

Annual report

This year:

Volunteers: Dan, Adnan

Staff: Ellie, Gordana, Mirela

Projects: English, Computers, Table tennis, Dance, arts and crafts, Music, Ritam Brckog, Children's Day, Summer Camps

Events: At the beginning of September Firefly's centre was robbed, and all equipment and furniture, except the copy machine; the police weren't able to recover anything. Supporters and former volunteers in the UK helped to raise funds for two second hand laptops, a printer and a fax machine, but until these arrived at the end of the month, many activities had to be cancelled. We were robbed again in January 2006 and closed the office for a month until we found new and more secure premises. Ellie ill, Proni Festival June 2005. The brother of Nikolina, who was running the older groups' dance workshops, died, aged 20. We all offer our condolences and support to Nikolina.

We welcomed some new volunteers; Dan Gorman, who arrived in April for a year and took over the music workshops and Ritam Brckog ('Rhythm of Brcko') group from Hannah and Chris, as well as teaching English and helping with fundraising, and Adnan Peckovic, a Proni student who worked with Firefly for 6 weeks as a placement for his Proni youth work diploma. Adnan helped Dan with music workshops, ran guitar workshops, organised training sessions for the summer camp youth volunteers, and helped with organising Children's Day. We were also joined by Dawn Jackson, Heidi Pedersen and James Connell on the Summer Camp. Sanja Manojlovic volunteered for Firefly to carry out some research into attitudes to youth work in Brcko District; she also asked Firefly to act as her sending organisation for an EVS placement in the Netherlands. In March 2006 Denis Vlasisavljevic and Slobodan Djuric, two new youth volunteers, started running Spanish language and cultural classes.

Youth participants organised a 'board of young creators', meeting every second Wednesday, and organising some activities with children as well as parties to celebrate members' birthdays.

On-going projects included:

English lessons; the adult beginners' group all passed their final tests in May, and received their certificates. New groups started in September.

Arts and Crafts; Forest, Edinburgh, gave £50 towards this project.

Ritam Brckog; this project grew substantially, thanks largely to Adnan helping with workshops and using his contacts in youth work to publicise it. The band performed at Proni's festival in June. A hand-over to local coordination is in progress at the moment.

Computer classes – Mirela worked with four young people throughout the year to help build their computer skills and knowledge.

Table Tennis – Boki organised these every Sunday at the youth centre, until November when all sports activities were moved to the school; Svitac and PRONI organised a table tennis tournament in September.

Dance: Girls from younger dance group prepared an act for Children's day. They worked on some new choreography, and also prepared a short play for Children's day.

One-off projects included the summer camps and children's day. Preparations for Children's Day began in May; individual donors in Ireland gave 500 Euros for the project. Dan met a travelling circus in Belgrade who will come and take part in this event. It took place on 5th June in the Youth Centre (it was raining all day). Activities included running in sacks, whipped cream pie eating, tombola, dancing, and drama and poetry performances. At the end of each competition, participants were given prizes. Spectators and participants were also each given a tombola number, so at the end there was present for each person. 'Kuca Prijateljstva' from Brodusa joined this event with the youngest dance group.

The New Year Festival was held on 23rd of December in the Youth Centre. Activities included bingo and performances by members, and organised by Mirela.

Visiting projects:

Mikel Krumins, Miroslav Mitrovic and Aaron McCloskey to lead Children's day workshops in drawing and graffiti.

Outreach projects:

In June, Dan took part in a number of performances, «**Sismis u Svemiru**», in Tuzla, Gradacac, Belgrade and Brcko District with Mikel Krumins, Miroslav Mitrovic and Aaron McCloskey. These included experimental theatre, music and projections and aimed to create dialogue about culture and identity, as part of an ongoing collaboration between Svitac, Firefly International and the Forest. The tour also resulted in a number of collaborative projects.

