

# Youth Cultural Centre Abrasevic



Country / region or city:  
**Bosnia-Herzegovina, Mostar**  
Name of Cooperation Project:  
**Capacity building of Youth  
Cultural Centre Abrasevic**  
Partner organization:  
**OKC Abrasevic (Mostar)**  
Coaching-/Monitoring Partner:  
**Eni Kurtovic**  
Duration of project:  
**August 2004 – July 2007**

**The Youth Cultural Centre Abrasevic in Mostar was founded in August 2003. It has become a lively meeting place with regularly ongoing cultural activities and offers a space for young people to develop their creative skills. The cooperation project of SCP concentrates on the organizational development and the capacity building of the young people in charge of the centre.**

Young people in Bosnia-Herzegovina have very little space where to express themselves creatively. Many of the former houses of culture have been destroyed during the war 1992-95 or are used for other purposes. In Mostar a group of 11 NGOs, various associations and individuals, launched a campaign in February 2003. They joined together to demand from the local authorities a space open for all young people of the town, a centre, where they can realize their ideas and implement their socio-cultural and cultural ambitions. For Mostar, such a space is even more important, since the city is still divided not by physical borders, but the mental ones, which go along the ethnic lines.

[www.okcabrasevic.org](http://www.okcabrasevic.org)

Pro Helvetia Sarajevo  
Potoklinica 16  
71000 Sarajevo  
mail@scp-ba.net  
www.scp-ba.net

Pro Helvetia  
Swiss Cultural Programme  
In the Western Balkans  
Hirschengraben 22  
CH-8024 Zurich  
info@prohelvetia.ch  
www.prohelvetia.ch

Link:  
[www.deza.admin.ch](http://www.deza.admin.ch)  
(Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC)

In April 2003, the city administration gave way to the request and in August the same year the Youth Cultural Center Abrasevic was founded. The provided building is severely ruined and in need of substantial renovation works. For the time being, the cultural center is situated in a group of containers, covered by a tent.

OKC Abrasevic is an open network of NGOs, informal groups and individuals. Young people get space and support in realizing ideas and are encouraged to work together in order to enlarge the cultural offer. They discuss social questions of importance for Mostar and its surroundings and develop creative solutions to existing problems.

To reach the objectives OKC Abrasevic has set up in an efficient way, it is important to strengthen the organization and the abilities of the young people in implementing projects and developing best usage of their resources.

The project encompasses the following action-lines:

- **Training courses and workshops** for the management team of the center as well as for members from partner-organizations. In a first phase strategy and internal decision-making processes were defined, followed by issues such as project-management, public relations and fundraising.
- **Exchange and study-visits:** OKC Abrasevic is building up its network with similar organizations in France, Germany, Italy and Switzerland and of course the region.
- **Fund for activities:** A jury decides which activities are being supported. Besides individual events like concerts, exhibitions, public debates OKC Abrasevic also is organizing various festivals with regional and international participants, i.e. the Short Film Festival Mostar.

---

**The Swiss Cultural Programme in the Western Balkans is a joint initiative of the Arts Council of Switzerland PRO HELVETIA and of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC. The SCP encompasses Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Macedonia, Serbia, Kosovo and the Ukraine.**

**It supports local partners, which emphasize the variety, independence and performance of cultural life. The SCP cooperation projects focus on the capacity building and institutional development processes of cultural organizations. ■**