Cultural Heritage without Borders - Albania is an independent organization dedicated to rescuing and preserving tangible and intangible cultural heritage touched by conflict, neglect or human and natural disasters. We see our work as a vital contribution to building democracy and supporting human rights. CHwB is neutral when it comes to conflicting parties, but not to the rights of all people to their cultural heritage.

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THE REGIONAL RESTORATION CAMPS ARE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU! WHY?

When I first came to participate in one of the editions of the Regional Restoration Camps, the classroom was full of participants coming from all over the Western Balkans and beyond. And here I was, caught in an ice-breaking activity at the beginning of the camp, when we were all asked to simply turn around and talk to the person sitting behind us. Young people were turning around and starting to chat, to laugh, to listen. And it felt so easy and so natural.

It occurred to me that if we observe the historical buildings all around us across the region, they are built of very similar materials, using very similar techniques. They are standing all around us, showing us that there is so much commonality one could trace in them: the lime, the timber, the brick, the stone. So, if we can use this commonality and turn it into a language that would bring us together, that would bring us closer to a dialogue. This language has a name: Regional Restoration Camps.

The Regional Restoration Camps could be summed up as two weeks of active learning about the local culture and cultural heritage of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo or Serbia; but moreover, those are two weeks of meeting colleagues and creating new friendships from all over the region. What better way to do that than by exploring common materials and techniques — and by building together? Hence, cultural heritage as a theme and occasion to gather people, to discover that there is much more common ground, culture and habits than issues that sometimes seem to divide the region: Common cultural heritage as a testimony of common history that helps to overcome exclusive identification with nationalities or ethnic groups.

The local craftspeople who are leading the young professionals in the restoration works, along with the lecturers coming from different parts of the world, make the experience of the camp one that lasts for a lifetime.

Beyond its educational and social impact, what is important to me is the effect that the Regional Restoration Camps have on the local community. When participants of the camp come and spend two weeks repairing a door, or a roof, or façade, it increases the sense of ownership for them and it certainly increases the sense of historical value for the owners. This gives the owners of the monuments that are repaired a further stimulus to continue maintaining and using their structures in a sensible way.

Ambassador Florian Raunig
Head of the Board of Cultural Heritage without Borders Albania
CHwB’s Regional Restoration Camps are designed to give participants solid theory, active hands-on engagement and life-changing personal interaction in an inspiring historic context.

Smelling, touching and feeling the authentic wood, mortar or stone are necessary for understanding cultural heritage and familiarizing oneself with the tangible value of a building. Only when the sensitivity for authentic material is fully integrated into professional hands and minds can the need to safeguard what remains be recognized and work towards restoring what has crumbled and collapsed begin.

The Regional Restoration Camps are organized with the objective of creating conditions for reconciliation as a prerequisite for peace and democracy with respect for human rights. The camps are planned and implemented in a way that young professionals, both women and men, from the Southeast European region are meeting and learning about each other’s cultural background. In this way, by fostering personal understanding, CHwB is contributing towards the creation of a new cultural politics that is based on dialogue and works towards preventing conflicts like those that the Western Balkans suffered during the 1990s.

“Smelling, touching and feeling the authentic wood, mortar or stone are necessary for understanding cultural heritage”
“Seeing the architects and restoration practitioners in the homes and courtyards of the families, explaining and demonstrating their work, tying it in with their own exposure to local culture and customs, was very inspiring. … This link, between the ‘specialists’ of the heritage and architectural community with the city’s owners and residents, will be key in the ultimate campaign that will be required to preserve Gjirokastër’s invaluable stock of built heritage…”

Allan Zaretsky, USA
Volunteer, 7th Regional Restoration Camp.

### camps by the numbers*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Camp locations in 4 countries</th>
<th>10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Business plans produced</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpretation strategies developed</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camps held</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteers</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Museum objects conserved</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restoration interventions conducted</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participants</td>
<td>1048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Est. total hours of hands-on work</td>
<td>58,130</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* totals as of March 2019
The aim of the Camps is to give participants an insight into the field of heritage preservation by combining theory and practice — applying the theoretical background through practical hands-on exercises.