Training and Seminars

Mirela:

OSCE Brcko, 6 module project aiming to achieve better cooperation between local authorities and NGOs and make stronger democratic institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Representatives from 33 municipalities from BiH. After they all finish, in each municipality citizens and government will start a joint project, organising round tables, interactive workshops or other similar activities, funded small donation (400KM) for realisation one project. Takes place in Modrac, near Tuzla.

Mirela participated training organised by UNDP as a part of project called «**SUTRA**» (Tomorrow). This training was realised by Association trainer's network in BIH. This training covers main aspects of project management cycles, the main financial management, self-sustainable activities, capacity building and organisational structure. This training will have 6 modules and it will take place in Brcko hotel «Jelena».

Collaborations:

Proni is organising FOR-a festival in mid June and that they are inviting SVITAC to presents some of their activities. Mirela talked to older dance group and they said that they will think about it because they are not sure if they are ready or not. Ritam Brckog performed at the Proni festival

Following the OSCE training, Mirela attended meetings with the OSCE team in Brcko about the project they'd organise together. They decided to make an information pamphlet about the youth organisation in Brcko district. This was finished in November, and they presented the leaflet in Brcko Youth Centre. They also talked about youth issues and about cooperation between NGOs and government.

Svitac, SOZ, Vermont, SOS, SSEF met with Republic of Srpska youth council to decide the procedure for finding person who will represent Brcko district in the state youth council. Any young person between 16 and 30 years old in Brcko district can apply for this position. To ensure that it's someone involved in youth activities and aware of youth problems in the area, it was agreed that people from youth organisations would select the Brcko youth representative.

In September, Mirela attended meetings with the department for support of NGOs and local communities, about the youth centre, and about establishing a working group to work on youth law. Mayor Đapo has started an initiative for establishing an umbrella organisation to be responsible for the centre, to take care of the café, and to be the main connection between other youth organisations and government. However, only four or five organisations were present and as the Mayor said that the council should consist of all the youth organisations that are registered in Brcko district (there are 13, of which only 4 are active), the project was put on hold; the same thing happened at the next meeting in October.

- **At the end of January Svitac has changed the office and there wasn't enough space for English classes in the new office. Gordana and Mirela had meeting with Sejo Usanovic from Youth Centre and he has suggested Svitac to use centre's space for these classes. He has also asked them not to talk around that Svitac charges these courses since all workshops in the centre must be free (even 'Sebastijan' is charging their dance classes from the beginning). The next problem was schedule for Gordana's English classes. In the old office, Gordana used to have classes from Monday to Thursday and Sejo has tried to make the same timetable for her in the centre. After some time it becomes clear that this won't be possible because he couldn't offer her workshop 1 (where they have tables and chairs) for all the classes. Gordana needed tables and chairs for English classes, so she had to make some changes with her timetable. She has organised meetings with parents and explained them the situation and in the same time she has offered them two days (Tuesday from 9.00a.m. to 11.00a.m. and from 2.00p.m. to 5.00p.m. and Thursday from 9.00a.m. to 11.00a.m. and from 2.00p.m. to 5.30p.m.) for English classes. Some parents could accept these new terms and some couldn't. The main reason was that they couldn't provide lift for the children in the morning because of the work. In the same time children couldn't attend classes in the afternoon because of the school. This caused the new problem for Gordana. She had to made compromise and as a result of that all students were mixed. Now she has students from different groups attending classes in the same time. This makes her work harder; she needs a lot of energy to keep everybody occupied all the time as well as to explain each student what is necessary. Also, all material for the classes she has to prepare at home since she hasn't got time for that during the class. The copy**

machine was stolen from the Svitac's office, so Gordana had to pay copying for English material. Sometimes she can use Proni's copy machine but not all the time; so buying a new copy machine is the main priority for Svitac at the moment. But using the youth centre, even with all these problems, is better than using the old office space. It is a new, big and warm space. And even with all these compromises that Gordana did some students stopped with English classes. There were couple new students but at the end of month the number of students was smaller than in December.

