



DESMOS

THE INTERNATIONAL LINK  
OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN SCOUTS

LE LIEN INTERNATIONAL  
DES SCOUTS CHRETIEN ORTHODOXES

**6<sup>TH</sup> DESMOS CONFERENCE**  
APRIL 29-30, 2011.  
BELGRADE  
REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

## CONFERENCE SUMMARY

The 6<sup>th</sup> DESMOS CONFERENCE was held on April 29-30, 2011, in the premises of the Hotel Kasina, in Belgrade, Republic of Serbia.

The Conference could not be organized, as usually, as the event preceding the World Scout Conference, which took part in January 2011 in Curitiba, Brazil, due to extremely high cost of traveling to Brazil, which most of the delegates could not afford. The Committee, therefore, brought the decision to have the Conference in Belgrade, Serbia.



Wishing to enable as many as possible participants from as many as possible member-countries to take part at the 6<sup>th</sup> Desmos Conference, and considering the fact that many of the delegates had to pay the trip to Serbia themselves, the Host Committee decided to reduce the Conference Fee to the minimum and yet try to offer adequate conditions for work and an interesting programme.

## THE PROPOSED MODIFIED AGENDA

Friday, April 29, 2011

08:30 - 09:00 REGISTRATION

09:00 - 09:30 OFFICIAL OPENING

Address of the President of the Scout Organization of Serbia  
Announcements

10:00 - 13:00 Meetings at The Serbian Orthodox Church's Patriarchate and The City Hall

10:00 Visit to The Patriarchate of the Serbian Orthodox Church  
and meeting with His Holiness IRINEJ, The Serbian Patriarch

12:00 Reception at the City Hall of Belgrade and meeting with Assistant Mayor, Aleksandar Šapić

13:30 - 14:30 LUNCH

14:30 - 15:00 FREE TIME

15:00 - 15:30 PREPARATORY SESSION

- Meditation / Prayer
- Appointment of Tellers
- Election of the Conference Chairman, Vice Chairman, Reporter and Assistant reporter
- Appointment of the Resolutions Committee
- Approval of the Agenda

PLENARY SESSION

15:30 - 16:30

- Address by DESMOS Chairman, Mr. Christos Papageorgiou
- Key-Note speaker, Fr. Gligorije Marković / Presentation: Orthodoxy and Young People

16:30 - 17:30

- Address by DESMOS Vice-Chairman, Mr. Maher Sahlieh
- Report of the Treasurer, Mr. Nicolaos Mitsides
- Report of the Secretary General, Mr. Marko Petrovic
- Welcome to the new member-countries that joined DESMOS since the 5<sup>th</sup> Conference in Korea

17:30 - 18:00 COFFEE BREAK

18:00 - 20:00

- DESMOS participation at the World Scout Jamboree in Sweden 2011 (Faith and Belief Zone)
- DESMOS Committee elections
- National presentations

20:00 - 20:30 FINAL SESSION

- Resolutions
- Miscellaneous
- Announcements

20:30 CLOSING

20:30 - 21:30 DINER  
FREE TIME

## Saturday, April 30, 2011

10:00 – 11:30 BELGRADE – SIGHTSEEING

- Bus tour in Belgrade central area / the streets and buildings of Belgrade
- St. SAVA Orthodox Temple

11:30 – 12:30 BUS TRIP TO NOVI SAD

- 12:30 – 17:00
- Novi Sad – Sightseeing
  - Petrovaradin Fortress
  - Visiting Krušedol Monastery at Fruška Gora mountain

17:00 – 18:00 Lunch at the Church of the Holy Virgin Mary in Indjija

18:00 – 19:00 Attendance at the Evening service in the Church

19:00 – 19:30 RETURN TO BELGRADE

20:00 – 21:00 DINER

21:00 – 22:00 DESMOS COMMITTEE MEETING

(free time for other participants – Host Committee available for guided walks ...)

## Sunday, May 1, 2011

END OF OFFICIAL PROGRAMME / DEPARTURES (after breakfast)

## OFFICIAL OPENING

The President of the Scout Organization of Serbia, Mr. **Branko Davidovic**, welcomed the Conference delegates wishing them to have the fruitful conference and to spend pleasant time in Belgrade and in Serbia.

The President informed the delegates about the Centenary of Scouting in Serbia, which the Scout Organization of Serbia celebrates in this year, and about the central event - The 8th Serbian Jamboree, Šabac, August 10-19, 2011, as well as about the ongoing traditional Belgrade Jamboree at Ada Ciganlija location.



President Davidovic informed the Conference delegates that The Scout Organization of Serbia decided to nominate Marko Petrovic for the elections to the DESMOS Committee and said that Marko has the support of all NSO's Board members.

At the opening of the event, Vice-President of the Scout Organization of Serbia, Mr. Velimir Milosevic, was present as well.



**B. Davidovic**



**V. Milosevic**

On behalf of all delegates of the Conference, Marko Petrovic, DESMOS Secretary General, expressed gratitude to the President and Vice-President of The Scout Organization of Serbia, for their presence at the event.

Secretary General welcomed the delegates, expressing thanks for their efforts made in order to come to Serbia and take part at the 6th DESMOS Conference.

## PREPARATORY SESSION

### Prayer

DESMOS Secretary General said the Prayer from the Founding Assembly of The Link, held in Monastery Penteli in Athens, back in 1997 ([Appendix 1](#))

### Approval of the proposed Agenda

Secretary General, **Marko Petrovic**, explained that the Conference Agenda had to be modified, due to the late notice confirming the visit to the Serbian Orthodox Church's Patriarchate. He suggested that the Conference accepts the changes in timing of the initially proposed Conference Agenda, expressing expectations that all the foreseen items could be covered later during the day.

The Conference delegates accepted the proposed modified Agenda.

## Appointment of the Teller

The initial proposal was to appoint as the Teller Dušan Masoničić from Montenegro, but since he was nominated candidate for the elections to the DESMOS Committee, it was proposed to the Conference to appoint as the Teller – Georges Abboud from Lebanon, instead.

The Conference accepted the proposal and appointed as the Teller – **Georges Abboud** from Lebanon.



## Election of the Conference Chairman, Vice Chairman, Reporter and Assistant reporter

The Conference elected:

The Conference Chairman -  
Mr. **George Bahow** from Israel

The Conference Vice-Chairman –  
Mr. **Jaakko Weuro** from Finland

The Conference Reporter –  
Mr. **Marko Petrovic** from Serbia

The Conference Assistant Reporter –  
Mr. **Milan Ristic** from Serbia



George Bahow



Jaakko Weuro

## Appointment of the Resolutions Committee

The Conference agreed that the Resolutions Committee may be appointed at a later stage, if needed.

## PLENARY SESSION

### Address – DESMOS President, Mr. Christos Papageorgiou

DESMOS President, **Christos Papageorgiou**, welcomed the Conference delegates and guests and expressed gratitude to the host NSO for organization of the event.

Through the PowerPoint presentation "DESMOS ACTIVITIES AND PRESENCE 2008-2011", Christos gave the overview of the most important DESMOS events and activities in the previous period since the 5<sup>th</sup> DESMOS Conference in Korea.

DESMOS President informed the Conference about the recent renewal of the Consultative Status that The Link has with the World Organization of the Scout Movement, and pointed out that this renewal for the coming triennium represents the recognition for DESMOS' efforts on the field of Spiritual Dimension in Scouting, in line with the policy of WOSM.



Christos emphasized the importance of putting into practice part of the DESMOS' Mission, which is to enable scout leaders to understand the significance of the Spiritual Dimension in Scouting and implement the principle of Duty to God in their work with scouts. In this context, Christos mentioned, as the evident success, two Orthodox Leaders' trainings held in 2009 in Madaba, Jordan, for the area of Middle-East and Soko Grad, Serbia, for the Balkan area, and said DESMOS should plan to have new similar trainings in both mentioned regions, but also in other regions, where there is an identified need for such events.



