



LEVEL UP!

*Kicking off the new year
With our Winter Camp*

news from Novi Most winter 2022 **New Bridge** ▶

pioneering youth work in Bosnia and Herzegovina

@novimost   

We begin this new year with a New Bridge that brings you a couple of stories from December and a couple from January, illustrating that last year ended strongly and that 2022 is off to a good start. You will read about the fruits of teaching music, and the new connections we're making with parents. We'll talk about some of the ways our locations continue to work together and how we're providing cross-cultural experiences.

Our first big, joint activity was the Winter Camp, which saw team members from Sarajevo, Capljina and Jajce bringing together young people on Jahorina. The theme was 'Level Up', with each night bringing a different challenge about what it means to grow in maturity and what it takes for us to make good life choices. The day times were spent out on the mountain, enjoying each other's company on Bosnia and Herzegovina's most developed ski slopes.

We were a mixed group in many ways: male and female, beginners and experienced riders, even a few skiers amongst all the snowboarders! For those looking for a first snowboard experience, our team were on hand to not just lead them through the basics but to show them how to ride the mountain for themselves. This first-time snowboarder certainly appreciated the opportunity.

"Winter Camp was extremely good. Hanging out together was great but it was on the slopes that I really enjoyed myself. I am really thankful that I got the chance to try something new, and that there were very competent, patient people there to help me."

SNOWBOARDING AND SELF-AWARENESS!

As we were putting together this New Bridge we had a message from someone who has seen an Instagram post from one of the young people who had attended Winter Camp. The post was a picture of them standing on a snowboard, smiling and giving a double thumbs up. Below the picture was an inspirational piece of text. We've translated it here, with their permission.

"I would like everyone to try this sport at least once in their life. Because when you get on a snowboard you get to better understand your own attitudes and how you deal with them. You see the fight you have with yourself so clearly. As you ride down to the bottom of the mountain you find yourself in various situations. You encounter fears, insecurities, panic, frustrations and falls. You see how you deal with all of it. You see if you are ready to get up quickly and move on or if you won't go any further and will just give up. It only takes one trip down the mountain to tell you a lot about yourself, and every subsequent trip you make gives you the opportunity to learn even more about yourself. You are the only one who chooses how much you want to know, to improve, to learn and to progress. It's up to you!"

It is understandably very encouraging for us to read how a few days away on a mountain can help a young person write a social media post with so much self-awareness. We pray that the lessons learned at Winter Camp will last with all of them a lot longer than the snow does.



There are the official group-photo photos...



...and there are the photos taken out on the mountain!



A JOYFUL NOISE FOR CHRISTMAS!

After releasing an album of songs based on the Psalms back in March 2021, the team in Jajce finally got to play the songs live for the first time at their church Christmas concert. Matt explains more:

"Numbers are sometimes a tricky thing to talk about. It can either make us undervalue, or overvalue, things. But they're important to get a sense of the significance of this story to all of us here. In a normal week there will be 9 or 10 people in church on a Sunday morning. When we sat down to plan our Christmas concert we said let's invite close friends, who've been to events at the church before, and let's invite some parents of young people who are really engaged in the work we do."

We invited 30 people, expecting maybe half of them would come, and knowing our meeting room would comfortably hold about 25 people. Then everyone responded to say they would attend. Altogether there were 40 people at the concert. It was very special to get to play songs from Buka Vesela live for the first time in front of such a diverse group of people. As Dina said the next morning: "I don't want to try and say too much about it because it was so special it's hard to put it into words." All we'll say here is we are eager to see how we can build on what happened that night."



Buka Vesela means Joyful Noise and that is a good description of how the concert sounded to us!

Listen to the Buka Vesela album on the NoviMostMedia Youtube channel



The lyrics were projected on the wall so people could sing along, and they did!



What it looks like when everyone you invite to your Christmas concert decides to turn up!

NOVI MOST CONCERT

December saw the first Novi Most concert in the culture centre in Jajce since 2019. About 30 of our music students performed, watched by an audience of at least 90 family members and friends. Like all our Novi Most concerts, the programme featured both young people and others we have been working with for a few years; beginners as well as some more experienced players.

The atmosphere was fantastic, full of encouraging support even when pieces didn't go completely to plan! It was great to get the opportunity to chat to, clearly proud, parents at the end. They were all really grateful for what Novi Most is providing for their children. The last year has seen a noticeable increase in the number of parents expressing their thanks to the team for the music teaching they do, and the positive influence they have on their young people.

Our director, Beki, visited Jajce to be at the concert. Afterwards he said:

"It was definitely encouraging to be at the concert, which was like the crowning moment of all the different music courses during the year, to see how the work of Novi Most is appreciated in Jajce."



There were nerves at the beginning, but a lot of satisfied young musicians at the end!



YOUTH CONFERENCE

Nothing beats starting as you mean to go on. Beki talks about his first trip of the new year.

"We had a great opportunity to take some young people from Mostar and Sarajevo to a youth conference in Novi Sad, Serbia. The theme was 'Zimnica', which means winter stores. It explored the question: what are the things that we know God stored in us over this year? This is important because what we have stored in our spiritual life is what He can use us in."

The young people were encouraged and challenged to make wise and Godly decisions in their future. The young people from BiH were able to experience a not-so-different but still different culture. They also had the opportunity to share about their faith, and serve with their skills by playing in worship."



Beki shares his winter stores!



Bit on the mic again!



novimost.org



Novi Most International,
Lee Common Methodist Church,
Oxford Street, Lee Common, Bucks HP16 9JP
Telephone: 01494 793242
Email: chesham@novimost.org

© 2022 Novi Most International. All rights reserved.

NoviMost
pioneering youth work
in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Charity Registration No: 1043501