

EUPM focus

Coppola asks Member States for extension of EUPM

Head of Mission Brigadier General Vincenzo Coppola presented the European Union Police Mission's six-monthly review to the Political and Security Committee on 8 May, suggesting that the EUPM be extended for another two years "not because of the EUPM's failure, but because of its success."

"The police in BiH have made a lot of progress and we want to make sure that this process is irreversible," he explained. "They need a final push for this."

He insisted that an early withdrawal of the EUPM before police reform takes root could be a huge step back.

"There is still a general lack of initiative in the police and elsewhere in the criminal justice system," he explained. "To those who have taken initiative we owe our continuous commitment."

Brigadier General Coppola took stock of the achievements made by the EUPM in the last six months, especially with regard to the mission's targeted approach to supporting the fight against organised crime. But he also insisted that political interference into operational matters remains an important obstacle in this domain.

"Links between politicians and criminals hamper the investigation of organised crime," he said. "Petty and serious corruption within the police remains wide-spread,



and the EUPM has stepped up efforts, together with our counterparts, to develop practical measures against police corruption."

The Head of the EUPM concluded his presentation by thanking his international and national staff, "who have continued to display the highest degree of professional and personal behaviour and conduct," as well as the contributing states "for the excellent personnel they are providing to the mission."

"We are aware that there are many demands and that resources are limited," he said. "However, let me assure you that your highly qualified officers are making a real difference in Bosnia and Herzegovina." ■

By Ann Vaessen

Editorial

Effective working relationships with the rest of the EU family in Bosnia and Herzegovina are clearly vital to maximise the effect of the EU collective effort in-Theatre.



■ Sir John Reith

EUFOR deals on a daily basis with the other EU actors in Theatre, including EUSR, EUPM, EUMM, EC Delegation and the EU Presidency. The added value of this engagement is the coherence achieved in the international community. I judge that the cooperation between the various international agencies in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the EU family members at the core, has never been as close as it is now, not only at HQ level but also at regional level.

In this context and as a result of our Common Operational Guidelines (COG), we have been cooperating more closely than ever with EUPM in the fight against organised crime. The COG provides the framework in which the BiH Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) can request our assistance through EUPM. These procedures are now well established, and EUFOR's supporting role works well.

Local police and LEAs are proving both capable and professional and are valuable contributors in ensuring the safe and secure environment. There is a need, however, for the development of Police Services free from political influence and commanding the confidence and trust of the entire community, majority and minorities alike. This is essential for long-term peace and stability within Bosnia and Herzegovina and the success of the EUFOR and EUPM missions.

EUPM is working to achieve this in the context of Police Reform and its wider monitoring and mentoring mandate. Reinforcing this, EUFOR will continue to fulfil its mandate in its new posture after transition. It will remain a capable and credible EU-led military force; with its

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Europe Day in BiH: United in Differences

European Union Police Mission, together with the other European institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, organized on May 5, 2007 in Sarajevo a celebration of Europe Day and the 50th anniversary of the signing of Roma Treaties. Hundreds of citizens of the BiH capital took part in the ceremony that was organized under the slogan "United in Differences".

"Our intention was to present everything that characterizes Europe to the citizens in an interesting and interactive way," said EUPM Spokeswoman, Monja Koluder.

Representatives of the EUPM, German Embassy to BiH and EUFOR, together with local police officers, children choirs, singers, dancers and performers, participated in an educational and entertaining event created to symbolically present the move towards to the European Union.

"The idea is to increase the magnetism of the EU to the people in this country," said German Ambassador to BiH, H.E. Michael Schmunk, on behalf of Germany as the EU presiding country.

Representatives of the EU family in BiH symbolically showed through this event the willingness to support BiH joining the EU soon, but also stressed the importance of the role of local institutions



in these processes.

"BiH authorities should conduct all the necessary reforms for BiH's signing the Stabilization and Association Agreement with the EU," stated Chris Bennett, Head of OHR Communications, adding that this will represent the first step towards the EU.

Europe Day was also celebrated in Mostar where the EU flag was symbolically raised on the Old Bridge, one of the historical and tourist icons in BiH. ■

By Asim Sahinpasic



EUPM Abroad

EUPM participates in EU Open Door Day

The EU Open Door Day took place on 5 May, with the Council of the European Union and other EU institutions attracting thousands of visitors. The EUPM was also there, answering questions, providing information and distributing promotional material.

