

Cultural heritage



Reconciliation • Reconstruction • Hopes for the Future



Shattering people's sense of pride and identity is one very effective way to destroy their culture's common history. This has now become part of modern warfare, as seen by the wholesale destruction of cultural heritage, like churches, mosques, libraries, historical monuments, artwork, documents and museums.

Cultural heritage issues have their rightful place in the rebuilding of a state that is based on peace and human rights. Nowhere is this more obvious than in countries that have been ravaged by internal conflicts. Mutual respect for cultural heritage is a condition for a society's peaceful development.

An active involvement with cultural heritage issues is one way of minimising the risks in the future of people being victimised or even killed because of their cultural identity and therefore of decisive importance in ensuring that respect for human rights is upheld.



“Damage to cultural property belonging to any people whatsoever means damage to the cultural heritage of all mankind, since each people makes its contribution to the culture of the world.”

Hague Convention, 1954

A question of feeling at home



The right to one's own cultural heritage is an integral part of human rights. In today's world where a large number of people lives in another place than their original home, working with cultural heritage offers a daunting challenge.

Time after time we have witnessed the way war, political conflicts, natural catastrophes, climate changes and neglect deprive different ethnic groups of their cultural heritage and history. Modern warfare has become all the more brutal in its attacks on civil population, brazen examples of which have been the desecration and destruction of cultural monuments of the enemy. This has been seen in the Balkans, the Middle East and Asia. However, there is considerable evidence that working with the conservation and development of historic environments can help promote the process of reconciliation, strengthen self-belief, contribute towards growth and fight poverty.

Cultural Heritage without Borders was founded in 1995 as an independent Swedish non-governmental organisation to work in the spirit of the 1954 Hague Convention for the protection of cultural

property in the event of armed conflict, natural catastrophes, neglect, poverty or political and social conflicts. Rebuilding and protection of cultural symbols is viewed by Cultural Heritage without Borders as one of the conditions for people to feel at home and secure, especially after a war or conflict waged on ethnic grounds.

So far most of the work conducted by Cultural Heritage without Borders has been in the former Yugoslavia with building restoration, museum developments and work exchanges. In addition, Cultural Heritage without Borders has participated in the restoration of a Tibetan monastery in Gandze in the province of Sichuan in China.

In all these projects priority has been given to use the same material and techniques as was used in the original building and to ensure that most of the work was implemented by local and national partners.

Since working with cultural heritage helps victimised groups strengthen and regain their sense of pride, the aim has been to integrate restoration and development of cultural

property into the normal emergency relief work and development co-operation and therefore to improve the conditions for reconciliation and poverty reduction. A long-term hope is that several more international organisations will be able to collaborate together in such a concrete and practical way.

We would like to extend our warm thanks to our supporters, individual donors as well as Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and EU, without whose help none of our work would have been possible.

We hope that the presentation of some of our projects in this brochure will be seen as an invitation to join with us in the much-needed work of international co-operation.

Stockholm, November 2005

*Bengt O. H. Johansson
Chairman*

Cultural Heritage without Borders

The foundation Cultural Heritage without Borders (CHwB) was constituted in April 1995 as a reaction to the acute and massive aid that was needed due to the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Destruction of cultural monuments was quite extensive and systematic, which made the world realise the urgent need for development assistance and protection. When a group of architects and conservation workers in Sweden gathered to protest, discussions were held to find ways to take concrete action and to suggest proposals for financing Swedish emergency aid in this area within the framework for Sida's development co-operation.

Within this group of founding members the appropriate documents and statutes were drawn up for a foundation whose aims were broadened to include not just urgent action in the former Yugoslavia but also to “promote conservation of cultural property in areas ravaged by armed conflict, catastrophes or otherwise endangered as well as stimulate appropriate research.”

Because of the special importance of the 22 founding members' involvement, professional experience and occupational positions, the Foundation could nurture from the very beginning close relations with

various parts of Swedish society and cultural life. It was considered a great honour that the then president of the Swedish Red Cross, Princess Christina, wanted to stand as head of the founders, thereby clearly underscoring the sense of a common cause with humanitarian work in general. Other founders included three former Ministers of culture, two members of Parliament, head of the National Heritage Board, chairmen of both the Swedish National Commission for UNESCO and the Swedish Museums Association, presidents of the Royal Academy of Fine Arts and Royal Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities, the Archbishop of Stockholm, chairmen of the Swedish National Associations of ICOM (International Council of Museums) and ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) as well as secretary generals for the Swedish Association of Architects and the Swedish World Wildlife Fund.

Members of the board and the auditors are appointed by four public bodies and organisations, which are the Swedish National Committees of ICOM and ICOMOS, National Heritage Board and Swedish Association of Architects.



War and cultural heritage

At UNESCO's General Conference in 1993 there was great concern that the war in the former Yugoslavia was in the process of destroying large parts of the area's cultural heritage. As much as 75 per cent of the cultural heritage in Bosnia-Herzegovina was damaged according to UNESCO's own estimates. During the conference a series of proposals was put forward on how to protect and save cultural property. The Swedish delegation realised the need for a follow-up meeting that was arranged in Stockholm in the following year, focusing on information as a means to protect cultural heritage from war damage. Those participating were specialists on heritage conservation and international law, military experts and journalists from Sweden and international agencies.

