

## Latest news



## Serial fires: Bad luck or operational flaws?

*A series of fires have been raging throughout the Southern parts of the country in the last few weeks. Stolac, Ljubuski, Trebinje, Mostar...when one fire is extinguished, another one starts in a neighbouring locality. On 4 and 5 August the border at Ivanica was even closed for several hours because the fire was spreading to Croatia.*

*Is this just a run of bad luck due to the summer's spell of hot weather or do these recent events point to a lack of emergency planning, let alone prevention and awareness raising?*

Neither EUPM's Trebinje nor Mostar Offices have heard of any prevention or coordination efforts regarding the recent fires in their areas of responsibility. No emergency cells of any kind, coordinating the efforts of the municipality, the fire brigade and the police, seem to have been put in place.

*"There has been insufficient experience in joint coordination or planning with civil defence, fire brigades or the army in cases of natural disasters,"* Valentin Nikolov, EUPM's Political Adviser in Mostar reported. *"Cantonal or municipal government*

*support, if any, was sporadic, and in most occasions late."*

Besides the apparent lack of operational planning, including evacuation procedures, prevention and awareness raising also seem to be out of the picture.

*"When fighting forest fire, time is one of the most important factors,"* explains Yves Arcana, Deputy Head of the EUPM Regional Office in Mostar. *"Prompt action would help a lot."*

On an official visit to Trebinje on 7 August, High Representative Miroslav Lajčák said that EUFOR is at the disposal of local authorities in fire fighting and suggested the establishment of a state-level body to deal with natural disasters.

But the recent series of fires should not only serve as an awakening call for the firefighters of this country. Lives and property have been at risk in the last few weeks and the police forces of BiH must actively contribute to a country-wide operational plan in the event of similar major incidents. They can rest assured that EUPM will offer them all the necessary support and assistance. ■

*By Ann Vaessen*

## Editorial

*The next couple of months are critical for achieving progress on police restructuring and all of us - my Office, the EU Police Mission, the whole of the international community and Bosnia and Herzegovina's political leaders - will have to focus our efforts to help generate a positive outcome.*



■ Miroslav Lajčák

*Police restructuring is the most important outstanding reform required for Bosnia and Herzegovina to be able to initial a Stabilisation and Association Agreement with the European Union. It is, above all, a technical issue that could be resolved quickly with good will.*

*We are not starting from scratch. Rather, the Report of the Police Reform Directorate, in which the EU Police Mission played an extremely constructive role, forms the basis of any agreement. Changes to the Report are possible, but only as long as they are in line with the three EU principles.*

*The three principles - that all legislative and budgetary competencies for all police matters must be vested at the State level; that there is no political interference with operational policing; and that functional local police areas are determined by technical policing criteria, where operational command is exercised at the local level - provide sufficient flexibility to give all sides the space in which to find to reach agreement. Indeed, most issues have already been agreed and Bosnia and Herzegovina came very close to agreement in March.*

*Agreement on police restructuring will, nevertheless, clearly require compromise among Bosnia and Herzegovina's political leaders. But without compromise, no issue can be taken forward. Moreover, the benefits of such an agreement, the Stabilisation and Association Agreement with the European Union, are so significant for Bosnia and Herzegovina that it is in everybody's interest to go the extra mile. There is no alternative and no time to waste.*

*To this end, I will be working in the coming weeks as closely as possible together with EUPM Head of Mission, Brigadier-General Vincenzo Coppola, and my other international counterparts to achieve the necessary breakthrough. ■*

**Miroslav Lajčák is High Representative and EU Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

# Riot in Mostar rattles feelings of insecurity

A football match between FC Zrinjski from Mostar and FC Partizan from Belgrade sent the city of Mostar into an upheaval on Thursday, 19 July. The passionate emotions generated as a result of the match caused the fans to begin rioting in the streets.

"It was bad," says Yves Arcana, Deputy Chief Advisor to RO Mostar. "Even before the beginning of the match, supporters from both sides were exchanging insults and throwing stones. After the end of the match, and just before the line of buses carrying Partizan supporters began to leave, 2,000 local supporters gathered in the area of 'Star Velezovo' and began throwing hard items at police officers who were escorting the visitors."

According to EUPM's assessment of the events that took place, there is space for improvement with regard to the planning and implementation of security measures before and during football matches.

