sutjeska River in southeastern Bosnia. The Memorial Complex of the Valley of Heroes, located near the village of Tjentište, was solemnly opened in 1974 within the Sutjeska National Park. One more important battle is the Battle of the Neretva in 1943 between Axis and Yugoslav Partisan forces. Monument to the Battle of the Neretva and Partisan Cemetery in Jablanica serve as reminders of the sacrifices made during the Battle of the Neretva. The Battle of Drvar (May 1944) was a unique and daring operation by the Axis forces, especially the German paratroopers (Fallschirmjäger), who attempted to capture or eliminate Josip Broz Tito and the Partisan leadership in their headquarters located in Drvar. The Monument to the Battle of Drvar and Josip Broz Tito Memorial Complex preserves historical and cultural landmarks.

This route could offer an intriguing journey for discovering the history and the enduring impact of the Second World War in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Monument to the Revolution, ©National Park Kozara

¹⁵ DOCOMOMO International, <https://docomomo.com/partisan-memorial-cemetery-in-mostar/>

European Route of Industrial Heritage

The European Route of Industrial Heritage is a route encompassing the most significant industrial heritage sites in Europe. Established in 2019, this initiative serves as an informational resource within the tourism industry, showcasing a certified network of industrial heritage sites throughout Europe. Spanning approximately 300 locations across all European countries, tourists have the opportunity to explore European industrial history.

Bosnia and Herzegovina's industrial history is characterized by a diverse evolution influenced by historical periods and geopolitical shifts. While the Ottomans, during their rule in the mid-15th century, maintained traditional salt production near Tuzla, significant industrial development did not begin until much later.

The late 19th and early 20th centuries the Austro-Hungarian Empire introduced modernization, particularly in infrastructure and mining. The construction of railways and exploitation of coal mines marked this era. Industrial growth continued in the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, albeit at a slower pace.

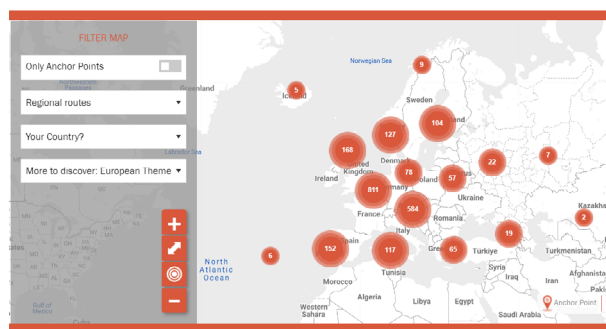
The most profound changes occurred during the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, post-World War II. The country witnessed a concerted effort to transform into an industrial state, marked by massive expansions in heavy industry. This period led to the establishment of numerous industrial complexes, contributing significantly to the economy.

In the post-war period, efforts have been made to revitalize and diversify the industrial landscape. Various sectors, including metallurgy, energy, and manufacturing, have seen some resurgence. Additionally, initiatives such as the European Route of Industrial Heritage (ERIH) highlight and preserve key industrial sites, providing insights into the industrial legacy of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The official website of ERIH has two mapped locations in Bosnia and Herzegovina: the Solana's Museum in Tuzla and Mostar city (the Old Bridge and museum).¹⁶

Establishing additional communication for the official accession of Bosnia and Herzegovina to this route is highly recommended.

ERIH, the EUROPEAN ROUTE OF INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE,
your guide to Europe's industrial heritage
About ERIH and its Route System



European Route of Industrial Heritage, <https://www.erih.net/>

Given the abundance and diversity of cultural heritage sites, Bosnia and Herzegovina has the potential to explore the possibility of connecting to the following routes

European Route of Megalithic Culture

Megalithic structures, characterized by large stones arranged in specific patterns or formations, are not as prominent in Bosnia and Herzegovina as they are in regions like Western Europe, but there are archaeological findings that hint at ancient civilizations in the region. One notable site in Bosnia and Herzegovina is the Daorson archaeological complex. Daorson is an ancient Illyrian hillfort that dates back to the Iron Age, around the 4th century BCE.

While not a traditional megalithic site, Daorson features large stone blocks that were part of its defensive walls and structures. The purpose of Daorson is believed to have been both residential and religious. The recently unearthed megalithic dolmen near Neumski Gradac stands as a noteworthy discovery in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

These monuments are unparalleled within the Dinaric region, showcasing exceptional characteristics in terms of their distinctive shape, size, and ancient origins, reaching back at least 4,000 years—over 2,000 years before the Common Era.¹⁷

16 European Route of Industrial Heritage, <https://www.erih.net/>

17 Public Institution for Development of Tourism and Protection of the Cultural, Historical and Natural Heritage of "Radimlja", <https://radimlja.ba/en/osanjici-grad-daorson/>



The town of Daorson, ©Pero Pavović; Public Institution for Development of Tourism and Protection of the Cultural, Historical and Natural Heritage of "Radimlja"

Prehistoric Rock Art Trails

Bosnia and Herzegovina has a rich archaeological history, and it is home to several prehistoric rock art sites, some of which feature cave paintings and carvings created by early human populations. These prehistoric rock art sites can be of great interest to those exploring the Prehistoric Rock Art Trails route. One such site in Bosnia and Herzegovina is the Badanj Cave, located near the town of Stolac. The Badanj Cave is known for its rock art, archaeological excavations established that the findings date back to the Palaeolithic, i.e. 13000 to 12000 BC. These paintings depict various animals and symbols, providing insights into the artistic and cultural expressions of ancient peoples.¹⁸

Including Bosnia and Herzegovina on such a route can add variety and historical depth to the itinerary, showcasing the country's contribution to the understanding of prehistoric art and the cultures of early human societies.



Stamp with the rock engravings of Badanj, ©Nedžad Čmajčanin; Bosnia and Herzegovina Post

¹⁸ Crossroads of Civilizations (StolacX), <https://stolacx.ba/paleolithic-cave-badanj/?lang=en>

Cyril and Methodius Route

The Cyril and Methodius Route, also known as the Saints Cyril and Methodius Route, is a cultural and historical tourism initiative that traces the legacy of the Byzantine brothers Cyril and Methodius, who were instrumental in the spread of Christianity and the development of the Cyrillic script. While the historical activities of Saints Cyril and Methodius primarily took place in the Byzantine Empire and the Slavic territories they evangelized, there are regions and countries beyond their direct historical influence that have joined this route to celebrate their contributions to Christianity and culture.¹⁹

Bosnia and Herzegovina, being a part of the wider Slavic world and historically influenced by both Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic traditions, has connections to the legacy of Saints Cyril and Methodius.²⁰ Cyrillic script, in particular, has been used in the region, and the country has religious and cultural links to the Byzantine heritage.

Réseau Art Nouveau Network

While Bosnia and Herzegovina may not be as well-known for its Art Nouveau heritage as some other European cities or regions, it does have some notable examples of Art Nouveau architecture and design. Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia and Herzegovina has a few buildings and elements that showcase the influence of the Art Nouveau style such as: Central Post Office in Sarajevo, Hermina Rädisch Villa, Ješua D. Salom Mansion, City Hall (Vijećnica) and historical tramway bridge (Vijadukt).²¹ Sarajevo's Art Nouveau heritage can be seen in certain buildings, including part of the architecture in the city's historic center, which was constructed during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

While Sarajevo's Art Nouveau heritage is not as extensive as that of cities like Brussels or Vienna, it could potentially be included as a stop on a broader cultural or architectural tour of the region. The city's unique blend of architectural styles, including Austro-Hungarian, Ottoman, and Art Nouveau influences, offers an interesting perspective on its history and cultural diversity.

¹⁹ Cultural Route of the Council of Europe, <https://www.cyril-methodius.cz/>

²⁰ Wikipedia, https://bs.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C4%86irilo_i_Metodije

²¹ Wikipedia, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Art_Nouveau_architecture_in_Sarajevo



The Sarajevo Post Office, ©Hanan Kočo Bajramović; Bosnia and Herzegovina Post

There is an opportunity to explore options for involvement and conduct additional research as necessary

European Route of Ceramics

Since 2012, the European Route of Ceramics has held Council of Europe certification, actively promoting the rich cultural heritage of ceramic production and its traditions. This route not only showcases artistic creations and collections but also contributes to sustainable and competitive tourism while fostering cultural and social development.²²

Butmir is the oldest and most well-known archaeological site from the Late Neolithic period in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Butmir culture was widespread in the area around the lower and middle reaches of the Bosna River, representing one of the most significant cultural groups from the later Neolithic period in Europe. It is believed that the Butmir group emerged around 5100 BCE.

