

The future role of the National Museum in contemporary BiH

For four days at the end of April 2000, CHwB arranged a conference jointly with the National Museum in Sarajevo, held in the museum itself. Its purpose was to try and stimulate discussions in the museum's future role in the contemporary society of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The title of the conference was "Towards the modernisation of the Zemaljski muzej Bosne i Hercegovine of today". Two main themes were chosen as starting points: "The museum as a fountain of knowledge" and "The museum as a meeting place".

Opening and conference sessions

At the official opening, the head of the museum, Dr Denana Buturovic, the minister of culture for the canton of Sarajevo, professor Esmā Haszagic, Unesco's representative in the country, Hector Rondon-Fuentes, Sweden's ambassador Nils Eliasson, Sida's head in BiH, Per Iwarsson and CHwB's committee member Per Kåks (who also acted as a seminar leader) gave speeches.

Then followed two days of open sessions with the majority of the museum's staff present, but also participation of specially invited staff members from other museums, ministries and universities etc. The Swedish delegation was comprised of five lecturers and there were eight from the National Museum (see below)

Formation of seven interdisciplinary groups

The final day of the conference was devoted to discussions between the Swedish delegation and the museum's experts and heads. Seven interdisciplinary groups were formed focussing on the museum's needs of IT, training, marketing, research, exhibitions, the library and facilities. They were then asked to draw up concrete plans during the summer on how to develop these different areas in the short and long term. CHwB will be continuing its development in the proposals made by these working groups and its support of any future development work.

The overall feeling was that the conference reached expectations and not least contributed to a more profound collaboration within the museum. Ever since CHwB started working in BiH in 1996, the Foundation has in many ways lent its support for the National Museum. Read more on its work [here](#).

Title: "The museum as a fountain of knowledge" and "The Museum as a meeting point".

Date: 25-28 th April 2000.

Locality: Zemaljski muzej, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Main speakers: Dr Denana Buturovic, Head of Zemaljski muzej; Nils Eliasson, the Swedish ambassador in BiH; Professor Esmā Haszagic, Minister of culture for the canton of Sarajevo; Hector Rondon-Fuentes, Unesco's representative in the country; Per Iwarsson, Head of Sida in BiH and Per Kåks, CHwB board member and senior adviser of the National Museums of World Culture in Gothenburg.

Lecturers from Sweden: Per Kåks (see "Main speakers"); Ing-Marie Munktell, CHwB board member and Director of Museum Gustavianum in Uppsala; Staffan Thorman, Swedish Museum of Natural History in Stockholm; Magnus Dahlbring, National Museums of World Culture in Gothenburg; Tina Rodhe, Museum of Medieval Stockholm.

Chief co-ordinator: Per Kåks (see "Main speakers")

Course assistant: Susanne Wik, CHwB

Lecturers from BiH: Denana Buturovic, Director of Zemaljski muzej; Margita Gavrilovic and Zilka Kujundzic-Vejzagic, Dept. of Archaeology; Sabaheta Abadzic and Mevlida Operta, Dept. of Natural History; Azra Becevic, Marica Filipovic and Mersida Bakovljec, Dept. of Ethnology.

Participants: About 40 people, most of them from Zemaljski muzej, but also from other museums, ministries and universities.

Joint partner: Zemaljski muzej, Sarajevo

Financiers: Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Swedish Institute, National Museums of World Culture in Gothenburg, Swedish Museum of Natural History in Stockholm, Museum Gustavianum in Uppsala, Museum of Medieval Stockholm.