However, many of the factors that weakened the security during the match were beyond the control of the local police. "Police officers at the scene were performing their tasks selflessly and professionally, and we didn't notice any untimely responses especially from the very professional assistance of the Support Units from Cantons 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10," continues Arcana.

The local police were poorly equipped to handle the chaos and violence. A shortage of police shields made many of the police officers vulnerable and hindered their ability to provide security and restore order during the riots.

The security agency hired to conduct personal searches of the attendees performed their job poorly and allowed many of the supporters to keep objects that were later used for acts of violence during the match.

The Bjeli Brijeg stadium, the location of the match, has continued to be a weak



## 'Friendly' match in Zepce triggers violence

Three weeks after the incidents in Mostar, as the football season is about to start, a friendly match between FC Zepce and FC Zeljeznicar on 6 August in Zepce led to a series of incidents.

Seven policemen were injured as supporters threw stones at them during and after the match. Later on in the evening, two persons were injured in Kamberovica, on the M-17, when one of the supporters threw an explosive device while driving back from the match.

Five suspects were arrested and handed over to the Zenica-Doboj Canton police for investigations. ■

*By Kim Pasic and Ann Vaessen*



spot in the security plans of events such as this football match and does not meet EU standards of security. Supporters from both sides used the loose concrete from the stadium's flooring as projectile devices. The poor fencing, the location, and the architectural make-up of the stadium are also factors that have left events such as the football match vulnerable to violence.

Though a large amount of resentment between supporters was generated throughout the course of the match, EUPM considers this to be a minor incident compared to other acts of hooliganism during football matches throughout Europe.

"It is hooliganism," says Jari Kinnunen, Operational Advisor to DHoM. "It hap-

pens everywhere, and I would not give the incident too much weight. Nevertheless, the incident took place in Mostar, which gives it a little more significance and raises more concerns than it would if it had happened in another place."

EUPM is currently assessing the incident to draw conclusions and implement proposals that will improve the security of future events and the effectiveness of policing efforts. ■

*By Kim Pasic & Ann Vaessen*





■ Jean-Luc Gobin briefing students from the Graz Summer Academy

## EUPM Senior Officer briefs Summer Academy on Human Security

This year, the European Training and Research Centre for Human Rights and Democracy of Graz, Austria, called upon EUPM to contribute to its Summer Academy on Human Security, which took place from 15 to 25 July and focused on organised crime in the Western Balkan region.

Hence, Jean-Luc Gobin, the Deputy Chief of our Anti-Organised Crime Department flew to Graz on 20 June to talk about EUPM's contribution to the fight against organised crime with a highly qualified group of students and young

professionals from across the European Union and beyond.

"It was a very interesting experience," Gobin said. "I really enjoyed talking to these bright young people, whose profiles and knowledge of the topic were impressive. They will certainly have an important role to play with regard to security issues in the future."

For more information, go to the website of the Training and Research Centre: <http://www.etc-graz.at> ■

## Accountability Campaign

# Senior police officials inaugurate 'Vasa Policija - 122' tram

Senior police officials and spokespersons from across Bosnia and Herzegovina all gathered in Sarajevo on 20 July to inaugurate the 'VASA POLICIJA - 122' tram as part of their joint activities to promote police accountability.

Sead Lisak, Acting Director of SIPA, Vahid Alagic, Deputy Director of Border Police BiH, Zlatko Miletic, Director of the Federal Police, Uros Pena, Director of the RS Police and Brigadier General Coppola, Head of EUPM, as well as all Commissioners and Heads of Public and Security Centres across BiH, took the morning out of their hectic offices for a city tram ride in a relaxed and cheerful atmosphere.

"The presence of the highest police management today shows that they are committed to continue to strengthen their community policing work, and I thank them for taking time to attend this event," said Brigadier General Coppola.

EUPM Spokesperson Monja Koluder was also very happy about the wide attendance of the event: "They are all here; every single one of them feels they are part of the campaign. It's very rewarding for all of us!"

EUPM and the BiH police jointly launched the *Your Security, our Obligation* campaign on 1 March to prompt citizens to cooperate

with the police, namely by sharing information through the free emergency number 122. ■

By Asim Sahinpasic



## Accountability Campaign

# Graffiti to promote police accountability

Who said that graffiti is not popular with the police? The Ministry of Interior of the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton (Canton 7) has even called upon a group of young artists to 'spray out' their creativity on Mostar's walls around the theme of police accountability and the emergency number 122.