Lectures at the camps are delivered by renowned cultural heritage specialists from the Balkans and across Europe. Their courses are organized around core themes that include:

- Introduction to conservation theory and approaches toward conserving various materials
- Interpretation of cultural heritage
- Historical and architectural context
- Contemporary and traditional survey and documentation techniques
- Value analysis and the environmental impact of restoration/conservation
- Preventive conservation of museum artefacts
- ABCs of crafts production: Products & product lines
- Growth mindset and entrepreneurship
- And many others!

Besides delivering lectures, consultants dedicate their time at the Camp to working with participants on activities in their field of expertise.

The practical part of the day is dedicated to hands-on work following the theme of the Camp. This could involve repair works on historic monuments, preventive conservation for museum artifacts, working with historical handicrafts or designing interpretation for a site or museum. In each case, the works are led by experienced craftspeople or experts, and all tools and materials are provided by CHwB.

Part of the camp curriculum is also dedicated to field trips, where students visit locally and regionally significant sites, such as the UNESCO World Heritage sites of Butrint, Albania and Gamzigrad, Serbia.
“It is very important for these activities to continue. They have already become a tradition in our city. Beside the restoration of the traditional houses and development of businesses—they bring life to the old town.”

Qazo Tuqi
Hotel owner in the historic core of Gjirokastra

“Wonderful experience. It is an exchange of different cultures. They bring their culture, and we show them ours.”

Monda Jaho Babaramo
Monument owner in Gjirokastra, whose house has been a work site at multiple Camps

“My grand mom used to prepare a dough she would leave to stay for a night. Next early morning she would take it out the bowl and start working it very gently. The dough was hard and it would take a lot of strength to work down the sift. When all the dough would go through the sift, she would take the small pieces and leave them to dry. This we call trahana. When trahana was dry she would take it and cook it with milk and cheese. Every time I take a chisel to carve this stone, I remember my grand mom. And I realize, that every manner of making, every manner of eating, every manner of creating is as well what makes our heritage. I want to preserve those manners, for as long as the manners are alive, our heritage will survive.”

Ambra Myftari
Participant 27th and 29th RRC
Volunteer 33rd RRC

Theodora Panagiotopoulou
Participant 44th RRC
Where are they held?

The Regional Restoration Camps were first developed and held in Gjirokastra, Albania. As the Camps grew, they became a means not only of restoring buildings, but also of restoring cultural ties in the region, as well as the connection between heritage professionals and traditional materials and techniques.

In Gjirokastra and beyond, organizers took into consideration the local contexts and worked closely with the community, focusing on different thematic sets of heritage skills:

- Building conservation and interpretation:
  - Berat, Albania
  - Gjirokastra, Albania
  - Jajce, Bosnia & Herzegovina
  - Stolac, Bosnia & Herzegovina
  - Rogljevo, Serbia

- Historical crafts and entrepreneurship:
  - Kruja, Albania

- Conservation of museum artefacts and interpretation:
  - Mitrovica, Kosovo
  - Prishtina, Kosovo

- Heritage interpretation:
  - Shkodra, Albania
  - Prizren, Kosovo

CHwB will continue to hold Camps in locations across the Western Balkans, corresponding to two of these different thematic areas. The newest Camp location in 2019 will be the city of Gjakova, in Kosovo.

As of April 2019, forty-four Camps have been held in ten historic locations across the Western Balkans, from the stone city of Gjirokastra to the wine villages of eastern Serbia, to the mills and bridges of Jajce and Stolac and to the museums of Kosovo.
Camps are about change: change in us, in our immediate realities and the buildings we work on.

Blerina Llalla
Participant, 26th, 28th, 34th, 36th RRC Volunteer, 40th RRC

Continuous efforts have been made by CHwB-Albania to promote traditional practices within the field of architectural conservation. Part of this push has been to bring universities closer to practice and hands-on practical experience. Therefore, the Regional Restoration Camps are always designed and implemented to fit with the curricula and programmatic efforts of different universities such as the University of Tirana’s Faculty of History and Philology, Bachelor and Master Studies in Cultural Heritage Management, Polis Univeristy, etc. This approach that consists in providing opportunities through the Camps experience to an increasing number of university students has also been endorsed by the Albanian-American Development Foundation (AADF). AADF’s financial support has enabled more than a hundred Albanian students to successfully complete up to four different types of Camps and to effectively engage in the employment opportunities which may arise from the Ministry of Culture & subordinate institutions and other partners.