The war demonstrated strong ethnic dimensions: the devastation in the western Balkans was part of the campaign of ethnic cleansing where atrocities against people and cultural monuments had the same aim, namely to violate human dignity and erase all traces of the enemy. As the events in the western Balkans clearly revealed the

close links between man and his cultural heritage, it was very important to emphasise that the 1954 Hague Convention was an integral part of the international humanitarian law. There was, however, a lack of knowledge about the Hague Convention, at both a national level and within the UN peace-keeping forces and humanitarian relief agency. In a strongly worded resolution directed at UNESCO, the conference in Stockholm called for special experts, heritage monitors, to be appointed to work alongside UN peace-keeping forces in regions of conflict and for protection of cultural heritage to be integrated, as a matter of course, into all the humanitarian and emergency relief aid administered by UN agencies.

ICOMOS proposed a plan to establish a "Blue Shield Organisation" (the blue shield being the emblem of the Hague Convention), which would be a national and international heritage equivalent to the World Wildlife Fund in regard to nature conservation and the Red Cross in the area of humanitarian aid. The draft proposal won the support of the conference and in the final document of recommendations UNESCO



Part of Cultural Heritage without Borders' work in the Balkans has been to restore so-called Kulla buildings, fortified stone houses which look like towers.

was urged to work for its implementation.

In Sweden, the conference had one very tangible result, namely the establishment of the Foundation Cultural Heritage without Borders. From an international perspective and after more than ten years' experience, it

can be shown that Cultural Heritage without Borders is one of the most long-lasting attempts to create an all-embracing organisation for direct emergency relief aid in the area of heritage conservation.



Work in the Balkans

Cultural heritage and the diversity of cultural symbols can be used as a means to consolidate differences and idiosyncrasies. After the cessation of ethnic hostilities in the Balkans, it became clear that the issues concerning cultural heritage needed to be given greater attention if a long-lasting peace and reconciliation was to be achieved. Not only did the scars and reminders that the war-damaged monuments represented have to be taken care of, but also the intertwined historical past of the Balkans had to be faced. The Balkan heritage may in this way exert an influence that can symbolise the reality of co-existence and a common past. “We must never forget” can be seen painted on a stone near the bridge in Mostar, so an important task is to lay a sound base for the future by identifying everything that is common in the region. Within the museum and restoration sectors it is quite obvious how intertwined the various ethnic groups in the Balkans have been with each other throughout history. An emphasis on the common features of cultural heritage can help create a platform that is based on mutual respect. In order to prevent conflicts from being cemented and passed on, it is naturally important to find solutions to these problems. The prevention

of conflicts is also one of the most fundamental ways to fight poverty. Moreover, cultural heritage is one of the pre-requisites for a peaceful and democratic development in the region.

Through the support given to cultural heritage, several other aims can be achieved also, for instance, an increased administrative capacity and harmonisation of legislation with the rest of Europe. In addition to the democratic and environmental gains, work opportunities can be created for local artisans and small businesses. Cultural heritage is important for sustainable development as those traditional building techniques that are used in restoration work are often environmentally sound and profitable for local industry and craftsmen. An economic approach is encouraged and small businesses can demonstrate the quality of their work.

Since cultural heritage usually implies working at a local level, this can stimulate local democratic structures, especially where cultural heritage is publicly owned. In such cases, organisations and authorities can exert considerable influence over the work. Cultural Heritage without Borders has helped to initiate local development plans in several places, involving both men and women.

Bosnia- Herzegovina

Cultural Heritage without Borders has set up the following goals:

- To safeguard for future generations the unique cultural heritage devastated by catastrophes.
- To work for the involvement of cultural heritage in the process of reconciliation.
- To contribute to capacity building in accordance with international principles within the area of heritage conservation and protection.
- To support the development of networks and co-operation between ethnic and religious groups across entity and nationality borders.
- To encourage local initiatives to utilise heritage management as a generator of economic development.
- To support the growth and renewal of civil society within the sector of cultural heritage.
- To increase gradually local ownership and participation from both women and men.

The significance of cultural heritage for the rebuilding of Bosnia-Herzegovina became quite clear in connection with the Dayton Peace Agreement, where an annex dealt with issues of cultural heritage.

Cultural Heritage without Borders has, with support from Sida and others, implemented about twenty projects throughout the whole of Bosnia-Herzegovina in collaboration with the Federal Institute for the Protection of Cultural, Historical and Natural Heritage in Sarajevo and the Institutes for Heritage Conservation in Banja Luka and Mostar as well as the University of Sarajevo (as part of a postgraduate course). All the projects and objects have been selected after consultations with and proposals from these institutes and the Ministry of Culture. The selection criteria for the restorations have been a combination of:

- the object's historical significance,
- the possibilities to complete the restoration with limited resources,
- the restoration's educational and training capacity,
- and the potential to stimulate reconciliation and resettlement.

