



LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

Since 2004 Kid's festival Sarajevo represents an important cultural-educational event which under UNESCO patronage promotes cultural diversity and includes children as key actors in the peace-building process.

The Tunisian edition, KidsFest Tunisie, has been piloted in autumn of 2014. I am proud to be a patron of this significant event from 2016, because I believe that the idea of democracy and open society needs to be conveyed to children from early age in order to form responsible citizens - in our homeland and elsewhere in the world.

Young children are not yet formatted by the social and cultural environment - their natural intercultural capacity widens at KidsFest by experiencing different cultures. Children have a festive day, but in the same time they are also able to learn abundantly about other cultures and be creative themselves by producing their own part of the cultural heritage. KidsFest conveys a strong atmosphere of positivism that also attracts many young people to get involved, it builds upon participation and voluntarism. The coherence of the program has been developed in over a decade together with numerous international partners and resulted in a unique formula that truly enhances the cohesion of the civil society. The combined synergy of children, NGOs, local and foreign institutions that join efforts together over the year of preparation is a unique concept which proves to be successful wherever the organizers (ViaKult Office Berlin & Kamar Tunis) have a chance to launch it.

Therefore, I would recommend that the different regions in Tunisia, as well as other countries in the world, adopt the concept of KidsFest and adapt it to the local community, its culture and its traditions.

The pilot program launched in Italy in summer 2016 could serve as a lighthouse to other countries in Europe: The idea of including refugee children is symbolic way to bring migrant populations closer to the local residents and build through the children new bonds. I wish to bring this initiative to the attention of the EU governments facing today many unprecedented challenges. KidsFest international is a highly profiled initiative fostering better understanding within any given country, containing much contribution to the level of world peace when this singular formula for children develops into a universal pattern.

Ouided BOUCHAMAOU

President of UTICA, Laureate of the Nobel Peace Prize 2015

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