

A photograph showing two people, one in a blue jacket and one in a dark jacket and white pants, working on a stone wall. They are positioned on either side of a large, circular clock face that is being installed or repaired. The wall is made of rough-hewn stones, and the clock face has Roman numerals. Above the wall is a dark, tiled roof. The scene is set during dusk or dawn, with a soft light on the wall and clock.

Community builds
the future

CH
WB

Cultural
Heritage without Borders

KULTURARV UTAN GRÄNSER

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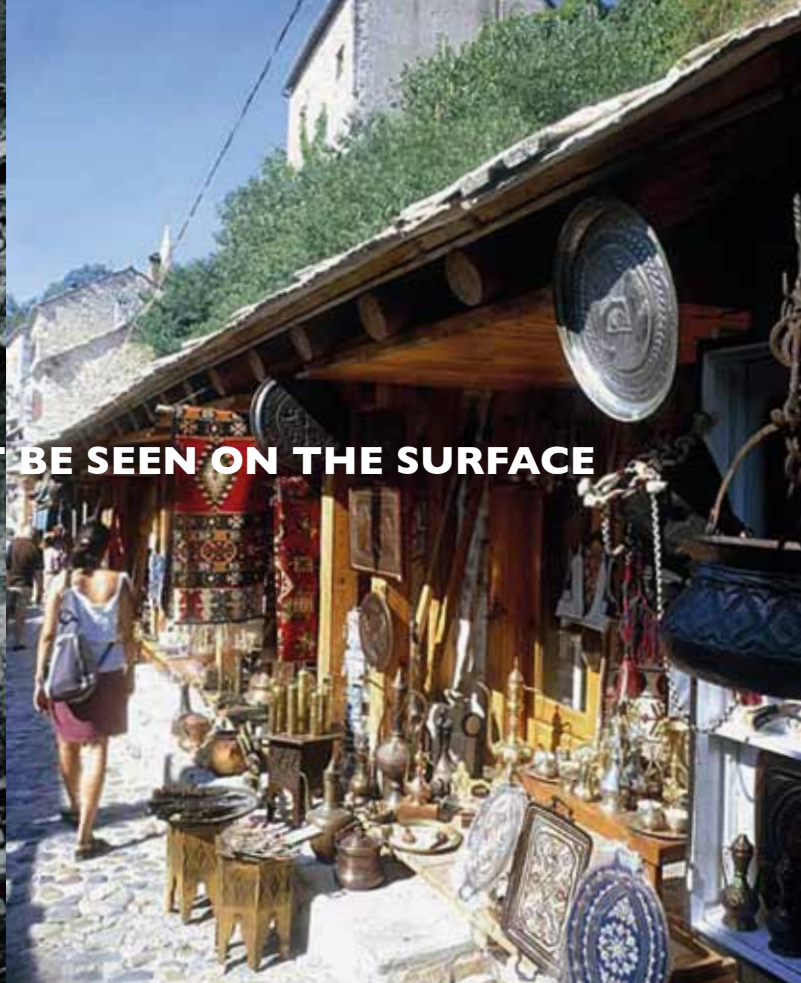
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**We restore and build
relations**



THE REAL DIFFERENCE CANNOT BE SEEN ON THE SURFACE



**WAR HAS DESTROYED THEIR
HISTORY
NOW THEY ARE BUILDING UP
A SHARED FUTURE**

People who do not know us might think that we are some kind of developer that restores historical buildings in areas hit by war and natural disaster.

We would say that we are experts in human rights, reconciliation and poverty reduction.

We restore cultural heritage, but help to build futures.

The clock tower in the city of Rahovec/Orahovac in Kosovo gains a working clock for the first time in 50 years. The clock tower has been restored by people from various ethnic and religious backgrounds, using traditional techniques and materials.



**AFTER YEARS OF CONFLICT
THEY CAN NOW
COME TOGETHER AND RESPECT
EACH OTHER'S TRADITIONS**

As we see it, there is a clear link between restoring a building and building up human relations, trust, economies, societies – and indeed nations.

A building is more than just bricks and mortar. It is also a link to the past and part of people's history, security and identity.

CHwB organises restoration camps where students, young professionals and international experts come together in joint cultural heritage projects – work that also facilitates reconciliation.



**THIS IS NO BED & BREAKFAST
THIS IS 212 PEOPLE VOTING
FOR THE FIRST TIME**

A link to the past and a door into the future – knowing where you come from makes it easier to decide which path to take next.

A building is more than just bricks and mortar and reinstating a building is more than just a restoration project. The result is more than a new facade. The building can end up on the World Heritage list and attract tourists. That is one result. Another is the relations that are built up during the work. The emergence of a “we” in the discussion over who makes the decisions about a particular place and how that place should be used.

Velika Hoca is a Serbian enclave in a Kosovo Albanian area of southern Kosovo. One CHwB project converted several traditional private houses into Bed & Breakfast. This has contributed to a rise in female enterprise, and in democracy: having been a closed enclave in 2005, 60% of residents voted in the local elections in 2010.



**THE MOST IMPORTANT
BUILDING BLOCKS
ARE DIALOGUE, RESPECT
AND TRUST**

Every restoration project is a potential democratisation process that offers countless opportunities to bridge conflicts, promote trust between former enemies and work on social and economic development.

In concrete, if somewhat simplified, terms: a builder has to be sourced for a restoration. If this is done in open competition, it automatically provides a chance to discuss issues of corruption and how corruption can be combated.



