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1st Youth for Heritage Co-Creation Camp - Focus on Western Balkans

EUROPA NOSTRA - YOUTH SPECIAL TASK FORCE FOR THE BALKANS

(b-YSTF)

Organized by ELLINIKI ETAIRIA - Society for the Environment and Cultural Heritage,
Operator of the Europa Nostra Heritage hub in Athens,
as a contribution to the European Year of Youth,
Prespa - Greece, 10 - 16 October 2022



The event will be held in Elliniki Etairia's Environmental Station, Prespa,
with the kind support of IKEA-FOURLIS Group and KAVEX S.A. - Kostas Gleoudis

Athens
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Work Outcomes

Foreword

One of the main missions of the Europa Nostra Athens Heritage Hub (ENAHH), operated by ELLINIKI ETAIRIA – Society for the Environment and Cultural Heritage (ELLET), is to foster regional cooperation and integration in the South-eastern Europe (SEE) and Eastern Mediterranean (EM), with a special focus on Western Balkans, in the fields of cultural and natural heritage. Culture is a powerful vector of co-operation, mutual understanding and co-creation and can undoubtedly contribute considerably to strengthening the bonds between people and territories. Further, cultural heritage is a strong ally for achieving the goals of the European Green Deal and a solid identity marker shared by all Europeans.

A major part of the ENAHH initiatives providing for intra-regional awareness raising, empowerment and capacity building, are intended to emerge from co-creative processes, involving local stakeholders, heritage professionals and other agents active in the various countries covered by the hub and committed to the protection and promotion of SEE/EM's rich cultural and natural heritage. In that perspective, the ENAHH has proudly nominated a Youth Special Task Force for the Balkans (b-YSTF), composed by 10 young heritage professionals, researchers, artists, students and future leaders coming from the Balkans, who met for the first time in October 2022 and spent several days to work together and formulate suggestions regarding educational, research, and awareness-raising activities focusing on the Western Balkans.

On the occasion of this «1st Youth for Heritage Co-Creation Camp for the Western Balkans» the b-YSTF members, who come from various fields such as arts, sciences, architecture, engineering and law tried to promote, as much as possible, cross-disciplinarity, inclusion and inventiveness in all their works. Upon and during the seminars, meetings, and workshops, exchanges took place around critical matters of regional concern regarding the protection and defense of the regional biodiversity, cultural and natural heritage and relevant priorities were discussed and decided jointly.

This Camp last one week and took place at the Prespa Environmental Station (PES) managed by ELLET in Mikorolimni. The latter is a traditional stone-built house located at a highly symbolic place, the Prespa Lakes surrounded by 3 countries (Albania, Greece and North Macedonia) and hosting one of Europe's richest natural reserve and biotopes. The PES is close to various significant regional monuments, cultural heritage sites and venues. The initiative is a proud contribution to the European Year of Youth 2022 !



The camp had an hybrid format, between a seminar, a workshop and a cultural trip! During their stay the b-YSTF members enjoyed a number of activities which allowed them to explore, observe and get in contact with the rich cultural and national heritage of the wider region of Prespa and North-Western Greece (cultural visits, walks and small trips). They also attended presentations given by renowned heritage professionals active in the region as well as representatives of the local civil society. These activities alternated with working sessions/workshops where the young heritage experts joined forces in a friendly and cozy atmosphere, in order to work on practical ideas and concrete outcomes.

Last, leveraging on the New European Bauhaus (NEB) initiative, the b-YSTF for Balkans intended to carry out all its works as a suggestion for an innovative process regarding the design of new educational and learning schemes integrating the NEB principles, i.e. sustainability, inclusion, aesthetics. The YSTF for Balkans co-created and delivered a concrete and comprehensive innovative capacity building program for the Western Balkans, whose progressive implementation will begin in 2023. In the aftermath, ELLET will proudly offer the PES premises as a place to host the different programs while the ENAHH will seek partnerships with regional heritage stakeholders in order to secure funding and materialize with them the program that will be suggested by the b-YSTF.

