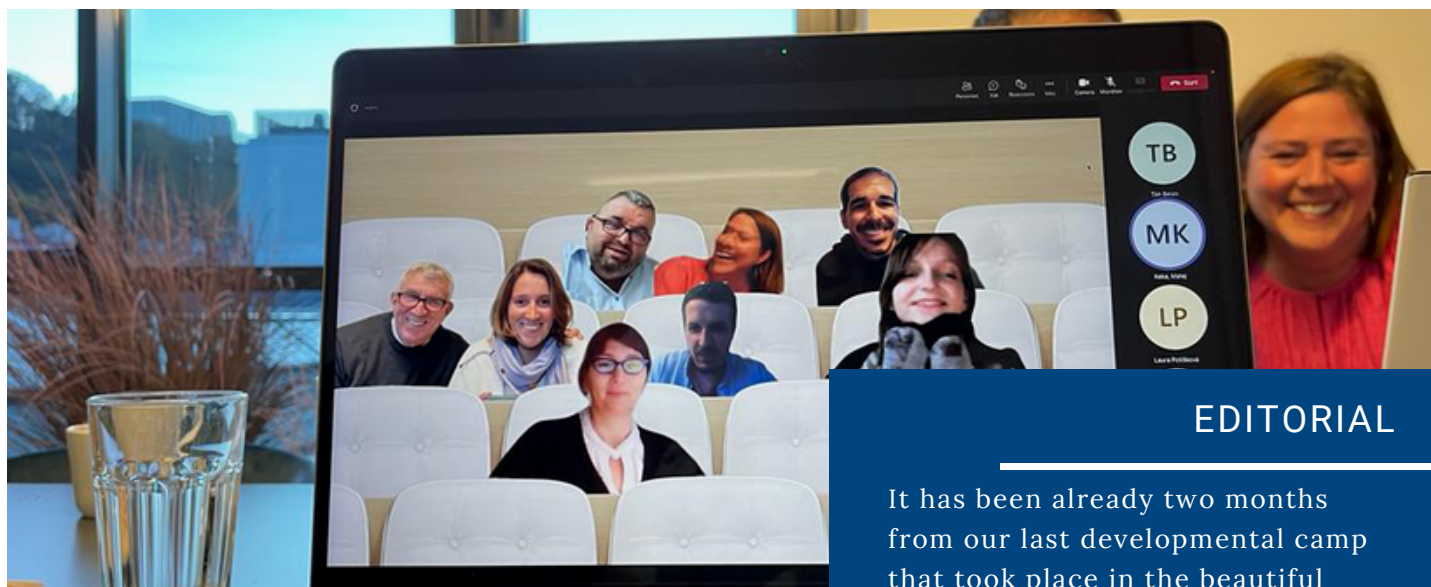




# NEWS #7



## EDITORIAL

### Matej's visiting our partners in Balkans in October

At the beginning of October, Matej Keka went on his first trip to the Western Balkan region to visit our partner homes in the Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. In Croatia he met with Nives Radeljić and Tina Fidrmuc to discuss further developments of their partnership with the Dječji Dom Zagreb. They also had the opportunity to meet with the last years participants and talk to them about their experience they had during the camp and the impact it had on them.

During his very short visit he also managed to meet with the past president of the Rotary Club Zagreb International, Silva Katušić Hećimović. During their meeting they discussed the possibility of organizing the new edition of the SR in Croatia.

Then, he continued with his journey to Tuzla in Bosnia and Herzegovina where he met with our alumni from the last two years edition and also with the possible future members of our alumni group. He also had the opportunity to talk to the newly appointed director of the SOS Childrens Village in Gračanica, Sladjana Skenderovic-Cvitkusic and who was positively surprised by our results that we have achieved in the last two years. She is also very much inclined in favor of further development of our partnership.