- Svitac has received information about some possible grants and in cooperation with Sanja Manojlovic and Catovic Amela has written application for the project about Human Rights and has sent it to ACT Project (Assisting Communities Together), which was established by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Sanja and Amela are planning to organise several round tables for young people with Svitac's help.
- Swiss Embassy contacted Svitac about 2000CHF that they gave Svitac last year in July. They wanted to now will Svitac organise the festival in June because this money should be spend by the end of June. Gordana explained Svitac's current situation and that they won't be able to organise the festival this year and asked is it possible to use that money for some other project. They said Svitac should write the official letter with explanation, asking permission to use 2000CHF for something else. The new project should be included in this mail. Gordana, Mirela and Amela have written proposal with some ideas and sent it to Swiss Embassy at the end of February. They should decide about it till the end of March.
- Denis Vlasisavljevic and Slobodan Djuric are planning to start with Spanish workshops for children from primary schools. Svitac has given them some materials they need for these workshops and the key from the Svitac's bookcase in the centre. Denis seems very interested to run these workshops and can't wait to start. The workshops will take place on Saturdays in the youth centre. They are planning to start workshops on 4th March 2006.
- Gordana has finished most of the administration work connected with moving office. All bills (except water bill and possible tax) for the old office space are paid. The previous landlady will call when these bills arrive. The next thing is changing office address in the court register and this can't be finished until a new office's landlord come from German. In mean time Svitac is going to provide money (with Firefly International help) to cover these costs.
- Mirela finished computer classes with Alma. Now she is waiting someone else to start with it. Many people call but unfortunately no one started with it.

- Mirela had one meeting with Nick from OSCE Brcko where they did evaluation of the project they did last summer on Modrac.
- Mirela was present on the meeting that was organized by OSCE Brcko where they invited all youth organisations from Brcko district. Only 6 organisations came (SVITAC, VERMONT, PRONI, Asocijacija Mladih Brcko distrikta, KULT and Savez Izvidjaca – Scouts) out of 14 legal youth organisations. Topic was Low about Youth and Youth organisations. Nick said that he spoke with Suad Buric (chief of sub department – support for NGOs) that OSCE and OHR wants to hear more about that low and that they would like to hear more from youth. Meeting is scheduled for the beginning of March. Also, OSCE wants to do project about NGO sector. Many people in Brcko after 10 years don't know what it is and most of them think that NGO sector is something which is against Government. OSCE called present youth organisations for cooperation. They will think more about the project and then tell us what our part of the job is.
- Mirela had a meeting with Damir from Vermont and they wrote a project about forming Youth Council. Youth Council is a part of Low about Youth and Youth organisations and it says that 2/3 of youth organisations should be part of it. This is at the beginning so next month is time when most things should happen. Damir arranged meeting with Minister of department – support for NGOs for the next month where Mirela and Damir will explain him whole thing.

March

- English classes continued during March without bigger problems. Gordana has found difficult to work with several levels of English knowledge in the same time but since she hasn't had better option she had to adapt. However, good thing is that Svitac doesn't have to pay extra money for renting. Work with groups continued as usual. Gordana did a lot of reading, writing, conversation and grammar exercises. Couple parents asked information about English course since they are planning to enrol their children in September. At the beginning it was unusual for both, Gordana and students, to have classes in the youth centre but till the end of month they used to it. Since copy machine was stolen, Gordana has to pay for English material copying all the time now and it costs money. It is hoped that Svitac will be able to get a new copy machine very soon. Sejo Usanovic was very helpful and has helped Gordana with everything. The only bad thing was that government has fired all cleaning ladies in the centre, so most of the time centre is very dirty. Cleaning ladies from the government building sometimes clean the centre but that is definitely not enough. It seems that this problem won't be solved in near future.
- Gordana and Ellie continued work on different application. Ellie has sent 8 applications to different donors and together with Gordana she has finished application for Norwegian Embassy. They will continue work on