The use of ceramic material is the most distinctive characteristic of the Butmir culture. In its classical phase, the high artistic value of ceramic vessels comes to full expression in a diverse repertoire of shapes and distinctive decorative techniques.²³ All excavated materials are housed in the National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The most renowned sites of the Butmir Neolithic group, apart from Butmir itself, include Kraljevine near Novi Šeher, Obre II near Kaknja, Nebo near Travnik, Crkvina near Vitez, Okolište near Visoko, and Brdo near Kiseljak.

22 Council of Europe, <https://www.europeanrouteofceramics.eu>

23 National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina, <https://www.zemaljskimuzej.ba/en>

In 2011, the first school of ceramics and pottery was opened in Sarajevo. "TAKO - School of Ceramics and Pottery" provides its participants with an opportunity for creative expression in clay. There are several types of courses, and participants have the opportunity to use professional literature, art magazines, and similar resources.²⁴

Bosnia and Herzegovina holds the potential to participate in this route, pending further research. The objective of joining the proposed route is to promote the cultural heritage of ceramic production and its traditions, fostering sustainable and competitive tourism.



Butmir Culture, ©Adnan Šahbaz; The National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Impressionism Routes

Originating in the 19th century, the Impressionist movement profoundly influenced the entire European continent through the works of significant painters. The Council of Europe's certified Cultural Route established in 2018 consolidates numerous sites associated with 19th and 20th-century Impressionist painting. The Impressionisms Routes aspire to enhance accessibility to artistic knowledge for everyone by fostering cultural heritage and tourism activities.²⁵

In 1906, the Czech artist Jan Karel Janevski opened a private art school in Sarajevo, attended by then unrecognized, but later prominent painters in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It's interesting to note that the first abstract painting in Bosnia and Herzegovina, titled "Composition," was created by Roman Petrović in 1920. However, the first painters in Bosnia and Herzegovina working in the spirit of modernism emerged only in the thirties.

24 TAKO - School of Ceramics and Pottery, <https://takoceramics.wordpress.com/about/>

25 Council of Europe, <https://www.coe.int/en/web/cultural-routes/impressionisms-routes>

At the very beginning of modernism in Bosnia and Herzegovina, there was no pronounced national or stylistic polarization; painters were trying to grapple with new visual languages. They chose common themes, vibrant landscapes, or the ethnological diversity of the local peoples as their artistic languages.²⁶

Some painters have left an indelible mark on the art of this region such as: Gabrijel Jurkić (1886, Livno — 1974, Livno) who was a Bosnian-Herzegovinian visual artist and one of the most significant impressionists in Bosnia and Herzegovina²⁷, Roman Petrović (1896-1947), one of the leading figures in modern painting in Bosnia and Herzegovina²⁸ and Đorđo "Đoko" Mazalić (Kostajnica, May 5, 1888 — Sarajevo, February 28, 1975) who was one of the pioneers of impressionism in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and a master of landscapes and portraits.²⁹



Composition, oil on cardboard, 1920, ©Roman Petrović;
Art Gallery of Bosnia and Herzegovina

There is potential for Bosnia and Herzegovina to join this route, but additional research needs to be conducted. The potential for joining the proposed route aims to improve accessibility for everyone to

26 Newspapers Stav, <https://arhiv.stav.ba/moderno-slikarstvo-i-specifikum-bosanskog-pejzaza/>

27 Newspapers Magain Plus, <https://magazinplus.eu/gabrijel-jurkic-likovni-umjetnik-i-jedan-od-najznacajnijih-impresionista-u-bih/>

28 Osservatorio Balcani e Caucaso Transeuropa, <https://www.balcanicaucaso.org/bhs/zone/Bosna-i-Hercegovina/Roman-Petrovic-veliko-srce-Sarajeva-174579>

29 Wikipedia, https://sr.wikipedia.org/sr-el/%D0%82%D0%BE%D0%BA%D0%BE_%D0%9C%D0%B0%D0%B7%D0%B0%D0%BB%D0%B8%D1%9B

artistic knowledge, featuring the landscapes that inspired artists, as well as galleries and museums preserving their works. This route has the capacity to promote cultural heritage and stimulate tourism activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Transhumance trails

The Transhumance Trails Cultural Route of the Council of Europe was certified in 2023. The route, known as "Transhumance Trails and Rural Roads," seeks to foster cultural discovery and exchange by establishing connections associated with the age-old movements of shepherds over thousands of years.³⁰

Shepherd's huts or seasonal mountain settlements known as "katuni", are mentioned in historical documents from the 17th century, so it is considered that they date back to that time. Herzegovina is the only region in Bosnia and Herzegovina where livestock farming is practiced in this way. In Posavina and Lijevo Polje, we have a reverse process. There, during winter, livestock is driven to the flatlands of Slavonia and Baranja, Croatia. The exceptional significance lies in the preservation of indigenous species of domestic animals in Bosnia and Herzegovina as part of the cultural heritage inherited from previous generations.

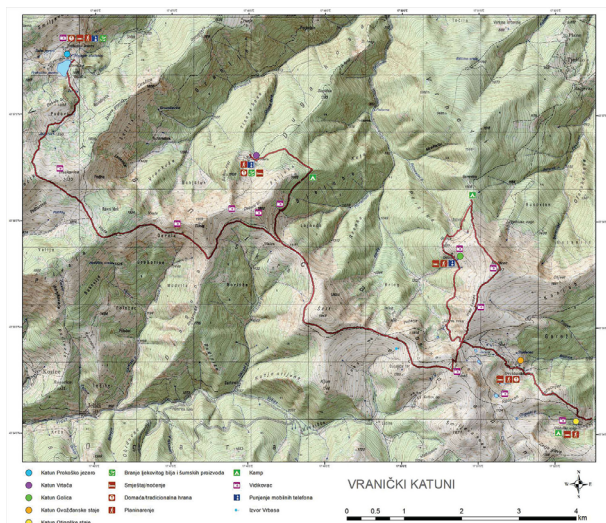
The identity of each nation and state is realized through language, culture, religion, as well as through other forms of identification, and among them, a significant place is occupied by indigeneity, i.e., the inheritance of certain species of domestic animals as an important part of cultural heritage. Bosnia and Herzegovina has several types of indigenous sheep: Pramenka, Dubska sheep, Kupreška sheep, Podveleška sheep, Stolačka sheep, and Privorska sheep.³¹

The trail "Vranički katuni" involves five shepherd's hut communities atop Mount Vranica in Bosnia and Herzegovina, forming a segment of the thematic circuit encompassing shepherd's hut communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro. "Katuni" are also recognized on the Zelegora and Treskavica mountains. Shepherd's hut communities are operational from mid-May to mid-September, coinciding with the descent

30 Council of Europe, <https://www.ttrr.eu/>

31 Sakic V., (2018) Native species domestic animals in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Autohtone vrste domacih zivotinja) https://www.academia.edu/42345181/Native_species_domestic_animals_in_Bosnia_and_Herzegovina_Autohtone_vrste_domacih_zivotinja

of herders to their villages. Life within these settlements revolves around tending to animals and harvesting fruits. The locals are welcoming and amiable, encouraging your engagement in some of the traditional activities that mirror their daily routine. The cuisine, reflective of regional tradition, offers authentic flavors. Alongside delectable and nutritious meals, various services such as tent rentals, fireplaces, accommodations, barbecues, mobile device charging, horseback riding, and more are also available.³²



Katun roads of Bosnia and Herzegovina, <https://katunski-putevi.ba/eng-naslovna/>

Bosnia and Herzegovina is a destination that has for centuries preserved the culture of shepherd's huts as the primary economic activity in rural, mountainous areas. Shepherd's hut settlements are becoming increasingly attractive tourist destinations for both domestic and foreign tourists who wish to experience the charms of untouched nature, savor carefully prepared and healthy organic food, and escape the fast pace of everyday life.

Historic Cafés Route

Certified in 2022, the Historic Cafés Route traces its origins from the eighteenth to the twentieth century across European towns and cities. Despite wars and major social changes, some historic cafés in Europe still operate and today stand as showcases of intangible heritage. Through various activities and events, performances and artistic activities tourists and visitors can engage with café culture of the destination.

32 Katun roads of Bosnia and Herzegovina, <https://katunski-putevi.ba/eng-naslovna/>

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, coffee consumption has a special significance, as well as tradition. The origins of coffee preparation in BiH date back to the 15th century and are related with the arrival of the Ottomans in the year 1463. In the popular old part of Sarajevo, in Bascarsija, there is a "Dibek" one of the oldest coffee grinding shops, which was opened in 1895 and operated until the war of 1992-1995. During the war, the shop was destroyed, but later resumed its operations. In this shop coffee is roasted and pestle in a traditional way.³³



Dibek, Sarajevo

One of the very old places with an old tradition is Morića Han built at the end of the 16th century with funds from Gazi Husrev-beg's endowment. The han served as an overnight stay for travelers and caravans, accommodating up to 300 passengers and 70 horses. The ground floor was used for the accommodation of horses and goods, while upstairs featured rooms for guests and a large space for conversations over coffee.³⁴

Today, the ground floor of the han houses a national restaurant with a garden, a shop selling Persian carpets, and several taverns where you can enjoy original coffee served in special antique utensils.