The work has meant that buildings of great cultural and historical significance

have been safeguarded for future generations. Furthermore, a whole corpus of knowledge has been collected with complete documentation of restoration and conservation methods and project management plans, which can be very useful for today's architects and students. This knowledge may be profitably applied in training courses as study examples of restorations that have been implemented in accordance with international principles and conventions. Cultural Heritage without Borders has been given great recognition for its work in the country, when it received a special prize awarded in connection with the re-opening of the old bridge in Mostar in July 2004, and when it was asked to take one of the places on the commission to monitor the Dayton Commission's Annex 8 which is concerned with the protection of the multi cultural heritage of the country. What follows is a description of some of the larger projects in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The National Museum in Sarajevo

The National Museum "Zemaljski Muzej" in Sarajevo was in a terrible state when the siege of the city was ended in 1995. The museum is situated on the main thoroughfare between the centre and the airport, the road that was called "Snipers' Alley" during the war. It had been damaged by heavy mortar attacks, many of which had gone



The National Museum, Zemaljski Muzej, in Sarajevo was damaged by heavy mortar attacks during the war.



The National Museum, Zemaljski Muzej, in Sarajevo after restoration.

through its roof and some of the walls so that the sky-lights and masonry had been destroyed. Because of widespread damage it had rained and snowed into the exhibition halls. Problems were aggravated even further because the buildings had been replastered wrongly in the 1980's so that the walls could not be dried out properly.

The museum's staff performed heroic work during the war, moving large parts of the collections to safety and guarding the museum every night to prevent plundering. Books from the library were taken down to the cellars. The most valuable pieces were hidden away and only three staff members, one from each of the three larger ethnic groups, knew their exact location. Despite peace and new recruitment during the last

ten years there are only half the number of employees today as there were before the war.

The National Museum has been the prime object for the aid and development work undertaken by Cultural Heritage without Borders in Bosnia-Herzegovina from the very beginning in 1996. It has had a strategic significance on several levels: firstly, besides the Historical Museum, it is Bosnia-Herzegovina's only museum with a national profile for all the different ethnic groups in the country which can give it a key role in the future; and secondly, following the destruction of the National Library, it is now the country's most important library. And thirdly, it has overall responsibility for the other museums in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Because of its central location,

the panorama of the city has generally benefited by the restoration of its façades.

One of the first tasks was to renovate the museum's pavilion of natural history which had been the worst affected by the shelling. The greatest threat, however, did not come from the shattered parts of the façade, roofing, sculptures or display cabinets but from all the snow, rain and damp that had seeped in through holes in the roof and walls. New roofing was laid and those parts damaged by damp were repaired. New hardwearing glass was put into all the sky-lights. When the façades were restored, care was taken in choosing the appropriate materials and methods, which set a precedent for the work on restoring the other buildings. Although none of the original documents were found concerning the colour, the original formula for the plaster was used, and silicate paint was selected, after several trials were conducted *in situ* together with manufacturers from Croatia.

Next was the archaeological pavilion, which housed the museum's foyer, office and archaeological collections. Even here the façade, which looks out onto the main road, was badly damaged but has now after its restoration greatly improved the whole appearance of the museum. Just as with the department of natural history this building was also given new plaster, new roofing and new glass in the sky-lights. The two other buildings that housed the museum's library and department of ethnology were restored

with the same methods, partly with support from EU.

Equipment

Many lorry loads of material, donated and sponsored by Swedish museums, cultural institutes, large and small businesses, have been transported from Sweden to the National Museum, everything from sewing needles to computers, display cabinets, chairs, drying machines, work-clothes, cleaning trolleys, curtain material, sewing machines, lighting, bicycles and scalpels. Although needs have been tremendous, Cultural Heritage without Borders has tried to make the museum's workshops as self-sufficient as possible and better equipped to conduct its outreaching activities. Once again there are workshops for conservation and exhibition work as well as furnished lecture rooms and hall.

Development of activities and new ways of working

War, poor finances and lack of contacts with west European museums are some of the reasons why there was no change in the way the museum functioned for a long time. The management of the museum presented a long list of needs and proposals to Cultural Heritage without Borders when our collaboration started, and the successes during the duration of the project have been remarkable. Cultural Heritage without Borders has supported the staff to

give priority to the museum's relation to the general public on the basis of resources available. Now children and youth also visit the museum regularly.

New ways of working have been developed with the help of courses, exchanges, seminars, workshops and modern technical devices. Today there are computers and a digital camera to help document the collections. Staff members have attended courses in English, outreaching and exhibition techniques, internal and external information, teaching methods and management. In addition to facilitating contacts with sister organisations in Sweden, Swedish specialists have held seminars and several groups of personnel have made study visits to various museums in Sweden. Swedish support has also enabled a national committee of ICOM to be formed, with participants from every part of Bosnia-Herzegovina, including the Republic of Srpska.

As collaboration continues, part of it will concentrate on developing tools to make use of contemporary history. The museum has, like most of the museums in the Balkans, so far focussed on older folk culture. Therefore, a challenging assignment will be working with modern ethnology.

• Funding: Sida, National Museums of World Culture, Swedish Institute, Swedish Museum of Natural History, Soros Open Society Foundation, Archaeological Museum in Stavanger and EU amongst others.