In Prespa the b-YSTF went beyond boundaries and binaries opposing fields and disciplines, ages, EU-member statuses, moments of creation and recreation, humans and their surrounding biodiversity, built environments and natural landscapes, top-down processes and grassroots.

- Its hypothesis?

Peace and solidarity when envisaged in a broad sense and, as such when encapsulated in the making of heritage-related policies and programmes might, in turn, enhance the agency of heritage to provide for peace and solidarity in an even more meaningful and long-lasting way !

Please watch the first 8min of the video in the following link:

<https://youtu.be/XcoTFFnhmUM>



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Europa Nostra - Youth Special Task Force for the Balkans

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Introduction



1st Youth for Heritage Co-Creation Camp Focus on the Western Balkans

Europa Nostra - Youth Special Task Force for the Balkans

The Europa Nostra Athens Heritage Hub came up with the idea of setting up a youth co-creation camp in Prespa leveraging on the availability of the Prespa Environmental Station (PES) managed by ELLINIKI ETAIRIA - Society of the Environment and Cultural Heritage (ELLET) and Europa Nostra's commitment to engaging youth in the making of heritage related programs, activities, and initiatives. Further, both organizations defend the important role heritage can play in bringing together people, territories, and disciplines, that go beyond established boundaries and binaries.

The project started on a common intuition that pop up in the occasion of a meeting between Europa Nostra and ELLET in the beginning of July 2022 and with a firm belief from both organizations that they could further contribute to the European Year of Youth 2022, through innovative youth engaging schemes as well as to the EU agenda related to a possible gradual integration of the Western Balkans within the EU.

In a few weeks, the preliminary programme of the co-creation camp in Prespa had been drafted, and by the end of the July 2022 ELLET had already secured funding for performing the necessary works to upgrade the PES so that it could host a team of 10 people. At the same time, Europa Nostra kindly offered financial support for covering all costs relevant to setting up and running the co-creation camp.

In the beginning of August, the first invitations were sent to Youth Ambassadors and Young Members of Europa Nostra active in the Balkans, and by the end of August a preliminary list of participants had already been created. In September and for 2 weeks, works took place at the PES to upgrade its infrastructure while the definitive participant list was closed featuring 8 young heritage professionals, researchers, artists, coming from the 6 Western Balkan Countries (Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia) and from 2 other Balkan countries (Greece and Romania). In the end of September, the co-creation scheme was pre-



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sented in the 2022 European Cultural Heritage Summit in Prague, and in the beginning of October 2022, all the design, organization and logistics of the workshops and cultural visits as had been completed.

On the 15th and the 16th of October 2022, the participants arrived at the PES and that is the moment in which the real story begins...

Spending one week together, in total immersion within the rich natural and cultural heritage of the Prespa Lakes, the B-YSTF members got in contact with local people and civil society organizations committed to the protection of the culture, environment and wildlife present in the wider cross-border area around the Lakes. Strong bonds among the team members were created but also between the team and the local community. Along with visits to museums, cultural heritage sites, natural reserves and local cuisine cooking classes, the Balkan-YSTF was involved in a co-creation process structured around successive workshop sessions that privileged discussions around the needs in Western Balkans (WB) for educational, research and awareness-raising programs. The latter were focusing on the potential of heritage in providing for peace and solidarity as well as a sustainable and inclusive future in the WB and the wider South-East Europa area.

The 4 project proposals that were formulated by the end of the camp (Panta Rhei, Across the Lake, Prespa National Park Herbs and Landscapes, the Story of Prespa) should be observed as the result of a thoughtful and careful work that has emerged through a bottom up «fermentation» process that involved a big deal of humanity, care, hope and multiple feedback loops from the field and the local communities present in Prespa. They would not have been possible without the joint, cross-disciplinary and multi-national efforts of the B-YSTF which is definitely a tangible proof of the miracles our European Youth can work when they are given a space, a time and an opportunity to create with their common heritage as starting point, a medium and a basis.