Commenting the presentation, Christos emphasized the importance of some of the activities and events, like:

- The 3rd World Scout Inter-Religious Symposium, Oct. 2009, Uganda
- The annual Thinking Day event with borders-area activities
- The 2nd Ecumenical Encounter, Oct. 2010, Athens, Greece, for which DESMOS as the organizer got support of His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch, Bartolomew I
- Publication of "Guidelines on Spirituality and Religiosity in Scouting", in which DESMOS played significant role
- New member-countries, Montenegro and Uganda, as further enlarging DESMOS family

Christos also emphasized the importance of DESMOS' continuous active involvement in work of the Inter-Religious Forum, as well as of DESMOS' participation at the forthcoming 4th World Scout Inter-Religious Symposium, to be organized in Taiwan, in August 2011.

#### Key-Note speaker, Fr. Gligorije Marković / Presentation: Orthodoxy and Young People

The Key-Note Speaker, Father **Gligorije Marković**, presented to the Conference delegates the topic "Orthodoxy and Young People". Father Gligorije, who is running the Parish in one of the Belgrade municipalities, had a very interesting half-hour presentation on the topic which is quite actual in present time.



In a very lively presentation, Father Gligorije analyzed the issue of how to make young people closer to the Church and how to make them aware of the importance of their own spiritual development. He pointed out the place and role of the family, but also of the close environment and the broader society in which young people live.

#### Address – DESMOS Vice-President, Mr. Maher Sahlieh



DESMOS Vice-President, **Maher Sahlieh**, welcomed the Conference Chairman and Vice-Chairman and all delegates and he expressed gratitude to the Scout Organization of Serbia for hosting the Conference. Maher said that, after DESMOS President's detailed presentation on all events and activities in the period 2008-2011, there's not much to be added about the activities of The Link as a whole, but he informed the Conference about the on-going activities in the Palestinian Orthodox Scouts association, pointing out the preparatory activities for celebration of the Centenary of Scouting in Palestine, in 2012. DESMOS Vice-President said his association expects DESMOS as The Link to join their Centenary activities.

He said they organize in May the Appreciation Ceremony, wishing to express recognition and gratitude to more than 60 persons who have been working for more than 30 years in Scouting, in Palestine.

Maher Sahlieh emphasized the importance of the Leaders' Trainings organized in Madaba, Jordan and Soko Grad, Serbia, indicating that such events not only offer to young people the additional knowledge, but also offer them the opportunity to get acquainted to each other. Maher reminded that DESMOS is growing and nowadays has member-countries in Europe, Middle-East, Africa and America, where the huge organization like BSA is our member. He said it is very important to have active approach to BSA and try to involve them in DESMOS activities. Maher said this should be one of the tasks the new DESMOS Committee should focus on.

Concluding his address, DESMOS Vice-President said we all owe a big thank you to our President Christos Papageorgiou, for he has done for The Link over the years of his active engagement and suggested DESMOS should find the way to keep Christos involved in The Link's strategic issues .

## Report – DESMOS Treasurer, Mr. Nicolaos Mitsides

DESMOS Treasurer, **Nicolaos Mitsides**, said the financial aspects of the Link are a serious problem and should be considered the soonest possible. Unfortunately this situation is not different from the one in previous years. It remains the same without any serious change, meaning The Link has no income.

The financial capacity is the basic element of the success or failure in any organization or institution. The same refers to our Link. In order to achieve our objectives, we need the money to cover the expenses for meeting, conferences, symposiums, forums etc.

If we fail in finding a solution for this problem, The Link will face serious difficulties and will not be able to meet its objectives.

The only progress in the financial position of DESMOS is the establishment of the association "FRIENDS OF DESMOS IN GREECE". This issue has been discussed several times at the Committee meetings, with the recommendation to try to establish similar associations in other DESMOS countries.

Secretary General **Marko Petrovic** reminded that the English text of the Statute of the association "FRIENDS OF DESMOS IN GREECE" has been sent to DESMOS countries before and said he will send it once again for those who would like to try to realize similar funding association.

As the Treasurer - Nicolaos Mitsides said - I did not administrate any amount of money and so I am not able to present to the Conference any statement or account of Receipts and Payments. Therefore, we need to discuss how to resolve this problem.

After the discussion in which took part:

- President **Christos Papageorgiou**, who reminded that DESMOS Statute foresees the membership Fee for all member-countries - 10% of what they pay as WOSM Fee; Christos said we have not succeeded to collect the Fee so far, and all the expenditures were financed only by the "FRIENDS OF DESMOS IN GREECE" association.
- Vice-President **Maher Sahlieh**, who said he appreciates what associations like Friends of Desmos in Greece are doing, but indicated that such associations are formed on the national basis, and suggested we should establish the fund on the level of DESMOS as a Link, which could then be used for financing participation of DESMOS officials at the Committee meetings, conferences, forums, ... upon decision of The Committee in each particular case.
- **Jaakko Weuro**, delegate from Finland, who suggested that the Committee makes the analysis of the membership Fee system, namely the percentage of DESMOS membership Fee, having in mind that perhaps it's not only the question of lack of funds but also it might be that some countries consider the percentage too high in contrast with the activities of The Link. Jaakko suggested that the newly elected Committee reflects on this issue and, if considered needed, prepares for the next DESMOS Conference the eventual amendment to the Link's Statute with more appropriate percentage.

The Conference accepted given suggestions.





DESMOS Secretary General, **Marko Petrovic**, reported to the Conference on DESMOS activities in the previous triennium 2008-2011, repeating briefly the most important issues already presented by the President Christos Papageorgiou in his detailed presentation.

Marko particularly emphasized the importance of the fact that DESMOS got the renewal of the Consultative Status with WOSM for the coming triennium and explained the conditions that had to be fulfilled in order to get such status. The renewal of the Consultative Status with WOSM for DESMOS, as one of the faith-organizations in Scouting, is certainly an important recognition for the work The Link has done on implementation of the Spiritual Dimension in Scouting and on developing of the inter-religious dialogue, all in line with the policy of the World Organization of the Scout Movement and its Statute.

As the very important segment in DESMOS activities in the period between the two conferences Secretary General pointed out the practical work done through two Orthodox Leaders' Trainings, realized in March and October 2009, in Madaba, Jordan and in Soko Grad, Serbia, which gathered large number of scout leaders from the Middle-East and Balkan countries. The feedback received from young people that participated at those events was excellent, which is encouraging and confirms the need to continue with such trainings in future and to offer such experience to Orthodox scout leaders in other regions where DESMOS has members.

Marko briefly informed the Conference about the study visit DESMOS officials have realized in Lebanon, upon the invitation of the President of S.N.O. Georges Abboud. It was an extraordinary experience and the opportunity to meet scouts and their leaders in their environment, and to get acquainted with the achievements of one association, which is investing lots of efforts in its development.

Secretary General also emphasized that DESMOS took part at all major scout events on European and World level. DESMOS was present both at the European Scout Conference in Brussels, Belgium, in July 2010, and at the World Scout Conference in Curitiba, Brazil, in January 2011. Being present at major scout events keeps DESMOS connected to key stake-holders in Scouting and updated about all the actual issues in the World Organization of the Scout Movement.

In order to be able to focus on certain issues in the forthcoming period, and improve the things we have not been doing well enough, we need to identify our mistakes and failures.

Secretary General pointed out The Link's strengths and weaknesses:

#### **Desmos' strengths**

- high reputation in the world of Scouting
- renewed consultative status with WOSM
- participation at all major European and World events
- inter-religious dialogue - DESMOS contribution to joint work with other faith organizations in Scouting
- established and regularly updated web-site

#### **Desmos' weaknesses**

- financial problems / lack of NSO's support
- large number of inactive member-countries
- insufficient number of activities, particularly activities on bilateral basis between Desmos countries
- lack of human resources – the need to recruit more committed people
- insufficient communication within the Link



## Welcome to the new member-countries

The 6<sup>th</sup> DESMOS Conference welcomes the new member-countries that joined The Link since the previous Conference in Korea – MONTENEGRO and UGANDA. The Link is looking forward to witnessing active involvement of DESMOS new member-countries.