It has been already two months from our last developmental camp that took place in the beautiful mountains of Beskydy. If you think we have slowed down a bit and took some rest you are wrong. So many things have happened since our summer camp and we are very excited to introduce you to our recent developments. We have big plans for 2023 and we are working hard already in 2022 to make them happen. On this issue would like to tell you more about Matej's and Tim's recent travels to the Balkans - where Tim together with a part of his SR family and SOS Children's Villages staff celebrated his birthday - but also about our recent partnership with Peace Jam. Our newest project team member Francisc will tell you something about himself and why he decided to join the Speechless Reconciliation team.

Our team is getting bigger and bigger as we are onboarding new partners and therefore, we have some exciting news this time for you.

*Your Speechless Reconciliation team*

## Meet our team

# Francesc Galbany

### Who is Francesc Galbany? Tell us something about yourself.

I like to think of myself as a tinkerer. I like building things and messing around with all kinds of devices, but I spend most of my time figuring out ways to improve our lives through software development. I am also into adventure sports, nature-related, more than ball-based ones.

### How long have you been part of the Speechless Reconciliation project team?

Last year my company had the opportunity to work with Tim, and we built a very good relationship as partners. This year, Tim explained what Speechless Reconciliation is and what it is doing to help youngsters. At that very first moment, we, as a company, got partially involved in supporting via marketing and technology. But it was not until this summer that we really jumped in. Together with Andrea, my life partner, we went to the second Summer Camp, and we immediately found we really wanted to be part of this.

### What first inspired you to get involved?

It is hard to value what has helped you in your life until you don't have it or until you see someone struggling with it. When I realized I could help somehow, my inner me told me to get involved. From the very first moment, it has been very rewarding, not only in the sense of being helpful to others but also because being here with Andrea (whom I appreciate beyond anything else) made our bond stronger.

### What is your role in the project?

I am in charge of the technical aspects of the project. I'm in charge of developing the platform that will help us communicate and share all we can with others; apart from that, I help in the mentorship program as well.



### What is your best memory of this project so far?

I felt so grateful about being treated as an equal by all the youngsters and the team members, and it made me feel being part of the pack. And, in the last Summer Camp, in particular, my best moment was noticing how the youngsters had already grown by the end of the camp.

### Do you have any advice for people interested in volunteering or otherwise contributing to the Speechless Reconciliation project?

Just do it! There is always something you can do, either sharing your expertise and past experiences or just socializing and giving support. You will get an instant reward, and this is something that will last forever and make your persona grow too.





## The Speechless Reconciliation project has a new partner.

We are very happy that we can finally introduce you to our most recent partner, The Peace Jam Czech Republic.

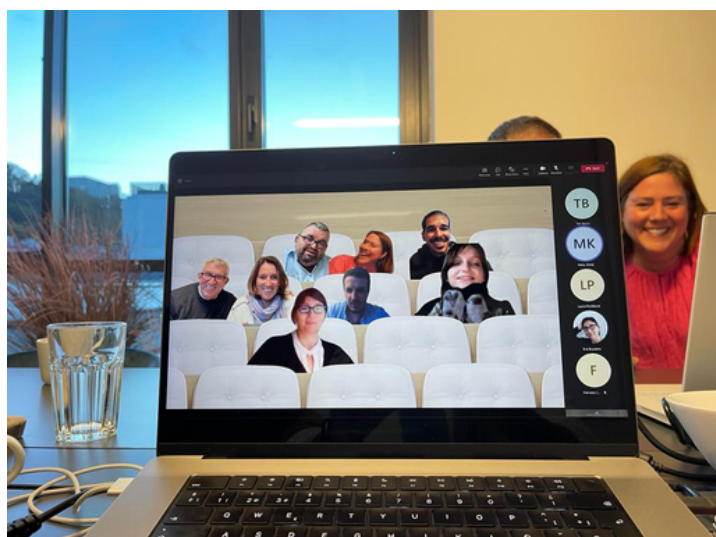
"Peace Jam is the only global youth organization led by 14 Nobel Peace Laureates dedicated to growing and supporting a generation of future Nobel Peace Laureates who believe peace is possible - and know how to get it done.

Their motto is "Mentoring Youth to Change the World."

