



Building the Future

Bosnia and Herzegovina
and the Potential
of Constitutional Pluralism

edited by
Mario Perini

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Concept and Presentation

Mario Perini, Edin Škrebo, TerraProject

Bosnia and Herzegovina is a country defined by its diversity and history, as well as the unresolved questions surrounding its future. Signed in 1995, the Dayton Peace Agreement not only brought an end to a devastating war and laid the foundations for peace, but also provided the country with a new constitution. However, it also introduced a complex political system based on ethnic and territorial divisions which continues to strongly influence everyday life. Today, constitutional tensions, political fragmentation and renewed institutional crises are raising concerns about stability, security, and social cohesion.

However, it is precisely this pluralism and fragmentation that define Bosnia and Herzegovina, making the country a reflection of the complexities of contemporary societies.

Within the framework of the IMP-ACCTS project, TerraProject proposes a documentary photography project that explore these themes through images. The project aims to visually portray Bosnia and Herzegovina's constitutional reality and its societal impact, using photography as a communication and awareness tool. The images are conceived as being in dialogue with one another, seeking to reconstruct the everyday lives of citizens in present-day Bosnia and Herzegovina. Cameras entered schools, workplaces, places of worship, stadiums, city streets and remote rural villages, resulting in a complex and often contradictory narrative. However, this does not diminish the importance of these stories, as the pluralism at their core is precisely the essence of Bosnia and Herzegovina: yesterday, today and tomorrow.

During the project's development, many different realities were encountered. This has offered a distinctive viewpoint from which to observe the influence of constitutional frameworks and political conflicts on public spaces, social relations, and everyday life. Alongside visible signs of division, such as symbols, institutions and memorials of the past war, the project also highlights the lived experiences of individuals and communities working to overcome separation. Particular focus is given to younger generations, artists, activists and associations that promote dialogue, inclusion and shared values, transcending ethnic

and religious divisions. Even as their voices are increasingly overshadowed by nationalist rhetoric, these individuals and communities continue to strive for a more inclusive society.

Rather than offering a stereotypical portrayal of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a society frozen in the aftermath of war, this project aims to reveal its complexity and potential. Through portraits, landscapes, buildings and scenes of everyday life, the photographs explore how pluralism can be a source of both tension and a path towards a more inclusive future where diversity does not necessarily lead to division. Bringing together law, photography and social research, the project invites viewers to consider democracy, peace and citizens' roles in creating a shared future, transcending historical and political divisions.

The images contained in this volume offer a glimpse into the society of Bosnia and Herzegovina, without, however, claiming to fully represent its complexity and diversity, providing the viewer with a mirror in which all this is reflected.