The medieval town of Maglaj

Cultural Heritage without Borders undertook its initial visit to Bosnia-Herzegovina in April 1996 to assess the devastation after the war and consult with local authorities and institutions about the emergency disaster measures that were most badly needed. The medieval town of Maglaj was singled out as it lacked its own resources to cope with the restoration of the severely bombed core of its oldest town centre. After consultations with the municipal authorities, Minister of Culture and the Federal Heritage Institute, the medieval mosque "Kursumlija Dzamija" was selected as a pilot project. The work of projecting was assigned to the Heritage Institute in Sarajevo and carried out in collaboration with the project manager appointed by Cultural Heritage without Borders. Local builders were engaged.

The mosque is from the early 17th century, although its architectural style is derived from the smaller Ottoman cubic mosques of the 15th century with a dome supported by an octagon. The minaret is placed, as is tradition, to the right of the main entrance. At the front of the mosque there is a loggia with four pillars, which support three small domes. The upper part of the minaret had been shot down and the domes had been damaged by shells and collapsing parts of the minaret. Work involved protective covering, reconstruction of the minaret, new lead roofing for



The mosque Kursumlija Dzamija in Maglaj, before and after restoration, Cultural Heritage without Border's initial project in the Balkans.

the domes. A tinsmith from Sweden was brought in to share his experiences with Bosnian colleagues.

Since this was a pilot project, many questions and problems were raised and solved during the course of the work. One important lesson learnt was the dire need for developing skills, not just on an antiquarian level but also in regard to projecting and implementation of qualified measures of conservation. On-site problems became also very clear for Cultural Heritage without Borders which helped to facilitate a dialogue with colleagues in Bosnia-Herzegovina,

not only on issues concerning conservation of damaged cultural property but also on questions of a more general nature about measures, methods and material to be used for conservation and restoration as well as about the need for good relations with the general public.

In the vicinity of the mosque a traditional guesthouse from the 19th century was renovated to be used as a school and leisure centre for the town's youth.

Another important lesson from this first year in Bosnia-Herzegovina was that the damage to cultural heritage, in both a

material and technical sense, had not only its causes in this latest war but was also a result of earlier cultural policies that had not taken serious responsibility for heritage management.

- Funding: Sida.

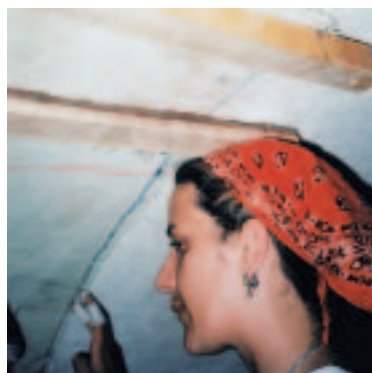
Mostar

Three projects have been implemented in the town of Mostar. Two bazaar buildings close to the old bridge have been restored. From the beginning only the stonewalls from the 16th century remained standing, but with the help of drawings from the 1960's and photographs those parts that were missing could be reconstructed. The bazaars are used as shops and cafés, which are rented out by their owners, the town authorities or local religious communities. The third project was the building that had earlier housed the local heritage institute but which after the war had been used by the City Museum, though now it is planned to house the authority for the old town of Mostar that is inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List.

- Funding: Sida, Mostar City Council and Mr. Hugh McColl.

The monastery church in Zavala

The monastery church in Zavala has some of the most remarkable frescoes in Bosnia-Herzegovina that are from 1617. Prior to



The work in the monastery church in Zavala has attracted a lot of interest. Frescoes from the early 17th century have been restored.





The restoration of houses to re-create parts of the historically important town centre of Jajce.

the restoration there was an acute situation as one of the arches was on the verge of collapsing due to subsidence in the soil. The foundations needed urgent reinforcement to avoid any collapse. Work was aggravated by the absence of electricity and because of the roads to the church had been destroyed.

Restoration of the church, its clock-tower and vaulted entrance and drainage of its grounds have been implemented. The monastery and its community continue to work on its exterior and are trying to start some agriculture that can bring in income to the monastery.

The work has aroused a lot of interest and the monastery attracts visitors from other parts of the Balkans. Even the village of Zavala has been affected by the restoration since Serbian families who had fled during the war have now returned and more are gradually following their example. The local council has installed water and electricity.

- Funding: Sida.

The town centre of Jajce

In Jajce Cultural Heritage without Borders has conducted several restorations of buildings with a view to re-create parts of the historically important town centre, which before the war had been so admired throughout the whole of the former Yugoslavia. The project has included three private houses, two mosques, the roof on the gatetower which belongs to the fortress and town walls, as well as the Omer Begova house which in future will house the local tourist office and a small exhibition hall on local history.

The work in Jajce has been a pilot project to formulate a method of how heritage

conservation can be integrated into a humanitarian reconstruction project, and as such able to prevent the disruption of the urban setting by the insensitive design of replacement housing and the total destruction of historical buildings. On the contrary, a positive development could be achieved when the town's leadership became all the more convinced about the importance of cultural heritage as a significant asset for the town's future tourist industry. Prior to the outbreak of hostilities about 300,000 tourists visited the town every year and a fifth of the inhabitants made a living out of tourism.

- Funding: Sida and Mrs Amanda Sebestyen plus funding made available through the British Embassy.