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ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΙΑΧΕΙΡΑ
ΙΝΣΤΙΤΟΥΤΟΝ ΓΙΑ ΤΟΝ ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΟ
ΚΑΙ ΤΟΝ ΚΑΛΩΝ ΚΑΛΩΝ ΚΑΛΩΝ



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Panta Rhei



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΙΑΧΕΙΡΑ
Ινστιτούτο για την Ευρωπαϊκή
και Πολιτισμική Κληρονομιά



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Challenge

- Poor transnational cooperation in the heritage field in the Balkans
- Lack of a coherent infrastructure and interdisciplinary network in the Balkans which could connect entities in these countries which would be interested in working together on cultural heritage, sustainable development, community resilience and environmental issues and in weaving intraregional partnerships
- Low regional presence of initiatives that promote co-creative collaboration patterns, namely involving young professionals and local communities.

Solution

- Create an infrastructure in the form of a project incubator for local, national and regional projects regarding the development of ideas and different research approaches that explore ways in which cultural and natural heritage can provide for regional cooperation
- Creating a network for regional cooperation, sustainable development, community building and environmental issues.
- Establishing an accurate, yet adaptable methodology which could be replicated in other regions in the Balkans.
- Mapping the natural and cultural resources of the area and how they could become an asset for tackling the identified challenges, while offering active support through guidance, capacity-building, providing human and financial resources.

How? *(see also next page)*

- 1) Creating an interdisciplinary methodology for implementing small-scale but impactful projects in Prespa and other regions in The Balkans and setting the framework for developing management processes (communication online and in person, partnerships, funding scouting) and calls for smaller projects (in Prespa and other regions)
- 2) Initiating research on the Prespa region (initially) and on other regions in the following years as a co-creation process with the local communities and representing the findings in an interactive map
- 3) Creating local synergies within the local cultural landscape for uncovering



Solution *(see also previous page)*

narratives related to the natural and cultural (both tangible and intangible) heritage, endangered species and cultural heritage

4) Identifying and setting-up projects in other regions and short trainings, capacity-building and continuous learning programmes and activities allowing for peer-knowledge transfer and exchange of good practices, possibly in collaboration with other heritage hubs

5) Strengthening urban-rural partnerships for sustainable development of settlements - cooperation in terms of the resource pool and allocation (ex. University of Arts of Florina) and supporting the digital and green transitions of the region (connection with Europeana and Eurocities)

Management

The management would be ensured by two main entities: the EN Athens Hub, together with the YSTF for Western Balkans.

The EN Athens Hub has the overall coordination of the project in terms of guidance, ensuring the logistics and the visibility of the project (communication plan) setting the partnerships

B-YSTF: research and development of the methodology, managing the content of the incubator, co-designing the overall strategy, co-designing the pilot projects, conducting an evaluation process according to both quantitative and qualitative methods, according to the interdisciplinary methodology

Transferability

Scientific activities: replicable in other identified regions in the Balkans in terms of methodology; the places should be similar in terms of the landscape - lakes or rivers with multiple borders

Artistic activities: replicable in other regions of the Balkans and repeatable in the Prespa Region as well



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Project time-line

Estimated time: **5 years with a phased approach and through iterative feedback loops**

Phases:

- Year I - setting up of the methodology and initiation of the research (scientific) in Prespa region
- Year II - Follow-up, continuation of the research (artistic interpretation of the findings in the phase I) in Prespa and establishing the permanent infrastructure
- Year III - Prespa running "on its own"; identification and setting up of other regions
- Year IV - Continuation of the research and small-scale projects in Prespa and supervision, transfer of know-how, guidance to the other regions
- Year V - Wrapping up, evaluations, final conclusions, research of the possibility of the continuation of the collaboration

Budget/Financing

- Premises: 21 kEUR
- Personnel: 117 kEUR
- Activities: 115 LEUR
- Transportation: 15 kEUR
- Accommodation & Meals: 8 kEUR
- Technical Equipment: 3 kEUR
- Dissemination: 7 kEUR
- Contingencies: 14 kEUR

TOTAL: 300 kEUR





Impact

An incubator which provides the infrastructure for small-scale projects in terms of providing a pool of professionals, experts and funding opportunities.