33 Newspaper Sarajevo Times, <https://sarajevotimes.com/hajrudin-burek-continues-century-old-family-tradition/>

34 Sarajevo Travel, <https://sarajevo.travel/ba/sta-raditi/morica-han/492>



Morica Han, ©Jennifer Boyer

Coffee culture holds significant importance in Bosnia and Herzegovina and is deeply ingrained in daily life in the country. Citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina have a unique and leisurely approach to coffee consumption, making it more than just a beverage; it is a social ritual that fosters connections and conversations. Considering Bosnia and Herzegovina's coffee culture as a part of the country's rich history, hospitality and emphasis on meaningful social interactions, it possesses significant potential for becoming part of the Historic Cafés Route.

European Fairy Tale Route

The European Fairy Tale Route, certified in 2022, represents a shared cultural heritage for all Europeans. Fairy tales now play a highly influential role in children's education, fostering strong intercultural and educational impacts. The most well-known BiH fairy tale is "Titiz and Džomet" (eng. "A miserly and generous person") and in addition to it, "Baš Čelik," "Zla maćeha," "Usud," and "Kabadaluk" are tales that have been retold for centuries in this region.³⁵ Bosnia and Herzegovina has the potential to participate in this route, considering the fact that folk tales and fairy tales have been passed down from generation to generation and retold for centuries in this region. The proposal for certifying fairy tales needs further research and should be suggested by relevant institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Women Writers Route

In 2022, the Cultural Route of the Council of Europe Women Writers Route received certification. The Women Writers Route unveils the lives and

³⁵ <https://ikvrijeme.ba/proizvod/najljepse-bosanske-bajke-haris-abdagic/>

creative contributions of women writers during the transition between the 19th and 20th centuries. These pioneering women writers played a crucial role in shaping the foundations of gender equality as we recognize it in contemporary times.



Umihana Čuvidina, ©Wikipedia

Born in 1794, Umihana Čuvidina is the earliest known Bosnian-Herzegovinian poetess. Her poems provide a unique window into the past, allowing us to glimpse into history. Čuvidina also made important contributions to the traditional folk music in Bosnia and Herzegovina, especially the genre of *sevdalinka*.³⁶



Laura Papo Bohoreta, ©Dr. Eliezer Papo Ben-Gurion University

In addition to her roles as a writer and translator, there is another notable woman Laura Papo Bohoreta who made contributions to Bosnian-Herzegovinian history. She is famous for studying and documenting the lives of Sephardic women in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Laura Papo Bohoreta was born in Sarajevo on 15 March 1891, to a poor Jewish family. She went to a school for Jewish kids called the "Alliance Israélite Française." At a time when Ladino use was declining, Laura Papo wrote in this language. Her writings were written at three spelling methods. Primarily, she crafted

³⁶ Sevdalinka website, <https://sevdalinka.info/en/umihana-cuvidina-first-bosniak-poetess/#>

publications, articles, and plays for the local audience in Serbo-Croatian with traces of Castilian, effectively broadening the reach of her works.³⁷

Another woman who made a significant impact on literature in Bosnia and Herzegovina was Ognjenka Milićević Lukač. She was born in 1927 in Banja Luka (Kingdom of Yugoslavia). She translated numerous works from Russian to Serbian and authored many essays, studies, and writings on theater, acting, and directing. She served as the author and main editor of monographs on Ljiljana Krstić and Petar Kralj, recipients of the "Dobričin prsten" award. Ognjenka was a member of the managing council at Atelje 212 Theatre and later at Yugoslav Drama Theatre. Additionally, she founded and supervised the drama studio at the National Theater in Sarajevo, while also teaching Acting and Theater History at the Faculty of Dramatic Arts.³⁸

Bosnia and Herzegovina has the potential to become a member of the network, but it is necessary for relevant institutions to conduct thorough analyses and prepare the application. Considering that in the Balkan region, women writers did not have the opportunity to create and publicly showcase their talents for a long time, support and recognition of female literary figures who have left a mark on the history of Bosnia and Herzegovina are of great importance in preserving their social struggle for equality, human rights and life stories.

Considering the *ATRIUM* route, which focuses on the Architecture of Totalitarian Regimes in 20th century Europe's Urban Memory, it is essential to investigate at the regional level whether this category encompasses the Architecture in Yugoslavia between 1948 and 1980, acknowledged for its unique significance.³⁹

Potentials and emerging themes for new Cultural Routes

Bosnia and Herzegovina's rich cultural heritage offers numerous avenues for engagement and contribution to the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme across these

37 European Holocaust Research Infrastructure, https://portal.ehri-project.eu/units/ba-006040-o_bp_168

38 Academic Dictionaries and Encyclopedias, <https://en-academic.com/dic.nsf/enwiki/11846968>

39 Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, Country mapping document Montenegro, <https://rm.coe.int/cmd-montenegro-eng/1680a5c95c>

diverse categories. Furthermore, apart from the mentioned 17 routes, numerous themes within Bosnia and Herzegovina have been identified as having the potential to establish new Cultural Routes. This potential extends not only at the state level but also within a broader regional context. In recent years, several topics have emerged that we believe offer unique opportunities, given their distinctive characteristics within cultural heritage and the substantial initiatives already undertaken in various disciplines. These themes include:

- Stećci - Medieval Tombstones
- Medieval Royal Towns
- Cultural route 'Franciscana'
- Drystone Constructions Route
- Route of European Epigraphic Heritage
- Route of European Folklore Heritage Festivals

Stećci - Medieval Tombstones

In a momentous decision during the UNESCO Committee session in Istanbul, Turkey on July 15, 2016, the remarkable stećci sites spanning Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Croatia and Serbia were awarded with the prestigious honor of UNESCO World Heritage status. A total of 28 sites were inscribed into this esteemed list, with Bosnia and Herzegovina proudly hosting 20, while Serbia and Montenegro each claimed three and Croatia two. This monumental achievement was the culmination of a collaborative effort among these countries, a journey that began in 2009 under the formal title 'Stećci - Medieval Tombstones', originally proposing 30 sites.

These sites showcase cemeteries featuring regionally distinctive medieval tombstones or stećci, dating from the 12th to the 16th centuries CE, laid out in rows following the common European custom of the Middle Ages. Primarily crafted from limestone, the stećci exhibit a diverse array of decorative motifs and inscriptions, representing both iconographic continuities within medieval Europe and locally distinctive traditions.⁴⁰

Stećci stand out distinctively within the vast landscape of European medieval heritage and sepulchral art due to several defining features. Among these remarkable characteristics are their sheer abundance, with well over 70,000 monuments scattered across more than 3,300 sites, each a testament to the enduring legacy of the past.

40 UNESCO, <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1504/>

Furthermore, stećci captivate with their diverse array of forms and motifs, showcasing intricate reliefs and captivating epigraphy that unravel tales of bygone eras. Beyond their physical presence, stećci also hold a wealth of intangible cultural heritage, encapsulating the spirit and essence of the communities that created them, thus enriching our collective understanding of history and tradition. The selected components encompass various burial measures and arrangements. The integrity of this cultural property relies on the ability of the chosen components to authentically represent the widespread occurrences, significance, and diversity of stećci in Southeastern Europe.⁴¹



Dugo polje at Blidinje, Jablanica, ©The Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Medieval Royal Towns

The medieval royal towns located within present-day Bosnia and Herzegovina stand as tangible reminders of their enduring historical significance across centuries. Today, although largely weathered, they bear witness to the existence of a significant segment of the history in this region. Their importance becomes even more when considering that, according to certain research, the staggering number of 147 old cities documented in Bosnia and Herzegovina, underscoring the rich tapestry of heritage woven into the land. Indeed, these towns serve as significant examples, offering invaluable insights into the past and preserving the essence of bygone eras for generations to come.

The medieval royal town of Bobovac served as the esteemed seat of Ban Stjepan II Kotromanić, who initiated its construction in the years leading up to the mid-14th century. Successive rulers, including kings from Tvrtko I to Tomaš, further enriched its grandeur. Bobovac thrived as a key city within the Bosnian Kingdom until the year 1461. The medieval old town of Bobovac somewhat lost its importance

with the ascent of the king, Stjepan Tomašević (1461–1463), as he made Jajce his capital in 1461. In 2002, the Commission for the Preservation of National Monuments of Bosnia and Herzegovina declared Bobovac a national monument of Bosnia and Herzegovina.⁴²



Model of the royal city of Bobova from the Kakanj museum, ©Museum of Kakanj

The town of Jajce were laid by Hrvoje Vukčić Hrvatinić between 1391 and 1404. It makes its earliest appearance in written records in 1396 and served as the residence of King Stjepan Tomašević, whose tragic execution took place there in 1463, witnessed by Sultan Mehmed II el-Fatih. Recognizing its historical significance, the medieval Old Town of Jajce was designated a national monument of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2004 by the Decision of the Commission for the Preservation of National Monuments.