The flamboyant uniforms of our colleagues from the EUPM and the local police drew a lot of visitors, especially children, to the EUPM stand.

Visitors showed a lot of interest in the work of the EUPM as such, and asked a lot of questions about Bosnia and Herzegovina itself. Is it a safe country to travel to? What are people's living conditions? These were only some of the frequently asked questions.

"We spent a lot more quality time with visitors than last year," said Kilian Wahl, Chief of the EUPM Press and Public Information Department.

Other ESDP civilian, police and military operations were also present alongside the EUPM, such as EUFOR, EU BAM Rafah, the EU Planning team in Kosovo, the EU Police Mission in the Palestinian Territories (EUPOL COPPS), the EU Border

Assistance Mission at Rafah Crossing Point in the Palestinian Territories (EU BAM Rafah), the EU Integrated Rule of Law Mission for Iraq (Eujust Lex), EU Police Mission in Kinshasa (DRC) (EUPOL Kinshasa), to name only a few. The organizers deemed that the event was a huge success, promising to try to recreate the atmosphere next year too. ■

By Ann Vaessen



■ EUPM and local police representatives in Brussels with Pedro Serrano, Director of Civilian Crisis Management (DGE IX)

Vox Populi: BiH in the European Union

We sent our journalists to the streets of Sarajevo and Banja Luka to feel the pulse of the population. We asked BiH citizens whether *they would like for this country to join the European Union, what would be the benefits of such move, what they think is thwarting the progress towards signing the SAA, and when do they think BiH will actually become a member state.* Here are their answers:

Yes, when 90% of Europe wants to be in the EU, I would too. This way, we suffer from immobility and closed borders. Joining EU would open up the communication with all developed countries, as we are now in the ghetto. We would benefit economically, culturally and otherwise, especially our grandchildren. However, we are not mature enough for that. Europe requires changes in the way we live, while we still do certain things our way. It is about the clash between our mentality and EU standards. With that, there are also political questions and certain debts towards the EU. We still have lots of exams to pass. I don't see us joining before 2017.

**Ratko, 56,
Medical Technician, East Sarajevo**

Yes, of course I would like for BiH to join the European Union. It would make our lives much better and easier as we could study abroad, travel, have better mobility. Difficulties in obtaining visas are a true pain for us. I am optimistic and I think BiH will join the EU in the next five years. Right now, we are not getting accepted because we are divided, although I also think that too high requirements have been placed before our country for entering the EU.

Zana, 19, Student, East Sarajevo

If the politicians agree, I have nothing against BiH joining the EU. It would mean no visas, no borders, open market, better employment, better economy, salaries, pensions... Closed borders are what bothers me the most. However, if they condition it by some reforms, than that does not make sense. And this keeps happening - constant conditionings by this and that... The Hague suspects, lack of tolerance, et cetera. Our politicians need to agree, not let foreigners tell us what to do. In any case, I don't see us joining before 2010.

**Slavica, 46,
Saleswoman, East Sarajevo**

No, I would not like to see that happen. I see no benefits from joining the European Union, nor consequences for not joining. In my opinion, the main reason we are not in EU yet is white terrorism (Islamic extremism, op. ed.), and we will join when Turkey joins.

**Branko, 43,
Tourist Agent, East Sarajevo**

Yes, and we would benefit greatly from becoming a member state, especially in solving the unemployment issues. The politics and the division of the police is what's



keeping us out of the EU, so I think we might join soon if some agreements are reached.

**Sabaheta, 47,
Saleswoman, Sarajevo**

Of course, just imagine no need for visas and the possibility to study abroad. As I don't follow the daily events enough, I am not informed enough to say why have we not joined yet, but I think we will become EU member in about 10 years time.

**Munevera, 15,
Highschool student, Sarajevo**

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2500 troop strength, comprising a multinational battalion, 45 Liaison and Observation Teams and 5 Regional Coordination Centres spread throughout the country, EUPM is still able to respond in a timely manner to any deterioration in the safe and secure environment.

