

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. Europe Day activities were widely covered in all media.

Run to Europe race in Sarajevo, 9 May 2009



The race was organised in cooperation with the BiH Directorate for the European Integration of BiH (DEI) and with non-governmental organisation "Marathon Sarajevo". It began at 11:00 in front of the BiH Institution building. Participants were welcomed by the Head of the Delegation, Ambassador Dimitris Kourkoulas and by Mr. Nedeljko Maslesa, Assistant Director, DEI. The race was a great success. Total of 482 participants took part in the race, being an absolute record for the any single race in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The competitors included university students, high-school and primary-school pupils and representatives of athletic clubs from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Slovenia and Croatia. For this occasion billboards and posters were placed in the town to attract more participants while specially designed T-Shirts were distributed to all those who finished the race. The top three finishers in the men's and women's categories won monetary prizes of 300, 200 and 100 KM, as well as medals and T-shirts. If googled, the race "Run to Europe" can be found on more than 100 web sites, both in local and in English language. The interest of citizens was large and it was excellent opportunity to share the EU promotional material.



"European Film Weeks 2009 and the Days of European Documentary Film 2009"

Europe Day was also an opportunity to launch the EU funded project "**European Film Weeks 2009 and the Days of European Documentary Film 2009**" organised in cooperation with Sarajevo Open Centre. The key issue of this project was to raise the awareness of BiH citizens of the European film culture and strengthen both the cooperation between foreign cultural centres and with the local cultural centres. The EU MS took the lead with the first two screenings held in Sarajevo and Banjaluka a week prior to Europe Day. In cooperation with local cultural organisations, five to six screenings will be organised in twelve cities throughout BiH until the end of this year.

European Info Park in Banjaluka, 9 May 2009

Several activities were organised in order to mark Europe Day in Banjaluka:

EU Info desks "Europe in small" were placed in Petar Kocic Park in the centre of urban zone of the city, each representing one of the EU Institutions. Citizens were able to obtain the main information about EU and its Institutions, European legislation, funds and information about scholarships and studies in EU countries. It attracted a large number of visitors of all age groups, especially the youngest.



Innovators info desks were placed in order to mark 2009 as the Year of Creativity and innovation. This was organised in cooperation with the Innovator Association – young people from BiH presented their innovations and results achieved at the world competitions.

Info desks for youth were provided with information about studying in Europe and available supporting funds.



"Assemble Europe" - An open air game where contestants attempted to assemble EU by guessing the date of countries entrance to the European Union.

Birthday Cake in the shape of EU flag was made and shared with citizens.



On the same evening, concerts by students from Music High school Banjaluka as well as a concert by local demo band were organised. Europe Day celebration in Banjaluka was concluded with a VIP reception for Banjaluka officials on 12 May 2009 at a beautiful Kastel fortress.

Gala concert Sarajevo, 11 May 2009

On the evening of 11 May 2009, Europe Day Gala Concert was held in the BiH Institutions Building, 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 the Head of Delegation Ambassador Dimitris Kourkoulas.

More than 500 people enjoyed fabulous pieces by Joseph Hayden, thus joining the commemoration of the two hundredth (200th) year of death of this prominent composer and works by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart with soloists Mr. Dragan Djordjevic on violoncello and Ms. Bernarda Fink, renowned world mezzo-soprano who recently performed with Berlin and London symphony orchestras. The concert was performed by Symphony Orchestra of Southeast Europe.



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 live TV programme** on Europe Day with Dr. Nikola Spiric, Chairman of the BiH Council of Ministers, Ambassador Dimitris Kourkoulas and Ambassador Valentin Inzko, High Representative and EU Special Representative, who

sent appropriate messages on the importance of Bosnia and Herzegovina's future in Europe. This was followed by a 5 minute **video on the History of the European Union**.



Europe Day Trebinje, 13-14 May 2009

Europe Day 2009 activities concluded with a two-day celebration of Europe Day in the location of the medieval town Mičevac in Trebinje on 13-14 May 2009. Day one was foreseen for sport, singing and dancing with ethno and modern motives. An appropriate “village” for this occasion was built and various participants presented different cultural performances according to the period which they represent such as puppet plays – medieval stories, knight battles, etc. with artists from Slovenia, Germany, Serbia, Montenegro, Czech Republic, Austria, Hungary and Bosnia and Herzegovina presented themselves with their old crafts, characteristic for their respective countries, wearing the traditional Middle Ages clothes.

On the second day, workshops were organised for young people aged 18 to 23 on the topic “Creativity and Innovation – Development and Importance” in the light of European Year of Creativity and Innovation. The main objective of the workshops was to raise awareness on importance of creativity and innovation for personal, social and economic development as well as to stimulate education and research. The workshops enabled young people to open a debate on the importance of creativity and innovation, discuss the possibilities for young people from this region to become involved in European developments.



It should be noted that the Europe Day is more and more recognised locally with celebrations and receptions being organised on this occasion by various student associations/groups in other parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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