Since 2015, CHwB began a partnership with the US Fulbright Association in order to develop the Fulbright Alumni Service Corps trips. These activities link Fulbright alumni to the Regional Restoration Camps. Such cooperation gives Fulbright alumni a chance to engage deeply with the region, and, in the process, it supports the Regional Restoration Camps.

"Camps are about change: change in us, in our immediate realities and the buildings we work on."

Blerina Llalla
Participant, 26th, 28th, 34th, 36th RRC
Volunteer, 40th RRC
A total of 77 participants have returned to the camps, in the role of the volunteer. As a former participant, the volunteer is a link between the organizers and the participants.

Through the years, the Camps have seen many passionate participants attending. We are proud of all our camp participants, particularly for those who share their knowledge further and shape the promising future of cultural heritage preservation around us.

Camp volunteers attend the full camp and assist with a variety of tasks to help make the experience as rewarding as possible for the participants. They help organizers, craftspeople and participants with issues of coordination, communication and guidance.

Many participants leave the Camp thinking “I want to come back!” and many do. They come back to help others have an experience that might change their present and future.
Over the past eleven years, the Regional Restoration Camps have grown and diversified in their educational approach. For this reason, CHwB has divided the Camps into thematic areas, each of which gives participants different skills and experiences for heritage preservation:

- Building conservation and interpretation
- Conservation of museum artefacts and interpretation
- Dynamic heritage interpretation
- Historical crafts and entrepreneurship

The very first Camps were focused on architectural conservation and restoration. Starting with the 7th RRC, heritage interpretation was introduced to the program and has since developed into its own thematic Camp. Museum artefact conservation began with the 15th RRC in Mitrovica and has since continued to be held every year in Kosovo. The latest Camp theme, focused on historical crafts and entrepreneurship, began in 2016 with the 28th RRC. Read on to learn more about this year’s Camp themes.
Architectural conservation has served as the core of the Camps since 2007. Lectures in each location cover similar topics, including conservation materials and methods, site documentation, value analysis and heritage interpretation. However, the practical works at each Camp differ slightly and the atmosphere of each place is unique in its own special way.

The 2019 Camps on building conservation and interpretation are taking place in: Gjirokastra, Albania and in Rogljevo, Serbia.
Conservation of museum artefacts and interpretation

The Camps focused on conservation of museum artefacts started with a long partnership with the UK-based organization Heritage Without Borders. Today, talented international conservators come to share their immense knowledge with the participants. This Camp covers such topics as preventive conservation, principles and methods of documentation, bringing museum objects to life through interpretation, and more.

The 2019 Camp on the conservation of museum artefacts and interpretation is taking place in Gjakova, Kosovo.
DRAWING CLASSES are held in beautiful historic settings that inspire the creative mind. In Gjirokastra, classes are led by local artist and sculptor Albert Kasi. In Berat, courses were led by Johan Kumati.

COOKING CLASSES have been held in different households of Gjirokastra. The idea with this class is to share culinary traditions across generations.

DANCING CLASSES are a fun way to keep active while passing on cultural traditions. The classes were led by Andon Tuni in Gjirokastra and Ornela Vasili in Berat.

The camp curriculum offers several optional courses. These have included drawing, cooking and dancing classes.
How can you be a part?

After filling out a simple application form, you are entered into the selection process. Even if you aren’t accepted the first time, we encourage you to apply again for the next Camp. Camps alumni are invited to apply to return to the Camps as volunteer group leaders.

Be sure to check out the activities from the last Camps. On our website, you can find news stories from previous years. And look up CHwB Albania on Facebook for dozens of photos from the most recent Camps!

There are also many ways you can support the RRCs. Some of them are:

• Spread the word
  Let future participants know about the Camps

• Show the Camps
  Make photos, videos or posters about the Camps and post them to Facebook, Instagram or Vimeo!

• Write the Camps
  Develop written material about the camp [short essays, articles, texts of a different kind]

• Give the Camps
  Sponsor a participant from your country, donate or help raise funds to continue the Camps

• Apply to be a Camp Participant / Volunteer
  Former participants can apply to be volunteer leaders at future Camps

The Camps are held throughout the Spring and Fall. You can find announcements about upcoming Camps on our website and social media.

Join CHwB Albania on social media

Web: chwb.org/albania
Email: rrc@chwb.org

CHwB Albania
chwbalbania
The Regional Restoration Camps recently celebrated their tenth anniversary. Following this milestone, Cultural Heritage without Borders - Albania and partners initiated a process to reflect on how the Camps developed over the past decade, consider their impact, and discuss their future direction.