Located atop Visočica hill, the Old Town of Visoki stands as a testament to Bosnia and Herzegovina's medieval history. Established in the 14th century, this formidable fortress and town were erected by none other than Ban Stjepan II Kotromanić, shaping the landscape just before the dawn of the 14th century. Today, the Old Town of Visoki holds the esteemed status of being a national monument of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Blagaj settlement near Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina, lies the captivating Old Town of Blagaj, affectionately known as Stjepan-grad. Its storied history dates back to May 1404 when it assumed significance as one of the prestigious seats of Duke Sandalj Hranić, later followed by Duke Stjepan Vukčić Kosača. This fortress not only stands as a remarkable architectural marvel but also serves as a poignant reminder of the region's rich historical legacy.

41 Wikipedia, [https://bs.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ste%C4%87ci_\(svjetska_ba%C5%A1tina_UNESCO-a\)](https://bs.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ste%C4%87ci_(svjetska_ba%C5%A1tina_UNESCO-a))

42 Web site Via Dinarica, <https://trail.viadinarica.com/bs/point/historijski-lokalitet/srednjovjekovni-kraljevski-grad-bobovac/15346385/>

Dating back to 1333, the earliest records of the Old Town of Srebrenik unveil its ancient roots. Architectural outlines drawn by Truhelka paint a picture of its historic significance. For nearly half a century, from 1464 to 1512, Srebrenik proudly served as the seat of the esteemed Srebrenik Banate.

However, in 1512, the Ottoman Empire seized control of both Srebrenik and the Banate. Fast forward to modern times, in 2004, the Commission for the Protection of National Monuments bestowed upon the Old Town of Srebrenik the esteemed title of a national monument of Bosnia and Herzegovina, cementing its place in the nation's rich cultural heritage.

The historical tapestry of the Old Town of Ključ begins to unfold in 1322, documented within the charter of Ban Stjepan II Kotromanić. Within this decree, Vukosav Hrvatinić is granted the Banica parish (Mrenska parish) and Vrbanja, alongside the towns of Ključ and Kotor. Serving as the focal point of the Banica parish, Ključ became the prized possession of the Hrvatinić family.

In the tumultuous year of 1463, amidst the Ottoman expansion in Bosnia and Herzegovina, King Stjepan Tomašević sought refuge within the sturdy walls of Ključ. However, the fortress fell to Ottoman hands in the same year and remained under their control until 1878. Renowned as one of the oldest and most formidable bastions of medieval Bosnia, the Old Town of Ključ stands as a testament to the enduring resilience of its people throughout centuries of turbulent history.

The Old Town of Bužim, known as Čava, held a prestigious status as the second-largest town in Krajina. Its construction unfolded amidst the looming threat of Ottoman invasions, a testament to the strategic importance of its location. In a pivotal turn of events in 1576, Bužim fell under Ottoman rule under the leadership of Ferhad-paša Sokolović.⁴³

Dating back to 1334, the town is documented as Čava within the Bužim parish of Saint Kliment, falling under the jurisdiction of the Zagreb Diocese. Recognizing its historical significance, the Commission for the Protection of National Monuments honored the Old Town of Bužim with the esteemed title of a national monument of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2003.

Cultural route 'Franciscana'

The proposed cultural route emerges as a culmination of concerted efforts spanning multiple countries. Since the 13th century, Franciscan presence has left an indelible mark on Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Republic of Croatia, and Montenegro. Beyond their pastoral duties, Franciscans have been instrumental in fostering education, nurturing culture, and catalyzing the inception of literary and scientific works. They stand as custodians of cultural and historical heritage, safeguarding it for posterity.

As part of the Cross-Border Cooperation Program between the Republic of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds of the Republic of Croatia spearheaded the funding of the 'Cultural Route Franciscana' project. This initiative aims to forge a novel cultural and tourist offering by interlinking Franciscan monasteries and associated institutions into a cohesive route named 'Franciscana.'

This initiative seeks to evaluate valuable cultural-historical heritage. By creating this unified cultural and tourist route, dubbed 'Franciscana,' the initiative endeavors to establish a sustainable groundwork for the route's candidacy for inclusion in the prestigious Council of Europe's cultural route network.⁴⁴

As part of the aforementioned initiative, a Round Table event titled "Preservation and Promotion of Franciscan Material and Immaterial Cultural-Historical Heritage Through the Development and Promotion of the Cultural Route Franciscana" took place in Široki Brijeg on October 19, 2023. This collaborative effort was organized jointly by the Office for European Integration of the West Herzegovina County and the Development Agency of the Dubrovnik-Neretva County (DUNEA).

The Round Table served as a platform to explore deeply the rich tapestry of material and immaterial cultural heritage stemming from the enduring presence of Franciscans in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Montenegro across centuries.

43 Redžić H.,(2009) Srednjovjekovni gradovi u BiH, Bemust, Sarajevo, <https://dokumen.tips/documents/59184397-husref-redzic-srednjovjekovni-gradovi-u-bosni-i-hercegovinipdf.html?page=15>

44 Regional Development Agency of Dubrovnik-Neretva County – DUNEA, <https://www.dunea.hr/nasi-projekti/2511-kulturna-ruta-franciscana>



Roundtable discussion, Široki Brijeg 2023, ©Stanislava Borovac



Franciscana Cross-Border planning meeting, ©Radio Dux



Roundtable discussion, Široki Brijeg 2023, ©Stanislava Borovac

As a part of the 'Franciscana' Cultural Route initiative, a promotional cycling tour was arranged in Slano. This inaugural tour brought together the Association for the Promotion of Cycling "Hercegovina Bike," BK Mostar, the Relax Cycling Club from Metković, and local enthusiasts passionate about leading an active lifestyle.



The "Franciscana" bicycle path, ©Tihomir Crnjac; Association Hercegovina Bike web site

The 'Franciscana' Cultural Route serves as a platform for showcasing local traditions, culture, customs, culinary delights, and breathtaking natural landscapes. Notably, many museums, galleries, and collections across Bosnia and Herzegovina have their roots in Franciscan monasteries. Among them, the Franciscan Museum Humac in Ljubuški stands as the oldest and first museum in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Additionally, museums have flourished in various cities across the country, all stemming from Franciscan monastery initiatives.

During the International Economic Fair in Mostar on May 2, 2023, a collaborative meeting was held involving the Office for European Integration of the West Herzegovina County, the Regional Agency of the Dubrovnik-Neretva County (DUNE), and the Croatian National Council of Montenegro. The primary objective of this gathering was to strategize and prepare a joint project application for the ongoing call within the Interreg Cross-Border Cooperation Program Croatia-BiH-Montenegro.

The cultural-historical heritage associated with the Franciscans in the Bay of Kotor is exceptionally rich. By extending the scope of the 'Franciscana' project to Montenegro, provides an opportunity to connect it to a broader shared narrative.

'Franciscana' stands as an unique cycling route, guiding riders through the storied landscapes of Franciscan monasteries in Bosnia and Herzegovina, unveiling their rich cultural and historical legacies. Spanning an impressive 800 kilometers, it claims the title of the longest road route in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The vision for 'Franciscana' doesn't stop there; plans are underway to expand its reach to encompass the entirety of the Bosnia Srebrena Franciscan Province and further extend into Croatia and Montenegro. This ambitious endeavor seeks to create an interconnected network that celebrates the shared heritage of Franciscan traditions across borders, offering cyclists a unique and enriching journey through history and culture.



