



5 Million Friends of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Connecting communities, culture, and dialogue across borders



5MFBH NEWSLETTER

January - June 2026

WWW.5MFBH.COM

A Word from Our New Member:



I am honoured to join 5 Million Friends of Bosnia and Herzegovina as Strategic Partnership Manager.

I look forward to building strong partnerships with private companies, government institutions, chambers of commerce, international organisations, and individuals who share our vision of promoting Bosnia and Herzegovina and creating new opportunities for cooperation.

By connecting the public and private sectors with engaged individuals, we can support entrepreneurship, education, tourism, innovation, and cultural exchange while strengthening the international visibility and reputation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I am excited to contribute to the growth of our network and to building partnerships based on trust, shared values, and long-term cooperation.

— **Damir Kakrin**
Strategic Partnership Manager

A Message from our President

Dear Members and Friends,

As President of 5 Million Friends of Bosnia and Herzegovina, I am deeply grateful to every volunteer, member, ambassador, and partner who has supported our journey. Every new connection strengthens our association and enhances the positive image and international visibility of Bosnia and Herzegovina across Europe and beyond.

Our work is rooted in soft diplomacy. We build bridges between people, institutions, and cultures through dialogue, friendship, cultural exchange, education, entrepreneurship, tourism, and innovation. In doing so, we help strengthen Bosnia and Herzegovina's international reputation while promoting the values of cooperation, unity, and mutual understanding that make the European Union stronger and more respected worldwide.

At a time of global uncertainty, this mission is more important than ever. We remain committed to connecting people and nations, especially across the Western Balkans, while fostering partnerships throughout Europe and beyond. By encouraging trust, dialogue, and lasting friendships, we aim to leave a legacy of cooperation, peace, and shared opportunity for future generations.

Thank you for being part of this journey

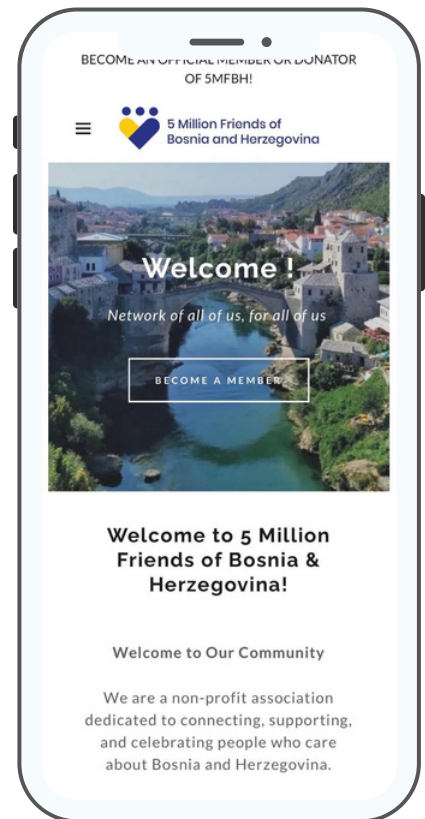


— **Edo Šabanagić**
Founder and President,
5MFBH

Launch of the New 5MFBH Website

We are pleased to announce the launch of our new website, providing a central platform for our projects, events, news, and volunteer opportunities.

We invite everyone to visit the website and share it within their networks.



Welcome to Our New Volunteers & Ambassadors!

Our association continues to grow, and we are delighted to welcome our newest volunteers and ambassadors to the 5MFBH family:

New Volunteers

- ♦ Damir Kakrin – Strategic Partnership Manager
- ♦ Neila Valjevac – Accounting Support

New 5MFBH Ambassadors

- ♦ Emina Pašanović – Ambassador for Ecology
- ♦ Dženita Svinjar – Ambassador for U.S.–Bosnia and Herzegovina Relations
- ♦ Dr. Adrien Saleta – Ambassador for Economy

Their enthusiasm, expertise, and dedication will strengthen our projects, expand our network, and help us reach new audiences around the world.



Want to Join our Volunteer Team?