Thus, the deployment of our two ESDP missions, EUPM and EUPOL, manifestly demonstrates the continued commitment by the EU to Bosnia and Herzegovina as it strives to meet the conditions for signing the Stabilization and Association Agreement and ultimately become a member. ■

**Sir John Reith
General ALTHEA Operation Commander**

Yes, I would like to see Bosnia and Herzegovina joining the EU and I can only see benefits from this. But we are a divided country and that fact, together with the police reform, is hindering our progress. I still hope we will join in five years time.

Mustafa, 66, Pensioner, Sarajevo

I would like BiH to join EU, of course. It would bring more employment opportunities and it would be easier to travel. However, there are some limitations and rule of law prescribed by the EU. But it is better than lawlessness that we have now. BiH is a country in process of transition i.e. privatization. I think that we will not join EU before this process has been completed. EU does not need poor and undeveloped countries... I would exchange freedom of speech for freedom of movement. I'm a freelance artist, I have a passport, but I don't have a visa. It affects my work greatly. I don't think BiH will soon join EU.

**Nebojsa, 46,
Artist, Banjaluka**

It would be great if BiH could join EU as soon as possible. One of the most important benefits of being EU member is the issue of security. I think BiH will join EU in some 10 years. It is realistic to expect that all requirements set forth by EU will be in place by that time. It is sad that BiH politicians can not agree upon issues that are of common interest for all the BiH citizens. They do not care for slow economic development, all the troubles for getting visa etc. I believe that our future is in EU.

**Dragana, 23,
Student, Banjaluka**

**By Amna Kurbegovic,
Ana Lalic and Sladjana Lizdek**

Brcko Border Police opens doors to community



Members of the BiH Border police have organised the promotion of the *Your security, our obligation* campaign in Brcko, with several hundred citizens of the District taking part in the event. In addition, Brcko BP unit and Bijeljina Field Office Support Unit organised a presentation of their activities in the "Community policing" project during an Open Door Day event where more than 300 children and their teachers from five elementary schools, Brcko highschool, and athletes from the Brcko Kayaking Club enjoyed the presentation of activities and capacities of the Border Police members. Visitors also had the opportunity to see the equipment, weapons and other gear used by the Border Police to successfully complete their assignments.

"The goal of all the activities that we are conducting within the Your security, our obligation campaign is to improve the image of the Border Police, together with other law enforcement agencies in BiH," stated Novo Blagojevic, Chief of the Field Office Bjeljina North-East. *"Based on the research we conducted, we saw that we need to work on regaining the trust of the*



citizens in the police, and that is why we wanted to establish partnerships and good cooperation with the citizens of Brcko District during this event. Positive reactions of the students, their parents and teachers, after the demonstration of our training exercises, showed that we have achieved our goal."

A special attraction was the official dog training exercise that ended in the demonstration where the visitors enjoyed the exhibition of the abilities of sniffing dogs in finding drugs.

"This Border Police Open Door Day fulfilled all of my expectations and amazed our students," said Branko Mile-



tic, Principal of one Brcko schools, and emphasized that he would appreciate if similar events are organised again in the future. ■

By Asim Sahinpasic



Football Tour creates cooperation-building opportunities

A mini-football tour was organised last week in the scope of the *Your security, our obligation* campaign. From Mostar, through Sarajevo, to Banja Luka, citizens had a chance to mingle with the local police and watch their capabilities on the indoor football field as they tackled representatives of three other spheres of BiH society - journalists, celebrities, and politicians. The matches were filled with energy, laughs and fun, although many participants left the field rather tired. As one of the spectators said: *Very original and interesting way of interaction between the police and citizens.*

Mostar: Police vs journalists 14:3

Mostar's Spanish Square was a place to be on Sunday, 6 May. Football match between the HNC MoI Special Force and journalists of Mostar media outlets attracted a lot of spectators despite the dreadful weather, unusual for this city.

When asked who was going to win, Suad Mutapcic, a police team "selector" and Commander of SSU had no dilemma whatsoever: *"My guys will win!"*

To the great disappointment of journalists, he was right.

"14:3? This is disgraceful. We should start getting ready for a rematch and challenge the police team soon," said Fedja Ibrulj, Mostar Radio Studio 88 journalist.

There will be a chance for that in the future, it seems.

