



ALMA GAINA

November 15, 2022 | Articles | IAYSP, Photos, Young Adults, Youth Project, YSP UK

YSP UK Helps Launch Peace Club In UBT (Kosovo) & Tetova University (North Macedonia)

On the week commencing 24th of October, our YSP UK team (Elliot Y., Viola D., Alma G. and Jamie K.) travelled to Kosovo for the launch of the Peace Club initiative visiting both UBT – University of Business and Technology in Pristina, Kosovo, and the Tetovo State University in North Macedonia.

[Article Update – 15/11/2022](#)

For the full gallery with photos from the trip, please [click here](#).



The introduction to YSP and its Peace Design Principles, as well as the Peace Designer Training, delivered to both university students and high school students, was received with a lot of enthusiasm and excitement. The possibilities which can be created and presented as an outcome of this collaboration between both universities and IAYSP sparked motivation and hope in both the students and our team.

YSP UK's goal with this new and exciting partnership is to bring positive change and positive peace on an environmental level. The environment being defined as not only the ecological/natural environment we live in, but the socio-economic, cultural and political spheres that we move and live in

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The origin story of UBT in Pristina is a very example of positive change in the socio-economic sphere. UBT currently has 10,000 students enrolled and it started from a dream – a dream to build a state of the art higher education platform that emerged in a post war era. Edmond Hajrizi had this vision and brought it to life through his hard work. Edmond Hajrizi's story is inspiring as UBT had started with only 12 students and was funded through Edmond's own wage from his work. **Now, UBT is enrolling approximately 5,000 students per year and has been awarded numerous accolades and boasts an impressive ratio of 15.5 students per member of staff.**



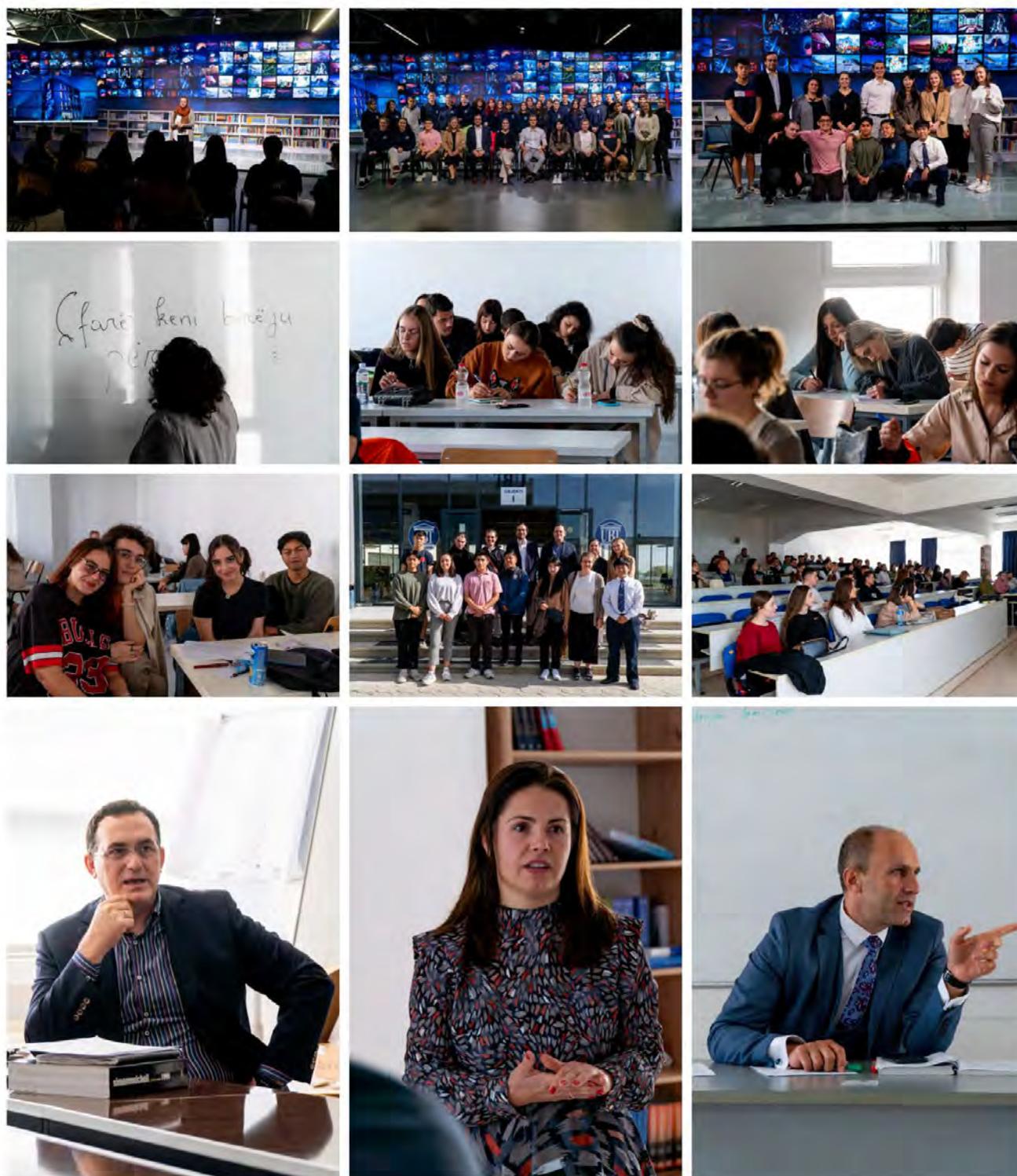
While in Kosovo the team was also humbled to be invited to share and discuss peace and their work with the former president of Kosovo, Dr Fatmir Sejdiu. Dr Fatmir's testimony of his time in office and his longing for peace at the border was truly moving and inspiring. Furthermore, his responses to questions from the team always linked back to Kosovo (and its welfare), showing his mindset and determination to create a prosperous, safe and ultimately peaceful Kosovo.

Kosovo has a very interesting, yet conflicted history – it became an independent country only in 2008. The former president shared his stories of being on the frontline, kneeling for peaceful reconciliation, despite being attacked and showered with high power water hoses.

During their trip, YSP UK received support from Bogdan P., IAYSP EUME Regional President, Sandra S., IAYSP EUME General Secretary, and the Kosovo team – Ejona, Era, Labi and Liburn.

For more information on their testimonies, videos and photos, please visit <https://www.yspuk.org>.

Here are more photos from the trip:





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