The Handanija mosque in Prusac

The Handanija mosque in Prusac was built in 1617 and has been a traditional holy shrine for pilgrims from the whole of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The mosque belongs to an interesting rural style in which the minaret and actual mosque is built of stone whereas the roof construction and inside of the dome is made of wood. Almost all the wooden parts had been burnt during the war and their reconstruction entailed a mammoth task since no documentation was available apart from a few recently taken photographs.

The villagers and imam became very involved in the work, for instance by helping



The Handanija mosque in Prusac was re-inaugurated in the autumn of 2005 after extensive restoration work.

to obtain some of the necessary materials and by opening up their homes to architects and students. The strong support given by local people offers hope that the management and protection of the mosque will have a secure future. The work also caught much attention of the media.



The Franciscan monastery Kraljeva Sutjeska has an extensive book collection.

The restoration of the Handanija mosque in Prusac has mainly been an educational project for newly qualified restoration architects and architects with postgraduate training in restoration at the School of Architecture. Work has been completed and the re-inauguration took place in October 2005.

- Funding: Barakat Trust (UK) and Sida.

Support to archives

The Franciscan monastery at Kraljeva Sutjeska, similar to other Franciscan monasteries in Bosnia-Herzegovina, has extensive collections of books and archives of historical value. During the war between 1992 and 1995 the monastery was subjected to shelling and the collections were moved to

safety. After the war Cultural Heritage without Borders was given a request for financial aid for systematisation, classification and relocation of parts of the monastery's more recent acquisitions of books. A smaller contribution was arranged together with expert help from a Swedish archivist. The newer collection is now open to, for instance, pupils from the area's schools.

The Franciscan monastery, St. Anthony in Sarajevo, which holds the largest archives in Bosnia-Herzegovina and above all the most extensive and oldest collection of manuscripts, has now been provided with aid to purchase fireproof filing cabinets and to document parts of the collections with digital techniques.

- Funding: The National Archives of Sweden and Sida.

Kosovo

The destruction of cultural heritage was systematic during the hostilities in Kosovo between 1998 and 1999. Representatives from Cultural Heritage without Borders paid a visit to the area in early spring of the following year in order to assess the needs. A request was later received from the UN administration which had been established in Kosovo after the end of the war (United Nations Mission in Kosovo, UNMIK) to help rebuild cultural heritage.

Advice and co-ordination

Since the autumn of 2001 Cultural Heritage without Borders run a local office in Pristina, where a project management organisation has been established with local architects, engineers and economists. Besides managing and implementing projects funded by Sida, the office also provides authorities and other donors with qualified restorations, draw up maintenance plans, offers training courses and information and has good contacts with interested parties who can help sustain and develop the projects. The overall aim is to involve the civil society in each project and thereby promote a process of reconciliation so that the common heritage of all groups can be protected.

Cultural Heritage without Borders has also helped the Ministry of Culture under UNMIK in the work to establish a modern

administration and legislation of the heritage sector.

- Funding: Sida.

The Kulla project

Some of the cultural monuments that were most badly affected by the ethnic hostilities of the war in Kosovo were the so-called Kulla buildings. About 1,200 existed that had been built during the 18th and 19th centuries but only about 200 were left after the war. “Kulla” is an Albanian word meaning “tower house” and the building looks like a tower or fortified stone house in which large Albanian families still live. Because of their special value for Kosovars they had particularly been subjected to consistent destruction during the worst of the ethnic conflicts.

During the spring of 2001 Cultural Heritage without Borders was contacted by EU’s European Agency for Reconstruction (EAR) in Kosovo, which had learnt about our work in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The request concerned restoration of five Kulla buildings in the south west of the country. Although this type of building had earlier been singled out in various surveys of war-damaged monuments, hardly any international relief aid had until then been allocated to their conservation.

The Kulla project became the first venture undertaken by Cultural Heritage without Borders outside Bosnia-Herzegovina.



Besides restoring buildings of great historical value, the aim here was also to increase technical knowledge about restorations and stress the importance of culture in the process to achieve peace, understanding and mutual respect. Simultaneous to the work of restoration of these five Kullas, courses and training in co-operation were held for all concerned parties in the heritage sector, which resulted in capacity building for all local institutions. In connection with the projects training courses on restoration were provided for all those involved, also local craftsmen and suppliers. External information was issued to local politicians and the general public and the basic legal framework for the project was drawn up.

The local office has during the pro-

ject had close contacts with Kosovar mass media to provide information about the importance to preserve the Kullas. In the summer of 2002 a large exhibition was held about the project, for which one of the young architects had made a detailed and scaled model of a Kulla in wood. The exhibition and the amount of attention in the media have significantly helped to influence attitudes of the authorities, property owners and public so that support for the preservation of the Kullas is now almost unanimous. At the opening of the exhibition, one of the heads of the EU mission in Kosovo said, “This little project has given us more goodwill than all the rest of our projects together!”

• Funding: EAR (European Agency for Reconstruction) and Sida.



The focus of the work in Kosovo has been to increase awareness of cultural heritage values. The local population has actively participated. The pictures are from the village of Isniq during the celebration of the European Heritage Day. The building at the top right is a kulla, which Cultural Heritage without Borders has restored.