The "Franciscana" bicycle path,
©Association Herzegovina Bike web site



The "Franciscana" bicycle path,
©Association Herzegovina Bike web site

Along the route, various religious sites and museums are visited, including the Franciscan Monastery in Široki Brijeg, the Franciscan Monastery of St. Peter and Paul in Mostar, the Cathedral in Mostar, the Karađoz-beg Mosque in Mostar, the Monastery in Žitomislíci, the Church of the Merciful Jesus in Šurmanci, the Parish Church of St. James in Međugorje, the Franciscan Monastery on Humac in Ljubuški, the Church of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Tihaljina, the Church of St. Michael the Archangel in Drinovci, the Church and Brotherhood of St. Stephen the First Martyr in Gorica, the Church of St. Catherine in Grude, the Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Posušje, the Franciscan Monastery in Tomislavgrad, the Carmelite Monastery of St. Elijah on Buško Lake, the Franciscan Museum and Gallery Gorica in Livno, and the Church of St. Peter and Paul in Livno, the Franciscan Monastery of Rama on Ščit, and the Church of St. Elijah in Masna Luka, the Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Ukoplje, the Franciscan Monastery and Church of St. Francis of Assisi in Guča Gora, the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Spirit in Fojnica, the Franciscan Monastery of St. Catherine in Kreševo, the Church of St. Michael in Vareš, and the Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Olovo.⁴⁵

45 Web site Association Herzegovina Bike, <https://www.herzegovinabike.ba/tour/franciscana-cestovna-ruta/>

Drystone Constructions Route

The proposed cultural route incorporates one of Herzegovina's most significant features—the dry stone constructions. This ancient technique entails the creation of functional stone structures entirely without the use of binding materials.

The primary goal of this proposal is to maintain or restore existing dry stone structures and provide interested parties with the opportunity to learn the technique, fostering an understanding of the exceptional value that dry stone walls bring to landscape preservation.

In 2018, the dry stone walling technique, also recognized as the "Art of Dry Stone Walling, Knowledge, and Techniques," earned a prestigious place on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Countries including Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Slovenia, Spain, and Switzerland joined together to inscribe this traditional practice, acknowledging its cultural significance and value.

The southwestern region of Bosnia and Herzegovina boasts the highest concentration of actively used dry stone walls. Stretching from the rugged terrain of Bjelašnica and Treskavica to the picturesque landscapes of Prenj and Herzegovina, this area encompasses locales such as Petrovac, Grahovo, Livno, and Tomislavgrad.⁴⁶ Here, the age-old tradition of dry stone walling thrives, serving as a testament to the enduring craftsmanship and cultural heritage of the region.



Traditional drywall construction techniques, Livno 2024
©Zvonimir Malbaša; 4 GRADA DRAGODID

46 Šaravanja, K., Oreč, F., Kurtović, A., (2015) Tradicionalne suhozidne konstrukcije ii. dio - suhozidne stambene nastambe/građevine(habitati), Electronic Collection of Papers of the Faculty of Civil Engineering, Mostar

Route of European Epigraphic Heritage

Epigraphic monuments across the landscape of Bosnia and Herzegovina serve as authentic testimonies to the diverse peoples who have inhabited this region across ancient, medieval, and modern times. These inscriptions illuminate the achievements and complexities of political, cultural, and social life throughout history, reaffirming the enduring spirit of creation in this land.

Remarkably, the number of newly unearthed epigraphic monuments in Bosnia and Herzegovina has experienced a notable surge. Through deciphering these inscriptions, we gain insights into how ancient communities mourned their departed or expressed reverence for specific deities, providing invaluable glimpses into the beliefs and rituals of bygone civilizations.

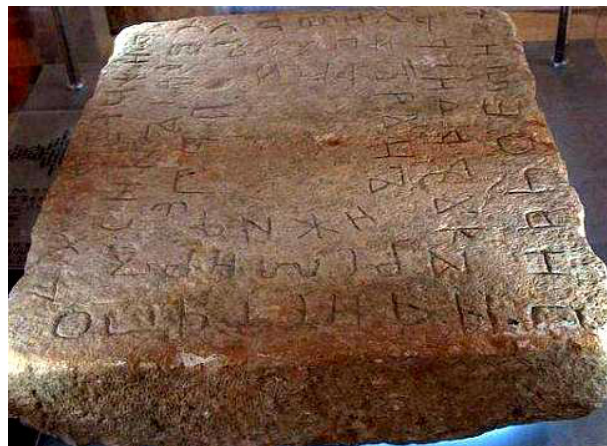


The front side with the cippus text from Trebinje, ©A. Šaćić

In addition to ancient relics, epigraphic monuments offer valuable insights into the historical contexts in which they were created. Among these, epitaphs found on stećaks are particularly noteworthy, varying in length from concise to extensive. Currently, researchers have documented approximately 400 medieval epitaphs, with the majority discovered in the Herzegovina region.

These inscriptions provide a window into the past, shedding light on the customs, beliefs, and societal norms of medieval times. They can be categorized as inscriptions with religious formulas, inscriptions illustrating the motif of heroic death, inscriptions providing information about the deceased, their relatives, and the circumstances of death, inscriptions with only the name of the deceased, and sometimes the names of blacksmith-apprentices, and inscriptions with religious teachings.

The oldest monument written in Cyrillic is considered to be the Humac plate, dating back to the 10th-11th century, while the oldest epigraphic inscription on stećaks is the tombstone of župan Grdo found in Polica near Trebinje.^{47 48} It is important to mention the Kočerin and Drežnica plates as well.



Humac plate, ©Municipality of Ljubuški

Epigraphic monuments inscribed in Turkish, Arabic, and Persian script hold profound significance for studying the history of regions under Turkish rule. These inscriptions serve as invaluable and trustworthy sources for understanding the diverse Turkish institutions that once thrived in the area. Moreover, the artistic value of Eastern epigraphic monuments cannot be overstated, as they stand as artistic marvels characterized by their intricate decorations, diverse scripts, and unique styles.

Through the study of these monuments, we gain not only historical insights but also a deeper appreciation for the rich cultural tapestry woven across these lands. To date, 2000 inscriptions have been collected from various monuments: bridges, fountains, tekkes (monasteries), mosques, schools, and finally, tombstones, the majority of which relate to Sarajevo (over 1000), and others to Travnik, Jajce, Banja Luka, Bihać, Mostar, Cazin, Foča, Prača, Blagaj, Počitelj, and Konjic.⁴⁹

47 Aladjuz L., (2021), Masonry schools of stećaks in the area of central Bosnia, Master Thesis, https://ff.unsa.ba/files/zavDipl/20_21/arh/Lamija-Aladjuz.pdf

48 Beslagic S., (2015) Ćirilčki epigrafski spomenici srednjovjekovne Bosne i Hercegovine, Društvo za proučavanje srednjovjekovne bosanske historije – Stanak

49 Federal Ministry of Culture and Sport, National Institute for the Protection of Monuments culture and natural rarities of the NR BiH, <https://fms.gov.ba/download/zzs/1953/16-1953.pdf>

Route of European Folklore Heritage Festivals

The Society for the Digitization of Traditional Cultural Heritage (SDTCH)/Društvo za digitalizaciju tradicijske kulturne baštine (Društvo za DTKB) has prepared a proposal for an innovative cultural route titled the "European Folklore Heritage Festival Route" focusing on European folklore festivals where cultural heritage bearers showcase their traditions at authentic locations linked to their origins. The route emphasizes elements of intangible cultural heritage that are still vibrant at festival locations, presented with traditional attire, musical instruments, and unique features of the local community.

Intangible cultural heritage elements showcased during the festival include traditional dances, songs, playing traditional instruments, ancient customs and practices, traditional sports, traditional children's games, old crafts, traditional food preparation methods, local stories, legends, and other similar manifestations that are still alive in the communities hosting the festival. Alongside intangible cultural heritage, visitors are introduced to elements of tangible cultural heritage, natural and historical landmarks, and other content that can capture the interest of visitors, providing a comprehensive insight into the traditional cultural heritage of the place and region.

Part of the festival has an international character, featuring groups from multiple countries showcasing their cultural heritage, enriching the programs, fostering international connections among cultural heritage bearers, enhancing international promotion of events, cultural heritage, local communities, regions, and countries.

All activities are aligned with the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage from 2003. This route enhances the visibility of elements of intangible cultural heritage, the local communities from which they originate, cultural heritage bearers, and the places where these elements are practiced, allowing visitors to personally experience them as part of Europe's cultural heritage.

According to data from The Society for the Digitization of Traditional Cultural Heritage (SDTCH)/Društvo za digitalizaciju tradicijske kulturne baštine (Društvo za DTKB) in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the implementation is planned to include the participation of NS International Council of Organizations of Folklore Festivals and Folk Arts (CIOFF) Bosnia and Herzegovina and UHAKUD in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The visionary "European Folklore Heritage Festival Route" presents an exciting opportunity to celebrate and preserve Europe's rich folklore traditions. As this ambitious project unfolds, it is crucial to establish transparent guidelines and foster collaborations to ensure the route's success in promoting cross-cultural exchange and appreciation of our shared heritage. Through inclusive management and cooperation, the European Folklore Heritage Festival Route has the potential to become a beacon of cultural unity and understanding across the continent.



The town of Daorson,
©Pero Pavović; Public Institution for Development of Tourism and Protection of the Cultural, Historical and Natural Heritage of "Radimlja"

8. REVIEW OF FINANCING INSTRUMENTS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, as in many countries, the main funding source for the cultural field is mostly the state budget. The state budget allocates funds to support various cultural initiatives, institutions, and projects.