"The target group of this exercise was young people," said Lejla Trivun, Spokesperson of the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton police. "This is why we have selected the coffee bars area in Mostar's Centre II."

Guided by a young Mostar artist Slobodan Spuzevic, the group showed how they perceive the campaign's messages.

"Special emphasis was placed on 122 as the unique police number available across BiH," adds Mrs. Trivun.



This is only one amongst a series of the activities organised by the Canton 7 Ministry of Interior in the scope of the accountability campaign, which aims to improve cooperation between police and citizens. ■

By Ann Vaessen



# PPID - our window to the world

The mission's Press and Public Information Department consists of a team of professionals in their own right: journalists, media monitors, web designers, public relations experts, press officers and a policing expert. Each of them fulfills a crucial role in promoting the mission's work to Brussels on the one hand, and the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the other.

The team is in constant contact with the press officers and spokespersons of all BiH law enforcement agencies, providing them with training, guidance and assistance. Public relations, media buying and campaigning is quite a new phenomenon for the police in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and PPID thus plays a vital role in helping their local counterparts reinforce the link between police and citizens.

*"It is very refreshing to see people who have a lot of passion for what they do. It gives me hope that I'll be passionate about my work too."*

This was one of the very first impressions that Kimberly Pasic, our intern, had when she began her work at PPID.

As a newcomer she could still aim towards 'objectivity,' that magical goal to which journalists are always aspiring. And I tend to agree with her. We are all passionate about our work. Otherwise we could not stand the pressure.

Whether you decide to compare it to an ant's hill or a crazy press room, PPID is available 24/7. There is no routine and monotony. PPID's portfolio includes public information, media monitoring and web design. Every day has its share of surprises and unexpected developments, requiring either action or reaction, and all of the members of our team are an essential component in maintaining the stability that is necessary for the PPID office to function.

## Always on the run ...

The mission has three spokespersons, whose main task is to draw the public's and the media's attention to the mission's mandate - monitoring, mentoring and inspecting.

*"We produce tangible results,"* says Vedrana Dimitrijevic, Principal Spokesperson. *"These range from positive, accurate promotional*



■ Ana Lalic and Amna Kurbegovic



■ The PPID team after the successful launch of the VASA POLICIJA-122 tram. From left to right, in front: Ann Vaessen and Kim Pasic; in the back: Asim Sahinpasic, Sladjana Lizdek, Monja Koluder, Nevzad Rasljanin, Amna Kurbegovic, Sanela Osmanovic, Natasa Kuljic and Mark Wise

*articles and news shows about EUPM to promoting the partnership between citizens and the police."*

Our only 'delocalised' staff member and spokesperson, Sladjana Lizdek, who works from the Regional Office in Banja Luka, particularly appreciates the diversity of her work.

*"I cover the northern part of the Republika Srpska, the Una-Sana Canton and the Brcko District,"* she says. *"But there is no difference when it comes to cooperation. We are all great professionals, devoted to their work. This is one of the main characteristics we, spokespersons, have in common."*

Another thing that spokespersons have in common is the adrenaline rush, which occurs when a day's work leads to positive headlines in the media or well-attended and successful media events.

## Boosting public relations within the BiH police

It took a lot of hard work to make our local counterparts appreciate that public relations is crucial to the work of the police and that it goes well beyond releasing a 24-hour news bulletin.

Recent public surveys point to a lack of trust between citizens and police, and it is PPID's top priority to work with their local counterparts to make sure that they bridge this gap.

In order to coordinate the work of all police spokespersons in BiH, PPID set up a Spokespersons Forum, which meets regularly to discuss a number of issues including ongoing and future campaigns. The Forum offers training sessions in the latest PR techniques to make each spokesperson more efficient in their daily

promotion of police work and more able to interact successfully with the public.

Campaigning is one of the fields PPID has familiarised them with. *Not Faster than Life, Krimolovci, Choose Life, not Drugs and Your Security, Our Obligation* are a few examples of such campaigns.

This is Asim Sahinpasic's area of expertise. Together with the department's three Spokespersons, he designs and organises campaigns. Together they form a campaigning think-tank that has facilitated a revolution in the way that local police forces interact with the public.