Capacity building to preserve cultural heritage

In the evaluation study of the Kulla project all the concerned parties were agreed that Kosovo's main problem regarding cultural heritage was that the country lacked the structures for heritage conservation, as the structures that had existed before the war no longer functioned. The Kulla project indicated a way forward that led to a desire not only to single out individual buildings but also to preserve whole areas. The initiative came from the inhabitants and politicians in the village of Isniq and the town of Deçan, where several Kullas had been restored so that people saw how cultural heritage could be used to generate socio-economic development. The goal for this conservation is to create methods to identify, preserve and restore buildings of historical importance and other valuable property that contributes to the overall historical setting. The work is being undertaken in co-operation with the Ministry of Culture in Kosovo, the municipality and local businesses and organisations.

The project has resulted in the development of local methods to preserve historical areas, in practical experiences from the field for public authorities and training of skills in securing a well-functioning collaboration between urban planners and heritage management officers. Co-operation with the School of Architecture in Pristina is also



The cultural centre in the village of Dranoc is housed in a kulla.

part of the project. Skilled local builders, artisans and suppliers have also been trained in traditional building techniques.

- Funding: Sida.

Cultural centre in the village of Dranoc

After an initiative from the municipality of Deçan, Cultural Heritage without Borders has been invited to take charge of a Kulla in the village of Dranoc, perhaps the only traditional Albanian village that avoided devastation during the war. There the idea is to create a cultural centre with room for architectural students, the region's heritage authorities, seminars organised by Cultural Heritage without Borders as well as many other activities. The centre is an important step forward in promoting cultural heritage as a social and economic resource in Kosovo. The careful restoration has not incurred any great expense that would deter other Kulla owners. Now there are premises for meetings and exhibitions, where a great variety of activities can be held, as well as a guest room and a large garden.

- Funding: Sida.

The Council of Europe's pilot project in the Peja region

The work in Isniq and Deçan is part of a larger project that covers five municipalities in western Kosovo. The aim is to highlight

the region's multi-cultural values and in this way contribute to reconciliation between the various ethnic groups. If a vision can be created of the region's ability to attract tourism to its religious, cultural and natural sites within five to ten years, it can give rise to hopes that different forces can unite in working for this worthy common cause. Cultural Heritage without Borders' local office has taken co-ordinating responsibility for this project that is part of Council of Europe's involvement in the Balkans.

- Funding: Council of Europe, Sida and the five municipalities.

Local Heritage Week

A Heritage Week was arranged in the village of Isniq by Cultural Heritage without Borders' local office in Pristina in the first few days of October 2003.

At a seminar organised by Cultural Heritage without Borders the inhabitants agreed that the village's economy needed to improve if its society was to develop. Cultural heritage was defined as a positive resource for growth and the conclusion was that the Heritage week could be seen as a first step in a plan for the area's future.

Both of the two kullas that had been restored were opened and in addition the owners of the other kullas also opened their homes for visitors and lunch guests. In the village square there were dance and music performances, traditional games, lots of

exhibitions, handicrafts market, food stalls etc. A special day was devoted to activities for the village children. The local heritage week has now become an annual event.

- Funding: Sida. Sponsors: Micro Enterprise Bank and other local businesses.

The Hadum mosque in Gjakova

The late 16th century Hadum mosque stands in the heart of the old town of Gjakova and is the only mosque in the town with a dome. It is also unique since it was built as a single entity with the mosque, library and school together. During the war in 1999 the library was completely destroyed and the mosque was badly damaged by mortar attacks. The American non-governmental organisation Kosovo Cultural Heritage Project (KCHP) took the initiative as early as 2001 to arrange funding of the restoration through the Packard Foundation. However, because of problems directly after the war, work had to cease but since the autumn of 2003 Cultural Heritage without Borders has been commissioned by KCHP to take over responsibility for the restoration. The top of the minaret, which had been shot down, has been rebuilt, lead roofing has been laid down on the dome and extensive stone conservation has been carried out. The Hadum mosque was re-inaugurated in October 2005.

Funding: Packard Foundation (USA) through the Kosovo Cultural Heritage Project and Sida.

Support for a local women's organisation

Jeta ("Life") is an organisation whose members are Kosovar women in Deçan municipality and it holds courses in traditional handicrafts for about 200 women with help from Cultural Heritage without Borders local office in Pristina. These women are given an opportunity not only to become more skilled and develop contacts with the outside world but also to maintain the old traditional handicrafts techniques and earn some income.

- Funding: Sida.

The Serai in Velika Hoca

The Kosovo-Serbian enclave Velika Hoca has for a long time been famous for its wine, but production collapsed during the war. The area is rich in buildings of historical and cultural interest, a number of which are medieval churches. Today, however, most of the buildings are in bad need of repair and unemployment there is about 70 per cent. Cultural Heritage without Borders is restoring a communal building in the village, called the Serai. In the long term it is hoped that wine production can be

Photos taken during the restoration of the late 16th century Hadum mosque in Gjakova. The minaret which was destroyed during the war has been re-constructed.



restarted in collaboration with the village's Albanian neighbours. Cultural Heritage without Borders is also working with a local women's group in the village and helping with courses and activities that can generate income in connection with the Serai.

- Funding: Sida and EAR.