**THIS IS NOT AN ART
EXHIBITION
THIS IS ELEVEN MUSEUMS
WITH THE COURAGE
TO BUILD SOMETHING NEW
TOGETHER**

Setting up a workforce of men and women from different ethnic or religious backgrounds means that people who would never otherwise have interacted have a chance to meet. They gain an opportunity to get to know each other, trust each other and build something together.

CHwB facilitates and supports networks. One of these networks promotes the development of museums into more democratic and creative institutions. After some years of working together, 11 museums from six countries in the Balkans held a simultaneous exhibition project called "I+I:Life & Love"

A silhouette of a person working on a wooden structure against a blue sky. The person is seen from the side, leaning forward and reaching out towards a vertical wooden beam. The background is a clear, bright blue sky. The structure appears to be made of dark wood and is set against a lighter, possibly stone or brick wall, which is partially visible in the lower right. The overall scene suggests a construction or restoration project.

**HE IS NOT RESTORING A
BUILDING
HE IS CREATING JOBS FOR ONE
IN FIVE INHABITANTS**

Using local craftsmen provides an opportunity to use and develop traditional working methods that are often good for the environment and create jobs. Once the restoration is complete, the building needs to be protected by laws that also need to be harmonised with legislation in other countries.

Before the war in the former Yugoslavia, the medieval centre of Jajce attracted 300,000 tourists per year – which generated work for one in five local inhabitants. Many of the buildings were destroyed in the war. Following restoration work, the city is now seeking World Heritage status from UNESCO.



**THEY SHARE A
CONFLICT-FILLED HISTORY
NOW THEY ALSO SHARE
A VISION OF THE FUTURE**

This in turn creates a need for a functioning administration. At a local level, the restoration has to be incorporated into a development plan, which prompts an open discussion on local development as a whole – a discussion that can strengthen trust between people and confidence in institutions.



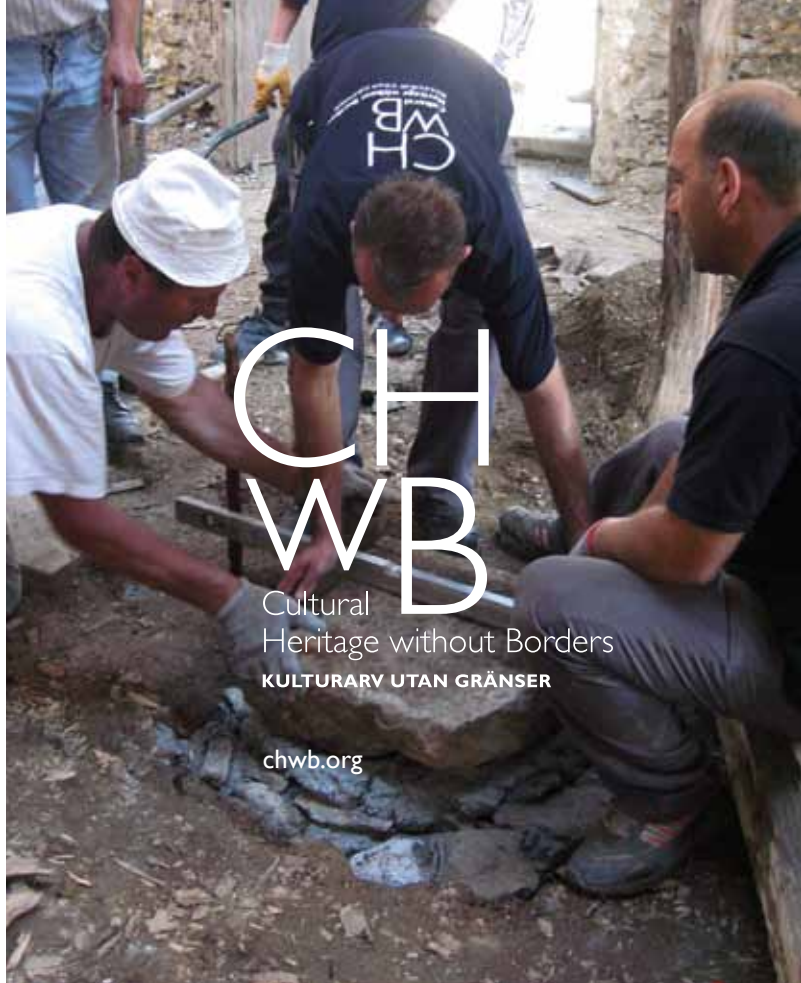
**OLD RELATIONS WERE
DESTROYED
NOW THE FOUNDATION
IS BEING LAID FOR A NEW,
SHARED SOCIETY**

Our job is to get these processes started. Our goal is for our partners to finish them. Which takes time: demolishing history is quick, but building trust, democracy and a future is often a laborious process. But it can be done – over fifteen years, we have done it over and over again.

CULTURAL HERITAGE WITHOUT BORDERS

is an independent organisation based in Sweden dedicated to rescuing and preserving tangible and intangible cultural heritage touched by conflict, neglect or human and natural disasters. We see our work as a vital contribution to building democracy and supporting human rights. CHWB is neutral when it comes to conflicting parties, but not to the rights of all people to their cultural heritage.

We are supported by Sida, other bilateral funds, the EU and private foundations and grants.



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A group of diverse people, including several individuals in wheelchairs, are gathered outdoors in a courtyard or garden area. They are engaged in conversation and social interaction. Some are wearing white baseball caps. The background shows a stone wall and wooden structures. The overall atmosphere is one of community and social connection.

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