*"I'm particularly happy to be part of this ongoing development of public relations within BiH's police forces,"* he says.

## Media monitoring unit, the central processor

Natasa Kuljic, Ana Lalic, Selveta Hot and Amna Kurbegovic are the smiling faces behind a familiar product called 'The Daily Media Summary'.

They are in charge of media monitoring, analysing media trends and collating and distributing information relevant to the mission's work.



■ Monja Koluder, Killian Wahl and Mark Wise

For Ana, this job is a dream come true: "I have studied both English and journalism, and this is the best possible combination."

The media monitoring team gets up at 5 a.m. every morning of the week to provide us with a fresh account of the news. They say their work is always hectic because "journalists never rest".

They all give credit to Natasa for the excellent spirit of their unit.

## Web design unit

Last but not least, the web design unit takes care of EUPM's window to the world and the product you are currently reading.

On the day we interviewed her, Ann Vaessen, our web editor/producer was celebrating her first anniversary within our department.

"After a year with PPID I feel very happy," she said, obviously in a celebrative mood. "The start was pretty difficult. When I arrived, the department was in the midst of a large-scale public awareness campaign. They were all very busy and didn't have time to explain anything to me. I put my investigative hat on and immediately got to know a lot of people via the Mission Magazine."

Our web designer, Nevzad Rasljanin, admits he feels a little bit solitary.

"As the only technician in the department, I feel a bit lonely and a bit envious of the rest of



■ Selveta Hot and Sanela Osmanovic

the team who basically speak the same 'language'," he says.

Despite his impressions, Nevzad is a vital link in the chain, and the department could not carry out most of its work without his technical support.

## Police issues

Because he is the only police officer on the team, Mark Wise also has a difficult task to handle: facilitate PPID's ability to strike the balance between two worlds - the strict policing world and the creative world of public relations.

Amongst a pile of other issues, he has been entrusted with the task of improving communications between police, prosecutors and media.

"The aim is to ensure that law enforcement agencies take responsibility in dealing with the press and do not sit back, thinking that someone else will deal with the problem," Mark explains. "A coordinated and proactive approach must be maintained."

"Nerijesen Slucaj", a TV show that facilitates communication between the police and Bosnian citizens to solve crimes, is an ideal opportunity to resort to the media in order to encourage citizens to assist the police with investigations. *Hronika 122*, a supplement to *Start Magazin* sponsored by EUPM, strives towards the same aim.

Kilian Wahl, the Head of PPID, has recognised the value of a functional and cohesive team. Each person is critical to the success of the Department. Consequently, over the last few years he has gathered a creative, multi-talented, and congenial team around him.

Those working with Kilian know that he has a very straightforward policy when it comes to his personnel. However, I could not resist asking if there is anything he has not communicated to us so far.

And, yes, there was something: "I have never said this only because I felt it would have been entirely inappropriate, but I truly love everybody in my department." ■



■ The PPID team at one of its anti-drugs events. From left to right, in front: Vedrana Dimitrijevic, Ann Vaessen, Kilian Wahl; from left to right, in the back: Ognjen Blagojevic, from Federation TV, Aida Alilovic, from TV Pink, Monja Koluder, Asim Sahinbasic, Sladjana Lizdek and Sanela Osmanovic

"We are a very good team, composed of strong personalities with a broad range of capabilities," says Kilian Wahl, the Chief of the Department. "This blends in perfectly and makes a very cheerful, focused and efficient department. More importantly, I think we are all able to learn from each other, including myself."

The pride and effort that PPID puts into the creation and organisation of each project has paid off with many awards - from the satisfied smile of a colleague in the local police whose work has been made easier now that his boss understands the role of public relations, to the joyful laugh of a child wearing a 'Mala policija' T-shirt on their first trip to the coast.

"This department is a mix of the most disciplined and talented people I've ever worked with," says Sanela, Office Manager. "They blend their knowledge and technical skills to create an image of EUPM that is extremely positive and well-received." ■

By Monja Koluder

## Police in BiH

# EUPM to reinforce role of Police Steering Board

At the latest meeting of the Police Steering Board (PSB), on 25 July, Head of Mission Vincenzo Coppola suggested that the decision-making powers of the board be reinforced in the near future.

"The PSB is a compact police body tasked with coordinating and harmonising policing matters throughout BiH," he said. "By granting it a reinforced role, we will further strengthen the local ownership of the PSB."