"This was the first event in Mostar in the scope of the campaign. The forthcoming



period will be used to popularise 122 as a unique police number through events like this one," said Lejla Trivun, HNC MoI Spokeswoman.

Sarajevo: Police vs celebrities 5:5

Sarajevo saw a real spectacle between the police and celebrities on Tuesday, 8 May in front of the BiH Army Centre.

"Thank you for having me here. I really do not recall when I last had so much fun," said Samir Kurt, a well known BiH graphic designer. *"I have to say our police played very well, but they cut us some slack in the end and we were able to even out the score."*

Several spectators also took part in the second half of the game, trying to improve the score against an excellent police team. The event was both educational and interactive, and Canton Sarajevo MoI intends to

organise more activities of this kind.

"We are actively participating in this campaign. The police should and must interact with the citizens, always working on creating a better relationship," said Nebojsa Maric, Canton Sarajevo Community Policing Officer.

Banja Luka: Police vs politicians 10:10

As the week was passing by, the weather was improving. It was 31 degrees when the roadshow came to the Banja Luka match between the local police and the representatives of the political sphere.

The event attracted a great attention of the public and media. We do not know whether the names of police officials or politicians caught their interest, but we can tell you that every single journalist was rooting for the police team.

"I think the communication between citizens and the police is burdened with a lot of prejudice. It is also up to us to bridge it and make it work. That is why I came here today," said Dragana, 37-year-old Banja Luka citizen.

The police team was reinforced by a politician - RS Minister of Interior Stanislav Cadjo.

"I have always been more supportive of the police than of politicians," said Minister Cadjo.

The tournament ended with an even score, trophies for all teams and promises of future games, all in good fun. ■



By Monja Koluder

TNT Motorcyclists' Club and Trebinje police together for better traffic safety

Within our Accountability Campaign, members of the Trebinje TNT Motorcyclists' Club joined the Public Security Centre of Trebinje to promote better traffic safety, as well as *Your Security - Our Obligation* slogan. With promotional rides through town, they aimed to stress the importance for motorcyclists to wear protection gear, an issue imperative in this area where motorcycles are a part of the culture.

Special attraction was participation of a group motor of motorcyclists from Italy who happened to be visiting their friends in Trebinje and decided to join the event.



Motorcyclists showed their protection gear to school kids and, together with police officers, explained the basic traffic aspects when it comes to motorcycling.

"We have a very good relationship with the police and wanted to join this campaign," said one of the participants. *"We look forward to participating in other similar events*



organized by the police and continue good cooperation with them."

This community policing event showed that the police take responsibility for public safety, but also drew attention to citizens' own obligations as far as their safety is concerned.

"Our goal is to improve the relationship and the cooperation with citizens. We also wish to educate the public, particularly participants in the traffic, about traffic regulations, thus improving safety of our citizens," said Trebinje PSC Spokesperson, Rajna Parezanin. ■



By Sladjana Lizdek

Accountability Campaign

SIPA took part in the round table in Srebrenica

As part of the round table on genocide organized by Tuzla Faculty of Law in Srebrenica on May 11, State Protection and Investigation Agency (SIPA) presented their activities taken in revealing the war crimes in BiH. Officers of SIPA's Team 6, whose sole task is to investigate war crimes committed in Srebrenica, introduced actions taken in order to uncover crimes committed in this town.

SIPA's contribution to the round table was made in the course of the Accountability Campaign. The aim of this campaign, which is implemented by SIPA in cooperation with EU Police Mission and Law Enforcement Agencies in BiH, is to bring the police closer to the citizens and to raise the citizens' awareness of the role of the police in society.

At the beginning of the campaign, SIPA's Acting Director Sead Lisak said that the Agency was determined to contribute to the investigation of war crimes committed in BiH, particularly those in Srebrenica.