A research and a mapping which reveal existing needs (already expressed or latent) of the civil society and solutioning through direct involvement of the regional heritage, be that cultural or natural, living or non-living

An innovative way of empowering the community and increasing its resiliency, by generating employment locally through projects generated through inclusive co-creative and multidisciplinary approaches, bridging top-down priorities/expertise and bottom-up field feedback/advisory



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Europa Nostra - Youth Special Task Force for the Balkans

Across the Water



Across the Water

Europa Nostra - Youth Special Task Force for the Balkans



Challenge

The main challenge is to associate universities from the Western Balkans and to attract students to get involved into the project to motivate and empower creative young people regarding common heritage.

This implies promoting educational and research activities in building sustainable communities and it includes the importance of interdisciplinary design applied on the promotion and management of cultural landscapes.

Solution

"Across the lake" is a project that encompasses or launches a series of other similar projects. Initially, it proposes an architectural student competition focusing on the Prespes lakes and its surroundings. The problematic of the Prespes is the lack of infrastructure for experiencing, observing, or studying the lake in order to contribute to the development of the surrounding area. In this context the competition suggests the design of watchtowers to be materialized around the lakes across the three different nations.

How ?

1. Communication with the universities involved, departments and design studio heads, suggested School of Architecture and Applied Arts from Albania, Greece, North Macedonia and Serbia are initially encouraged to participate.
2. Competition is announced defining the specific characteristics and providing the guidelines. Example: the watchtowers should be designed by recyclable materials and according to the restrictions by the natural parks and the specific characteristics of the landscape.
3. Studio heads propose the studio theme for the Summer semester 2023
4. Field visits arranged
5. End of submission by October 2023
6. Design proposals are collected and reviewed by the expert jury
7. Prizes are awarded (1st prize about 5000€, 2nd prize about 3000€, 3rd prize about 1000€ and six honorable mentions)
8. Editing and further developing the winning proposal for jury's final approval
9. Exhibition of the competition (the awarded in the Prespes, digital exhibition for every proposal). Open to all the students. During the exhibition a round table is organized consisted by the awarded student teams to set the course



Across the Water

Europa Nostra - Youth Special Task Force for the Balkans



Budget

Premises/Accommodation/Meals
10.000 €

Travel-transportation costs 10.000 €

Jury payment 8.000 €

Legal advisors 2.000 €

Prizes 9.000 €

Promotion Material/Website 5.000 €

Covered by the universities and EU
funding opportunities

Management

A committee built by a consortium of faculties of Architecture of the corresponding Universities from Albania, Greece, North Macedonia and Serbia.

The project management is provided by ELLET.

The project coordinators are the design studio and laboratories heads from the corresponding Universities, supported by their assistants.

Transferability

Repeated by different Schools of Architecture from the Balkans in different cultural landscapes, like national parks in the context of water environments.

The themes could concern the definition of trailing paths, piers, boats etc. or other defined by the other project coordinators.

Impact

The impact is the promotion of cooperation between universities from the Western Balkans and the inclusion of young people in the process in the process of sustainable development of natural and cultural heritage. The watchtower is meant to become environmental research station, visitor's standpoint, landmark so to be a symbol of unity and communication of the neighboring countries. During the whole process from the field surveys to the exhibition the local communities' involvement is crucial. In this way, the project affects multiple levels of sociocultural awareness.



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Prespa National Park Herbs & Landscapes



Challenge

The main challenge is the lack of awareness-raising initiatives regarding existing natural heritage and a lack of a coherent and comprehensive observation of the natural and cultural landscapes of the Prespa National Park, common and shared by the 3 countries that are immediately concerned, i.e. Albania, Greece and North Macedonia.