The PSB gathers the highest police managers in BiH, such as the Heads of SIPA, the Border Police, the Federation Police Administration, the RS Police, the Brcko District police and EUPM. They get together on a regular basis to develop common solutions and make decisions for matters related to policing in BiH.

"To mention only a few examples, the board sets guidelines, strategies and general opera-

tional plans related to assistance in the fight against organised crime, establish measures to strengthen internal and external control, inspec-



■ From left to right: Zlatko Miletic, Director of the Federation Police Administration, Valid Alagic, Deputy Head of the Border Police, Uros Pena, Director of RS Police, Brigadier General Vincenzo Coppola, Head of EUPM and Fahrudin Selimovic, Deputy Chief of the Brcko District

tion and accountability of the BiH police and prepare legal acts to harmonise and improve the existing police legislation and structure," explains Maria Cristina Stepanescu, Head of EUPM's Joint Programme Development and Coordination Department (JPDCD).

To carry out its future responsibilities the PSB's composition is to be strengthened. Two Cantonal Police Commissioners will rotate every six months to make sure that all Cantons are represented within the group.

"We also aim to have regular monthly meetings," Stepanescu reveals.

The Police Steering Board was established in 2003 at the very beginning of EUPM's mandate. In its first phase, the PSB focused on the implementation of certain programmes aiming to modernise the police in BiH. ■

By Vedrana Dimitrijevic

# Living a life without a future?

## Juvenile delinquency is on the increase!

"Once I got a phone call from the operational centre, saying that an 11-year-old boy had been caught with two bags of spices stolen from a shop," says Mico Letic, Head of the Special Purpose Department in Ministry of Interior of the Sarajevo Canton. He immediately went to the station and took the boy into a special interviewing room for minors, equipped with a television set, a radio, toys, juices and chocolates. The young boy started playing with the toys. "Through his imaginary conversation, I realised that his father was making him steal. I slightly pulled up the boy's shirt, and I discovered very dark bruises on his back."

The number of juveniles who break the law is on the increase. The Federation Police Administration presented statistics for the first six months of 2007, saying that out of 955 persons reported for the execution of criminal acts, mostly property-related, 10.4% were juveniles, which is 21.4% more than during the same period last year.

### Neglected children at danger to take wrong road

Psychologists describe juvenile delinquency as a deviation in a young person's behaviour resulting from social non-adjustment. Mico Letic explains that in times of economic challenges, when parents are unable to provide for the family's basic needs, children become tense and often violent. They are left on their own, and this often leads to crime.

"With the lack of care from their parents,

Rane, a Serbian movie (1998), tells the story of two teenagers in the post-war period. Due to a loss of moral values and the economic collapse, the two teens earn a fortune by dealing drugs, robbing banks, and murdering people. They turn into media stars, get very successful with girls, drive cool cars, and become role models for other young people. The movie had a big real-life impact: "The two of them are so cool; they are doing everything that most of us do not have the courage to do," said a teenager from Sarajevo and big fan of the movie. "They have everything they want and have even become TV stars."

In 1998, the movie was seen by 22.000 people, and it was projected four times a day during the first month after its release.

This is alarming enough to start asking how we have changed the perspective of young people so that instead of admiring athletes, artists and scientists, they are admiring successful criminals. ■



they have nobody to talk to about their problems, frustrations, and wishes," he explains. "They are dependant on adults; they have needs, and they are not taken care of."

In BiH in 2004, according to statistics from Save the Children, 2,262 children were neglected during their upbringing and 6,673 children's growth was disturbed due to family circumstances.

In the Sarajevo Canton in 2006, 816 criminal offenses were committed by 322 juveniles. The problem is that more and more juveniles are reported for committing more than one criminal act. For example, one juvenile committed 68 criminal acts, another one 44, and a third one 32.

"I believe that the problem with juvenile delinquents is that once they are caught committing a crime, there is no proper way of dealing with them," Letic explains. "Because of a lack of reaction from responsible authority figures, a poor family life, and social non-acceptance, the minors go back to deviant behaviour."

Dani magazine interviewed one of the youngest offenders in the Zenica prison, nicknamed Bole: "My father drank a lot and was beating up my mother and myself since I was very little."

Bole left the house when he was 12 and started smoking, drinking, and stealing: "The first time I broke into an apartment I was 14. I continued stealing things from houses."