Seminars and workshops

After a request from the concerned authorities to help strengthen the heritage institutions' administrative capacities Cultural Heritage without Borders held in 2002 its first workshop in Kosovo on the theme of *Integrated Conservation*. The historical town centre of Prizren was chosen as a suitable study site that had been legally protected since 1956, although only 30 per cent of it remained. Systematic negligence and the events of the war had taken a heavy toll on its built heritage.

Two ideas lay behind the choice of this theme. Firstly, heritage conservation needed to be taken beyond the narrow and static confines of monuments. Secondly, different authorities needed to learn about various models and skills of collaboration. The workshop brought together local planners, architects from the heritage institutes and architectural students to solve common problems so that the planners needed to deal actively with conservation issues and the institute architects had to concern themselves with economic and social prob-

lems as planning instruments in their work.

Results from this work could be brought to good use, when Cultural Heritage without Borders was given responsibility in the spring of 2005 to co-ordinate the reconstruction of Prizren, now a World Heritage candidate, after the ethnic hostilities in March 2004. Cultural Heritage without Borders is working in this project for an active international involvement from UNESCO, the Council of Europe and European donor countries. The aim is to promote co-operation across borders with specialists and students from all over the Balkans to save the historical centre of Prizren.

- Funding: Sida, the Ministry of Culture in Kosovo and the town of Prizren.

A seminar to develop tourism related to heritage and natural sites was held in December 2003 in Deçan in co-operation with the University of Turin in Italy. The aim was to raise the interest in conservation issues of the council's politicians and the general public.

A workshop during the summer of 2004 in the village of Isniq resulted in a conservation plan with the involvement of the different stakeholders. In collaboration with the University of Turin fifteen young architects from Italy and Kosovo surveyed 900 houses, streets and squares, interviewed a cross-section of the inhabitants, digitalised maps and analysed the material and then

the results were presented in digital form and as a poster exhibition. The villagers stressed the need for a functioning centre, which can highlight the village's heritage sites, and the need for a tourist centre. The municipality of Deçan will finally ratify the conservation plan. A similar conservation plan was drawn up several months later for the town of Deçan in collaboration with the council.

- Funding: Sida.

Serbia

The National Museum, Narodni Muzej, in Belgrade has initiated through contacts mediated by Cultural Heritage without Borders collaboration with the Uppsala University Library *Carolina Rediviva* and Uppsala University Museum *Museum Gustavianum* and the *National Museum* in Stockholm. Swedish delegations of experts have been in Belgrade to share experiences on systems of security, storage and conservation, areas which Narodni Muzej had identified as weak. Two groups of staff members from Narodni Muzej have been in Uppsala and Stockholm for capacity building. And representatives from the Institute for the Protection of Monuments in Serbia have also participated in workshops on building conservation in Sweden.

The regional co-operation between the larger museums in the Balkans is in a

constant process of development, and this important function is supported through the seminars and contacts Cultural Heritage without Borders has arranged.

- Funding: Sida.

Montenegro

The Montenegrin volunteer organisation *Expeditio* has for several years arranged camps for building conservation together with the Swedish Association for Building Preservation in the village of Perast near the town of Kotor. The majority of *Expeditio*'s members are young architects, of which several have participated in similar camps in Sweden. Kotor, which is inscribed on the UNESCO's World Heritage List, was never affected by the wars but earthquakes damaged some of the buildings. During 2005 a specific restoration plan for a medieval town gate has been implemented together with the Institute for Protection of Cultural and Historical Monuments in Kotor. In September of the same year an international conference was organised on different approaches to securing older buildings in the case of earthquakes. Moreover, Cultural Heritage without Borders plans a smaller regional restoration project to show how voluntary organisations can work together to protect cultural heritage.

- Funding: Sida.

Other activities and some future plans

Cultural Heritage without Borders has with the help of Sida participated in the restoration of the Tibetan Beri monastery in Gandze in the province of Sichuan in China, responsibility of which was taken by Tibet Heritage Fund (THF). The building's oldest parts are from the 17th century. After the Cultural Revolution the monastery was repaired and later re-opened in the 1980's. However, because of a badly leaking roof, invaluable wall paintings from the 17th and 18th centuries were seriously threatened. In order to carry out the work, a workshop was established for the use in the restoration of traditional building skills. Work has mainly consisted of repairing the timber structure and roof and installing a functional drainage system. The project's overall significance for the Tibetan culture has been the training of younger craftsmen in traditional techniques.