application for Netherlands Embassy during March. Dinko Ristic from UNDP has offered Svitac to work together on the application form for Centre Civil Initiative (CCI). He has suggested project connected with elections in Bosnia. During this project Svitac is planning to organise round tables, seminars, trainings and publish different brochures to animate young people to go on elections and vote. Daniela Damjanac offered to write project proposal, since she has experience in this kind of project. The good thing is that CCI is giving a lot of money to cover running costs but in the same time they have asked a lot of other documents. Svitac doesn't have these entire documents but they will try to prepare everything and it is hoped this project should be send in the first part of April. Canadian Embassy and Swiss Embassy haven't sent any information about projects that were sending earlier to them.

- Mirela and Ellie are constantly in contact about summer camps. They decided that camps will held in Savudria again from 08th July to 16th July. Mirela wrote a project proposal to Government where she asked money for travel costs, material, insurance and coordinator's wages. Ellie said that they found money for 22 kids and 5 volunteers only, but still, it is better then nothing. Ellie spoke with Dawn (girl who was international volunteer last year) and she said she is interested to go again this year.
- From 22nd to 26th February the seminar for peer educators 'Promotion Bosnian and Herzegovina's journey to Europe' was held in hotel 'Palas' Sarajevo. Themes on this seminar were: European Union, values, history, political system etc. The aim of this project is promotion Bosnian and Herzegovina's journey to Europe, creation data base of educated young people about EU integration process, creation youth activists network and promotion of European values and its integration through dialogue with authorities, young people from Bosnia and Herzegovina and Bosnian public in general. The seminar was organised by youth organisation 'Luna', Rudo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. 28 young people from almost all part of Bosnia has participated this seminar. The participants were from Bratunac, Doboje, Bijeljina, Tuzla, Banja Luka, Nevesinje, Trebinje, Zenica, Banovici, Zvornik, Grahovo, Brcko district etc. Sanja Manojlovic from Brcko district has participated this seminar in the name of Omladinska organizacija Svitac. The trainers were Danijel Dragicevic and Borislav Karanovic and there were also representatives of Direction for European Integration Bosnia and Herzegovina, Emir Hadzikadunic and Ahmed Turkic. During lectures the participants has learnt how to run workshops but there were lectures about European Union as well. In the evening there were organised parties which all participants attended. The second seminar, which will continue this process, is going to be held in Vogosca from 30th March to 3rd April 2006.
- Sanja Manojlovic and Catovic Amela are planning to start with 'Children's Rights Workshops' at the beginning of April. Objectives of the workshops are: to introduce children with their rights and how they can protect them, to use their creativity to explore and learn about children's rights and to make picture-book as final result of these

workshops. Their workshops will include children different nationality and both gender. They will take place in the youth centre in Brcko district. Through 12 workshops during three months (April-May-June) children will have opportunity to learn about their rights in creative way through acting, drawing, making stories and poems, learning about activist for human rights... Through that they will learn what their rights are and how they can protect them. The coordinators will enable them to talk about their rights within the group and to ask questions which they consider as important. Using some examples about children's rights from the world and their community they will have chance to connect that experiences. At the end of our workshops coordinators will use their work, their pictures, poems, messages, information and make picture – books. These pictures – books coordinators will deliver schools, youth organizations and Youth Centre aiming to educate other children and provide them insight in our work. They will also encourage their teachers to follow Svitac's work, and to support children to start something similar on the subject Children's Rights in their schools. In March Sanja and Amela has written the official letter to government asking their permission to visit primary schools and talk with children personally. The government's answer is still expected.

