



# news from Novi Most year end 2021 New Bridge

pioneering youth work in Bosnia and Herzegovina

@novimost   

It's the last New Bridge of the year. A chance to look back over 2021 and reflect on how it's been. Maybe we could say it's been a year when we've done more than we expected we would, perhaps it's also been a year when we haven't been able to do as much as we'd like to. But, pandemic paradoxes aside, it has been a year when good things have happened. In this New Bridge you'll read about young musicians and young leaders getting experiences to help them stretch and grow. This commitment to creating opportunities for the next generation is a key aspect of our work. We hope 2022 will be a year of new opportunities.

## MUSIC ON THE STREETS

"We had a great opportunity to participate in Čapljina Worship Festival at the end of this summer. The Festival is organised by the Franciscan church there, and takes place on the main square in town. It was great to introduce songs from the album *Svjetlo*, which Novi Most released in 2018, to people in Čapljina. They seemed to enjoy it, as we heard a lot of encouraging comments afterwards. The young people who played in the band had an amazing experience."

Beki, NM Sarajevo

"Čapljina Fest was wonderful experience which I will remember for life. It was great to be part of the band and bring a worship experience to random people on street. I love to play and I would love to do more events like this. Big thanks to Novi Most for giving the opportunity to young people to do what they love to do."

Eli, drums

"I have never played at a festival before so I can say that this was a great experience. I am thankful for this special opportunity and it was great to worship this way."

Elizej, keyboards

"Before the event started I have to confess I was a little nervous; I wasn't sure anyone would come to listen. There would definitely be a small group of us from church and Novi Most, but I feared it would be a disappointment for the band to play to such a small crowd. Luckily my fears were not realised and there was a solid turnout. And those who came loved what they heard. They chanted for an encore at the end of the set and rushed to take a copy of the CD home! But what was most profound was that the gospel was preached and Jesus was praised, in the middle of Čapljina."

Becca, NM Čapljina

## THE BAD NEWS IN THE BACKGROUND

New Bridge tends to focus on the good news, however it is important to remember this is all set against a background of bad news. Bosnia and Herzegovina doesn't often make international headlines these days, but in the week we put this New Bridge together it managed a front page, top line, article on The Guardian website. The article didn't make for encouraging reading and was a reminder that, even so long after the war in the 90s, Bosnia and Herzegovina is still in a delicate situation socially and politically. It needs our prayers.



*Singing songs he wrote from the album Svjetlo*



*First time playing out on the street for these guys*

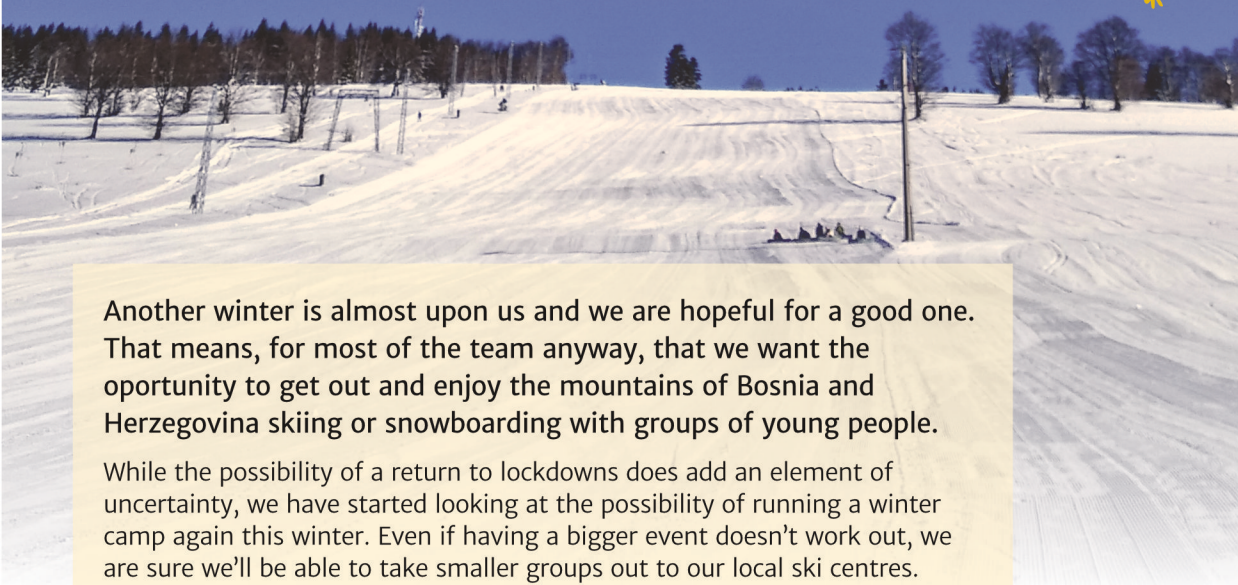


**'Very real' prospect of conflict / Bosnia in danger of breaking up, warns top EU official**



# MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

*from all of us at Novi Most*



Another winter is almost upon us and we are hopeful for a good one. That means, for most of the team anyway, that we want the opportunity to get out and enjoy the mountains of Bosnia and Herzegovina skiing or snowboarding with groups of young people.

While the possibility of a return to lockdowns does add an element of uncertainty, we have started looking at the possibility of running a winter camp again this winter. Even if having a bigger event doesn't work out, we are sure we'll be able to take smaller groups out to our local ski centres.



*Day or night: our team in Jajce are always ready to teach some snowboarding!*



*Can you spot the young people on this near-empty ski slope one sunny Saturday morning?*

## LEADER TRAINING

At the end of September Beki led a training weekend for young leaders at Emek Beraka.

*"Youth Ministry ReCharge was a two day event for all our young volunteers. It gave them the opportunity to physically rest, spiritually recharge but also to learn about practical skills of serving others. Over the weekend we looked at how trends in youth culture change, how to respond to that, and different ways that we can reach out to the next generation."*



## YOUTH CONFERENCE

This year we had our annual youth conference at Emek Beraka, the church camp site, instead of in Sarajevo, due to pandemic restrictions. Around 80 young people gathered to worship, pray, listen and enjoy the fellowship of our God and each other.

*"Through this year's Youth Conference God has reminded me of the importance of fellowship and the story that He is telling throughout the generations: By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."*

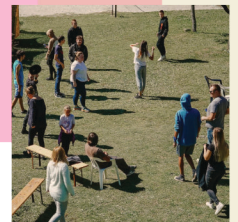
Marko

*"This conference was important for me and young people in my church. God has been revealing to us what He has placed in our hearts, our needs and our shortcomings. He desires to work on us and through us."*

Arijana



*Evening meetings were a bit chilly!*



*But there was sunshine too!*

## ON THE RADIO

Perspektiva, the show produced for local radio by the church in Jajce, is now in its fifth season. Season 5 has all been about prayer and each episode has included a talk by a pastor or leader from the Balkan region, including Beki, Ivica, and Matt, who also does all the technical production. It is a privilege to get to help the church have a voice in its community.



*Sanela and Rowan singing a translation of 'It Is Well With My Soul' for a Perspektiva show.*



[novimost.org](http://novimost.org)



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