The RRC program model is a simplified representation of a more complex reality and it should continue to evolve as the program progresses.

**RESOURCES**

- Real heritage projects (restoration, museum, conservation, interpretation)
- Diversity of professions & professional backgrounds, participants, perspectives
- Local communities & authorities
- Recruitment - a strong program reputation & credibility
- Equipment - traditional tools & materials
- Universities & research networks
- Camp teams (volunteers, staff, craftpersons) with heart, professionalism, dedication, expertise, program management & administration, qualified instructors
- Capacity for transforming mindsets
- Spaces for encounters that encourage transformation
- Financial support from multiple sources & contributors that share the RRC vision
- Professional associations & partner institutions that are strategic & complementary
- Alumni
- Branding & visibility
- Flexibility of the program structure
- High-quality program candidates
- RRC detailed evaluations from participants
ACTIVITIES

ongoing
• Strengthening RRC by including new themes, locations & forms of teaching
• Strengthening partnerships (donors, universities & research networks, national/local stakeholders, etc.)
• Planning & coordinating with national/local stakeholders in different countries/locations
• Supporting coordinator teams
• Addressing needs identified by RRC partners
• Fundraising
• Communicating plans & results with alumni & other stakeholders
• Strengthening alumni network

preparation
• Participant recruitment
• Pre-camp communication
• Engagement of training staff & volunteers
• Preparation of sites, interpretation plans, craft processes
• Logistical preparation and follow-up information for participants & training staff
• Communication & outreach

implementation
• Registration & orientation
• Camp work - conservation, interpretation, entrepreneurship, etc.
• On-site logistics & administration
• Ongoing program adjustments
• Fostering active learning
• Evaluations of program & achievements
• Communication & engagement

follow-up
• Program review & enhancements
• Reporting
• Supporting alumni continued development

OUTCOMES
• Development of RRC participants’ skills & knowledge:
  - Professional work ethic
  - Traditional building skills & materials
  - Heritage preservation principles related to interpretation, built heritage/ object conservation, artisanship, etc.
  - Local practices & social context
  - Team dynamics
• Increased inter-connectedness among people from different cultures & countries, generations, professions, RRCs, stakeholder groups
• Greater understanding of & appreciation by the participants, the other RRC stakeholders, the media, donors & governments for:
  - Heritage as a platform for peacebuilding in the Balkan region & beyond
  - Preserving cultural heritage in urban & rural contexts
  - Traditional artisans & craftspeople
  - Traditional forms of arts & crafts, such as dance, music, food, storytelling, etc.
  - Personal responsibility for cultural heritage resources
  - Connections between cultural heritage & environmental sustainability
• A sense of individual & collective accomplishment

GUIDING PRINCIPLES
• Use heritage as an enabler for human development
• “Plant seeds” for RRC participants’ continued growth, development & respect
• Inspire participants to carry their RRC learning into new endeavors
• Build bridges across disciplines, cultures & generations
• Celebrate collective achievement
• Embody inclusivity, gender equality
• Foster people-centered approaches
• Create & maintain spaces that are safe for encounters
• Acknowledge similarities & respect diversity
• Create opportunities for “hands on” experiences with heritage
• Operate with a horizontal organizational culture
• Adapt educational approaches to local contexts
• Transmit knowledge & experience between generations
• Conservation of cultural heritage resources
“When the sun sets in Gjirokastra, Berat, Kruja, Shkodra, Jajce, Stolac, Rogljevo, Prishtina, Prizren, Mitrovica, there is one thing we carry in our heart, and that is that tomorrow brings forward new knowledge, new experience and new friendships formed in the hearts of all of us. This friendship is a strong foundation for less hostility, more dialogue and stronger heritage preservation. Because that is what the Regional Restoration Camps are about: the practical learning that fosters trust through teamwork and achievement that in turn enhances conditions for personal trust, greater togetherness and compassion.”

Lejla Hadžić,
Executive Director,
Cultural Heritage without Borders – Albania

10th anniversary of Regional Restoration Camps ceremony
Thank you!

These are just a few of the craftspeople and lecturers who have given their time and expertise to the Regional Restoration Camps. Thank you for making the Camps a success!
CHwB Albania 2019

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In cooperation with:

In partnership with:

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