## DESMOS participation at the WSJ in Sweden 2011 – Christos Papageorgiou

DESMOS President, **Christos Papageorgiou**, who took part at the meetings with organizers of the World Scout Jamboree in Sweden, informed the Conference about all aspects of the The Faith and Beliefs Zone, which is part of the official programme of the WSJ in Sweden that will take part end of August / beginning of July 2011 in Kristianstadt.



Christos also informed the delegates about the ideas for DESMOS participation at this important world scout event, suggesting that the DESMOS Workshop be organized based on the experience of the Workshop that DESMOS had at the previous WSJ in UK, in 2007.

The Conference accepted the suggestion to offer children the opportunity to paint the Icons and to give all visitors the opportunity to see the history of Orthodoxy through Icons.

Christos invited delegates to recruit in their countries the volunteers ready to accept the commitment and join the Staff of DESMOS Workshop at the World Scout Jamboree in Sweden, pointing out the urgency of the issue, due to deadlines set by the WSJ organizers.

Christos Papageorgiou informed the Conference that the concept of the Faith and Belief Zone is to have exactly the same tents for all faith organizations in Scouting on the front side, and to put all tents in a circle. At this Jamboree, DESMOS tent will also have a small place for prayer, for the Jamboree participants who express such need. The main Orthodox service (Liturgy), as the services of all other religions, will be organized on July 30, 2011, at 19h. It's a Saturday. Although it's not a Sunday, that's the term given by the Jamboree organizers, and it is the same for all faith organizations.

The open issue is the priest we shall need for our main service (Liturgy), since we still have no definite solution. However, DESMOS asked the support and assistance in this matter of The Ecumenical Patriarch and we're now trying to establish contact the indicated contact person, the priest from Germany. If we does not succeed with this option, the alternative would be the priest from Finland, since Jaakko Weuro promised to help in this matter.

Also, we are still looking for a Chorus for singing spiritual songs.

DESMOS will have small gifts for all visitors of our Workshop tent. Georges Abboud from Lebanon provided 2.000 small calendars for the year 2012, we shall have around 2.000 DESMOS badges and Vice-President Maher Sahlieh will provide 1.000 small wooden crosses from Jerusalem.

The Conference Vice-Chairman, Jaakko Weuro, suggested that The Conference expresses gratitude to the Executive Committee of DESMOS for the efforts made in order to prepare the appropriate DESMOS participation within Faith and Belief Zone at the World Scout Jamboree in Sweden.

The Conference accepted Jaakko's suggestion.

## DESMOS Committee elections

The elections for DESMOS Executive Committee took part in accordance with The Link's Statute . The member-countries represented at the Conference by the delegates are as follows:

- Bosnia-Herzegovina / Republic of Srpska
- Cyprus
- Finland
- Greece (representing also Russian Federation by Proxy)
- Israel
- Jordan
- Lebanon
- Montenegro
- Palestinian Authority
- Romania (representing also Moldova by Proxy)
- Serbia (representing also Armenia, Poland and Macedonia FYRO, by Proxies)

Maximum possible number of votes: 16

Nine candidates were nominated for seven seats. Lebanon withdrew its nomination, so eight candidates took part at the elections:

1. BIRTSAS VASSILIS	- Greece	16 votes
2. BOLTASU ROXANA	- Romania	16 votes
3. DAOUD SAEED	- Jordan	16 votes
4. MASONIČIĆ DUŠAN	- Montenegro	16 votes
5. MITSIDES NICOLAOS	- Cyprus	8 votes
6. PETROVIĆ MARKO	- Serbia	16 votes
7. RECHMANI FOUAD	- Lebanon ( <b>WITHDRAWN</b> )	
8. SAHLIEH MAHER	- Palestinian Authority	13 votes
9. SHAHADA NAAMAN	- Israel	13 votes

The elected members of the new Executive Committee of DESMOS with the three-year mandate starting at January 1, 2012, are as follows:



**Birtsas Vassilis**  
Greece



**Boltasu Roxana**  
Romania



**Daoud Saeed**  
Jordan



**Masoničić Dušan**  
Montenegro



**Petrović Marko**  
Serbia



**Sahlieh Maher**  
Palestinian Authority



**Shahada Naaman**  
Israel

The Conference welcomed the newly elected DESMOS Committee members.

## National presentations

On behalf of the Jordanian delegation, **Saeed Daoud** presented to the Conference delegates the activities and achievements of the Amman Orthodox Scouts. Saeed pointed out the progress this association has made after numerous challenges they have been facing in the previous period, indicating they have reached the membership of 150, and pointed out the optimism and enthusiasm that is now dominating among scouts and their leaders.

**Jaakko Weuro** from Finland used the opportunity to remind the Conference participants that his country and its NSO will be hosting the next RoverWay, the biggest rovers' event for the age section 16-22.



see. feel. follow.  
**ROVERWAY**  
FINLAND ... 2012

Jaakko informed the Conference participants about the RoverWay 2012 facts.

Roverway is a joint European WAGGGS and WOSM event for 16-22 year old Rover Scouts and Rangers from all over the world.

The main event of Roverway 2012 takes place in Finland 20. - 28.7.2012.

It is a 9 day long programme event that includes two main parts:

A four day hike/event in groups of 50 people somewhere in Finland. Each path is different and the themes range from cultural excursions to forest hikes.

The camp lasts for the rest of the event and all path tribes come together on the camp. The camp has programme valleys and different activities.

Even though the main event takes part in July, participation in the project runs throughout 2012. For more information, see the Programme page.

Roverway is aimed at 16 - 22 year old Rover Scouts and Ranger Guides throughout Europe. Finnish Explorers and Rovers over 16 years old are also welcome. In addition we welcome Rover Scouts and Ranger Guides from around the world.

Over 22 year olds are welcome to join the International Service Team.

25% of all the participants can be Finnish Explorers and Rovers.

For all those who are thinking of finding something fun to do in the summer of 2012, who want to be part of an unforgettable experience, who would like to become a tribe leader for Roverway 2012 - more information could be found at [www.roverway.fi/](http://www.roverway.fi/)

**Marko Petrovic** from Serbia presented to The Conference delegates the facts about the 8th Serbian (Inter)National Jamboree, which will be organized in the period August 10-19, 2011, in Šabac, Western Serbia, as the central event within the celebration of the Centenary of Scouting in Serbia, and invited DESMOS member-countries to send participants and take part.



Marko indicated that the Scout Organization of Serbia offers a special Jamboree Fee for DESMOS countries, which is 50,-€ below the regular price for foreign participants, wishing to encourage participants from member-countries to take part at the event. The set of documents related to the Jamboree in Serbia will be distributed to all DESMOS member-countries immediately after the Conference.

Marko said the event is expected to be a real international event, considering the announced participation of several hundred foreign scouts from several EU and Balkan countries, as well as from the Middle-East. The participants will have an interesting programme and lots of fun.

## FINAL SESSION

### Resolutions

**Jaakko Weuro**, delegate from Finland, prepared and proposed to the Conference draft of the Resolution related to the relevance of Spirituality in Scouting.

Jaakko presented to The Conference the background of this issue, indicating that the WOSM Constitutions Committee and the World Scout Committee has been discussing a number of times the issue of Duty to God and how it is reflected in the Scout Promise, as well as what it means in today's world. Jaakko said this is something that will certainly be actual in the forthcoming period, so DESMOS as The Link and its member-countries should be informed and should have the position regarding the issue.



The Conference agreed regarding the importance of this issue, believing that spirituality, practiced through learning by doing, is and remains highly relevant element of the educational proposal of Scouting, and should be something we should focus on in future.

The proposed text of the Resolution has been discussed, slightly improved and adopted by the Conference ([Appendix 2](#)).

The Conference also adopted the Resolution of Courtesy ([Appendix 3](#))

### Miscellaneous



DESMOS Committee member **Naaman Shahada** from Israel, informed The Conference about the important issue concerning relations and cooperation between Orthodox Arab scouts and Moslem Arab scouts in Jaffa town. There are two Orthodox scouts groups and one Moslem scouts group in this town and, so far, there have been no joint activities or cooperation whatsoever.

