



Faith for Earth National Coordination Hub in Bosnia & Herzegovina

Youth-led Environmental Activities

Location and duration:

Bosnia and Herzegovina, August – November 2021

Implementation party

Youth for Peace

Background:

- The concept of environmental peacebuilding is not present in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Eco-literacy quite low among people, citizens awareness for the necessity of active participation in addressing environmental issues is very low
- Religious communities more focused on faith-related topics, unaware of the importance of their engagement in environmental issues
- Conservative society and conservative structures within dominant religious communities are hindering factors for such activities

Objectives:

- Raising awareness about the importance of a cross-sectoral and multi-religious approach to environmental issues.
- Introducing and promoting the concept of environmental peacebuilding through dialogue and cooperation as factors in creating peaceful and sustainable relations.
- Contributing to the integration of environmental education in formal and non-formal systems of education with the focus on environmental education for a sustainable future.

Activities implemented:

1. Mapping relevant partners (religious communities, faith inspired NGOs, faith inspired schools, NGOs working in the field of environmental protection)
2. Study on environmental peacebuilding and its implementation scope for BiH context
3. Online campaign introducing and promoting environmental peacebuilding and faith-based organizations' participation in addressing environmental issues
4. Training for youth from faith-inspired high schools and organizations that are training future faith leaders
5. Public, outdoor activity aimed on raising awareness, tailored by project participants

Activity delivery status:

Activity	Description of work undertaken during reporting period	Deliverables	Delivery date	Status of Activity
Mapping relevant partners	Since the concept of environmental peacebuilding is not present in BiH and eco-literacy quite low among people, the project team has done desk research aiming to map all potential partners who have been working in the field on environmental peacebuilding, paying special attention to religious communities, faith inspired NGOs, faith inspired schools, NGOs working in the field of environmental protection.	Partners' list	31/08/21	Completed
Study on environmental peacebuilding	Having in mind that the environmental peacebuilding is quite unknown concept in BiH, the project team has tried to map all projects, activities that might fit in this concept. Activities' list is attached to this report. However, there is just a few initiatives that combine faith and environmental aspect.	Activities' list	31/08/21	Completed
Online campaign	During the project implementation, Online Campaign has been launched in order to raise awareness and educate audience (mainly young people) on above mentioned topics. Also, the audience had opportunity to get familiar with projects partners and implementation parties. On the other side, the Campaign was aiming to present interesting and "good-to-know" eco-facts on global level, but also those related to Bosnia and Herzegovina. Presentation of campaign i.e., design was simple and colorful, adjusted for young people, aiming to get their attention in short time span. Quizzes and pools have been used in order to have interaction with the audience. The Campaign has been delivered through Youth for Peace channels: Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.	Campaign Posts Campaign Stories Insights table	30/11/21	Completed
Training for youth	In period between 19 th and 21 st of November 2021 in Bihać, North-West Bosnia, a training for young people took place. 15 high school students from respective region gathered. Participants were coming from different towns and different faith backgrounds. Cooperation with two high schools has been established. A detailed trainers' report is enclosed to this report.	Participant s' list Photos Trainers' report	30/11/21	Completed
Outdoor activity	Bihać and its river Una is one of the most beautiful and most recognized nature pearls of BiH and wider. More details can be found on: http://nationalpark-una.ba/en/stranica.php?id=4 Due to its exceptional value, this project has decided to bring young people to Bihać, including paying a visit to Una National Park and conducting the outdoor activity there. Young people attending the seminar have designed their activity, and in cooperation with NP Una management that idea becoming feasible reality. Participants did waste cleaning and collection action in a part of the National Park called "Orašac", after which	Photos	30/11/21	Completed



	<p>they headed to the area of Štrbački buk - waterfall and one of the most visited and most popular destinations. Participants were familiarized about its value and ecological potential by guides of NP Una.</p> <p>Finally, participants were awarded with Certificates of participation while partners, high schools and NP Una, with respective Certificates of appreciation on Štrbački buk, thus emphasizing importance of cooperation of different stakeholders, cross-sectoral approach to addressing environmental issues. This ceremony put a light on UNEP, URI, Youth for Peace, religious servants, high schools, National Park and young people – working together to make a small step towards more sustainable society.</p>			
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Main observations/conclusions/recommendations:

- Religious communities, faith inspired NGOs and faith inspired schools do not recognize ecological issues as relevant enough for their scope of work; they are not aware of potential of environmental peacebuilding as a tool of bringing people together and building sustainable peace
- Due to wide palette of educations present through the sector of civil society, ecology is seen just as one of the fields within civil society
- There are just a few initiatives that combine faith and environmental aspect in Bosnia and Herzegovina; even those initiatives do not put strong emphasize on it, mainly it is faith or faith-inspired entities implementing environmental activities
- Through the project, certain religious officials were reached and asked to support this initiative; however, their response was low
- Two schools, partners in this project, have expressed their willingness to support and cooperate in organizing extra-curricular activities for their pupils; environmental issues are recognized by them, worth of encouraging pupils to get engage, to learn and to act
- When it comes to interreligious dialogue, young people still posses certain distrust towards those coming from different religious/ethnic group; such feeling is more evident in smaller towns, remote areas, comparing to large cities (students were coming from two schools from Cazin and Livno, two small towns); such feeling and behavior is also sparked and encouraged by their teachers
- National Park Una positively reacted on such initiative, were very welcoming and cooperative; they support initiatives that address environmental issues and/or raise awareness about it