



Youth perspectives:

**Reinforcing inter-generational dialogue and
understanding through Cultural Heritage**

24-28 August 2022

Tirana and Gjirokaster, Albania



BACKGROUND

This #YouthTrail is organized within the framework of the project “Youth in Focus II: Promoting the Role of Youth in Peace and Security in Albania” – implemented by the OSCE Presence in Albania with funding from the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), the Embassy of Greece in Albania, and the Permanent Mission of Italy to the OSCE.”

Cultural heritage values encompass tangible and intangible, and spiritual, both natural and human-made, as well as movable and immovable attributes. The first cornerstone of cultural heritage is preservation; and governmental institutions, as well as communities, have a central role in it.

However, its implications go far beyond this and touch on reinforcing the sense of community, reconciliation, and – in more secure societies - economic development, tourism, etc. Smart cultural heritage management should also target young people as future caretakers.



SCOPE

The Youth Trail focuses on the intersection between promoting communication and interaction of social structures as cornerstones for stable and democratic societies and the importance of cultural heritage. It aims to raise awareness of young people in the South East Europe region that dialogue and understanding of different generations reinforces sense of community, eases reconciliation and contributes to a more secure, developed society aware of its past, present and future.
#CulturalHeritage



OBJECTIVE



- Increase knowledge of the importance of partnerships among diverse groups and promote tolerance and respect for different cultures as principles that encompass the OSCE's holistic approach to security.
- Reflect on the inter-generational communication gap and its consequences, and be provided with tools to help establish new bridges of communication based on cultural heritage.
- Exploration of communication, interaction and mutual understanding within different structures of society and learning how the work that will be done will affect the stability and sustainability of the communities and consequently the democratization process.
- Promote understanding of cultural heritage and its importance on a personal and societal level. Experience cultural heritage and its relationship to the environment and society from a cross-generational perspective.
- Enhance capacities on the identification of cultural heritage elements that can serve as meeting points for cross-generational interactions in their communities.
- Promote regional co-operation in the area of safety, security, youth engagement and participation in the civic space.

CONTEXT

The OSCE has declared its commitment for the preservation and protection of cultural heritage for many decades now. Intercultural understanding, partnerships among diverse groups, tolerance, and respect for different cultures are encompassed by principles of the OSCE, such as cooperation, from both a human-rights and holistic approach to security.

OSCE PiA in recent years has explored the topic of cultural heritage during its Youth Trail in 2019 focusing on gender equality, climate change, and anti-corruption. Moreover, these efforts reinforced regional co-operation as building blocks of democracy development and strengthening.

This particular event targets a specific angle, the cross-generational one, inspired by the following UNESCO definition: “Heritage is the cultural legacy which we receive from the past, which we live in the present and which we will pass on to future generations.”

This imparts the perspective that communication, interaction, and mutual understanding of different structures of society affect directly the security, stability and sustainability of communities.

This also acknowledges that different needs and approaches to social structures exist, and the building of bridges of communication and common work are at the heart of democratization.

HOW TO JOIN THE YOUTH TRAIL?

The Youth Trail Camp will bring together 25 representatives from CSOs, youth agencies/councils and from the South Eastern Europe region.

To join the Youth Trail Camp, the participant must:

- Be between 18-30 years old
- Belong to one of the following groups:
 - Youth Activists in the field of democratization, civic participation, active citizenship, environmental protection, cultural heritage, etc.
 - Representatives from Youth CSOs (local, national or international)
 - Youth engaged in projects and/or activities/structures of the OSCE missions in the region
 - Youth engaged in projects and/or activities of the Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO)
- Be from the South Eastern Europe region
- Have a good command of English

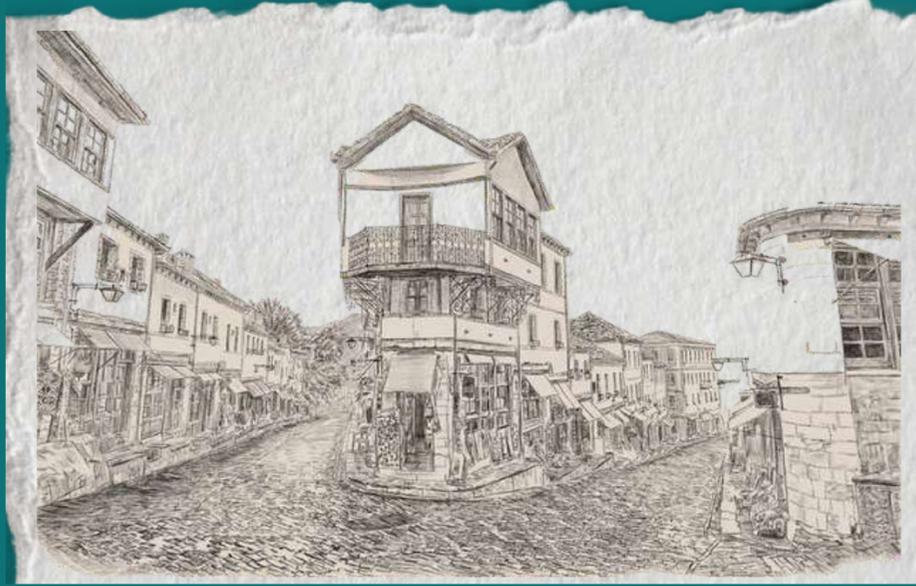
How to participate:

- Nominations from OSCE missions and/or Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO) offices in the South Eastern Europe
- Email the project team and express interest
- Fill in the application form and CV, and send to the Project
- Notification of successful candidates will be notified

All costs that arise during or before the event related to the Youth Trail (accommodation, food and transport) are covered by the project.

For more information, contact the National Project Officer, Ms. Misela Dervishi at [Misela.Dervishi@osce.org](mailto: Misela.Dervishi@osce.org)

PROGRAMME



The City

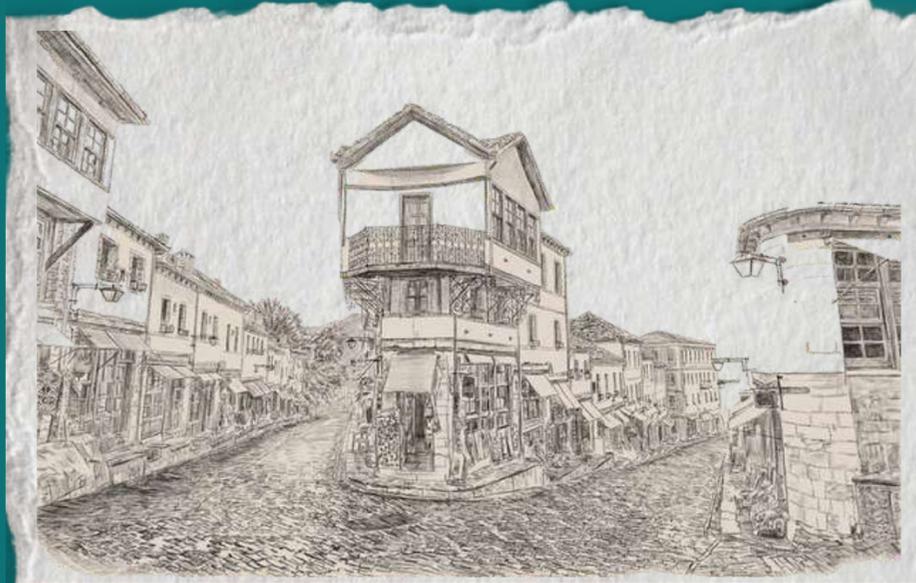
Gjirokastra, a UNESCO protected city, known for the architecture, castle, and monuments has been chosen as the designated site for the heritage project. Participants in the Youth Trail will interact directly with the elderly community there to learn about their customs and traits in an effort to foster intergenerational communication. Coming from an urban setting and a free market mentality, one assumes that all you need to be able to survive is money. However, there is still a potential for creativity and direct contact with the source of our common past to help close understanding gaps and aid navigate a dangerous future as life becomes more mobile and as global warming makes its challenges to sustainability.

With the recent infrastructure development and touristic boom, the local community is exposed to the presence of many visitors into their communities, which brings the need for intercultural exchange and for members of the local community to leverage their hospitality skills as a way to communicate. There will be organized "ice-breaker" meetings and guided tours of the key attractions to help participants strike up conversations with locals. Additionally, workshops with local experts on themes of particular relevance will be planned.

The group will have the chance to see a variety of natural cultural heritage sites, such as the ancient castle and bazar, neighborhood museums, the distinctive architecture of the city, writing, artisanal crafts, etc. In addition to being "taught," cultural heritage is something that individuals "experience," and this is an idea that we want to develop.

Given the nature of the activity, the site will be situated in one of Gjirokastra's most historic city districts. The location of the venue in this region makes it the perfect location for group meetings in the evenings and working sessions.

