



## **Faith for Earth National Coordination Hub in Bosnia & Herzegovina**

### **Training for youth from faith-inspired high schools and organizations**

**19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> November 2021, Hotel Safir, Bihać, Bosnia and Herzegovina**

#### **1. Objectives**

- Improving students' knowledge, skills and attitudes in the field of environmental protection
- Empowering youth from faith-inspired high schools to be future active members of their communities
- Creating a link between religion and the environmental protection
- Introducing participants to the concept of interreligious dialogue and peacebuilding

#### **2. Topic**

This activity aimed to bring together high school students from different religious groups and backgrounds in Bosnia and Herzegovina to address the importance of religion in preserving and protecting the environment. Participants had the opportunity to listen and discuss topics such as: the current environmental issues both globally and locally; environmental awareness, responsibility and obligations; skills and tools for engaging in social activism; religion and ecology, what is the connection and why it is important; peacebuilding and ecology, environmental peacebuilding.

#### **3. Significance of the seminar in the whole project**

The aim of the training was to provide participants with basic knowledge and skills in the field of religion and ecology through discussion, interactive exercises, presentations, energizers, as well as group work. In addition to the online campaign, this training provided participants with the opportunity to meet their peers and talk about religion and ecology. During the activities, the participants showed interest in the topics presented.

#### **4. Target group and actual participants**

The target group were high school students from two high schools: Secondary Vocational School "Silvije Strahimir Kranjčević" from Livno, and the Madrasa "Reis Džemaludin - ef. Čaušević" from Cazin.



The seminar was attended by 15 participants. Participants were coming from different religious backgrounds. Both schools were targeted and invited to take part in this initiative, it was a first time that Youth for Peace cooperated with those schools and worked with their pupils.

## 5. Sequence of activities and summary of content

The program and agenda of the seminar was created by the team in charge of implementation. The methods used include: lectures, moderated discussion, work in small groups and in plenary. On the first day of the seminar, Faith for Earth project was presented thus giving participants broader, global perspective. Also, partners involved in the implementation of the project were presented: UNEP, URI, Youth for Peace. Finally, they got to know each other through interactive and creative workshop. The second day of the seminar began with a video in which participants had the opportunity to see and hear statements by religious leaders in BiH on the importance and impact of religion in environmental protection and the view of religion on nature. This was followed by a session on the issues of the environment and raising environmental awareness and competencies, where participants had the opportunity to discuss the current state of both, global and local. The second part of the session was a discussion with issues such as: whom to blame for the current situation of the environment, the biggest environmental problems we face today, how we can improve the current situation and create environmental awareness and competencies and transfer this knowledge and experience to others peers. The second session dealt with skills and ways of engaging in social activism, where participants had the opportunity through group work and moderated discussion to discuss what these skills are and ways in which they can become involved in activism in their communities and schools. In the last part of the session, participants discussed the importance of climate changes. The third session dealt with the issue of the connection between religion and ecology and its importance. The lecturer of the session was a professor of Islamic theology, and the participants learned in a very interactive way how religion views nature, how religious books mention nature and its protection. The last ten minutes of the session were reserved for a video that talks about the natural, religious and social benefits that have been given to us to enjoy in it. At the end of the seminar, participants were awarded with Certificates of participation, and representatives of schools and NP Una were awarded with Certificates of appreciation, for their cooperation.

## 6. Monitoring

The selected group of participants was active in the discussions throughout the seminar, engaged and ready for discussion. It should be noted that throughout the seminar, they adhered to pre-agreed rules that there were no inappropriate comments, to take into account other people's opinions and time. During the work, there were individuals who stood out from the others when it comes to engagement, as well as some participants who did not take up much space and time. Finally, the cooperation with the hotel was really good, all needs and requirements of this training were met (eg various dietary restrictions, coffee breaks, conference room, etc.).