He ended up in jail for the first time when he was 16. After six months he got out and

continued in the same manner, which led to his most recent arrest: "When I get out next time, I'll go to Western Europe because it is better to steal there." He is now 18.

### How to save children who have taken the wrong road

Letic believes that it is crucial to act preventively towards children to help them avoid becoming criminal perpetrators. He also supports proper re-socialisation programmes for the children who commit crimes at an early age.

"The Sarajevo Canton police visited 138 schools last year," he says.

They organised educational and interactive discussions with 13 and 14 year old students and with their parents to highlight the dangerous situations that cause minors to become easy prey for the criminals who would persuade them to commit criminal acts.

"We also try to present the legal and social consequences of such deviant behavior and make teenagers think about better life choices," concludes Letic.

It is equally important to implement proper institutional educational treatment for first time offenders in order to put them back on the right path; however, there is a shortage of such educational institutes in the country. The first institute was opened this year in Vogosca, near Sarajevo.

"We have an expert team of psychologists, sociologists, and medical workers who develop individual programs for the juveniles' re-socialization in accordance with their psycho-social characteristics," says

# A home away from home

Samir Suljagic, the director of the first educational institute for youth who have broken the law.

Suljagic says that this is a one month program that includes several hours of daily treatment in the centre or 20 full days of intensive treatment. This depends on the severity of the crime committed, the juvenile's character, and his emotional and family situation.

"It is important to keep these young people busy," says Suljagic. This includes therapy discussions within the age groups about the young people's fears, challenges, problems, and wishes for the future. They also have a programme of active work that is often tailored towards the individual talents that they can further develop after the treatment ends. "We are simply trying to show them that they can have a future instead of leading a life that has no future."

## Police can be crucial in correcting first-time offenders

What is promising is that other towns such as Banja Luka, Mostar, and Tuzla are now in close contact with the Sarajevo institute to observe the ways in which they could follow this positive example. In the meantime, police should try to be very careful and subtle when dealing with a first-time juvenile offender. It will be crucial for his future. "If police approach a minor who has committed a criminal offence for the first time in an inappropriate way, they will face the danger of turning him into a criminal for the many years to come. These young individuals feel betrayed by their parents and society. We might be the last step between him and the abyss," says Letic. ■

By Vedrana Dimitrijevic



■ "I was so amazed how hospitable the participants in 'the March of Peace' were. They prepared coffee for me and my EUPM colleague Ann, and offered us some refreshment even though they were walking for more than 30 kilometers before we met them. It was such a nice experience."



There is an old Bosnian saying that whoever drinks water in Bascarsija will return to Sarajevo. Apparently this applies to the life story of Kim Pasic, a student from the United States who worked as an intern for EUPM's Press & Public Information Department this summer.

Kim came to Bosnia and Herzegovina for the second year in a row. She felt a 'home-like' atmosphere here; people are open and friendly; and the mountains around Sarajevo reminded her of Denver, her hometown in Colorado. She also enjoys traditional Bosnian spinach pie or 'zeljanica' and 'Sopska' salad. Her family's roots, on her father's side, are in this region. That's why she has such a typical, South-Slavic family name.

"The first time I came to Bosnia, I came on an instinct," Kim recalls.

Back then she was not satisfied with just reading about global issues. A very curious graduate student in international affairs at the University of Denver, she was eager to put theory into practice. 'Project Bosnia', one of Denver University's International Service Learning programmes offered exactly that type of opportunity.

"The programme had caught my attention and stimulated my curiosity from the moment I joined the University," Kim says.

Hence she joined the numerous 'Project Bosnia' participants who often refer to their stay in ex-Yugoslavia as the, "most profound experience of their lives".

Despite her very young age, Kim is already a 'veteran' of the programme. She

taught English to school children at the Vareš Summer School a year ago, while she was still an undergraduate student. She was in 'full immersion', staying with a Bosnian family, and when the time had come to leave the country, she knew that she would be back.

"My experience last year made me love Bosnia, but the time that I was allowed to stay was too short," Kim says: "I felt I needed to learn and explore more."

This time Kim came for many reasons. Interning at EUPM has given her the opportunity to fulfill her internship requirement, but even more importantly, it has given her the opportunity to acquire work experience in the Balkans, the area on which she has decided to focus. While in EUPM, she accompanied the press staff on field trips, learning a lot about press and public information activities from a policing angle.