These funds may be distributed to a range of cultural activities, including the preservation of cultural heritage, support for museums and galleries, funding for cultural events and festivals, and financial assistance to artists and cultural organizations. In addition to the state budget, other potential sources of funding for the cultural field in Bosnia and Herzegovina may include:

- Entity Government Budget – Entity governments may allocate their budgets to support local cultural initiatives, facilities, and events;
- Canton Government Budget – Canton governments may allocate their budgets to support local cultural initiatives, facilities, and events;
- Local Government Budgets – Local governments may allocate their budgets to support local cultural initiatives, facilities, and events;
- Grants and Subsidies – Cultural organizations and individuals in the cultural sector may seek grants and subsidies from government agencies, foundations, and international organizations to fund specific projects;
- Private Sector – Partnerships with private businesses, corporate sponsorships, and donations from private individuals can also contribute to cultural funding;
- International Funding – Bosnia and Herzegovina may receive financial support from international organizations, foreign governments, and cultural exchange programs to promote cultural activities and projects;
- Cultural Tourism – Revenue generated from cultural tourism, such as entrance fees to

museums and historical sites, can also be reinvested in the cultural field;

- Cultural Institutions' Own Revenue - Cultural institutions may generate income through ticket sales, merchandise, and facility rentals, which can be reinvested in their programs and maintenance.

It's important to note that the allocation of funds for the cultural field can vary from year to year and is subject to government policies and priorities. Many cultural organizations and projects may also rely on a combination of funding sources to sustain their activities and contribute to the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Sarajevo City Hall, ©Yunus Demirbaş

9. FIELD MISSION REPORT AND ANALYSIS

During the process of compiling the Country Mapping Document (CMD) for Bosnia and Herzegovina, a field mission was conducted on November 13-14, 2023.

The primary objective of this field mission was to identify and establish contacts with key stakeholders, including institutions, organizations, and associations, especially those well-versed in the Council of Europe's European Cultural Routes and other cultural routes in general.

The mission primarily aimed to ensure the participation of the designated representatives of the Advisory Council for Implementing the Enlarged Partial Agreement of the Council of Europe on Establishing Cultural Routes in Bosnia and Herzegovina, proposed at various levels of administration.

The primary objective was to facilitate the exchange of information, not limited to them, with other stakeholders, with the following goals:

- Assess existing activities and explore any initiatives related to cultural routes that have

already been undertaken and implemented in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

- Evaluate the capacity and potential within the existing governance structure at all levels for the development of cultural routes and the overall tourism capacity of the country.
- Seek their vision of the desirable administrative and financial framework for enhancing the Program.
- Identify challenges, recommendations, or obstacles related to this topic and gather specific recommendations and proposals from these interested parties.

Essentially, this field mission aimed to comprehensively gather insights and information to acquire new data and confirm existing data on the development of cultural routes in Bosnia and Herzegovina, taking into account potential challenges that exist. The goal of the field visit was

not only information exchange and data collection but also to gain an understanding for considering measures to ensure the sustainability of the prepared document. The objective is to make the proposed conclusions easily understandable and largely applicable to all interested parties.

Furthermore, the aim is for the institutions, organizations, and associations with whom information was exchanged to convey the same to lower levels, providing them the opportunity to provide their suggestions. Numerous significant stakeholders, both at the international and national levels, were actively engaged in the field mission.

The field visit was preceded by intense communication during the months of September and October via email with representatives of the state, entities, districts, and cantons. During the mission conducted in November, there was an opportunity for in-person communication to address uncertainties and provide necessary responses to enhance the CMD for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my special thanks to the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina for their support and collaboration during the preparation of CMD for Bosnia and Herzegovina and the field mission. Additionally, gratitude goes to all participants in the field mission whose comments contributed to the completeness of the document.

The field mission was organized in collaboration with the following institutions/organizations:

- Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Council of Europe Office in Sarajevo
- Advisory Council for Implementing the Enlarged Partial Agreement of the Council of Europe on Establishing Cultural Routes in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Commission to Preserve National Monuments of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Foreign Trade Chamber of Bosnia and Herzegovina – Iter Vitis
- NGO Haggadah Sarajevo - European Route of Jewish Heritage



Meeting with representatives of the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, representatives of entity and cantonal ministries responsible for the field of culture in Bosnia and Herzegovina,
©Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina



Morica Han, ©Jennifer Boyer

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations for advancing the development of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe in Bosnia and Herzegovina are directed towards crucial stakeholders, including the EPA Secretariat and the European Institute of Cultural Routes.

In the foreseeable future, Bosnia and Herzegovina should actively seek assistance to bolster its endeavors in advancing the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe. Collaborating with representatives from EPA member states, it is prudent to orchestrate a more extensive promotional campaign for the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme within Bosnia and Herzegovina.

This promotional effort should be customized to cater to the unique characteristics of specific individual routes, or in some cases, a combination of routes. Furthermore, it would be highly advantageous to engage an experienced cultural routes expert or consultant as a valuable resource in the forthcoming stages of development in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Their expertise would prove instrumental, particularly in the realms of member

recruitment and the establishment and ongoing management of cultural routes. Additionally, there is potential for exploration in involving stakeholders from Bosnia and Herzegovina in a training program designed for aspiring routes seeking certification under the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe. This inclusion would foster greater knowledge exchange and capacity-building within the cultural routes community in the region.

The Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, an exciting opportunity for Bosnia and Herzegovina to embrace, must carefully consider the insights and recommendations elucidated in this report concerning their specific Cultural Routes. It is crucial to acknowledge and integrate these findings into the planning and execution of future cultural route initiatives. It's worth noting that the representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina at the

EPA is the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, operating in synergy with other relevant institutions. This coordination is essential to ensure the successful integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina into the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme while promoting effective collaboration and adherence to the Council of Europe's guidelines.

It is strongly recommended to appoint a designated individual within the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina or another relevant institution, whose responsibilities would be to continuously engage with these and/or related Council of Europe programs. This individual should serve as the 'focal point' between interested parties, the Secretariat of the EPA, the European Institute of Cultural Routes and the Advisory Council for Implementing the Enlarged Partial Agreement of the Council of Europe on Establishing Cultural Routes in Bosnia and Herzegovina. They would also be responsible for communication and collaboration between the cultural and tourism sectors. It is imperative to enhance and invigorate activities pertaining to the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

It is proposed that inclusivity of all levels of state and local administration (delegated representatives of the Association of Municipalities and Cities of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Association of Municipalities and Cities of Republic of Srpska and Brčko District) be supported through the appointment of the Advisory Council for Implementing the Enlarged Partial Agreement of the Council of Europe on Establishing Cultural Routes in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with due consideration given to the involvement of interested organizations, non-governmental organizations, and the like. Participation of interested organizations, non-governmental organizations would be ensured through the publication of a public call.

The establishment and regular maintenance of a national-level database is crucial. This database should include all stakeholders associated with Cultural Routes, starting with those already consulted during the preparation of this report. Additionally, it should encompass the identification of other influential stakeholders, including those from the private sector and media. To maximize the impact of the Country Mapping report for Bosnia and Herzegovina, it should be disseminated and presented to all stakeholders who contributed to its preparation and extended to other key stakeholders. Furthermore, it should be made readily accessible to the public, promoting transparency and wider engagement.

As stated, in the forthcoming period, it is recommended to collaborate with the EPA Secretariat and the European Institute of Cultural Routes to arrange a more extensive introduction of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme within Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is advisable to organize separate events for individual routes or groups of routes. These events should bring together representatives of the Cultural Route's management, while extending invitations to all key stakeholders from Bosnia and Herzegovina who have been identified as potential members for specific routes.

The presentation should serve as an initial meeting to kickstart activities associated with each route. An integral component of the presentation could be a workshop involving all key participants. This workshop aims to collectively explore the potentials, chart the course of activities, define future steps, and identify potential members and coordinators for the route at the state level. These processes can be instrumental in laying the groundwork for the establishment of networks or routes with a state-level coordinator who will maintain collaboration with the routes at the European level. It is essential to consider the possibility of linking different Cultural Routes, thus enhancing synergies and interconnectivity.

To facilitate wider participation and understanding, it is advisable to translate key documents and information on Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe into the Bosnian, Croatian, and Serbian languages. These translated materials should be made available to prospective members and the general public on the Internet, potentially through the creation of a dedicated web page on the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina website. Additionally, informative brochures and other dissemination methods should be employed.

