

Intercultural camp in the municipality of Rudo: a tool for reconciliation through the promotion of cultural diversity



Visit to Rudo camp © Danijel Hoplic

- Intercultural Youth Camp in Rudo organized for over 5,000 children.

- Elementary school restored and opened for summer activities.

BACKGROUND

In the aftermath of the 1992-95 war and with the transition from a State to a market economy, the Municipality of Rudo lost its major sources of local income which had previously consisted mainly of revenue from State companies. It was the success of the neighbouring municipality (across the Dayton Peace Agreement-declared boundary line) that sought to revitalize itself by seeking funding from a number of external sources, which inspired the Municipality of Rudo to apply for project assistance under the MDG-F Programme.

PROCESS

The municipal authorities, aware of the limited capacities available, employed a Local Development Agency (LDA) to act on their behalf in preparing the project application. The LDA consulted with all stakeholders (teachers, school directors, the mayor, and neighbouring municipality organizers) in order to prepare a programme proposal that matched local needs. The municipal management gathered sufficient human capital, and utilized the municipality's natural beauty and resources in planning and implementing the programme. The municipality also managed to persuade the Ministry of Education and Culture to assist in obtaining the required co-financing since it could not meet the requirements from its own budget.

Outcomes

An abandoned local school at the edge of the lake in the rural area of the Municipality of Rudo was fully refurbished and turned into an intercultural camp for over 5,000 children of all ethnic groups from both BIH entities. The strong local network of schools ensured a sustainable and effective experience for students, particularly through the support of local teachers who worked in close collaboration with teachers from the neighbouring municipality. The project was further developed by the Mayor himself, who cooperated with the Ministry of Education and Culture in creating a major development-based programme to help the municipality expand its tourism sector. This success story provides evidence of exemplary cooperation between two United Nations agencies: UNDP for reconstruction, call for tenders, and governance issues; and UNICEF for beneficiary (children) motivation, distribution of information, and intercultural education aspects.

Revitalization of the old medieval fortress and old house of the 'Eminagica family' in the municipality of Tesanj



Tesanj Eminagica house and fortress © Ferhad Mulabegović



Outcomes

The municipality had encountered problems in obtaining licences for the reconstruction and because of limited funding for completion of the projects. United Nations agencies teamed up to assist both in liaising with national authorities and in providing co-financing for completion of the projects. A local oral-history project was also established to stimulate and sustain a new wave of interest in local history. A documentary was produced on the life of the Eminagica family using authentic documentation, and their descendants were interviewed to paint a more personal picture of life during that period. This case also illustrates the comparative advantage of cooperation between three United Nations agencies, namely between UNESCO and UNDP for reconstruction, UNDP for workshops and classes, and UNICEF for inter-cultural education intended for schools. Both monuments are now equipped to service tourists, most notably as: summer festival destinations; classrooms and lecture halls offering lessons about traditional activities in the Ottoman Empire; and moreover, sites where history can be experienced through participation in a living culture.

- Positioning of monuments as an attractive tourism destination
- Wide participation of civil society
- Illustration of the comparative advantage of United Nations agencies working together

BACKGROUND

The Municipality of Tesanj is centrally located at the intersection of all major roads in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and houses a medieval fortress which had been completely abandoned and lacked maintenance. Situated on the outskirts of the fortress, and in a similar if not worse condition, was the prominent Eminagica family's former residence, an architectural jewel dating back to the age of the Ottoman Empire. The municipality of Tesanj applied to the Open Call for municipal projects with a proposal for the restoration of both monuments, including a cultural tourism plan. The proposal would rely on local co-financing to achieve its aims.

PROCESS

Many civil society organizations were involved in preparing the proposal. A number of local schools specializing in trades such as cooking, traditional designs, and crafts were also involved. The schools contributed their expertise in helping to portray the monuments as attractive cultural tourist destinations for more than their external beauty. They showed the possibility of engaging a visitor in a variety of activities during his/her stay, including sampling of local food and crafts.