

**Most Mira / Bridge of Peace**  
**International Youth Festival**  
**16<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> May 2011**  
**Kevljani and Petrov Gaj**  
**Prijedor Municipality**

Registered Charity in England and Wales, Registration Number: 1120122  
Registered in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Registration Number: 11062326

Website: <http://mostmiraproject.org/>

## **Press Release 2011**

Most Mira's third youth arts festival takes place from 16<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> May. 450 pupils from six primary schools and youth groups in the Prijedor municipality will take part in a week-long series of creative arts workshops, as part of the 2011 Most Mira (Bridge of Peace) International Youth Festival. The pupils will spend the week with more than 90 young volunteers from all over the world, learning new skills and making new friends.

The municipality of Prijedor, including the surrounding villages, is still affected by the damage caused by the 1992-1995 war in Bosnia. As a result of the subsequent divisions, the post-war generations, especially in rural Prijedor, are growing up in segregated communities that do not provide them with sufficient opportunities to learn and play together.

The Festival workshops will start on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2011, and the Festival will conclude with a joint final performance in front of parents, teachers, friends and other local residents on Festival Day, 21<sup>st</sup> May 2011.

The International Youth Festival is organised by a group of committed and enthusiastic people in the UK, who comprise the core volunteers of the charity Most Mira (Bridge of Peace). This year, the young volunteers who are responsible for running the workshops are travelling from the UK, USA, France, Finland, Romania, Italy, Netherlands, Canada, Australia and Spain, as well as from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia and Serbia. The International Youth Festival is the culmination of many months of work which goes on throughout the year to raise funds, recruit and train young volunteers from around the world and plan activities with schools. The climax —a week packed with workshops in a field half-way between the villages of Kevljani and Petrov Gaj—will provide children of Hambarine, Kevljani, Kozarac, Ljubija, Petrov Gaj, Prijedor, Trnopolje and Omarska with exciting, new and fun experiences in drama, dance, art, music, circus skills and media workshops, create and renew friendships and build confidence.

This year, the young volunteers who are responsible for running the workshops are travelling from the UK, USA, France, Finland, Romania, Italy, Netherlands, Canada, Australia and Spain, as well as from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia and Serbia.

The Trustees of Most Mira are delighted that the number of participating schools and children is increasing every year, as is the number of volunteers and funders who support this exciting and innovative approach to reconciliation through arts and participation.

Volunteers are at the heart of this international project and their contribution is enormous. This year, in addition to delivering workshops for children, many of them organised fundraising events, ran marathons and undertook other endurance challenges to raise funds around the world in order to bring the Festival to Prijedor Municipality.

Further information about Most Mira, the fundraising events which are taking place in 2011, as well as the videos, photos and evaluation reports from the 2009 and 2010 Festivals, can be found on the Most Mira website: <http://mostmiraproject.org/>

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**Note to Editors:**

*Participating schools and Youth Groups :*

Omladinski Centar Hambarine  
Omladinski Centar Ljubija  
Osnovna Skola 'Branko Copic, Prijedor  
Osnovna Skola 'Cirilo i Metodije', Trnopolje  
Osnovna Skola Kozarac, Kozarac  
Osnovna Skola 'Vuk Karadzic', Omarska

*Festival Delivery Partners:*

Serious Road Trip from Romania, Demokratija-Organizovanje-Napredak – DON from Prijedor, Partnerski Omladinski Pokret - POP from Banja Luka; Positive Play based in Sarajevo and Scouts from Prijedor.

*2011 International Youth Festival is grateful for funding from:*

Sir Halley Stewart Trust in the UK, The British Council (Youth in Action EU funding), ArcelorMittal Foundation, Spencer Hart Charitable Trust, SDL Foundation, Canada Individual Donors