To alleviate the financial burden on potential members, it is worth exploring options for supporting them in covering membership fees for Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme. Existing national-level programs aimed at supporting cultural heritage and tourism development should be extended to encompass cultural routes as a priority sector. Cultural routes offer a rich opportunity for synergy between heritage preservation and tourism promotion. It is essential to endorse initiatives for the creation of new Cultural Routes. To facilitate this, convening meetings for potential new cultural routes is highly advisable. These meetings could be held both in-person and online and should include identified stakeholders as well as representatives from the EPA Secretariat and the European Institute of

Cultural Routes. The objective is to collaboratively explore the possibilities and lay the groundwork for initiating the application process for new routes.

To ensure the long-term sustainability of ongoing and upcoming activities associated with cultural routes, a robust and adaptable model should be developed. This model should account for the dynamic nature of cultural route development and maintenance. A consistent and diligent approach is required to stay abreast of cultural route developments. It is crucial to continually monitor the progress of activities, track the certification process for new Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, and conduct in-depth analyses in conjunction with relevant experts and institutions. This analysis aims to identify opportunities for Bosnia and Herzegovina to join new routes and stay engaged in the evolving landscape of cultural routes across Europe.

Local governments and various institutions, including tourist organizations, should proactively explore the opportunities available for them to participate in the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme. This involves initiating contact with representatives of the EPA member state, in this specific case, the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, to establish a collaborative relationship and gather relevant information and resources. Furthermore, it is crucial to encourage and offer support to local stakeholders expressing interest in participating in cultural routes. This can be achieved by facilitating their engagement and guiding them through the process of becoming active contributors to these enriching initiatives.

In parallel, programs that allocate funds for cultural heritage preservation and tourism development at the local level must prioritize cultural routes as a focal area of investment. This recognition reflects the significant role cultural routes play in the convergence of heritage, tourism, and local economic development. Furthermore, it is prudent to explore the potential of securing funding through European Union (EU) resources for activities associated with cultural routes. Specifically, delving into the possibilities within EU-funded initiatives, such as Cross-Border Cooperation programs, can provide financial support for the development and sustenance of cultural routes. This avenue of funding can significantly bolster the growth and impact of cultural route projects in the region.

It is recommended that universities in Bosnia and Herzegovina proactively establish connections and collaborations with their European counterparts, particularly those institutions that are part of the University Network for Cultural Routes Studies. These connections offer a multitude of benefits

that can greatly enhance academic and cultural initiatives in the region. By forging these cross-border educational partnerships, universities in Bosnia and Herzegovina can tap into a wealth of knowledge, experiences, and resources from institutions across Europe.

This can result in a more comprehensive and global perspective on cultural routes, contributing to a richer academic environment. Additionally, collaboration with European universities opens the door to opportunities for joint research projects, student exchanges, and shared learning experiences. These initiatives can foster a deeper understanding of cultural routes, not only within the local context but also on an international scale.

Moreover, such partnerships can encourage the free flow of ideas and best practices, ultimately leading to the development of innovative solutions and strategies for the promotion and preservation of cultural heritage, tourism, and cultural routes. Harnessing the internship opportunities offered by the University Network for Cultural Routes Studies presents a valuable avenue for students hailing from Bosnia and Herzegovina. By actively engaging with these internships, students can gain hands-on experience and insights into the world of cultural routes.

These experiences can not only bolster their academic and practical knowledge but also foster a deeper connection to their cultural heritage. Simultaneously, there is a pressing need to stimulate and promote research initiatives in the realm of cultural tourism and the various issues tied to cultural routes. Encouraging universities to become centers for research and exploration in these areas is of paramount importance.

To maximize the impact of these initiatives, it is advisable to foster collaborative partnerships with other stakeholders at the national level who share an interest in cultural route matters. These partnerships can pave the way for the exchange of ideas, resources, and best practices, creating a synergistic environment that benefits all involved parties. Furthermore, consideration should be given to the potential of joint applications for projects and funding. Collaborative efforts involving multiple entities, whether universities, cultural organizations, or governmental bodies, can significantly enhance the competitiveness and reach of these applications. By pooling their resources and expertise, these partners can collectively advance the cause of cultural routes in Bosnia and Herzegovina, opening doors to new opportunities and promoting cultural richness in the region. The overarching recommendations encompass a multifaceted approach to the activation of cultural

routes, emphasizing the potential to positively impact local communities, revitalize specific areas, enhance site offerings, foster networking opportunities, and more. When integrating cultural heritage sites into these routes, it is crucial to treat intangible heritage with the same care and significance as tangible heritage.

This holistic approach ensures the preservation of cultural identity and traditions alongside physical artifacts. While storytelling plays a pivotal role in site promotion, a strict adherence to verified and scientifically validated facts is imperative. This prevents the dissemination of inaccurate information and misinterpretation, maintaining the integrity of cultural narratives. Leveraging digital technologies presents an exceptional opportunity for promoting cultural routes. An enhanced utilization of digital contexts, such as online platforms, mobile applications, and virtual tours, can effectively engage a broader audience, especially in the digital age.

To further support these endeavors, it would be immensely beneficial to centralize and publicly share the outcomes of successful activities conducted thus far. Often, valuable information is scattered across various sources, such as the websites of completed projects, printed maps, or brochures. By compiling and publishing these resources on a dedicated website, a comprehensive knowledge repository can be established, facilitating easy access to crucial information.

Moreover, disseminating information about cultural routes should extend to schools, local communities, and entities, ensuring that a wide spectrum of the population is aware of and can engage with these initiatives. Creating a unified web platform that aggregates all cultural route initiatives offers a one-stop destination for interested parties, simplifying their involvement and interactions with this vital cultural heritage preservation effort.

Recommendations for the EPA Secretariat and the European Institute of Cultural Routes

- Foster closer cooperation between the EPA Secretariat, the European Institute of Cultural Routes, and the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, within the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme.
- Organize training sessions, workshops, and guides in collaboration between the EPA Secretariat, the European Institute of Cultural

Routes, and the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

- Distribute this document to the managers of certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe.

Recommendations for the EPA Representative, Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Advisory Council for Implementing the Enlarged Partial Agreement of the Council of Europe on Establishing Cultural Routes in Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Foster more intense and closer cooperation between the EPA Secretariat, the European Institute of Cultural Routes, the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Advisory Council for Implementing the Enlarged Partial Agreement of the Council of Europe on Establishing Cultural Routes in Bosnia and Herzegovina within the Cultural Routes program to increase national participation and facilitate the presentation of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme.
- It is strongly recommended to appoint a designated individual within the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina or another relevant institution, whose responsibilities would be to continuously engage with these and/or related Council of Europe programs. This individual should serve as the 'focal point' between interested parties, the Secretariat of the EPA, the European Institute of Cultural Routes and the Advisory Council for Implementing the Enlarged Partial Agreement of the Council of Europe on Establishing Cultural Routes in Bosnia and Herzegovina. They would also be responsible for communication and collaboration between the cultural and tourism sectors. It is imperative to enhance and invigorate activities pertaining to the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Alternatively, Bosnia and Herzegovina should consider undertaking a comprehensive review of the functionality of the Advisory Council for Implementing the Enlarged Partial Agreement of the Council of Europe on Establishing Cultural Routes in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This assessment should encompass an evaluation of its jurisdiction and operational efficiency.

It is proposed that inclusivity of all levels of state and

local administration (delegated representatives of the Association of Municipalities and Cities of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Association of Municipalities and Cities of Republic of Srpska and Brčko District) be supported through the appointment of the Advisory Council for Implementing the Enlarged Partial Agreement of the Council of Europe on Establishing Cultural Routes in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with due consideration given to the involvement of interested organizations, non-governmental organizations, and the like. Participation of interested organizations would be ensured through the publication of a public call.

- Through collaboration with the EPA Secretariat and the European Institute of Cultural Routes, engage an experienced expert or consultant for cultural routes in the initial stages of implementing the reform and proposed activities.
- Organize periodic presentations of the program at all levels in Bosnia and Herzegovina: entities, cantons, Brčko District, local communities, creating a contact list of institutions, tour operators, and other representatives of the commercial and tourism sectors.
- Organize specialized presentations and meetings with universities in collaboration with the European Institute of Cultural Routes to encourage their involvement.
- Create simplified maps depicting cultural routes at the national level.
- Distribute this document to managers of certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe, requesting them to plan route presentations and seek expert support for their development at the national level.
- Translate the CMD for Bosnia and Herzegovina into official languages and distribute it to all interested levels in Bosnia and Herzegovina, NGOs, and similar entities.
- Establish and manage a continuously updated database with open web access for all interested parties.
- Consider options for financial support, especially for participation fees in Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme.
- Work on defining an action plan for the implementation of proposed recommendations and conclusions. Initiate the development of a strategy for cultural tourism at the level of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Recommendations for

Entities, District, and Cantons

- Organize roundtable discussions on the presentation of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme.
- Investigate funding options, with the aim of expanding possibilities to the state and EU levels, with the suggestion of utilizing intersectoral and interdisciplinary capacities.
- With close collaboration with the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina work to develop simplified maps illustrating cultural routes od entity/district/cantonal levels.
- After its establishment, make efforts to link the official website of Cultural Routes in Bosnia and Herzegovina with entity/district/cantonal levels administrations and other communication networks.

