1. **ORGANIZED FESTIVAL AND WORKSHOPS**

DIS THEATER Banja Luka, City Youth Theater Vitez, Stage Novi Grad, Youth Resource Center Tuzla (ORC) and Eco art Bugojno, during September, project activities duringOctober and November 2020.

T R A N S F O R M Theater for Reconciliation and Stability Formation program

Program of Residential Art (Theater) Workshops Methodology: Innovative Creative Drama Techniques for Sharing Positive Intercultural Learning Experiences Affirming Tolerance, Understanding, and Reconciliation.

Age and locations of participants: 15 - 25 years

The participation of young actors (activists) coming from: Bihać, Drvar, Ljubinje, Trebinje, Travnik, Novi Travnik, Prijedor, Vitez, Mostar, Uskoplje, Bugojno, Tuzla, Novi Grad (Bosanski Novi), Zavidović, Brčko, Kostajnica and Banja Luka is also planned.

The expectations in this project were:

Joint design, planning and implementation of art camps for civic education and theater training for youth theater leaders from B&H

Explore creative processes that explore multicultural experiences, which can be applied as future peer training for members of youth theater groups in their future work

Facilitate mobility, communication and exchange of young artists / creators / activists /

Designing and performing a joint play (platform) called "Wide Open Eyes"

Continuous communication of associates, group leaders, experts and participants to provide collaborative and partnership planning and coordination of all programs. Activities:

ALF Head of Network used an opportunity to held a session with the presentation of ALF, its aims, goals, an activities. As a result, three new organizations (from Bujno, Busovača and Vitez applied to be a members of the ALF BiH

The goals of the project are envisaged for the organization of four art camps in Kostajnica / Novi Grad, Bugojno, Vitez and Banja Luka. We organized a total of 14 days of art workshops (three preparatory and one final) (approx.: 160 people from 16 cities): 1. in Novi Grad (Bosanski Novi) / Bos. Kostajnica, (32 persons) / 3 days / 2. in Bugojno, (32 persons) / 3 days / 3. in Vitez (32 persons) / 3 days / The fourth camp will be held in Banja Luka - FINAL (80 persons from 16 cities who passed the preparatory workshops) During the last camp we performed a joint presentation of the work (play) based on the experiences developed in their environment.

1. **Premiere of the documentary "Efendijin zavjet" ("Efendi's Vow")**

The premiere of the documentary film "Efendijin zavjet" was held on Wednesday, December 15, 2020, in the premises of the National Theater in Tuzla. The script and direction are signed by Ljubiša Veljković, the director of photography and executive producer is Mirza Efendić, the music was composed by Elvis Sivčević, and Edis Žilić appears in the role of Meša Selimović.

The film is the work of the " Youth Resource Center Tuzla (ORC Tuzla) and CAT Bosnia and Herzegovina", and a large number of historians, Christian and Islamic religious officials, as well as descendants of Effendi Kurt, participated in its realization. One of the experts who made a significant contribution to the realization of this documentary is the historian Dejan Ristic.

The name of Tuzla's Mufti Kurt is inscribed in golden letters in the history of this area and is a synonym for sacrifice and it laid the foundation of coexistence we aspire to.

There are few people in the tragic and bloody history of the former Yugoslavia and present-day Bosnia and Herzegovina who deserve to have their name remembered and mentioned, such as the name of Muhamed Šefket ef. Kurt, who with his selfless efforts on Christmas Day 1942 saved a large number of Tuzla Serbs from the planned Ustasha massacre.

Efendija Kurt was born in 1879 in Travnik, where he finished elementary school. He studied in Istanbul and Damascus, and upon his return to BiH, he worked at the Travnik Madrasa and was the imam of the Hadži Alaj-beg mosque. In 1914, he became the mufti of Banja Luka, and from Banja Luka he was ex officio transferred to Tuzla in 1925, where he was the mufti until 1933, and three years later he retired.

As the Mufti of Tuzla, he participated in all social events and founded the first Muslim charity, Džejletu-l-hajr. He helped with the education of children. He is remembered for the saying: We are European Muslims and we can only survive in Europe if we study and educate orselves. He died in Tuzla in 1963.

**Mufti who prevented the massacre of Serbs**

It was the beginning of 1942, when the Ustasha authorities in Tuzla devised a hellish plan. The idea was to blow up the local Orthodox Cathedral Uspenja Presvete Bogorodice in Tuzla on January 6, on Christmas Eve, and kill the gathered believers.

A punitive expedition through the Serbian town was to follow, in order to liquidate the remaining Tuzla Serbs, who did not find themselves in the church at the time of the worship service being blown up.

But their plan was thwarted by Mufti Kurt.

The retired Mufti, the city's highest religious leader, Muhammad Šefket Effendi Kurt, then already at the age of 63, learned about the plan. He immediately went to the German commander of the place and conveyed to him the request of prominent Tuzla Muslims to prevent the massacre, threatening that the whole city would otherwise retreat into the woods, wich ment joining the Partisan army.

The German command assessed the situation and concluded that it was in its interest to stop the Ustashas. Posters were displayed in the city warning that "no one should abuse, confiscate or destroy other people's property and touch the people who celebrate."

Mufti Kurt was probably aware that the Germans were guided by their own interest in making such a provision. That is why, in an effort to strengthen their demarche, he went to Zagreb, asking the Ustasha Minister of the Interior and Pavelić's right hand man, Andrija Artuković, not to touch the peaceful Serb population.

Šefket Effendi Kurt and Haži Hasanaga Pašić, the pre-war mayor of Tuzla, demanded that the Ustashas leave the Serbs in Tuzla alone. It was noted that the conversation was very unpleasant, full of mutual accusations, and that Artuković rehearsed the gun and threatened the Tuzla dignitaries.

However, they remained steadfast in their demands, and their argument was the same as in the conversation with the Germans - they will all pass to the partisans if their demands are not heeded.

His merits were pointed out by historian Dejan Ristić, who reminded on social media that the mufti, learning about the Ustasha plan, with a group of prominent Tuzla citizens asked for an urgent reception from the German commander Hohbajer and his deputy, Lieutenant Colonel Vista, from whom he asked to prevent the crime. , writes Politika.

"Thanks to the engagement of Mufti Kurt, there were no mass crimes in Tuzla. That is why the Yugoslav authorities awarded him the Order of Brotherhood and Unity of the First Order after 1945, even though he was a religious official from a rich family and, therefore, a "natural enemy of the proletariat", explains Dejan Ristić.

When Mufti Šefket ef. Kurt died in 1963 at the age of 84, Father Đorđe Jovanović gave a speech at his funeral, which was attended by more than 10,000 people. According to the website, on that occasion, the "intimate and unusual request of Father Jovanović that he be the one who will go down to Effendi's grave before him, meet the coffin with Effendi's body and lay him in the grave (grave)" was answered.

Meša Selimović also wrote about that event, describing Mufti Kurt as a "dynamic, noble, fearless man" who pledged his "great reputation to save people from the Ustasha prison". The famous writer also stated that at the funeral of the effendy, among the numerous gathered, there were "mostly Serbs – villagers from the vicinity of Tuzla".

Unfortunately, today the name of the noble Šefket-effendi is mentioned very rarely, and his role in saving the Serbian population of Tuzla is of paramount importance.

You may see trailer of the movie here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fxMkIfhbGNAe1sZ2IBd9OEpGm3a9CsWg/view?fbclid=IwAR1gU7s7dXkDu2qezHsv02nOnj4BNo3TZfi_N1QSugnflV1co9L-JOrWs7g>