PROGRAMME



Agenda

Day 1

- Welcoming event
- Introduction to the "Youth in Focus II" Project
- Introduction to the Youth Trails
- Youth, inter-generational interaction and cultural heritage

Day 2

- Teambuilding exercises
- Building social cohesion through cultural heritage & inter-generation interaction
- Intergeneration communication and cultural heritage in building societies
- Introduction to tangible and intangible cultural heritage elements
- Interconnections with inter-generational interaction
- Guided walk

Day 3

- Cultural heritage elements as a tool for inter-generational dialogue
- Parallel workshops involving visits and interactions with locals, on themes of:
 - Storytelling;
 - Women power;
 - Intergenerational interaction and skills
- Reflection sessions and sharing of experiences
- Group exercises to design an inter-generational dialogue expression form

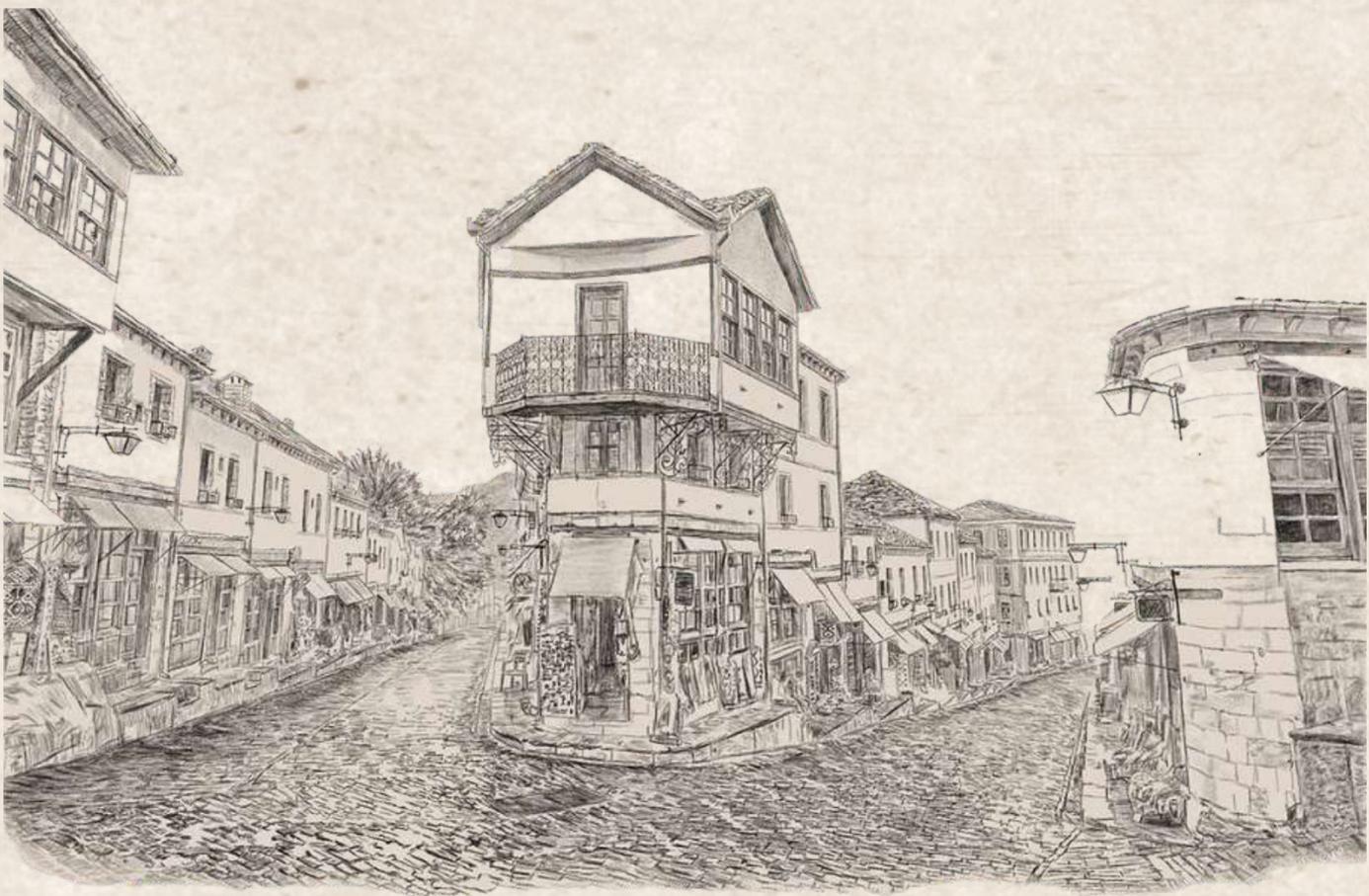
Day 4

- Shaping of tangible and intangible cultural heritage elements
- Working group exercises for output “materialization”
- Cultural visit

Day 5

- Closing session
- Evaluation of the activity

YOUTH TRAIL



Cultural heritage is the value of life and humanity