Recommendations for Local State Authorities

- Seek ways to integrate local administrations (municipalities) into the composition of the Advisory Council for Implementing the Enlarged Partial Agreement of the Council of Europe on Establishing Cultural Routes in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- It is proposed that the Association of Municipalities and Cities of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Association of Municipalities and Cities of Republic of Srpska and Brčko District delegate representatives to communicate with the ' focal point' in the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The mentioned associations will, through available collaboration programs, such as ongoing Council of Europe programs conducted in partnership with them, provide full support for the promotion and realization of the goals of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme.
- Organize roundtable discussions on the presentation of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme.
- An observation is that many local stakeholders, such as tourism organizations, non-governmental organizations, and entrepreneurs, are not fully aware of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme. This implies the existence of a significant opportunity for enhancing awareness and

engagement among a broader spectrum of stakeholders. In contrast, institutions and organizations that have been directly involved in cultural route activities tend to be more familiar with the program.

- Establish close collaboration with the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina to develop simplified maps illustrating local cultural routes. Additionally, investigate funding options at the local level, with the aim of expanding possibilities to the state and EU levels.
- After its establishment, make efforts to link the official website of Cultural Routes in Bosnia and Herzegovina with local administrations and other communication networks.



Zmijanje embroidery, ©Dejan Kosic

11. CONCLUSIONS

One of the key findings is that Bosnia and Herzegovina's representation within the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme is currently limited in scope.

- Among the 48 approved routes, only five officially include Bosnia and Herzegovina as a participant. However, initiatives and actions have been undertaken in connection with the other four certified routes. This indicates a latent potential for further engagement and growth.
 - Considering the rich tapestry of cultural heritage within Bosnia and Herzegovina, the analysis underscores a significant opportunity for expansion. The country possesses a wealth of natural and cultural assets, both in terms of variety and historical importance, which could make it an eligible participant in as many as ten additional Council of Europe Cultural Routes.
- Furthermore, there is an opportunity to explore options for involvement and conduct additional research as necessary for seven routes.
- Six themes within Bosnia and Herzegovina have been identified as having the potential to establish new Cultural Routes. This potential extends not only at the national level but also within a broader regional context, including Europe.
 - It is **strongly recommended** to appoint a designated individual within the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina or another relevant institution, whose

responsibilities would be to continuously engage with these and/or related Council of Europe programs. This individual should serve as the 'focal point' between interested parties, the Secretariat of the EPA, the European Institute of Cultural Routes and the Advisory Council for Implementing the Enlarged Partial Agreement of the Council of Europe on Establishing Cultural Routes in Bosnia and Herzegovina. They would also be responsible for communication and collaboration between the cultural and tourism sectors. It is imperative to enhance and invigorate activities pertaining to the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

- It is **recommended** that the Association of Municipalities and Cities of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Association of Municipalities and Cities of Republic of Srpska and Brčko District delegate representatives to communicate with the 'focal point' in the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The mentioned associations should, through available collaboration programs, such as the ongoing Council of Europe programs implemented in partnership with them, provide full support for the promotion and implementation of the objectives of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme.
- Alternatively, Bosnia and Herzegovina **should consider** undertaking a comprehensive review of the functionality of the Advisory Council for Implementing the Enlarged Partial Agreement of the Council of Europe on Establishing Cultural Routes in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

This assessment should encompass an evaluation of its jurisdiction and operational efficiency. It is proposed that inclusivity of all levels of state and local administration (delegated representatives of the Association of Municipalities and Cities of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Association of Municipalities and Cities of Republic of Srpska and Brčko District) be supported through the appointment of the Advisory Council for Implementing the Enlarged Partial Agreement of the Council of Europe on Establishing Cultural Routes in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with due consideration given to the involvement of interested organizations, non-governmental organizations, and the like. Participation of interested organizations, non-governmental organizations would be ensured through the publication of a public call.

Until the proposed reforms of the Advisory Council for Implementing the Enlarged

Partial Agreement of the Council of Europe on Establishing Cultural Routes in Bosnia and Herzegovina, it is proposed to establish close collaboration between the Ministry of Civil Affairs and the available programs of the Council of Europe, UNESCO, and other international organizations and initiatives, with the aim of promoting and enhancing the value of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme.

- In the initial stages, through collaboration with the EPA Secretariat and the European Institute for Cultural Routes, **consider** engaging an experienced specialist or consultant specialized in cultural routes for the implementation of proposed conclusions and activities.
- In collaboration with the EPA Secretariat and the European Institute of Cultural Routes, initiate presentations of the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme and conduct workshops at all levels in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- The role of the Advisory Council for Implementing the Enlarged Partial Agreement of the Council of Europe on Establishing Cultural Routes in Bosnia and Herzegovina should be focused on raising awareness and networking existing route managers with new initiatives, with the aim of sharing experiences and contacts. Additionally, it should be involved in defining a communication strategy towards both the expert community, various levels of management, and the general public.
- Within the framework of the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina or Advisory Council for Implementing the Enlarged Partial Agreement of the Council of Europe on Establishing Cultural Routes in Bosnia and Herzegovina, it is necessary to establish a universal web portal where all information about the Council of Europe's cultural routes and new initiatives in Bosnia and Herzegovina is collected and presented in English and all official languages in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- Additionally, it is suggested to distribute this document to the managers of certified Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe and translate it into all three official languages of Bosnia and Herzegovina, to make it more accessible to stakeholders in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It would be beneficial to create simplified maps depicting the potential cultural routes at both the national and local levels.
- It is imperative to explore financial support options for initiatives associated with the Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe programme in Bosnia and Herzegovina,

particularly for participation fees in Cultural Routes. Mapping potential sources of international financing is essential.

- It is proposed to initiate communication with universities in BiH to explore opportunities for their involvement in the University Network for Cultural Routes Studies and active participation in ongoing projects.
- It is proposed to initiate the development of a strategy for cultural tourism at the level of Bosnia and Herzegovina.
- It is imperative to enhance the infrastructure of existing cultural routes, ranging from traffic signage to site presentation through the utilization of advanced technology.
- It is proposed to conduct monitoring of the recommendations and conclusions outlined in this document through a clearly defined action plan.

12. REFERENCES, ABBREVIATIONS AND GLOSSARY

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13. ANNEXES

1. List of cultural routes of the Council of Europe
2. Santiago de Compostela Pilgrim Routes, 1987
3. The Hansa, 1991
4. Viking Route, 1993
5. Via Francigena, 1994
6. Routes of El legado andalusí, 1997
7. Phoenicians' Route, 2003
8. Iron Route in the Pyrenees, 2003
9. European Mozart Ways, 2004
10. European Route of Jewish Heritage, 2004
11. Saint Martin of Tours Route, 2005
12. Cluniac Sites in Europe, 2005
13. Routes of the Olive Tree, 2005
14. VIA REGIA, 2005
15. TRANSROMANICA, 2007
16. Iter Vitis Route, 2009
17. European Cemeteries Route, 2010
18. Prehistoric Rock Art Trails, 2010
19. European Route of Historic Thermal Towns, 2010
20. Route of Saint Olav Ways, 2010
21. European Route of Ceramics, 2012
22. European Route of Megalithic Culture, 2013
23. Huguenot and Waldensian Trail, 2013
24. ATRIUM, 2014
25. Réseau Art Nouveau Network, 2014
26. Via Habsburg, 2014
27. Roman Emperors and Danube Wine Route, 2015
28. European Routes of Emperor Charles V, 2015
29. Destination Napoleon, 2015
30. In the Footsteps of Robert Louis Stevenson, 2015
31. Fortified Towns of the Grande Region, 2016
32. Impressionisms Routes, 2018
33. European Route of Industrial Heritage, 2019
34. Iron Curtain Trail - EuroVelo 13, 2019
35. Le Corbusier Destinations: Architectural Promenades, 2019
36. Liberation Route Europe, 2019
37. Routes of Reformation, 2019
38. European Route of Historic Gardens, 2020
39. Via Romea Germanica, 2020
40. Aeneas Route, 2021
41. Alvar Aalto Route, 2021
42. Cyril and Methodius Route, 2021
43. European Route d'Artagnan, 2021
44. Iron Age Danube Route, 2021
45. Historic Cafés Route, 2022
46. European Fairy Tale Route, 2022
47. Women Writers Route, 2022
48. Transhumance trails, 2023

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The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 46 member states, including all members of the European Union.

All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

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