

## Balkan Museums without Barriers - The Projects

CHWB has been working in the Western Balkans developing access and inclusion for disabled people since November 2007. The work has been funded by the Stavros Niarchos Foundation and has included a range of activities and interventions.

One strand of the work has been to support and fund institutions to develop, implement and evaluate projects aimed at increasing the engagement of deaf and disabled people with cultural institutions in the region, and improving access and inclusion in the cultural heritage of the region.

Many of these projects are represented at the conference and here is a full list.

### Albania

#### **1. Art Gallery of Fier**

Our Museum, Our Cultural Heritage

Contact: Saimir Ahmeti

Producing audio-visual and written guides and establish a network of young “cultural heritage safeguards”, an integrated group of disabled and non-disabled young people; training them as facilitators in the museum. To build the museum’s online presence.

#### **2. Historic Museum, Shkodra**

Access to a historical building

Contact: Fatmir Juka

To improve physical access to ancient parts of the museum by overlaying a pavement above the uneven stone floor. Disabled and elderly visitors can now visit the Archaeological Hall in the museum, which has previously been difficult because of the rough stone floor. This means they can experience the building itself, as well as the exhibits that are on display there.

#### **3. National Historical Museum of Albania, Tirana**

Museum in a suitcase

Contact: Etleva Demollari

To teach blind and partially sighted children about their heritage, the museum designed a Museum in a Suitcase project focusing on Albanian epic songs of the frontier warriors. Objects in the suitcase were labeled in Braille and there were also tactile images.

## Bosnia Herzegovina

### **4. Bosniac Institute – Adil Zulfikarpašić Foundation, Sarajevo**

Our Heritage: Hear and Learn

Contact: Amina Rizvanbegović Džuvic

To address need to accommodate the needs of blind and partially alighted people at the Intitute. Working with a local NGO, the University of Sarajevo and working with a consultant from the Library for blind and visually impaired people. To create audio descriptions of selected objects and narratives. to

### **5. History Museum of BiH, Sarajevo**

Touch the History

Contact: Amar Karapuš

A project to improve access and inclusion for blind and partially sighted people, including installing interpretation panels, creating a permanent tactile area, creating an easy-read version of the website and starting an 80% reduction in entrance fees for disabled people.

### **6. National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo**

Museum in a Suitcase

Contact: Samir Avdić

To develop an outreach programme based on working with objects and interpretation which can fit within a suitcase so that it can be taken out to people in their own spaces.

### **7. National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sarajevo**

Audio Tour

Contact: Tatjana Mijatović

To install bar codes near key objects with technology that triggers audio guides when the code is scanned. The project was designed to improve access for blind and partially sighted people and to enable them to visit the museum independently.

### **8. Museum of Tešanj**

Inclusion of disabled women in the culture through traditional house craft

Contact: Mensura Mujkanović

To create a supportive environment for disabled women to receive practical training in wood and textile hand crafts. To work with other agencies to develop cooperation between sectors and an innovative model of social inclusion and empowerment for disabled women in Tešanj.

### **9. Museum of Tešanj**

Children in Culture

Contact: Mensura Mujkanović

To empower and integrate families with disabled children into local communities through craft workshops.

### **10. Zenica City Museum**

Tactile replicas

Contact: Lejla Mahmić

Staff at the Museum commissioned an artist to create replicas of some key artefacts from the collections. These have been designed to be as similar as possible to the original objects, not just in how they look, but also in how they feel to the touch. These replicas have attracted more blind people to the museum and have also proved popular with other visitors. The museum learned a great deal during the process and are even better placed to create more tactile replicas in the future.

### **11. Museum of Republika Srpska, Banja Luka**

We Can Do It!

Contact: Natasa Olenjuk

The Museum has an ongoing programme of workshops for disabled children, including jewellery-making, painting and performance. The CHwB programme allowed them to buy a potter's wheel and to make a room accessible so that children could also make their own pottery. The Museum held an exhibition of the children's work and their programme for disabled children has been featured on local television

## **Kosovo**

### **12. Gjakove Museum**

Cultural heritage through touching and feeling

No current contact

This small museum created Braille labels and worked with local organisations of blind and partially sighted people to choose objects from their collection that could be explored through touch.

With very few resources, this museum achieved a great deal, organising an exhibition that allowed blind and partially sighted people to access part of their cultural heritage.

### **13. Museum of Mitrovica**

Mitrovica j t'ima

Contact: Nora Prekazi

To create a new space with a digital approach to telling the story of Mitrovica, with a DVD and raising awareness of cultural and ethnic diversity.