Tuzla University students also participated in the round table that was aimed at educating them about the range of Srebrenica genocide. ■

By Zeljka Kujundzija, SIPA's Spokeswoman



In the scope of the Europe Day celebrations, Trebinje Municipality and the NGO "Zenski Centar" organized a series of events such as an exhibition of traditional dance, conferences, tasting of local specialties, and sports games. Within this initiative, a football match was played between the team composed of mayors of East Herzegovina municipalities and representatives of the local clergy, against the team of EUPOR LOT and EUPM Trebinje police officers. The 'international' team, supported by the local police won the match (3:2), with EUPM scoring two out of the three goals. The day finished in a relaxing and friendly atmosphere with an open buffet and a cocktail. ■

East Sarajevo police continually works on improving cooperation with citizens

Danka Tesic, a Spokeswoman of the Public Security Center East Sarajevo, assumed her duty early July 2005 while her first touch with the work in the police was appointment in the Section for Foreigners in December 2004, which now functions within the Ministry of Security. We spoke to this former Radio Free Europe career journalist, to see how her new position changed her life, and what her experience of working within the police force has been like.

When I took on the position of the Spokeswoman, all of a sudden I found myself on the other side - instead of reporting about the police, I was talking on behalf of the police. Upon the appointment, I asked to be given some time to get to know the work of the departments, to become familiar with the police terminology. However, the job demanded my immediate presence. I had to hit the ground running. And therefore I have to say that a great support and advice of my previous chief Radovan Pejic and colleague Miroslav Popara were of enormous help.

What is the cooperation like with your colleagues?

The cooperation with the colleagues in the PSC East Sarajevo and other PSCs is excellent. Running an efficient press and public information office requires a very good co-operation and communication with the management and colleagues. My colleagues do understand the importance of journalists and appreciate their work in terms of presenting the public with the accurate and timely information. And thus they appreciate the role of the spokesperson. I have attended a number of thematic workshops organized by the EUPM in the last two years. This has surely helped all of us to a great extent to comprehend everything the

spokesperson needs to do and cope with, meet counterparts from the neighboring countries, share experience.

Being a spokeswoman of the law enforcement agency is a demanding job. How do you combine it with your private life?

This job is indeed demanding. It does require involvement which goes beyond working hours. As we all know, journalists work around the clock. Being a police spokeswoman means that I cannot turn my cell phone off. I have to be available 24/7. This is what journalists are used to. However, I love my job and am willing to help my colleagues from other departments and 'take' journalists off their backs whenever there is a need.

Cooperation with citizens

Is there any specific project the PSC East Sarajevo is implementing to strengthen cooperation with citizenry?

In early April we organized Open Door Days in all police stations in scope of the celebration of the RS Police Day and within the Accountability Campaign. This event attracted a lot of people. The opportunity was seized also to target primary and secondary school children and among others interact on traffic safety and drugs abuse.

I would say that the work on strengthening cooperation with citizens never stops, interaction with citizens is constant. Be it through regular activities - traffic checks, visits to schools, visit to returnee areas. My colleagues from the community policing sector hold regular meetings with the representatives of the returnees areas to listen to their concerns, make sure they have all the contact details, and that they have no security problems. Let me conclude by saying that the cooperation with citizens overall is very good.



Accountability campaign

What does the PSC East Sarajevo intend to do in scope of the Accountability Campaign?

The PSC East Sarajevo has officially launched "Your security, our obligation" campaign in early April with of the celebration of the RS Police Day. In the forthcoming period, I intend to focus on electronic media. A number of radio and TV shows will be organized in order to present the details of the campaign, work of various departments and sections. Prior to the end of school year, we shall visit schools and hold lectures on all topics relevant to the children's safe upbringing process. Summer time will be used to organise football or basketball sport competitions between police, sport clubs, schools...

Any plans on one of the campaign's focal points, community policing?

In cooperation with my community policing officers, I plan to organize roundtables on topics relevant for my area of responsibility. This would assemble municipal representatives, NGO sector, citizens and media. In terms of facilitating communication with citizens, we plan to educate them on how to obtain an ID card, driving license, who to address for specific issues, and so forth, in a more user friendly form. We deem that we have a good relationship with citizens in our area of responsibility, but there is always room for improvement and we intend to use it. ■

By Monja Koluder

PSC East Sarajevo quartile report gives reason for optimism

A day of interview was the day for a regular quarterly press conference to report on the statistics for the first three month of 2007. Tesic reported that a double murder case in Rogoje was resolved. The recent murder case that occurred in Pale was also considered solved from the police point of view. "Two persons have been handed over to the Special Prosecutor office and we hope to see this case finalized in the next month," said Tesic.