Solution

- Herbs are parts of landscapes made of mountains and natural elements which bring us together.
- The project tackles the challenge by identifying and mapping medical herbs and creating mountain camps as short residencies for researchers and students.
- It involves collaborations with educational organisms such as high schools students and targets data collection and interactions with local communities to boost new experiences and an direct connection with nature.
- The project intends to bring back the art of pressing plants which has long been a favourite childhood activity, through informal education (learning-by-doing).

How ?

1. Students will be selected after a meetings and contacts wil local Educational centres, High Schools, Medical Schools (Pharmacists Department)
2. There will be an open call for all the young students to send the motivation letter for the participation in the camp
3. From June 2023 to September 2023 the students will receive high-quality training by experts in plant identification.
4. From June 2023 to September will arrange camping sites for young students, crate collection of the plats, learn the technique of the herbarium, identify the medical hers and how to differentiate plant families
5. Prespa National Park Is conceived as a dynamic and continuous project which will be set up in other forms for different species in the Park of other National Parks that the Balkan countries share with each other.
6. From June 2023 to June 2024 The photographer will documentate the national park sites by taking pictures and creating videos which will be the materials which will create the documentary film of the Prespa National Park



Challenge

The main challenge the project addresses is the lack of practical Education and awareness regarding existing natural heritage which can be used for medical production.

Solution

The project tackles the challenge by identifying and mapping medical herbs and create mountain camps as residencies of researchers and students. It involves collaborations with educational organsims such as high schools students and targets data collection and interactions with local communities to give them a new experience and connection with nature. Herbs are parts of landscapes made of mountains and natural elements which bring us together.

High school students from local areas in Greece, Macedonia and Albania aged from 13,14 -16,17 will be camping and hiking to the Prespa National Park in one meeting point, which will be the camp while researching for the healthy herbs guided by the experts and their teachers.

How ?

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Prespa National Park Herbs & Landscapes

Europa Nostra - Youth Special Task Force for the Balkans



Budget

Human Resources(managers,experts,teachers): 42,960.00 EUR

Building the temporary camp for the researchers(includes tents, sleeping bags, transport...): 6,250.00 EUR

Workshops and trainings(Expendable materials developing workshops and herbarium, transport): 10,150.00 EUR

Photography and video(includes dhe photographer the travel expenses): 8,000.00EUR

Total budget: 67,360.00EUR

Management/Ressources

Prespa National Park Herbs and Landscapes project will be managed by the creative group created by Europa Nostra Athens Heritage Hub, representatives from the municipalities of the three countries, students and experts: botanists, ecologists, biology teachers, photographers.

Transferability

PNPHL can be repeatable in all other National Parks that are shared between the countries

- Working with high school students, widening their knowledge and making it more practical
- Creating the a representation of the medical herbs (layer on an interactive map)

Impact

The project will be monitored for its efficiency and it will be evaluated through the process by the experts and analysts with a specific background .

PNPHL will give an output to the young generation, making them find out the importance of their birth place. The project is expected to contribute to environmental and sientific research and education of the 3 countries.



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The Story of Prespa



The Story of Prespa

Europa Nostra - Youth Special Task Force for the Balkans



Challenge

- Lack of knowledge and visibility about the cultural and natural heritage of the Prespa region
- Absence of a common space, a meeting point within the local communities in Prespa region
- Unsufficient information about the intangible heritage around the lake

Solution

The project "The story of Prespa" aims to preserve and promote the intangible heritage of the Prespa region, contribute towards creating a common meeting point within the local communities and facilitate a collaboration between the neighboring countries sharing the lake and the stories around it.

How ?

- Digital Platform / Online website with a interactive map, which will grow over time and will be open for collaboration and expansion based on interest.
- Traveling Book " The Story of Prespa" the book will contain stories of Prespa region gathered by students/children with collaboration with their grandparents. The book will be digitalized and translated into 4 languages: Greek, Macedonian, Albanian, English.
- Target group are 10-12 kids and old people 60+.
- The project will be implemented in each country's Municipalities our Prespa. It will improve the visibility of the region by promoting within the academic and scientific community, and will provide a succes sroty to communicate to decision makers (successful collaboration between the Western Balkan countries and EU Members Balkans)

Preparatory step: 2 months

- Communicating with local Municipalities and National Parks.
- Mapping Universities and primary schools around Prespa.
- Researching the procedures.

