



news from Novi Most year end 2023 New Bridge

pioneering youth work in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Youth Conference was a big regional gathering, with some international guests

@novimost   

It was such a blessing and joy to see young people dedicated to create and host the Youth Conference in Sarajevo this October. It brought together 150 participants in their teens and twenties – from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, and Croatia – offering them a unique opportunity to connect and grow. The conference was a celebration of fellowship, enriched by delicious food, enlightening masterclasses covering a wide range of topics, heartfelt worship, inspiring testimonies, and the profound teachings of God’s Word.

What made this event truly remarkable was its location in a region that was once the tragic theatre of war in the 1990s, marked by deep-seated ethnic, national, and religious divisions. The fact that these young people, representing diverse backgrounds and histories, could come together in unity and harmony speaks volumes about the power of the Gospel and their shared vision for a brighter future.

The conference emphasised the significance of the culture of belonging in shaping human identity, values, and behaviour. We had four different speakers, two from Bosnia: Slavko Hadžić and Damir Trbić, and from Serbia, Anđelko Trninić, and Croatia, Jasmin Avdagić. As the conference concluded, the hope was that the insights gained would inspire these young individuals to speak from their hearts and convey meaningful messages to their peers, guided by their faith.

A VISITOR’S PERSPECTIVE!

During October the team in BiH was happy to welcome Rob for an extended stay, as he travelled around our locations and got a feel for the work we are doing.

“Hello everyone! My name is Rob Canniffe and I live in a town called Newbury in the UK. I came across Novi Most whilst looking for jobs after I finished working for a church as a children’s worker. What attracted me to Novi Most was that they did youthwork, which I had previously been involved with, and I had an interest in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) after studying Yugoslavian history at university and visiting BiH a few years ago. I spoke to Rowan about opportunities to serve and she invited me to visit all four Novi Most locations for a month.

My trip was a great experience. It was a joy to see the work of Novi Most with young people and the community feel of the church. I wasn’t quite aware how varied the work of Novi Most was and how Novi Most and the church in BiH really support the communities around them. What I have found most surprising about BiH is how the Catholic Church hasn’t been too welcoming to the evangelical church and that there is a shame culture in converting from Catholicism to the evangelical church. It is something I wasn’t aware of and was shocked to hear of this.

My advice to someone visiting is to come with someone or as part of a team. I did experience culture shock and missing home when I arrived. The Novi Most team and church in BiH were so welcoming and supportive and I appreciated meeting other people from the UK who had experienced similar to me. It’s good to have someone with you who can support you.

Overall I have had a great experience and would like to thank everyone in Novi Most and the church in Bosnia and Herzegovina for welcoming me and allowing me to have such an experience. Hvala!”

Photos from Rob’s travel album



Watching Budo soundcheck with the band in Sarajevo



Meeting teenagers who are involved with Novi Most in Tajce

The “I was there” photo with the Stari Most in Mostar!



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

from all of us at Novi Most!



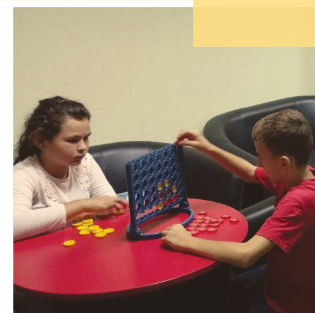
Thank you for all your support during 2023. Your prayers and giving are making a difference in the lives of young people in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

A SEASON OF CHANGE IN ČAPLJINA!

Novi Most has now been working in Capljina for 16 years. In that time we have seen hundreds of young people come through our doors, some only fleetingly, others have stuck around for longer and we have had the privilege of really getting to know them and be part of their lives.

We are currently in a season of 'changing of the guard', as one generation moves on, another moves in! We have been in the same location since the start of our work but the neighbourhood has changed a lot in the last few years. When we first began our youth centre was on the very edge of town, it is now surrounded by several new apartment blocks.

Over the past year or so a whole new group of young people have started coming to activities. Many of them live nearby and were initially drawn by peering through the window and seeing a fun place to hang out. They are a very young and energetic group. We love that they enjoy coming to Novi Most and hope that over the coming weeks, months and years they will also peer into our lives and see a life truly worth living with Jesus.



Games like Connect 4 connecting young people together locally



Beki and Ivica are building connections regionally and globally



AT THE YFC GENERAL ASSEMBLY CONFERENCE

In October, Ivica and Beki had the opportunity to take part in the General Assembly Conference, an event organised by the Youth for Christ ministry, which took place in the Netherlands. The conference's central theme, "TOGETHER", underscored the critical significance of unity at all levels of Christian life.

It was encouraging to witness representatives from all corners of the globe, each grappling with the same essential challenge – how to connect with and empower the youth of their respective regions. The sense of a global community, all working toward a shared goal, was truly inspiring.

The conference offered a platform for attendees to share stories and testimonies of God's faithfulness. Hearing these narratives from different corners of the world served as a powerful reminder of God's presence. Furthermore, the event presented a golden opportunity to forge connections and exchange valuable resources, particularly with leaders from their home region. It was an occasion to strengthen bonds and gather insights that will undoubtedly further enrich their mission of reaching and guiding young people on their spiritual journeys.

NEW MUSIC RELEASE

In our last New Bridge we talked about a song written at Youth Camp. It is now recorded by the young people involved and released on Youtube and streaming platforms. It's called 'Hiljadu koraka'.

youtube.com/NoviMostMedia



HILJADU KORAKA

novimost.org



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