The PSC was active in combating drugs as well. "Two very successful operations have been carried out in Visegrad and East Sarajevo. Three and a half kilograms of marijuana and 900 grams of cocaine were confiscated. Three persons were apprehended and handed over to the prosecutor. In comparison to the same period last year, the percentage of successful drug busts is 150% higher."

Results were achieved in regards to breaking auto-mafia chain. "Nine members were arrested, one is still at large. The result of this is that not a single was stolen vehicle in the first quarter of this year."



Summer festivals in BiH

The people in Bosnia and Herzegovina create plenty of opportunities for celebrations, festivals and annual traditions all year around, but especially during the warm, sunny summer months. The country is well known for its wide array of cultural festivals - featuring cutting edge films, the newest jazz sounds, to alternative theatre productions. There is never a dull moment in here - and we bring you the list by BH Tourism of just some of the festivities you might want to visit in the coming months.

Kids Festival (June)

Kid's Festival - the biggest independent kids event in south-eastern Europe - has become a traditional event that is waited and expected by all children in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Kid's festival is a unique combination of education and fun. This is a kids week with a range over 20 activities and movies during a day: creative artistic and pedagogic workshops, international kiosks, performances, magic shows, jugglers, dancers, etc. The main show presents a wide and popular range of cartoons and feature movies for kids. EUPM has been the sponsor of the event for two years now, and one full day of the Kids Fest is dedicated to the police and police interaction with children and citizens.



More information: <http://www.kidsfest.ba>

Kozara ethno festival (June - July)

Kozara ethno festival throughout two days of its duration, shows people from Kozara, how they used to live there back in the past, their customs that are real attraction for tourists from everywhere. Also, the event is colored by authentic ethno sound. Visit the festival to meet men and women from Kozara and enjoy songs, music and traditional cuisine.

Bascarsija Nights (July)

In the summer months, Sarajevo's old Turkish quarter is a most delightful place to be. In July, this part of town gets even better. Throughout the month, Bascarsija Nights festival offers a full month programme of folk dancing, opera, ballet, rock, love songs and poetry. There are art exhibitions and children programmes. All of the events are free of charge.



More information: <http://www.bascarsijskenoci.ba>

International Folklore Festival (July)

Taking place in the second half of July, this festival overlaps with Bascarsija Nights. In the course of one week, folk groups come from all over the wider region to perform in Sarajevo.



More information: <http://www.sarajevoarts.ba>

Summer on Vrbas (July)

Traditional event "Summer on Vrbas" is held in the second half of July under the walls of Kastel fortress. Writers, actors, cultural-artistic associations, artists take part in this event and in attractive sport program one can participate in kayak race, rafting regatta, swimming competitions. Every year there are also parachutes and bridge jumps, sport clubs promotions etc, etc.



More information: <http://www.banjaluka.rs.ba>

Sarajevo Film Festival (August)

The SFF has become the most honoured festival in all of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Unlike the untouchable glitter of Cannes or Venice, this event is a perfect occasion to mix and mingle with local and international stars alike. Aside from the main stage showings, the 'Panaroma' and regional shows host some of the worlds best documentaries and it's definitely the best venue to get a taste of southeast Europe's best filmmakers.



More information: <http://www.sff.ba>

Banja Luka Summer Games (August)

During Banja Luka Summer Games, that are traditionally held in the fortress "Kastel" in August, you can enjoy various concerts of ethno and rock music, theater performances and poet nights that make this mystical place alive during the summer. Many artists, bands, actors, singers and others not only from Bosnia and Herzegovina but also from neighbouring countries come to Banja Luka to make those two months interesting for all.

More information: <http://www.banjaluka.rs.ba>

European Literary Encounters (September)

This annual gathering, available in the local language and French only, has guiding themes like 'Our Europe' or 'The future of the book in Europe', but the activities sometimes wander rather widely from that theme. Reporters, directors, writers, poets, actors, philosophers and translators from the wider region (all the way to North Africa) gather and spend a week talking about their experiences and ideas.



More information: <http://www.malraux.ba>

Teatar Fest (September)

This festival shows experimental projects, researches the 'directing, performing, speech, movements, costumes, music and other important elements of the theatre expressions' and presents 'projects which research new spaces, visions and media'.

More information: <http://www.tf.com.ba>



More information on these and other festivals throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina can also be obtained through local tourist agencies.