



„Bosnia and Herzegovina: enhancing social cohesion in communities hosting people on the move”

(International Grace United)

First workshop of traditional ethno embroidery

The first workshop on traditional handicrafts – ethno embroidery „Traditional ethno embroidery on ‘panama’ fabric” was held at the premises of the Temporary Reception Center ‘Borići’ in Bihać on Saturday, April 16, 2022. The workshop was led by Ms Suada Harčević, a member of the “Women United” Association, which has been promoting embroidery for many years as an important segment of the national heritage in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Ms Suada learned embroidery from her grandmother, and as far as she knows, a grandmother had learnt it from her aunt. Therefore, over the years, female members of her family have passed on the skill of making traditional hand embroidery. In addition to demonstrating the technique of making, Ms Suada told stories about her childhood and family origins, as well as the ways in which this handicraft came to our area. She also mentioned that, as a girl, she embroidered on ‘panama’ fabric (net cotton fabric) and that the embroidery was called Dubica (‘dubički’) because the tablecloths made by hardworking women were repurchased for Bosanska Dubica and thus went further into the world. In this way, beautiful and valuable handicrafts left Bosnia and Herzegovina and decorated homes around the world. Apart from the members of the “Women United” Association, the beneficiaries of the Temporary Reception Center “Borići”, i. e. women from Afghanistan and Cuba attended the workshop. Ethno motifs of geometric and floral patterns were embroidered on the tablecloths.

This first traditional handicraft workshop is a part of the project “Enhancing Social Cohesion in Host Communities of People on the Move”. The project is implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Bosnia and Herzegovina and funded by the European Union’s Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (FPI) through the Instruments Contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP).

The works created during the first workshop of the joint project of IOM and the “Women United” Association are going to be presented at an exhibition prepared by the group for vulnerable categories operating within the Association.