



The 11th Kid's Festival bases itself on the tremendous success of the 10th edition, which was opened by the Republika Srpska Minister of family, Nada Tesanovic

Festival's organizers met the Minister and her team several times last year, and decided to make the successful exhibition of drawings of preschool children from the RS a tradition at Kid's festival. Being very satisfied with the cooperation, the Ministry of Family also offered additional inputs like Majorettes from Banja Luka opening the Kid's parade in Sarajevo. Another direct outcome of last year's visit of Banja Luka officials, namely the deputy of the mayor Jasna Brkic, will be the creation of the pilot project Kids Fest Banja Luka, which will be held 13th of June under the patronage of the City Council.

Profoundly Different

Speaking about new horizons, Kid's festival is heading to new international outreaches. The first of these type of pilot projects will be started in Tunisia, October this year, due to the initiative of the Italian Embassy that had supported Kid's festival in Sarajevo for 10 years and supports Kid's Fest Tunisia from its first idea, during the entire process of development to the project implementation. "The very curious and interesting aspect is that the pilot project we have designed for Tunisia is going to have its avant-premiere in Banja Luka where we will implement the new concept for the first time," says Susanne Prah, the Festival's "mastermind". In an exclusive for Bosnia Daily, she says that the Tunisian adventure is very exciting because the dynamics of the civil society that are profoundly different from what we find in BiH.

"The NGOs, the young people which I have met in large numbers are extremely active, pro-active and influent: they really change the society. The political institutions more and more work together with the civil socie-

ty. Tunisia is a "country in transition" and of course everything is in "starting shoes" but the takeoff of this approach is very promising for the country. I have the pleasure to be able to directly witness this process with the launch of our pilot project Kids Fest Tunis: there are so many associations interested by the idea and concept of Kids Fest, getting actively involved, that we had to change our initial plan of corporation with an existing NGO and decided instead to create a totally new association of citizens run by the youngsters of Tunisia themselves for the prospect of this KidsFest. This is a success due to the high public interest, active involvement of numerous renown associations, the press and already 10 Embassies, all supporting Kids Fest's global idea."

Prah says that young and open-minded people recognize immediately what Kids Fest offers: positivism, create synergies and generosity. A vast show-case for one's own activities, creativity and talent rather than implementing a "program" - and this is exactly the reason why the Kids Fest is in the same way welcomed at Banja Luka, as in Tunisia and hopefully within the next decade in many countries of the world: it offers young people a stage, and more than that: a platform of constructive cooperation with official authorities.

"KidsFest connects all actors who influence children's lives, the NGO and governmental sector, people who share the wish to offer children happiness and a lot of positive impressions about their environment, activities that inspire the children's own ideas and enlarge their perception of what they can contribute to the future themselves. Who could have ever thought about a similarity between Tunis and Banja Luka? Different, independent events under one conceptual Kid's Fest umbrella. In Banja

Luka the Kid's Fest is like a bridge built by the City Council's department of Social Affaires for children to walk on and enjoy a fantastic day that the conjunction of so many different actors offers to them," says Prah.

The 11th Kid's Fest is facing a lot of challenges, but the institution "Kid's festival" even more with the birth of these two new pilot projects which will completely change and boost the dimension of the festival. To face this new approach, the renewal of Kid's festival inner structures was necessary.

New Generation

"The new generation has taken over the commands: our former "Kids Brigade", youngsters, volunteers, that followed us for 10 years since the creation of the Kid's festival, represents today the leadership of the festival. My role is progressively changing from director into producer, responsible for the overall concept and financial structures. Backing-up the team, not "running the show". Enthusiasm, motivation, voluntarism, positive energy... are the elements that are the "job qualifications" for Kid's festival. There is no space for selfishness. We offer a tremendous platform of professional experience to young people facing thousands of children and logistic challenges. They learn to act responsible and give their very best. At the end of the festival they are entirely worn out nevertheless probably the happiest people in the world. Proud of their achievement. The happiness of tens of thousands children. So I look forward to welcome you to meet the oldest and in the same time youngest leader team of Kid's festival and enjoy a fantastic "cultural buffet" composed by over 50 NGOs and Embassies," says Prah.