

## **Bosnian city of Zenica explores its female history**

Central Bosnian city of Zenica might easily be described as the city “where the streets have no women names”. Only two city streets are named after women, out of a total of 150 of them. No primary or secondary school in Zenica, no square and no bridge are named after a woman, the 2018 research of students of Zenica’s Faculty of Philosophy showed.

But a new female international art project hopes to shed some light on women's history of the city.

"URBAN Herstories - Žensko lice Zenice" is a collaborative art initiative that will document the social, political and urban changes in Zenica from the 1960s onwards through a female perspective. The project will collect personal stories of elderly women from Zenica related to specific mapped locations in the city, upon which the so-called "Women's city map" will be created. The stories will be part of a city audio guide, documentary film and photographic projects curated and developed by artists from BiH, Ukraine, Slovakia and Poland.

The project begins on March 12, when the group of Zenica’s elderly women will embark on discovering the often invisible, female perspective on the city through joint walks around the city center and discussions about their personal memories of mapped locations in downtown Zenica.

Throughout the month of March, which is globally celebrated as Women's History Month, female artists from Ukraine, Slovakia and Poland will be staying in Zenica, where they will work with local elderly women to document their stories in different artistic formats. This will support the efforts of women around the world to become more visible in the public arena and to discuss the position of women, especially those of third age. Also, the project will open space for introducing unknown but significant women's experiences into the city's history.

The URBAN Herstories project is a joint project of Naš most Association from Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Insha Osvita from Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine, Kino Usmev from Košice, Slovakia and Strefa Kultury Wroclaw from Wroclaw, Poland. The partner on the project is Zenica’s Naša djeca Association.

It is implemented within the framework of the Tandem Ukraine Programme. Tandem Ukraine is an initiative developed by MitOst e.V. and European Cultural Foundation (ECF). The programme is implemented in close collaboration with Insha Osvita, and is supported by the German Federal Foreign Office in the framework of “Dialogue for Change”, as well as ECF and Black Sea Trust, a Project of the German Marshall Fund of the United States.