- Denis Vlasisavljevic and Slobodan Djuric have started with Spanish course on 4th March. During this month they had four workshops (1 workshop per week). These workshops are held on Saturday from 6:00p.m. to 8:00p.m. On the first workshop the participants got to know each other better as well as with the project itself and activities that were planned. During these workshops the coordinators have provided for their students information about Spanish language history, have started with lessons and student's knowledge checking through dialogue and tests. The coordinators were satisfied with level of knowledge that participants have showed. This group made two big posters on their third workshop, one for Omladinska organizacija Svitac and the second one for Spanish workshop. They put both these posters on the wall in Radionica 1, in the youth centre. During classes the coordinators wanted to make very relaxing atmosphere between students and they completely succeeded in it. A large number of students were interested in attending these language workshops and during March 19 teenagers attended this course.
- Sejo Usanovic (he works in youth centre) asked Svitac if some of their girls from older dance groups want to lead rock concert which was organized as part of Brcko district 6th anniversary. Sejo called after that and said that they were all very satisfied with two of them and that he will call them again.

Summer Camps:

Information about the summer camps was sent out on May 23rd 2005, and by the 26th all places were taken. There was a long waiting list and unfortunately these young

people were disappointed; we hope to be able to take increased numbers in future years. As with the previous year, we were able to offer several places to young people from the Brodusa returnee area of Brcko district by collaborating with Kuca Prijateljstva ('House of Friendship') who run a centre there. Young people between 15 and 18 years old from previous years applied to work as youth volunteers on the camps, and 6 were chosen. Adnan and Mirela organised training sessions for the these volunteers on 25th and 26th of June, to give them a chance to get to know each other better, to build a team, to give them ideas and tools to use in organising activities and workshops, and to prepare them for their responsibilities and duties during the camp. Three volunteers from England and Norway arrived in Brcko, to meet with Firefly staff, have some basic language lessons, see Brcko and it's surrounding area, meet local volunteers and participants, run pre-camp workshops, and plan camp activities as a group. The pre-camp workshop, where volunteers and camp participants met for the first time, was in the new youth centre.

Participants filled in forms before the camps and this enabled volunteers to prepare activities based on the stated wishes of participants. Gordana and Mirela also met with parents several times before the project started; some parents were nervous as for most children this was the first time they travelled without their parents or left Brcko district. During these meetings some of the previous year's participants were present, to talk about that year's camp.

Support for the camps came from a variety of sources; the Government of Brcko district covered costs of transport and insurance, and international volunteers raised the funds to cover the costs of accommodation and food for themselves and the children; they also bought materials for the caps. In particular, Dawn Jackson brought a lot of material, prizes and sweets. Parents organised passports and a court letter of permission for their children.

The camps took place from 17th to 26th July 2005 in «Veli Joza» Savudrija (as in previous years). During eight days of the camp, activities were held from 9.00 a.m. to 12 with few short breaks when participants had opportunity to have some rest. The time after lunch was reserved for rest, beach or some other informal activities. In the evening, after dinner, at 8.15 p.m. meeting for staff and volunteers was held when they made activities plans for the next day. In the Children's camp, participants learnt to do different things such as painting, bridge making etc. The local volunteers organised and ran a treasure hunt (and did such a good job they had the afternoon off). Music drama camp prepared a performance called «Man who becomes a fly» which was performed to all participants at the end; some spectators asked to see the play again.

In the evenings, Veli Joze, the campsite, arranged for different countries to run a presentation of their country and culture, and after that there was a disco each night; at both of these activities Firefly's participants had the chance to meet young people from different countries. There were also able to get to know young people from other countries at activities organised by the camp such as the football tournament, games without borders and volleyball. There were groups from France, Russia, Germany, Croatia and Austria at the campsite; many friendships were made and young people are currently still in touch, with a couple of future exchanges planned. Our group presented Bosnia to the camp on the second night; they performed a dance routine and

sang together. Firefly also took part in a campsite talent show, and organised a disco on the beach for all camp participants on the last night.

The evaluation took place on the last day; the camp was finished without any serious problems, with the biggest complaints being that the breakfast shift assigned to Firefly was too early, and that we didn't do too well at football!