"Working on EUPM's upcoming campaign against organised crime has given me insight into how organised crime and its various arms can delay and permanently damage the developmental process," she says.

Kim's interest in 'Project Bosnia' reflects her focus on international development and globalisation issues, but she has another secret passion, but she has another secret passion. Kim enjoys writing! She is particularly fond of 18th and 19th century literature, and her life-long dream is to become a fiction writer. She would like to write a novel about the American Civil War. Who knows, maybe we will have the pleasure to introduce a new 'Margaret Mitchell,' the woman who wrote the famous *Gone with the Wind*. However, Kim claims her novel will not be as dramatic as the love story of Scarlet O'Hara and Rhett Butler.

"I have immensely enjoyed working for EUPM," Kim says with regret in her eyes as the end of her internship approaches. "It has allowed me to learn about Bosnia from a different perspective."

Even now, Kim finds her stay in Bosnia and Herzegovina too short, and she is already hoping to come back for her job after graduating in 2008. It seems that miracle of water from Bascarsija still works! ■

By Asim Sahinpasic

## What is Project Bosnia? Info from [www.du.edu/intl](http://www.du.edu/intl)

Project Bosnia is the University of Denver's first and longest running International Service Learning programme. Since the programme's inception in 1996, over one hundred students have served in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia. The Vareš Summer School, initiated in 2001, has proven to be a strong additional Project Bosnia option. It has become the first successful integrated multi-ethnic summer school programme in Bosnia. ■

# Get in the mood for the Sarajevo Film Festival!

*Did you say... Jeremy Irons is in town?*

Do not go on leave from 17 to 25 August because the Sarajevo Film Festival is an absolute *must!* It is undoubtedly the highlight of the year in Sarajevo's cultural life. It is the time to bump into Michael Moore, Terry George or Jeremy Irons - this year's President of the Jury - having 'cevapi' at *Biban* or *Zeljko's*...

The **Competition Programme** will present ten features and nine shorts which will all be running for the **Heart of Sarajevo award**.

All those who are privileged enough to have been invited to the opening night of the festival have probably already chosen what they are going to wear. It is the most glamorous night of the year. This year, Brazilian Director Karim Ainouz's film *Suely in the Sky*, best film at the Havana film festival, is the **opening night film**.

If you are not that much into glam - or you were not fast or cunning enough to get tickets to the opening night - there are

still plenty of opportunities to enjoy the festival to the full. Thanks to the **Heineken Open Air programme**, you can discover the best of auteur cinema under the stars. What's more is that producers, directors and actors will most probably be there to present their own films. Michael Moore, for instance, will be there to present his latest movie *Sicko*.

Are you really into the latest independent auteur films - from the latest little Tajik documentary to that controversial short movie by a funky Swedish author you have never heard of? Then you should not miss the festival's **Midnight Meetings!** It will be the screen the most original documentaries and features which will maybe never be shown anywhere else, since their new film language and provocative topics are not that likely to be appreciated by film distributors.

If your children visit you this summer, the festival also has plenty in store for them with its **Children's and Teens' programmes**. You can even take everybody to the festival's **Orbico Family Day**, an



all-day extravaganza, which the Sarajevo Film Festival and the Novo Sarajevo Municipality launches last year and which aims to promote family values and get the citizens of Sarajevo to interact with each other in an open-air venue, the Wilson's walkway.

Convinced? Make sure you get tickets and you keep your camera in your pocket as you walk through Sarajevo in August, as this year's guests include **Steve Buscemi, Juliette Binoche, Alexander Payne, Sam Riley** and **Danis Tanovic**, to mention only a few... ■

*By Ann Vaessen*

## How do I get tickets?

Ticket sales open on **Sunday, 12 August** at 11 a.m. at the Main Box Office, at the **Bosanski Kulturni Centar**, Branilaca Sarajeva 24 (Phone: +387 (0)63 108 801). Booked tickets may be collected no later than 12 a.m. one day prior to the screening for which the tickets were booked.

If you are an Eronet user, you can also book tickets by sending a text message, mentioning the code of the screening and the number of tickets you want, to the following number: 063 888 05. However, you may only book two tickets at a time. Good luck!

For more information, go to the festival's website: [www.sff.ba](http://www.sff.ba) ■



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