In his capacity of Secretary General of the Orthodox Scout Association of Israel and Vice-President of the Scout Federation of Israel, with the support of his colleagues from Moslem scouts association and Druze scouts association, Naaman Shahada succeeded to realize this year for the first time the joint scout parade in the town of Jaffa, which is considered as a historical event, and perceived as such by Media as well.

Besides the two Orthodox scouts groups and one Moslem scouts group from Jaffa, four other scout groups from other parts of Israel (3 Orthodox scouts groups and one Moslem scouts group) also took part at the event, which was followed by around 20.000 people standing along the streets of Jaffa, where the parade was going on. The Orthodox Scouts of Israel association is proud that it managed to successfully realize such event, which will hopefully be a milestone in relations and cooperation of scouts of different denominations in Israel.

The Conference decided to leave to the newly elected Committee the decision on place and time of the next DESMOS Conference in 2014.

### Announcements

Secretary General informed the Conference delegates about the Programme for the rest of the day and for Saturday, which was planned as an excursion day.

## CLOSING

The Conference was closed around 20h30, in good spirit and with the commitment to invest more efforts in development of DESMOS in the forthcoming period, in order to strengthen the Link and achieve better results.

P R A Y E R

Lord,

Through the dim light that the sundown spreads, give us across praying Your opening to dream and hope.

Life is a fierce waterfall and we are slopped in the same mass of human material, fortunately not impersonally, for we react in our own way.

Give us the strength to imprint the world with our own ability and to make our times Your times, by giving the struggle in the same arena.

We can see in Your face our generation and the generations to come, for you live eternally.

Give us the strength to begin a dialogue with You. To castigate our mistaken paces and to place our luggage in the vehicle of hope.

We lift on our shoulders the historical responsibilities and on the blank book of the third millenium we will write the first lines. Help so that they will be carved with Your inspirations and the never setting light of Your cross.

We are bound to You. We commence in life our own march and we bind our hands and soul to your bonds, thus creating earthly links of solidarity.

We travel far, we search for the origins of the problems of this era, that have passed through the chain of generations, and we are making efforts to find the causes of our century's crisis.

Our ideological content has not been defined.

Help us O Lord to provide to the ideological stigma of our generation Your Name, to speak and to express ourselves about the great bulk of our problems. To confide in You the changes we are aiming to come in the future. To dispute the traditional transcriptions of the error's practice and to deliver the despair to the emptiness and the darkness of chaos.

With the rush of an immature child we have vanished the goods of our planet, and now with the senility of a decadent old person we try to derive the agony of the survival from the bowels of the earth.

We have exaggerated O Lord, and we have turned our fleshy machines into machinery of steal, discrediting Your residence. We have created consuming ideals and we have sent the messages to all latitudes. This seclusion from your Name we will re-establish with Your help, drawing from the channels of the spiritual creation, we, the Scouts of the good and human goals, for Your Sacred Name.

The instigators of the generations' madness are succeeded by the cunning ones of our personal numbness. We are going to oppose the vigorous affirmation to the mystery of life. As we are already filled with hope, we cease to fear the confrontation between life and death.

We renounce in Your Name the political ideologies, which were formed not by the standards of love on the human relation and existence, but by the interest and the expediency. They will never succeed in penetrating our hearts which are armored with Your spirit.

We are roused by the yearning for the search of the truth and it takes us to the port of tranquility.

We have met and felt sorry for the hungry in the valley of the earthly death. They occupy the 2/3 (two thirds) of the earth's Crust. They are the bitterness in the mouthful of our bread. Your justice inflicts another deal of the bread of the people. It will derive from the right division of labor to Your children. This is what we are looking for, Lord, and we are anguishing to organize our life within the light of your teachings.

With naivety and hidden hope we accepted the Message. Scouts of honor and Your innocent children, we, seek the ways to turn around the struggle of the weak and to help our brothers and Your children to escape from the hulks of poverty and degradation. Help us to make the leap from corruption to quality.

Every day we accumulate dead material in the ocean of consumption, which we see, we take pride in it and we fix our attention on it. Help us to see through your spirit and your breath the racket of production and consumption, to harness our aims to the improvement of our brothers' life. Help us to illuminate the system so as to stop functioning conventionally and mechanically.

We know well that systems cannot cover up the human absence and it's not only in Your name that we gain the ability to immobilize Evil. Make it so that we get stronger and allow to the silenced voices of truth to speak, instigating the disappointed consciences of Your children. Call us up to the camp of Peace. Help us to bear the bulk of guilt and to stop the massive carriage of people towards the shadow of death. Your truth is the harsh critic on the devastating fury of the grand of this earth.

Arm us with the word of Your love.

Through our scout principals, which remain the same throughout the ages and transmit their own intellectual dimension, let our move to be the link of unity between the young in all of the world.

Your voice Lord is a voice of guidance through the centuries.

AMEN.



## **Resolution on THE RELEVANCE OF SPIRITUALITY IN SCOUTING**

The 6<sup>th</sup> DESMOS Conference

- *Mindful of the process of globalization which is bringing people of different cultures and religions ever closer to each other*
- *Acknowledging the work done during the past decade to promote Interreligious Dialogue within Scouting*
- *Committed to the Fundamental Principle of Duty to God laid down by the Founder as expressed in the Constitution of WOSM*

**Considers** that young people in a globalized world should be equipped with skills, knowledge and attitudes to help them see the Holy in life and to understand what is holy to others,

**Finds** that Scouting as a global movement, based on a vision in where every human being has a Duty to God, is in a good position to address this need,

**Expresses** its view that spirituality, practiced through learning by doing, is and remains highly relevant element of the educational proposal of Scouting.



## **Resolution of COURTESY**

The 6<sup>th</sup> DESMOS Conference expresses gratitude to:

- The Scout Organization of Serbia, for hosting the Conference and for excellent organization and programme of the event
- His Holiness Irinej, The Serbian Patriarch, for reserving time to receive the Conference participants in the premises of Patriarchate of the Serbian Orthodox Church, and for Blessing given to the participants, the event and The Link
- the Mayor of Belgrade, Mr. Dragan Đilas, and Assistant Mayor Mr. Aleksandar Šapić, for the significant support in realization of part of the Conference programme, and for reception of Conference participants at the City Hall of Belgrade
- Father Gligorije Marković, for excellent key-note presentation on the topic "Orthodoxy and Young People"
- Greek NSO "Soma Hellinon Proskopon" and "Friends of DESMOS in Greece" association, for significant support, enabling DESMOS presence at European and World major scout events and other DESMOS activities
- NSO's in DESMOS member-countries - Jordan, Romania, Greece - for hosting DESMOS Committee meetings in the period between DESMOS Conference in Korea and DESMOS Conference in Belgrade
- Georges El Ghorayeb, from Lebanon, former World Scout Committee member in charge for liaison with DESMOS, for excellent cooperation in previous period, for support and advices useful for further development of The Link
- The Municipality of Indjija and the President of its Assembly, Mr. Aleksandar Kovačević, for arranging the visit of the Conference participants to Indjija and for the support in realization of the event
- Father Radiša, Priest of the local Orthodox Church of the Holy Virgin Mary, for warm welcome and the meal offered in the Church's premises, in the town of Indjija
- Tourist Organization of Serbia for appropriate tourist brochures and Tourist Organization of Belgrade for interesting brochures and for excellent, highly professional, tourist guide
- Individuals from Belgrade, friends of The Link, who supported the realization of the event, namely – Mr. Jasenko Lazović and Mr. Petar Stančić.



## SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

On the evening of **Thursday, April 28, 2011**, the host NSO organized the boat trip on Sava and Danube rivers with the dinner. The participants had the opportunity to experience Belgrade from a perspective different than usual, and it was also the opportunity to relax and have an informal exchange.



On **Friday, April 29, 2011**, the Conference participants had the meetings in The Patriarchate of the Serbian Orthodox Church with His Holiness The Serbian Patriarch, and in the City Hall with the Assistant Mayor of Belgrade.