1st step: 6 to 8 months

- Employing a IT person for the duration of the development of the web site.
- Singing agreements with Universities in the 3 countries and with their help/ help of students , mapping the region (Tangible heritage, hiking trails, villages, cities, unique/endangered species) 3 Biologist, 3 Geographist, 3 Archeologist.
- Singing agreements with 3 Primary schools



The Story of Prespa

Europa Nostra - Youth Special Task Force for the Balkans



How ?

2nd step – 6- 8 months

- Launching the website with the basic info about us, partners, the project and announcements of the map and the book.
- Gathering the research results and digitalization of the findings.
- Transfer of the results to the map.
- Gathering the stories for the 3 countries and digitalization of the them.
- Translation of the stories into 4 languages.
- Book designs
- Book production (proof reading, printing)

3rd step 3 months

- Promotion of the interactive map
- Increasing online presence (social media)
- Promotion of the book
- Organizing 3 events in each counties (postcards, public discussion...)

*Whole duration of the project 18 months

Budget

Projet management: 81 KEUR

Travel Expenses: 8 KEUR

Accomodation: 7 KEUR

Production: 14 KEUR

Promotion: 6,85 KEUR

Purchases: 10,4 KEUR

TOTAL: 127,25 kEUR

Impact

This project tends to make an impact on the:

- available knowledge about the local cultural and natural heritage
- connection between different generations within the local communities
- visibility of the region by promoting it in the academic and scientific community, as well as, in front of decision makers



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Balkans-Youth Special Task Force Composition



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Europa Nostra - Youth Special Task Force for the Balkans

- Members:



Elena-Maria Cautiș

Elena-Maria Cautiș is a Romanian PhD student in Environmental Sustainability and Wellbeing, at the University of Ferrara. Her research is focused on the link between cultural landscapes, social wellbeing and sustainable development and related organisational cultures.

Her past experiences include working as an intern researcher for the National Institute of Heritage in Romania and intern policy researcher at ICOMOS Philippines. Since 2021, she has also been part of the European Heritage Youth Ambassadors program, at Europa Nostra, ESACH and European Heritage Tribune.

Currently she is a pro bono consultant at Mihai Eminescu Trust for the communication activity of the project “The Capital of Dacia”.



Armando Dervishi

Armando Dervishi is an Architecture and Urban Design student and a cultural activist working in different projects in Albania.

Since 2021 he's part of LKS (National Students Move) as one of the five Coordinators .

As well he is working in Arkimade Studio - private studio and projecting different projects also.

His fields of interest are Cultural and Rural development, Cultural Landscapes and Traditional protecting .

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- Members:



Medina Fazlic

Academic artist and citizen, student, activist for culture and cultural heritage, intuitive, resourceful and enterprising visual. Interested in providing creative and visual communication solutions for the benefit of the entire community and beyond. Presented her artworks in the region and internationally, and currently working for cultural benefits.

Enrolled in the Academy of Arts in Banja Luka, where she graduated from the department of Visual arts, Graphic majors, currently working on a master's degree in painting and intermedia. President of Art association Zarez City of Bihac.

Together with her colleagues, she works in the field of art and culture, improving artistic and cultural standards, protecting cultural heritage and raising awareness among citizens about cultural landmarks, collaborating with citizens with an emphasis on youth and the possibility of their action. Worked with children on short programs on learning and maintenance of cultural monuments of historical importance, movable and immovable property, and their effects. In the artistic field, she does not focus only on traditional art, but on contemporary and conceptual art, in order to complement this cultural approach.

Worked as a coordinator in the City Administration with cultural institutions, currently in cooperation with the Cultural center as an expert associate.