### **14. Museum of Peja**

Close to the Cultural Heritage

Contact: Sefer Lajqi

To present the cultural heritage and artefacts of the museum more effectively for disabled people. To organise drawing activities and present the activities at Handikos, a local centre for disabled people. Project is aimed at creating a sense of unity between disabled and non-disabled people. The project ends with an exhibition of the disabled participants' work.

### ***15. Museum of Kosovo, Prishtina***

Museum on Wheels

Contact: Alisa Gojani

Museum staff commissioned mobile units which provide a multi-sensory experience of museum artefacts and interpretation with headsets and tactile images. The units are taken out of the museum in order to reach out to people who would not be able to visit the museum.

## **FYROM**

### ***16. National Institute for Protection of Monuments of Culture and Museum, Ohrid***

Return to Memories of the Old Ohrid Fishing Boat

Contact: Goran Patchev

Restoring the old Ohrid fishing boat and present a multi-media exhibition with promotional materials, souvenirs and models.

### ***17. National Institute for Protection of Monuments of Culture and Museum, Ohrid***

Touch the Culture, Feel the Art

Contact: Goran Patchev

To adapt the museum's collection in the Gallery of Icons for blind and partially sighted people. They received training in producing tactile maps and worked closely with the Union of the Blind in Ohrid to select objects for audio guides and create maps, posters and interpretation panels.

### ***18. National Museum of Macedonia, Skopje***

Practical adaptations

Contact Violeta Gjorgjeska

The museum installed an adapted toilet for disabled people, to make their visit to the museum more comfortable.

### ***19. National Museum of Macedonia, Skopje***

Music Includes and Unites Everyone

Contact: Violeta Gjorgjeska

To arrange visits by disabled people to the museum and to find ways of supporting them to engage with the permanent museum display of ethnology. The visits would centre around traditional musical

instruments. Because the gallery is on the first floor, this project has also involved work on a platform lift.

## Serbia

### ***20. Museum of Yugoslav History, Belgrade***

Bikeculture - pedaling through the history of New Belgrade

Contact: Marija Djorgovic

A cycle route through some of new Belgrade's architectural highlights and monuments is also, unintentionally, a way of making the city's heritage to many disabled people.

### ***21. National Museum of Serbia, Belgrade***

Models of medieval monasteries

Contact Ivan Kručićan

Museum staff commissioned an artist to produce models of six of Serbia's most important mediaeval buildings, to be located in the Museum's Gallery of Frescoes. They have Braille labels and are used as the focus for tours and activities in the Gallery.

Blind and partially sighted people were involved in the process of designing and making the models to make sure they were appropriate and useful. Once the project started, it developed and grew so that an entire tactile tour was created, which includes sounds and smells.

### ***22. City Museum of Novi Sad***

Bringing people and the museum together

Contact: Danica Ivančević

As well as developing a Museum in a Suitcase project, the museum at Novi Sad worked on making their collections accessible and interesting for blind and partially sighted people.

### ***23. City Museum of Novi Sad***

Practical adaptations

Contact Atila Hornok

Portable ramps mean that wheelchair users can access the City Museum of Novi Sad for the first time. And a touch screen means that people who are not able to get to the whole museum can still experience some of the objects on those parts of the museum that are inaccessible to them.

### ***24. Gallery of Matica Srpska, Novi Sad***

Art and Inclusion - Inclusive Art Workshops

Contact: Snežana Mišić

To establish a safe and creative space in the Gallery for learning disabled people to be able to respond creatively to each other and to the artistic resources. To facilitate mixed groups of disabled and non-

disabled people to work together, exploring art and experiencing quality leisure time.

### **25. Museum of Smederevo**

Virtual walk through Smederevo Fortress

Contact: Miroslav Lazić

The fortress of Sarajevo is challenging to access physically so the museum thought of developing a virtual walk through the fortress. 3d photographs and 360 degree panoramic views to be accessed via the internet to provide views from 30 different points in the fortress.

### **26. National Museum, Zrenjanin**

Paint, present – Be a part of the community

Contact: Biljana Elekovic

To present informative and educational workshops run by professionals for disabled people. To deliver painting workshops to encourage people to respond to the work in the museum.

### **27. National Museum, Zrenjanin**

Audio and video guide through permanent exhibition of the museum

Contact: Sanja Vrzić

To include blind, partially sighted, deaf and hard of hearing people in museum activities, by improving interpretation of permanent exhibitions.