**His Holiness Irinej, The Serbian Patriarch**, received the Conference participants in the premises of The Patriarchate of the Serbian Orthodox Church in Belgrade, at 10h.

All the participants of The Conference were presented to His Holiness, as well as the basic facts about The Conference and about The Link.

The Patriarch gave His Blessing to all the participants of the 6<sup>th</sup> DESMOS Conference. He blessed the event and The International Link of Orthodox Christian Scouts DESMOS.



Leaving The Patriarchate, The Conference participants crossed the street and entered the Orthodox Cathedral Church of St. Michael the Archangel.

**The Cathedral Church of St. Michael the Archangel** (Serbian: Саборна Црква Св. Архангела Михаила, *Saborna Crkva Sv. Arhangela Mihaila*) is a Serb Orthodox Christian church in the centre of Belgrade, Serbia. It is one of the most important places of worshipping the country. It is commonly known as just *Saborna crkva* (The Cathedral) among the city residents.

The cathedral was built from 1837 to 1840 by order of prince Miloš Obrenović, according to the design and plans of Adam Friedrich Kwerfeld, a builder from Pančevo.



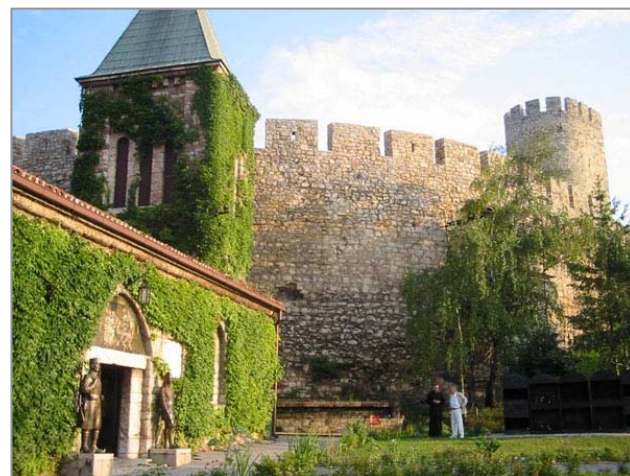
The church was built in the style of classicism with late baroque elements. The church is dedicated to St. Michael the Archangel. The interior is richly decorated. The gold-plated carved iconostasis was made by the sculptor Dimitrije Petrović, while the icons on the iconostasis, thrones, choirs and pulpits, as well as those on the walls and arches were painted by Dimitrije Avramović, one of the most distinguished Serbian painters of the 19th century.

The special value of the church is its treasury. The relics of Serbian saints king Uroš and despot Stefan Štiljanović, as well as the heads of the Church and Serbian rulers of the Obrenović dynasty (Miloš, Mihailo and Milan).

The cathedral is a popular tourist attraction in Belgrade. However, for tourists, it is best to visit the church during weekdays as the church usually holds weddings, baptisms etc. during the weekend.

Taking advantage of the nice weather, DESMOS group then walked to nearby central park KALEMEGDAN.

**Kalemegdan** (Serbian Cyrillic: Калемегдан, from Ottoman Turkish: مکان قلعه Kalemegdan) is a fortress and a park in an urban area neighborhood of Belgrade, the capital of Serbia. It is located in Belgrade's municipality of Stari Grad. Kalemegdan was declared Monument of Culture of Exceptional Importance in 1979, and it is protected by Republic of Serbia. Etymologically, the word Kalemegdan (Turkish: *Kale meydanı*) means "Fortress Square" in Turkish.



Kalemegdan is located on top of the 125.5 meters high ending ridge of Šumadija geological bar. The cliff-like ridge overlooks the Great War Island (Serbian: Veliko ratno ostrvo) and the confluence of the Sava river into the Danube, and makes one of the most beautiful natural lookouts in Belgrade.

It borders the neighborhoods of Dorćol (north and north-east), Stari Grad (east) and Kosančićev Venac (Savamala; south). It is encircled by three streets: *Boulevard of Vojvoda Bojović*, *Tadeuša Koščuška*, *Pariska*, and the railway along the riverside.

Kalemegdan is the core and the oldest section of the urban area of Belgrade and for centuries the city population was concentrated only within the walls of the fortress, thus the history of the fortress, until most recent history, equals the history of Belgrade itself (see: Timeline of Belgrade history). First mention of the city is when it was founded in the 3rd century BC as "Singidunum" by the Celtic tribe of Scordisci who had defeated Thracian and Dacian tribes that previously lived at the fort and around.

The most beautiful and biggest park in Belgrade, which is also the most important cultural and historical complex, in which the **Belgrade Fortress** stands high above the Sava and Danube confluence. The name Kalemegdan applies only to the spacious plateau surrounding the Fortress, which was turned into a park in the eighties of the XIX century. When the Fortress served as Belgrade's chief military stronghold, the plateau was a place from which the enemy was kept under observation and where preparations were made for combats. Its name derives from the Turkish words *kale* (fort) and *megdan* (field). The Turks also called it *Fichir-bair*, which means "the contemplation hill".



Its conversion into a park began by Prince Mihailo Obrenović's order, once the Fortress was surrendered to the Serbs (**1867**). The conceptual designs were made by Emilijan Josimović, the first Serbian urbanist. The greenery was planted between 1873 and 1875, when the commanding officer of the Fortress was Colonel Dragutin Žabarac, who was an aide-de-camp to Prince Miloš Obrenović during his second rule.

The planned development of Kalemegdan began in 1890, when the military authorities handed the park over to the Belgrade civilian authorities. The mayor of Belgrade at that time, Nikola Pašić, approved the first credit amounting to 10,000 dinars for the regulation of Kalemegdan. In 1905, the park was expanded with the development of Mali Kalemegdan, which spreads from the **Cvijeta Zuzorić Art Pavilion** to the Zoo.

Before the First World War, Kalemegdan spread to the now still existing stone stairway (leading to the lower terrace). The ground beyond this stairway remained completely untouched and overgrown with weeds until 1929. In 1931, the park expanded also to Upper Town. Monuments to many famous cultural and public persons were erected in the park. Kalemegdan now includes the **Military Museum**, **Cvijeta Zuzorić Art Pavilion**, **City Institute for Protection of Cultural Monuments**, Zoo, a children's amusement park, a large number of sports fields, restaurants and so on.

The meeting with Assistant Mayor of Belgrade was scheduled for 12h, in The **CITY HALL**.

The City Hall Building is also known as **Stari dvor** (Serbian Cyrillic: Стари Двор) meaning **Old Palace**, was the royal residence of the Obrenović dynasty. Today it houses the City Assembly of Belgrade. The palace is located on the corner of Kralja Milana and Dragoslava Jovanovića streets in Belgrade, Serbia.

The palace was built between 1882 and 1884, according to the design of Aleksandar Bugarski, in the style of academism of the 19th century, with intention to surpass all existing residences of the Serbian rulers.



A number of important events from the time of the political power of the Obrenović dynasty are linked to the Old Palace: the Palace was built when Serbia was proclaimed a Kingdom; in that same building, King Milan abdicated in favor of his son, Aleksandar, on February 22, 1889. Between 1903 and 1914, the Old Palace was the residence of the Karadjordjević dynasty. In 1919 and 1920, meetings of the Provisional National Assembly took place there. Royal festivities and receptions of foreign guests took place there until 1941.

Nowadays, the palace is home to the City Assembly of Belgrade. Visitors can take a tour inside the Old Palace. Tourists can sign up to visit the Old Palace at the tourist stands throughout Belgrade.

**Assistant Mayor, Mr. Aleksandar Šapić**, received The Conference participants in the Red Lounge of the City Hall building and expressed warm welcome to DESMOS representatives, wishing them pleasant time in Belgrade.

DESMOS President and Secretary General presented to the Assistant Mayor our Link, its Mission, Vision, objectives and activities, and offered him the appropriate gifts.



On **Saturday, April 30, 2011**, the excursion was organized for the Conference delegates. The idea was to offer the participants the opportunity to see at least one part of Serbia and get acquainted with its landscapes, culture and tradition.

