

# The Balkans 2003

PEACE, RECONCILIATION AND DEVELOPMENT



**FYEG summer camp**  
11. – 17. August 2002  
Mount Jahorina,  
**Bosnia and Herzegovina**

## **Context:**

Nationalism and miss-understanding led to 10 years of devastating war and the exclusion of Balkan countries from civilised Europe. Now ex-Yugoslavian countries want to come out of isolation and into the EU. The EU bids them welcome and pumps millions of Euro into rebuilding projects, but only when the youth of today come into power will these countries be able to fulfil the EU's admittance demands of democracy, market economy and human rights.

After first 2 years of peace one can see that new democratic authorities are still led by old habits and it is going to be hard to change their way of thinking. Same goes for rest of population so above all changes The Balkans need generational change in order to achieve new base for development of modern European way of thinking in the society.

This summer camp aim to bring together young people from all over Europe focusing on ex-Yugoslavian countries in order to evaluate peace building process and reconciliation, democratic changes in their countries, minority rights implementation and post-war integration of the region.

The Balkans represents real multicultural treasure of Europe and therefore it has suffered substantially in previous years. Prevention of conflicts through human rights education, democratic way of work and intercultural dialogue represents still great need for all countries in the region in order to keep fragile peace.

## **Aims of the meeting:**

### Understanding...

*To Find out* more about each other history, culture, believes in order to build up understanding for our differences and be able to co-operate better by respecting it.

### Respect ...

*To Learn more* about nature of present economic and social development in The Balkans from intercultural perspective.

### Co-operation...

*To Exchange* experience with democratic changes and problems of implementation of human rights, respect of minority rights and non-violence peace building process of integration and co-operation.

#### Activation...

*To Discuss* role of young people in reconciliation in the region and development of civil society as a base for sustainable democratic society.

#### Support...

*To Create* practical methods aiming to improve east- west youth contacts and provide base for further democratic changes, reconciliation and development of The Balkans.

#### **Main programme elements, their contents / working methods:**

Workshops, Educational games, small and big group discussion and Lectures from experts in field of inter-cultural dialogue and understanding. Through these different methods we will work with democracy in several ways, both in the small scale, through workshops in order to understand and co-operate in a small group, up to panel discussions on the relation between states and different actors in a society and state that works with democracy as a tool for co-operation.

Direct contact with local young people through visits and discussion will be organised aiming to build better understand of circumstances causing problems with democracy and human rights implementation in societies in transition.

#### **The purpose of the meeting:**

Peace and reconciliation comes as prior reason for our work in The Balkans. We want to support democratic changes, creation of civil society and implementation of human rights. This all is necessity for development of this region and better life for all.

Youth plays crucial role in this process not carrying burden of the past on its back. FYEG wants to empower them to co-operate and support each other in order to create sustainable peace in the region.

As well we want people from other parts of Europe to get to know the situation and people from the Balkans so they can spread the knowledge based on their experience.

FYEG wants to establish long-lasting links as a base for support between youth from all over Europe in their efforts to impact the society and make a change.

Sustainable society, co-operation and development in Europe come as long term aim of FYEG and its member organisations.