

## Report AEJM Museum Education Study Visit Sarajevo

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When I read the announcement that this year AEJM study visit for educators will take place in Sarajevo, I was really excited, and I knew it would be an interesting trip. But actually, I had no idea how meaningful and powerful the experience would be.

I considered Sarajevo as a special place, like a melting pot where cultures, traditions, religions and ideas are constantly mixing. It is a city where one can find synagogues, churches and mosques in one neighbourhood. But it is also a city where one can find ruins, bullet holes and the shadow of the last war. Nonetheless, it is visible that cultural life and the sphere of memory and commemoration is developing. During this study trip we had a chance to visit local museums and learn about the difficulties they are facing. However, at the same time we were invited to discover the beauty and diversity of Bosnian history and culture.

All the activities included in the programme were valuable and enriching. During the participants presentations we were able to learn from each other and discuss ideas and methods we use in our daily work. We had an opportunity to discover local Sephardic culture while wandering through the streets of Sarajevo, visiting the cemetery and visiting beautiful synagogues. Visits to the History Museum and War Childhood Museum definitely helped me to understand more about the last war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It stopped to be only history and started to be personal stories of people who I had a chance to meet.

Nevertheless, the biggest impact on me had the visit to Srebrenica. This part of history is difficult to understand, hard to explain and definitely difficult to accept. One can think that working with Holocaust survivors helps to "get used to" difficult history, topics connected with death and genocide. Our visit in Srebrenica showed me how wrong this attitude is. Participants of this study visit had a possibility to meet Hasan, one of the genocide survivors. This meeting and the story he shared with us were the best proves that prejudices, discrimination and genocide is not only in the past, the distant history. It is something what touches us all and we as educators should make an effort to change people's minds and attitudes. We should educate and don't let the famous phrase "Never again" to be only big, meaningless words.