The first phase considered the sightseeing of some parts of Belgrade and visit to the Orthodox Christian Temple, **St. Sava Cathedral**, in Belgrade central area.



The **Cathedral of Saint Sava** (Serbian: Храм Светог Саве or *Hram svetog Save*) is an Orthodox church in Belgrade, Serbia, the largest Orthodox cathedral on the Balkans, and one of the largest Orthodox cathedrals in the world. The church is dedicated to Saint Sava, founder of the Serbian Orthodox Church and an important figure in medieval Serbia. It is built on the Vračar plateau, on the location where his remains were burned in 1595 by the Ottoman Empire's Sinan Pasha. From its location, it dominates Belgrade's cityscape, and is perhaps the most monumental building in the city. The building of the church structure is being financed exclusively by donations. The parish home is nearby, as will be the planned patriarchal building.

*It is not a cathedral in the technical ecclesiastical sense, as it is not the seat of a bishop (the seat of the Metropolitan bishop of Belgrade is St. Michael's Cathedral).* In Serbian it is called a *hram* (temple), which is in Eastern Orthodoxy another name for a church. In English, it is usually called a *cathedral* because of its size and importance.

The church is centrally planned, having the form of a Greek Cross. It has a large central dome supported on four pendentives and buttressed on each side by a lower semi-dome over an apse. Beneath each semi-dome is a gallery supported on an arcade.



The dome is 70 m high, while the main gold plated cross is another 12 m high, which gives a total of 82 m to the height Cathedral of Saint Sava. The peak is 134 m (439.6 ft) above the sea level (64 m [210 ft] above the Sava river); therefore the church holds a dominant position in Belgrade's cityscape and is visible from all approaches to the city.

The church is 91 m (298.5 ft) long from east to west, and 81 m (265.7 ft) from north to south. It is 70 m (229.65 ft) tall, with the main gold-plated cross extending for 12 more meters (39.4 ft)

Its domes have 18 more gold-plated crosses of various sizes, while the bell towers have 49 bells of the Austrian Bell Foundry *Grassmayr*.

It has a surface area of 3,500 square meters on the ground floor, with three galleries of 1,500 m<sup>2</sup> on the first level, and a 120 m<sup>2</sup> gallery on the second level. The Cathedral can receive 10,000 faithful at any one time. The choir gallery seats 800 singers. The basement contains a crypt, the treasury of Saint Sava, and the grave church of St. Lazar the Hieromartyr, with a total surface of 1.800 m<sup>2</sup>.

The facade is in white marble and granite and, when finished, the inner decorations will be of mosaics. The central dome will contain a mosaic of Christ Pantocrator. To give a sense of the monumental scale, the eyes will each be about 4 meters wide.

Three hundred years after the burning of **Saint Sava's** remains, in 1895, the *Society for the Construction of the Cathedral of Saint Sava on Vračar* was founded in Belgrade. Its goal was to build a cathedral on the place of the burning. A small church was built at the future place of the Cathedral, and it was later moved so the construction of the Cathedral could begin. In 1905, a public contest was launched to design the church; all five applications received were rejected as not being good enough. Soon, the breakout of the First Balkan War in 1912, and subsequent Second Balkan War and First World War stopped all activities on the construction of the church.



After the war, in 1919, the Society was re-established. New appeals for designs were made in 1926; this time, it received 22 submissions. Though the first and third prize were not awarded, the second-place project, made by architect Aleksandar Deroko, was chosen for the building of the Cathedral.

Forty years after the initial idea, construction of the church began on May 10, 1935, 340 years after the burning of Saint Sava's remains. The cornerstone was laid by bishop Gavriilo Dožić-Medenica (the future Serbian Patriarch Gavriilo V). The project was designed by Aleksandar Deroko and Bogdan Nestorović, aided by civil engineer Vojislav Zadžina.

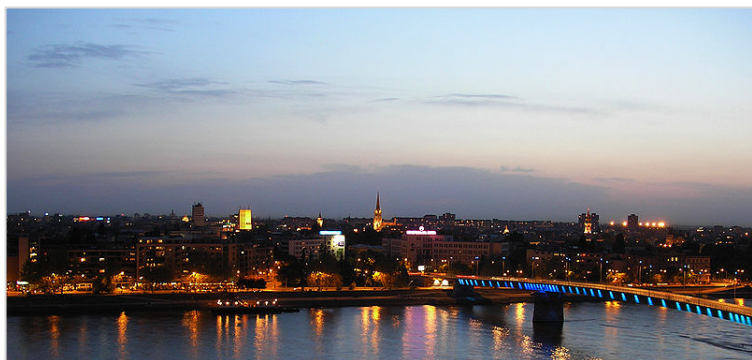
The work lasted until Second World War Axis invasion of Yugoslavia in 1941. The church's foundation had been completed, and the walls erected to the height of 7 and 11 meters. After the 1941 bombing of Belgrade, work ceased altogether. The occupying German army used the unfinished church as a parking lot, while in 1944 the partisans and the Red Army used it with the same purpose. Later, it was used for storage by various companies. The Society for Building of the Cathedral ceased to exist and has not been revived.

In 1958, Patriarch German renewed the idea of building the church. After 88 requests for continuation of the building—and as many refusals, permission for finishing the building was granted in 1984, and Branko Pešić was chosen as new architect of the church. He remade the original projects to make better use of new materials and building techniques. Construction of the building began again on August 12, 1985. The walls were erected to full height of 40 meters.

The greatest achievement of the construction process was lifting of the 4,000 ton central dome, which was built on the ground, together with the copper plate and the cross, and later lifted onto the walls. The lifting, which took forty days, was finished on June 26, 1989.

As of 2009, the church is mostly complete. The bells and windows had been installed, and the facade completed. However, work on the internal decoration of the building still remains largely unfinished.

The next phase of the excursion was the visit to the town of **NOVI SAD**, in the northern Serbian Province of Vojvodina and the nearby **PETROVARADIN Fortress**.



The participants had the opportunity to feel the atmosphere of this quite particular town in which we meet the mixture of ethnic groups, religions, mentalities, architectural solutions ...

**Novi Sad** (Serbian Cyrillic: Нови Сад), is the capital of the northern Serbian province of Vojvodina, and the administrative centre of the South Bačka District. The city is located in the southern part of Pannonian Plain on the Danube river.

Novi Sad is Serbia's second largest city, after Belgrade.<sup>[3][4]</sup> According to the data from March 2011, the city has an urban population of 292,508, while its municipal population was 380,291.



It is located on the border of the Bačka and Srem regions, on the banks of the Danube river and Danube-Tisa-Danube Canal, facing the northern slopes of Fruška Gora mountain.

The city was founded in 1694, when Serb merchants formed a colony across the Danube from the Petrovaradin fortress, Habsburg strategic military post. In 18th and 19th centuries, it became an important merchant and manufacturing centre, as well as a centre of Serbian culture of that period, earning the nickname *Serbian Athens*. The city was heavily devastated in the 1848 Revolution, but it was subsequently restored. During the history, it maintained multi-cultural identity, with Serbs, Hungarians and Germans being the main ethnic groups. Today, Novi Sad is an industrial and financial centre of Serbian economy, as well as a major cultural hub.



The urban area of Novi Sad has a population of 216,583 and is generally divided into three parts: "Novi Sad proper" (with population of 191,405), situated on the left bank of Danube, and Petrovaradin (population of 13,973) and Sremska Kamenica (with population of 11,205), on the right bank of the Danube.

Novi Sad is a typical Central European town. There are only a few buildings dating before 19th century, because the city was almost totally destroyed during the 1848/1849 revolution, so the architecture from 19th century dominates the city centre. Around the center, old small houses used to dominate the cityscape, but they are being replaced by modern multi-story buildings.

During the socialist period, new blocks with wide streets and multi-story buildings were built around the city core. However, not many communist-style high-rise buildings were built, and the total number of 10+ floor buildings remained at 40-50, most of the rest being 3-6 floor Apartment buildings.