As a volunteer or ambassador with 5MFBH, you'll be part of a global network of changemakers who believe in the power of community, culture, and compassion. Whether you're sharing our mission in your hometown or offering support behind the scenes, your efforts make a world of difference.

[Apply Now!](#)



Building International Partnerships

During the first half of 2026, 5MFBH continued to strengthen its international Ambassador Programme by welcoming distinguished professionals from diplomacy, entrepreneurship, culture, education, energy, and community development.

As part of these efforts, the 5MFBH team met with representatives of the Embassies of Croatia, Norway, Estonia, North Macedonia, Türkiye, and other diplomatic missions in Paris to explore opportunities for future cooperation and engagement.

Our ambassadors voluntarily promote the mission of 5MFBH through their professional and international networks, fostering partnerships and increasing the visibility of Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Soul & City – Été Solidaire 2026

On 2 July 2026, Marisa Hannewyk, Vice President of 5 Million Friends of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Ivona Mock, Secretary General of the association and Expat Coach hosted it's third Soul & City event in support of the association as our contribution to Été Solidaire, the annual community initiative organised by MVAC 7.

The event brought together participants from diverse cultural, linguistic, and national backgrounds for an evening dedicated to dialogue, meditation, intercultural understanding, and community building. Through guided discussions, meditation, and shared experiences, participants explored identity, belonging, and peaceful coexistence while building meaningful connections across communities.

We sincerely thank everyone who participated and helped make the evening a warm, inspiring, and memorable success!



Promoting Bosnia and Herzegovina Through Media and Institutional Engagement

During their recent visit to Sarajevo, David Čosić and Damir Kakrin represented 5 Million Friends of Bosnia and Herzegovina (5MFBH) through interviews with N1, Nova TV, Face TV, Hayat TV, and BHRT, presenting the association's mission and highlighting the important role of the diaspora in promoting Bosnia and Herzegovina internationally.



They also held meetings with representatives of state institutions, tourism organizations, and other relevant partners to explore future cooperation in the fields of culture, tourism, education, entrepreneurship, and soft diplomacy.

These activities reflect 5MFBH's commitment to building bridges between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the global community through communication, collaboration, and positive international engagement.

Membership & Support Opportunities

At 5 Million Friends of Bosnia & Herzegovina, every gesture of support counts. Together, we build bridges of friendship, spread love for our homeland, and showcase the beauty of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the world.

Membership fees 2026:

- €50/year
- €25/year for students

You can also support us by:

- Making a donation
- Becoming a sponsor or partner
- Volunteering your time and expertise

By joining 5MFBH, you support our cultural, educational, and community projects while helping promote Bosnia and Herzegovina internationally. You also receive priority access to RSVP for all events!

[Become a Member or
Donate Now](#)



Upcoming Events

Forum des Associations 2026

5 Million Friends of Bosnia and Herzegovina will participate in the Forum des Associations in Paris.

This annual event provides an excellent opportunity to meet local residents, present our activities, recruit new volunteers, and introduce more people to our mission. If you would like to help represent the association, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Association 5MFBH au Forum des Associations du 7^e arrondissement de Paris : Un pont d'amitié et de valeurs européennes

Un temps fort pour l'association avec la visite et l'échange avec Rachida Dati, Michel Barnier et d'autres personnalités européennes de premier plan, ainsi que la présence de la diaspora bosnienne et des habitants de la 7^e arrondissement de Paris.



Tolerance Project

Preparations continue for the Tolerance Project, the internationally recognised initiative created by renowned designer and activist Mirko Ilić. Throughout the spring and summer, we have explored exhibition opportunities and partnerships with cultural institutions, public bodies, and community organisations in Paris. Our goal is to create meaningful dialogue around tolerance, diversity, inclusion, and mutual respect.

We look forward to sharing further updates as the project develops.

Thank You!

None of our achievements would be possible without the dedication of our volunteers, members, ambassadors, partners, and supporters.

Thank you for helping us build bridges, create opportunities, and promote friendship, dialogue, and cooperation. Together, we continue strengthening the connections between Bosnia and Herzegovina, its diaspora, and friends around the world.

