



EUROPEAN UNION

Delegation of the European Commission to Bosnia and Herzegovina

Review of Europe Day 2008 Activities and Events in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Delegation of the European Commission to Bosnia and Herzegovina organised a series of events throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to bring the idea of European Union closer to citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina and make them part of the Europe Day celebration. The celebration started on 5 and ended on 11 May including a variety of educational, cultural and sports events. This year the Delegation managed to include 25 cities, spread throughout the country, in the celebration of Europe Day while some of the events were clearly marked with the logo and slogan of the Year of Intercultural Dialogue.

The final show of EU Quiz and award ceremony took place on 5 May. EU Quiz is a part of the EU Awareness project carried out in 21 municipalities of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The participants were high school students from the whole of BiH. The EU Quiz included games covering topics such as "EU in 12 areas", "Myths and legends", "EU glossary". The quiz was an excellent opportunity for young people from all over Bosnia and Herzegovina to get together at the same time show excellent knowledge on the European Union and the EU integration process. The winners of the EU Quiz won a 7-day study trip to Brussels. The study trip starts from Sarajevo with a visit to Zagreb, Ljubljana, Vienna and Brussels where a visit to the EU institutions will be organised.



EU Quiz

On 8 May, final public debate "Together with Europe" took place in Sarajevo. Public debate "Together with Europe" is a part of the EU Awareness project which was launched last year. Total of 21 public debates were organised in 21 municipalities of Bosnia and Herzegovina with participation of representatives of EU Member states, Directorate for European Integration and EU Info centres in order to improve direct communication with citizens, NGOs and local politicians. A symbolic Declaration of European future of BiH was signed in each of the cities/municipalities.



Final roundtable "Together with Europe" and signing of Declaration of European future of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Also within the EU Awareness project, the final game of the Streetball challenge competition for the high school students of the 21 municipalities – signatories of the Declaration of the European future

of Bosnia and Herzegovina took place in Sarajevo on 9 May. Through six qualification games that were held in Prijedor, Brčko, Mostar, Zenica, Foča and Sarajevo, the best teams got placement in the finals. The winners in both male and female competition won a 7-day study trip to Brussels.



Streetball challenge

In Jajce, a historic and royal Bosnia and Herzegovina town, Europe Day was marked by a remarkable draping of the largest EU flag on the Jajce medieval fortress by Jajce Alpine club activists. This event, which was organised by NGO "Kyodo", was largely attended by citizens of Jajce, representatives of the NGOs, local authorities, international organisations, diplomatic missions and the media. Cultural programme with traditional dances and culinary specialties was organised after the official ceremony. Jajce mayor emphasised that flying of the EU flag, which represents solidarity and harmony of European nations, is a symbol and confirmation of Jajce and BiH to a common future.



Jajce fortress



On the evening of 9 May 2008 a Europe Day Gala Concert was held in the BiH Institutions Building in Sarajevo, gathering representatives of local authorities, international community, NGOs, religious and cultural associations and the media. The concert was organised as a central ceremony of the

Europe Day and was hosted by Ambassador Dimitris Kourkoulas, Head of Delegation of the European Commission to BiH and Dr. Nikola Špirić, Chairman of the BiH Council of Ministers.



In order to reach a wider audience the concert was broadcast live on the nationwide Public Broadcaster. Prior to the Europe Day Gala concert, BHT broadcasted a 25 minute documentary on the activities of the Delegation and of the Directorate for European Integration on raising EU awareness while the finals of the EU Quiz was broadcasted after the concert.

In Doboj, small town which straddles the Federation of BiH and Republika Srpska, NGO "Centre for Promotion of European values – Europlus" Doboj, with the Delegation's support, organised several activities.

Rafting "Voyage to Europe" gathered sports canoe/kayak clubs from Zavidovići, Zenica, Banjaluka, Maglaj and Doboj giving special emphasis on symbolic connecting of the towns in the region.



Doboj



Zenica



Maglaj

Within its Europe Day activities, Europlus Doboj organised a carting competition for BiH carting clubs.



Carting competition

In the central park Doboj, an information stand with EU promotional material was placed and Europlus organised drawing competition for children. Their art works were later exhibited.



Drawing competition for children and exhibition of the art works



On 9 May the parachuters from Banjaluka Aero club performed free sky jump carrying EU flag



Evening concert with the popular local bands was also organised promoting culture as an important aspect especially bearing in mind that the 2008 is the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue.

The Europe Day celebration in Dobož ended on 10 May with a debate about Europe organised for high schools students and wider population in Dobož municipality which contributed to a better understanding the EU idea among the young people and about how to improve the life conditions in their society. This activity largely contributed to the democratic and interactive dialogue among citizens and experts. A brochure covering all Europe Day activities will be available.



Lecture for students

Europe Day 2008 activities concluded with a 2-day celebration in Trebinje starting from 10 May. The first day was foreseen for sport, singing and dancing competition. A one day judo competition was organised for school children (juniors and younger cadets) between the clubs: Cavtat and Dubrovnik from the Republic of Croatia, Herceg Novi and Niksic from Montenegro, clubs from the whole of BiH. It was followed by street dancers' performances from Herceg Novi, Kotor, Tivat, Mostar, Posusje, Banja Luka and Trebinje. The second day was foreseen for the kids from kindergartens to express their creativity. Apart from Trebinje, participants were coming from Mostar, Posusje, Banja Luka as well as from neighboring cities in Croatia and Montenegro. Supported by the Delegation, these events were organised by NGO Women's Centre Trebinje and were aimed at linking and building cultural bridges between citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Croatia and Montenegro.



Dancing competition



EU Info Centres in Banja Luka, Brcko, Mostar and Tuzla also organised a series of small information activities such as roundtables, lectures and competition in essay writing on "United in Diversity" topic which ended in presentation of awards to the winners of the best essay.

Photos and report are also available on www.europa.ba