

“Competent student – experienced graduate: international workshops on key competencies for the labour market”

The project is financed by the National Agency for Academic Exchange within the International Academic Partnerships Programme
Agreement No. PPI/APM/2019/1/00014/U/00001

Workshop
„Tell me about your culture - comprehensively”
20-24 September 2021
Peja, Kosovo

Cultural Heritage

Goal:

- to familiarize students with the diversity of cultural heritage in Peja/Kosovo.

Agenda:

- meeting with the trainer and start the group introduction
- establishing trust, appreciation and respect among participants
- students’ workshop with the trainer representing all three cultural heritages
- sightseeing the mosque, catholic church and the orthodox one
- getting to know tangible and intangible cultural elements of Kosovo

Activities and tasks:

- starting the day with the individual presentation and undertaking an exercise for the presentation
- starting an activity called History Walks to share memories and get to know more each-other
- having group discussions about building the trust between students
- visiting the mosque, catholic church and orthodox church and getting to know those religions, while listening to the presentation of the responsible people in those cultural heritages.
- discussing the history of evolvement of religions in Kosovo with the responsible people in those heritages
- interviewing those people who hosted us in mosque, catholic and orthodox church, so having the chance of asking about what we were curious of
- discussing how the co-existence of religions in Kosovo

Outcome:

- students gain the knowledge about the religious aspects, the diversity of it and how the co-existence of religions works in Kosovo, taking it as a model for all the other countries.

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Group Introduction: The workshop of the cultural heritage started with an introductory speech made by the trainer, where we as students had the chance of individual presentations and were asked to divide into pairs, with someone we didn't know. In turn, we had interviewed, got to know and later introduced each-other to the whole group in the plenary. In this way, we've learned where each person comes from, in which faculty are going, their age, what they prefer and some other aspects of their personal life, what they appreciate most in themselves, their hobbies etc.

Aiming to further contribute in increasing the openness and building trust (as trust can be thought of as an attitude necessary to make listening between two people easier and deeper) among us students, we were asked to write two moments (one important and one funny moment) that happened in our life. This activity has enabled us to understand better each other's personality, needs and expectations from the rest of the group.

Field Visits: Three cultural heritage visits were organized during the day, those three heritages were the Bajrakli Mosque in Old Bazaar of Peja, the Saint Catherine Church and the Patriarchate of Peja. At each visit, we have spent all the day together, socializing and enjoying the rich and diverse heritage of Peja city.

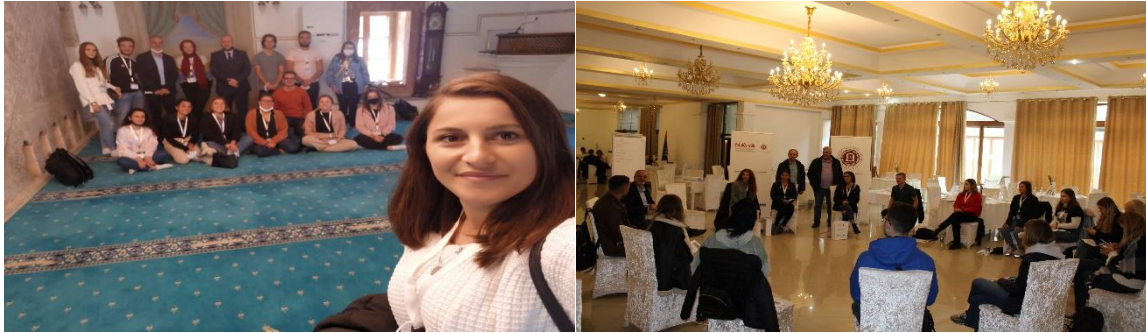
1. Bajrakli Mosque

The first visit was to the Bajrakli Mosque, where we were hosted by the president Muzli Arifaj and by secretary Muhamet Mavraj of the Council of Islamic Community – Peja Branch and got to know from him that this mosque is the main mosque situated in the center of the Bazaar of Peja. It was built in 1471 by Sultan Fatih Mehmet Hani and is an Ottoman-style single-domed mosque with the oldest and highest dome in the city. The mosque was burned twice once during 1943 by Italian forces when the Bazaar of Peja was completely burned down, and the second time by Serbian military during the 1999 War in Kosovo. Despite of getting informed for the about the architecture and history of the mosque, we got to know about the coexistence between religious communities living in Peja and Kosovo.

Also, the representative of the Islamic community said that coming in one state where 90% of population belongs to Islamic religions, by the co-existence we have between religious groups in Kosovo can be a model for any country in the world, bringing peace and joy all together as well as paying visits to each other for any celebration day such as Edi Mubarak, Eastern, Christmas etc.

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2. Saint Catherine (Catholic) Church

The second stop of the visit tour was in Saint Catherine Church, where we were hosted by the Priest Don Lenc Sopi. The Priest has explained to us that the Church in Peja is a relatively new one that was built in 1925 by Pater Lorenc Mazreku, but as a Christian community Kosovans dated from the first century. He also mentioned that this fact we can find in the Bible when Saint Peter mentioned that on his way to Rome, he has stopped in Illyricum and we as Kosovans are successors of Illyrs.

Priest Don Sopi just like the secretary of the Council of Islamic Community underlines the coexistence and good relation between religious groups in Peja/Kosovo, and that we should pass those informations to our families, relatives and friends, in order to know the real situation and the good co-existence of religions we have in such a small country as Kosovo.

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3. Patriarchate of Peja – Orthodox Church

The last stop of the tour was the Orthodox Church – Peja's Patriarchate. We got into the yard of this Patriarchate and it was quite huge, many people live there and mostly nuns. We had the chance of going a bit around until Sister Irina welcomed us and she explained the history and architecture of the Patriarchate as it had 4 churches inside of it and also explained the importance that Patriarchate has for orthodox believers. We had many questions for her about the life of the nuns, for the painted walls and the co-existence of religions in general, there were quite new things for us and really interesting ones.

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