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- Members:



Yorgos Mertzanides

Yorgos is an architect from Alexandria (GR). He studied architecture (dipl. ing., 2018) at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki and Hochschule Kaiserslautern (Erasmus+ exchange student) and “Semiotics, Culture and Communication” (MA, 2020) at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. He has published three papers in conferences regarding Ottoman architectural heritage, architectural history and architectural semiotics and he contributes in the promotion of local architectural heritage in Alexandria. He occasionally takes part in architectural competitions.



Jasna Popovic

Born and raised in Belgrade, Serbia, she finished Law School at the University of Belgrade (undergraduate and master’s studies). After moving to Madrid, she finished the Master of Advanced Studies of Human Rights at the University Carlos III de Madrid. Currently, she is a Ph.D. candidate at the same University, researching the link between the protection of cultural heritage and tourism.

During her studies, both in Belgrade and Madrid, she has participated in numerous summer schools, seminars, and conferences, as well as published several articles. After the internship in the Embassy of Serbia in Madrid, almost three years ago, she started my collaboration with Hispania Nostra, where she currently works as a Programmes Officer in charge of European projects.

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- Members:

David Radovic



David Radovic is an architect from Montenegro currently working in the Ministry of Ecology, Spatial Planning and Urbanism of Montenegro as an associate in the Directorate of the Chief State Architect, and also as an external Advisor to the Cabinet of Mayor of Kotor Municipality for spatial planning and urbanism issues within the UNESCO protected area of Kotor. He is also doing a PhD in Architecture and Urbanism at the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Belgrade and his research focuses on settlements within natural and historic protected areas bearing significant cultural value namely on mapping their specific characteristics allowing for the protection of their cultural heritage, as well as their revitalization and economic development.

Firote Rexhepi



Having graduated in Economics at the “University of Prishtina” in Prishtina, Firote Rexhepi has been working in leading positions since her early career. She joined Lumbardhi Foundation in 2018 as a Finance Officer and later became Finance and Administration Manager. Today, Firote Rexhepi is the legal representative of the organization and at the same time the Director of Finance and Development. Along with her profession which consisted mostly of numbers and figures, which structured the organization well enough to be successful in every process, she proved and improved her passion to the Art & Film industry within the years.

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- Members:

Tijana Spasovska



Tijana-Ana Spasovska is an art historian and a cultural activist working as a project and program coordinator at Kontrapunkt and the KRIK festival for critical culture. Since 2020 she part of the managing board of KOOPERATIVA - regional platform for culture, as well as coordinator of the national network for culture, JADRO - Association of the independent culture scene. Her fields of interest are audience development, horizontal models of self-governance, cultural landscapes and cultural activism.

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Co-Creation Program Coordination and Camp Facilitation



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Co-Creation Programme Coordinator



Mr. Nikolaos Degleris

Nikolaos Degleris holds several diplomas in engineering, architecture and political sciences. After having held various positions in the corporate sector for more than 10 years, namely in asset management, business development, strategy & financial advisory for execs and decision makers in the energy sector, he started a “2nd” career as an architect and exhibition designer, driven by his passion for arts, crafts and architecture.

While involved in co-design activities regarding the (re-)generation of buildings, urban areas, exhibitions spaces, art installations and besides co-curating and programming cultural events, his strong interest in cultural diplomacy and his inner penchant for life-long learning lead him to join an Executive Master’s in Public Affairs - Arts & Politics, directed by Bruno Latour. He then founded an independent consultancy in Paris offering sustainable cultural engineering services.

Eversince, he is active in the fields of cultural and natural heritage and his areas of focus include the creation of new narratives and development trajectories, hoping to contribute to substantially raising awareness on the significance, value and agency of heritage for an inclusive, sustainable and peaceful future. He currently coordinates the works of Europa Nostra Heritage Hub in Athens-Greece, covering the South-Eastern Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean.



Co-Creation Camp Facilitator



Ms. Sofia Melissourgou

Sofia Melissourgou is a student of Economic theory at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. She is participating in civil society initiatives from her first year of her studies as a facilitator, project manager and community worker.

Through her participation in third sector ventures she focuses on empowering communities and especially youth communities with a bottom-up approach regarding cultural and environmental issues.