The Peace Jam aim is to give every young person the chance to discover their purpose, unleash their potential, and build strong character and leadership skills - because in Peace Jam they believe that each is a Nobel Peace Laureate in training."

The scope of our partnership is as follows

1. PeaceJam Foundation Czech Republic will design and deliver workshops during our developmental camps, as well as in Czech children's homes on an ongoing basis, in the areas of: "Self-Development", "Leadership and Compassion", "Professional Action Planning" and "Service Project Implementation".
2. They will train our developmental camps volunteers that they could then deliver designed workshops.
3. The Peace Jam will invite our alumni to connect with the Czech Peace Jam Youth team as well as the European Youth Team.



## Debriefing session with the Speechless Reconciliation project team.

On 7th of November most of the members of the project team of the Speechless Reconciliation were reunited. We had very intensive workshops that included all the aspects of the program and our future plans. We also celebrated the birthdays of some of our project team members.

Discover the report of our last Western Balkans Camp by clicking [here](#)





## Always in motion...

Take a look behind the scenes of the project team and immerse yourself in the world of Speechless Reconciliation.

### Visit to 4 Rotary Clubs in Kosovo

Between 9 and 16 November Tim has been travelling mainly through Kosovo together with our partner SOS Children's Villages Kosovo. Together we have presented the Speechless Reconciliation project to 4 different Rotary Clubs. We visited RC Prishtina International, RC Mitrovica, RC Peja and RC Ferizaj.

In all of these clubs we have presented our work related to the Speechless Reconciliation project, specifically explaining the impact we had on the participating youngsters from Kosovo. Next to that we also presented that fantastic work of SOS Children's Villages in Kosovo.

All clubs showed a lot of interest, with most we are now in the process to develop an initial partnership to strengthen our local network in order to give all SR participants from Kosovo the chances they deserve so much.



Anesa (SOS), Shpend (SOS) and Tim (SR) visiting RC Mitrovica in a great & very positive atmosphere.



Tim and Mr. Astrit Istrefi (President RC Farizaj) exchanging the club flags and Tim receiving a present from the RC Ferizaj club.



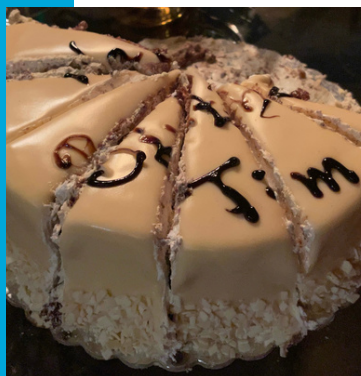
Tim (SR) & Matej (SR) together with some members of the RC Peja club.





## Celebrating's Tim's Birthday in Prishtina and Matej's visit to Rotary Club Skopje International.

Tim celebrated his birthday during the time he was in Kosovo together with a few of the SR participants (mostly first year participants) and with the staff of SOS Children's Villages Kosovo and North Macedonia (yes our dear friends Ljupco came all the way from Skopje to join the celebration).



The day after we spend some time together with the SOS colleagues in Prizren, one of the most beautiful cities in the Balkans. During this informal time we had some great ideas on how to further improve and finetune the SR project. Thanks Anesa & Lirim to spend some private time with us.



During the same period Matej met together with this year's participant Aleksandar with the Rotary Club Skopje International. They discussed possible cooperation in a very pleasant and friendly environment.





## Matej's visit to our newest partner SOS Children's Villages Lithuania.



Matej went to Lithuania to meet with participants from our this year edition of the camp. He also met with the other employees, including the group leaders Greta and Vykinde, to discuss further cooperation in the Speechless Reconciliation. We are so happy to have the SOS Children's Villages Lithuania as our most recent partners and it is wonderful to see how much work they have achieved in working with the youth.



**Stay connected and follow our activities**



<https://www.speechlessreconciliation.org/>  
Ideas, questions, suggestions, contact us at  
[hello@speechlessreconciliation.org](mailto:hello@speechlessreconciliation.org)



**You can always support us in organizing the next unforgettable summer camp 2023**



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**Special thanks to our partners who are creating opportunities together with us...**