City's new boulevard (today's *Bulevar oslobođenja*) was cut through the old housings in 1962-1964, establishing major communication lines. Several more boulevards were subsequently built in a similar manner, creating an orthogonal network over what used to be mostly radial structure of the old town. Those interventions paved the way for a relatively unhampered growth of the city, which almost tripled its population since the 1950s, and traffic congestions (except on a few critical points) are still relatively mild despite the huge boost of car numbers, especially in later years.

In the 19th century, the city was the capital of Serbian culture, earning the nickname **Serbian Athens**. In that time, almost every Serbian novelist, poet, jurist, and publicist at the end of 19th century and at the beginning of 20th century had lived or worked in Novi Sad some time of his or her career. Among others, these cultural workers include Vuk Stefanović Karadžić, Mika Antić, Đura Jakšić, etc. Matica srpska, the oldest cultural-scientific institution of Serbia, was moved from Budapest



to Novi Sad in 1864, and contains a library (the Library of Matica srpska) with over 800,000 books. The Serbian National Theatre, the oldest professional theatre among the South Slavs, was founded in Novi Sad in 1861.



Today, Novi Sad is the second cultural centre in Serbia (besides Belgrade) and city's officials try to make the city more attractive to numerous cultural events and music concerts. Since 2000, Novi Sad is home to the EXIT festival, the biggest music summer festival in Serbia and the region; and also the only festival of alternative and new theatre in Serbia.

Zmaj Children Games, International Novi Sad Literature Festival, Sterijino pozorje, Novi Sad Jazz Festival, and many others. Besides Serbian National Theatre, the most prominent theatres are also Youth Theatre, Cultural centre of Novi Sad and Novi Sad Theatre. Novi Sad Synagogue also houses many cultural events in the City. Other city's cultural institutions include Offset of the Serbian Academy of Science and Art, Library of Matica Srpska, Novi Sad City Library and Azbukum. City is also home to cultural institutions of Vojvodina: Vojvodina Academy of Science and Art and Archive of Vojvodina, which collect many documents from Vojvodina dating from 1565.

**Petrovaradin Fortress** (Serbian: Петроварадинска тврђава or *Petrovaradinska tvrđava*, Hungarian: *Pétervárad vára*, German: *Peterwardein*) is a fortress in Novi Sad, Serbia. It is located in the province of Vojvodina, on the right bank of the Danube river. The cornerstone of the present-day southern part of the fortress was laid on October 18, 1692, by Charles Eugène de Croÿ. Petrovaradin Fortress has many underground tunnels as well (16 km of underground countermine system).



In 1991 Petrovaradin Fortress was added to Spatial Cultural-Historical Units of Great Importance list, and it is protected by Republic of Serbia.

**Exit** (also known as **State of Exit**) is an annual summer music festival in the Petrovaradin Fortress of Novi Sad, Vojvodina, Serbia. It is staged annually since 2000 and usually lasts four days (since 2003).



Held in the picturesque setting of an 18th century fortress by the Danube, the festival quickly grew in stature and reputation. From its grass roots political beginnings, over to occasional problems with financing, and ending with wide praise it's lately receiving, Exit tries to stick to its initial mission of providing relevant entertainment to Serbian youth while also bringing pertinent social topics to the forefront.

The festival was started in 2000 by three University students from Novi Sad, Dusan Kovacevic, Bojan Boskovic, and Ivan Milivojev. In 2000 and 2001 the festival was organized through the Students' Union of Faculty of Technical Sciences and University of Novi Sad. In the meantime several NGO's and commercial companies have been involved in the organization. Since 2007, the festival has been a subject of several official and unofficial takeover bids.

UK Festival Awards 2007, together with Yourope, the European Association of the 40 largest festivals in Europe, awarded Exit as the Best European Festival. Public from all over the world voted for about a month, and among 10 festivals, Exit won this award that is being awarded for the first time in the category of the Best European Festival.

DESMOS Conference participants then visited the small town of **SREMSKI KARLOVCI**.

**Sremski Karlovci** (Serbian Cyrillic: Сремски Карловци) is a town and municipality in Serbia, in the autonomous province of Vojvodina, situated on the bank of the river Danube, 8 km from Novi Sad. In 2002, its population was 8,839.



In ancient times, a small Roman fortress existed at this location. The town was first mentioned in historical documents in 1308 with the name *Karom*. The fortress of Karom was built on the ruins of the ancient Roman one. Until 1521, the Karom was a possession of the Hungarian noble families, of which the most well known were Báthory and Morović.



Turkish military commander Bali-beg conquered Karom in 1521, and in the next 170 years, the town was part of the Ottoman Empire. The Slavic name for the town - *Karlovci*, was first recorded in 1532/33. During the Ottoman rule, the town was mostly populated by Serbs, with the smaller part of population composed of Muslims. According to the Ottoman sources from 1545, the population of Karlovci numbered 547 Christian (Serb) houses, thus it was the largest city with a Serb majority in the whole Ottoman Empire. The city also had three Orthodox churches and a monastery.

Between 16 November 1698 and 26 January 1699, the town of Karlovci was the site of a congress that ended the hostilities between the Ottoman Empire and the Holy League, a coalition of various European powers including Habsburg Monarchy, Poland, Venice and Russia; the congress produced the Treaty of Karlowitz. It was the first time a round table was used in international politics.

After this peace treaty, the town was part of the Habsburg Monarchy and was included into the Military Frontier. According to the 1702 data, the population of the town was composed of 215 Orthodox and 13 Catholic houses, while according to the 1753 data, the population of the town numbered 3,843 people, of which 3,110 were ethnic Serbs.

The town was also the spiritual, political and cultural centre of the Serbs in the Habsburg Monarchy. The Metropolitan of the Serb Orthodox Church resided in the town.

To this day, the Serb Orthodox Patriarch retains the title of Metropolitan of Karlovci. The town also featured the earliest Serb (and Slavic in general) gymnasium (Serbian: *gimnazija*/гимназија, French: *lycée*) founded on 3 August 1791. Three years after this, an Orthodox seminary was also founded in the town: it was the second oldest Orthodox seminary in the world (after the Spiritual Academy in Kiev), and it is still in existence.



At the Serb National Assembly in Karlovci in May 1848, Serbs declared the unification of the regions of Srem, Banat, Bačka, and Baranja (including parts of the Military Frontier) into the province of Serbian Vojvodina.

The first capital of Serbian Vojvodina was in Karlovci, until it was latter moved to Zemun, Veliki Bečkerek, and Temišvar. In the same time the title of the Orthodox Metropolitan of Karlovci was raised to that of Patriarch, which thus established an Orthodox Patriarchate of Karlovci that existed until 1920 when it was joined with the Metropolitanate of Belgrade to form the new Patriarchate of Serbia.

When Serbian Vojvodina was in 1849 transformed into the new province named Voivodeship of Serbia and Banat of Temeschwar, town of Karlovci was not included into this province, but was returned under the administration of the Military Frontier (Petrovaradin regiment that was part of Slavonian Krajina). With the abolishment of the Military Frontier in 1881, the town was included into Syrmia County of Croatia-Slavonia, the autonomous kingdom within Kingdom of Hungary and Austria-Hungary.

In 1918, the town became part of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. In the 1920s, it became the headquarters of Russian White émigrés of General Wrangel whose monument remains to this day. It was also an early home to the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Russia. (Critics labeled this church the "Karlovtzy Synod" in its early days in an attempt to belittle its importance as an international Orthodox body.)

Between 1929 and 1941, the town was part of Danube Banovina, a province of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia. During World War 2 (1941-1944), the town was occupied by the Axis Powers and it was attached to the Ustashe's Independent State of Croatia. During that time its name was changed to *Hrvatski Karlovci*. Since the end of the war, the town has been part of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina.

Between 1980 and 1989, Sremski Karlovci was one of the seven municipalities of Novi Sad City. Today, the municipality is not part of Novi Sad City, but a separate administrative unit of South Bačka District.

Most recently, the government of Serbia announced its decision to move the Constitutional Court of Serbia to this town as part of the national strategy for decentralization. Furthermore the government decided to make this move because of the historic importance of this town in Serbian history as well because of its relative proximity to the capital, Belgrade.