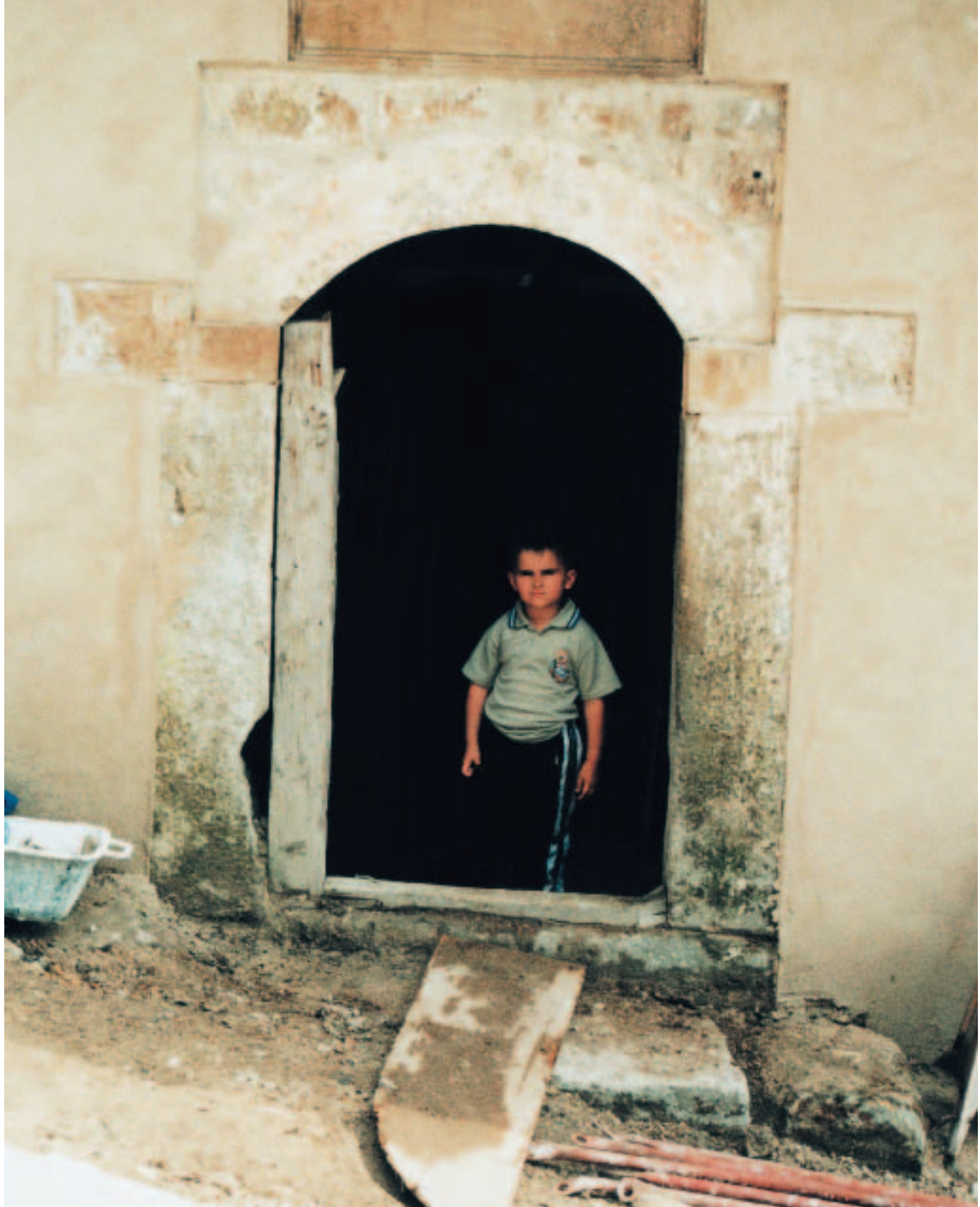
The Ministry of Culture in the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia has taken the initiative to contact the Foundation with a view to co-operate in the attempt to save parts of the cultural heritage destroyed

during the conflicts of 2001.

The Chairman of Cultural Heritage without Borders has visited the Palestine in order to make an assessment of the cultural heritage situation in the view of future engagement from Sweden.

In future work undertaken by Cultural Heritage without Borders will be focused on the development of institutions and capacities from a regional perspective.

After decades of dictatorship and war, the central role of cultural heritage in the process of reconstruction has been tangibly proven by the work conducted in the Balkans by Cultural Heritage without Borders. The experiences so far gained – not least the massive involvement and appreciation shown by people in the area – serve only to strengthen the insight into the significance of cultural heritage for raising the level of social cohesion and promoting dialogue in society. Therefore by safeguarding cultural heritage a contribution can be made to peace, ideas about reconciliation can emerge – and doors to the future opened.



The board and secretariat

The board of Cultural Heritage without Borders is comprised of nine members all with various specialised qualifications and expertise in cultural history and administration, six of which have been appointed by the National Heritage Board, the Swedish Association of

Architects, International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and International Council of Museums (ICOM). The other three have been appointed by the Foundation's board, which also chooses its chairman and vice-chairman.

Board

Chairman:

Bengt O. H. Johansson, professor

Vice-chairman:

Andreas Ådahl, ambassador

Treasurer:

Sven-Erik Köhlin, civil engineer

Secretary:

Per Kåks, special expert

Board members:

Andreas Heymowski, architect SAR/MSA

Birgitta Hoberg, senior international officer

Christian Laine, architect SAR/MSA

Ing-Marie Munktel, Ph.D,
museum director

Johan Mårtelius, architect SAR/MSA,
professor

Co-opted members:

Margareta Björnstad, former head of the
National Heritage Board

Jan-Krister Boman, architect SAR/MSA

Secretariat

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Secretary General:

Per Arne Ströberg

Abbreviations

BiH:	Bosnia-Herzegovina
EAR:	European Agency for Reconstruction
ICOM:	International Council of Museums
ICOMOS:	International Council of Monuments and Sites
KCHP:	Kosovo Cultural Heritage Project
Sida:	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
THF:	Tibetan Heritage Fund
UNMIK:	United Nations Mission in Kosovo

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