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UWC-IBO Initiative in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Progress Report February-May 2005¹

Summary of the Progress Report dated 17th May 2005

Finnish Cultural Foundation pledged a grant in February enabling **Pilvi Torsti** to start working as a project manager 1st March 2005-31st July 2006. **Melanie Coquelin** from IBO/Geneva will be working 1-2 days/week for the project as of May 2005.

The Mostar Gymnasium reconstruction funding has almost been secured and the City of Mostar should receive the funds in July 2005. The City Council in Mostar has unanimously supported the project, as has the newly appointed Head of the Gymnasium in Mostar. Negotiations about the design and use of space are on-going. The two schools in Sarajevo and Banja Luka have also confirmed their enthusiasm and co-operation.

The OSCE and the Norwegian Embassy have agreed the allocation of €200,000 to equip the three science laboratories in Mostar, which should be ready for teaching during the school year 2005-2006. The Norwegian Embassy has made two direct grants to the UWC-IBO project of €50,000 and €23,500 for "human resources" for teacher training, conference and the teaching of science courses. The IBO has allocated a preliminary figure of USD20,000 to fund its own involvement, and has placed the fundraising machinery of the IBO at the disposal of the project. Project team has raised €25,000+ from UWC graduates and friends including Finnish and German Networks.

General Director of the IBO **George Walker** and Executive Secretary of the UWC International **Keith Clark** visited Bosnia in April meeting many important people. Project founders **David Sutcliffe** and **Antonin Besse** visited Finland in May and had several high level meetings and workings sessions.

Mark Sylvester, senior physics teacher of the UWC Adriatic College will be seconded for one year as from June to plan and execute the equipping of science laboratories in Mostar and the preparation of the teaching, both for pupils and for teachers.

Elisabeth Rehn, a former UN Representative in Bosnia and Human Right Commissioner in the Balkan region, is highly enthusiastic and had agreed to become the patron of the project and to travel to Bosnia for several days in August/September to promote the project.

There will be a one day conference in Sarajevo on Friday 28 October, preceded by student and teacher workshops on the Thursday 27th in both Mostar and Banja Luka, to launch the whole enterprise. **Andrew Maclehose**, former teacher and director of studies of Atlantic College and Adriatic College is taking a lead in the workshop preparations and the possible follow-up teacher training sessions.

A team of UWC-IBO volunteers has been selected to work in Bosnia in the school year 2005-2006. They will design and run preparatory courses and service and activity programs.

All PR materials of the project (except the website) are ready by the end of May for the full scale fund-raising and public appearances. Project Executive Committee was set up in March and detailed governance structures are being approved.

The concentration in the coming months must be on the conference preparations and fund-raising for both the start-up period (short-fall c. 95.000€) and 2006-2009 (c. 4,5 million euros).

¹ Full report available at request from the project manager Pilvi Torsti (pilvi.torsti@uwc.net)