The court will probably occupy the building of the magistrate some time during 2010. In this way the government plans to symbolically, amongst other things, crown the reform of the judicial system and mark the separation of the three branches of government and emphasize their mutual independence.

After Sremski Karlovci, DESMOS group visited the **Monastery KRUŠEDOL**, at Fruška Gora mountain.

The **Krušedol monastery** (Serbian: *Манастир Крушедол / Manastir Krušedol*) is a Serb Orthodox monastery on the Fruška Gora mountain in the northern Serbia, in the province of Vojvodina. The monastery is the legacy of the last Serbian despot family of Srem - Branković. It was built between 1509 and 1514. The whole family including Đurađ Branković and Stefan Lazarević, as well as two Patriarchs of the Serbian Orthodox Church, were buried in Krušedol. It is shown on the 5 Dinar coin. Krušedol Monastery was declared Monument of Culture of Exceptional Importance in 1990, and it is protected by Republic of Serbia.



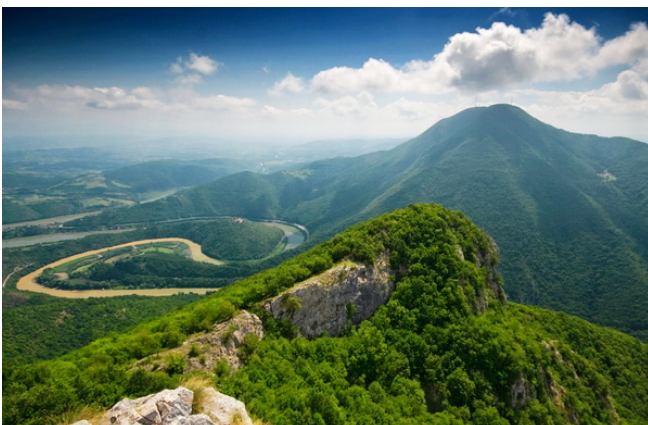
The monastery church is dedicated to the Annunciation. The monastery was founded between 1509 and 1516, by Bishop Maksim and his mother, Angelina, who were supported by Walachian Duke Jovan Njagoja Basaraba. During the final retreat of the Turks from Srem, in 1716, the monastery was damaged and the church burnt down.

The renovation started in 1721, and was completed in the late 1760s. In 1726, a baroque bell-tower was added on to the West wing of the monks' quarters and between 1742 and 1750, the church underwent certain adaptations which did not significantly change its general original appearance. The monks' quartets were reconstructed and expanded in the same period.

The church was originally decorated with fresco paintings in the 16th century. Its interior was covered with new oil wall paintings between 1750 and 1756, done by Jovan Vasilijevic and Stefan Tenecki. On the West facade, there is a composition of the "Last judgment" from the end of the 17th century. The iconostasis was composed of icons differing in style and time of creation.

FRUŠKA GORA (Serbian Cyrillic: Фрушка гора, Hungarian: *Tarcal*, Latin: *Alma Mons*) is a mountain in the north of Syrmia, Serbia, sometimes also called *the Jewel of Serbia* for its beautiful landscapes, nature and countryside. Because of 16 monasteries situated at this mountain, Fruška Gora is often called **Serbian Mount of Athos**.

Thanks to its hospitable environment, there are also over a dozen Serbian Orthodox monasteries located on Fruška Gora.



According to historical data, these monastic communities were historically recorded since the first decades of the 16th century. Legends, however, place their founding to the period between the 12th and 15th centuries.

The monasteries are concentrated in an area 50 kilometers long, and 10 kilometers wide. In the course of centuries of their existence, these monasteries sustained the spiritual and political life of the Serbian nation.

Fruška Gora Monasteries were declared Monuments of Culture of Exceptional Importance in 1990, and are protected by Serbia.

There are 16 monasteries on Fruška Gora:



- BEOČIN - The time of founding is unknown. It is first mentioned in Turkish records dated in 1566/1567.
- BEŠENOVO - According to the legend, the Bešenovo monastery was founded by Serbian King Dragutin at the end of the 13th century. The earliest historical records about the monastery date from 1545.
- VELIKA REMETA - Traditionally, its founding is linked to King Dragutin. The earliest historical records about the monastery date to 1562.
- VRDNIK-RAVANICA - The exact date of its founding is unknown. The records indicate that the church was built at the time of Metropolitan Serafim, in the second half of the 16th century.
- GRGETEG - According to tradition the monastery was founded by Zmaj Ognjeni Vuk (Despot Vuk Grgurević) in 1471. The earliest historical records about the monastery date to 1545/1546.
- DIVŠA - It is believed to have been founded by Despot Jovan Branković in the late 15th century. The earliest historical records about the monastery date to the second half of the 16th century.
- JAZAK - The monastery was founded in 1736.
- **KRUŠEDOL - The monastery was founded between 1509 and 1516, by Bishop Maksim (Despot Đorđe Branković) and his mother Angelina.**
- KUVEŽDIN - Traditionally, its foundation is ascribed to Stefan Štiljanović. The first reliable records of it are dated in 1566/1569.
- MALA REMETA - The foundation is traditionally ascribed to the Serbian King Dragutin. The earliest historical records relating to the monastery are dated to the middle of the 16th century.
- NOVO HOPOVO - According to tradition, the monastery was built by the Despots of the House of Branković. The first reliable mention of the monastery is dated to 1641.
- PRIVINA GLAVA - According to the legends, Privina Glava was founded by a man named Priva, in the 12th century. The earliest historical records about the monastery are dated in 1566/1567.
- PETKOVICA - According to the tradition, founded by the widow of Stefan Štiljanović, Despotess Jelena. The earliest historical records mentioning the monastery are dated to 1566/1567.
- RAKOVAC - According to a legend written in 1704, Rakovac was founded by a certain man, Raka, courtier of Despot Jovan Branković. The legend states that Raka erected the monastery in 1498. The earliest historical records mentioning the monastery are dated to 1545/1546.
- STARO HOPOVO - According to the tradition, the monastery was founded by Bishop Maksim (Despot Đorđe Branković). The first reliable mention of the monastery dates back to 1545/1546.
- ŠIŠATOVAC - The foundation of the monastery is ascribed to the refugee monks from the Serbian monastery of Žiča. The reliable facts illustrating the life of the monastery date back from the mid 16th century.

The last destination of the DESMOS group within the excursion was the small town of **INDJIJA**, where the Conference participants were offered a meal in the premises of the local Church of the Holy Virgin Mary. The Conference participants were received and welcomed by the local priest, **Father Radiša**, and by the President of the Assembly of the Municipality of Indjija, **Mr. Aleksandar Kovačević**.



DESMOS Secretary General presented The Link to the hosts and introduced The Conference delegates.

DESMOS President offered the appropriate gifts to the President of the Assembly of the Municipality of Indjija, Mr. Aleksandar Kovačević, and to the priest Father Radiša.



After a warm welcome, nice meal and presentation of The Link to the hosts done by DESMOS President and Secretary General, the Conference participants took part at the evening service at the Church.

The Church "Vavedenje Presvete Bogorodice" (Church of The Holy Virgin Mary) was built in 1756, about 10 years after founding of the vary settlement of Indjija. It is a one building construction of smaller dimensions, which at the time of its construction was fitting to the needs of the settlement at the time, which had only 60 households. The Church Vavedenija Presvete Bogorodice in Indjija, as all the constructions that were built during the 5th and 6th decade of the 18th century, was built in the spirit of medieval tradition of the



Raska construction school. By its proportions, it falls under the most beautiful and most consonant constructions that remained from the 18th century in the Srem region. The inside of the church was painted at the end of the 19th century by Jovan Stajner, a painter from Sombor. Besides this work, he also gold coated the carve inn's of the root screen and reconstructed the Icons. The last big reconstruction of the church interior was done by an academic painter, Nikoda Brkic after the World War II, when he redid the walls and cupolas.

On the way back to Belgrade, in spite of a busy day schedule, the atmosphere in the bus was cheerful and the Conference participants enjoyed.



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11 Countries' delegations  
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