



Six-Monthly Report: August-December

2022

Overview

After more than five years in our previous space near Zeleni venac, The Workshop moved to a new and improved location at the end of September. Following a slow first few weeks in the new space, attendance picked up towards the end of the year, to the point where each week we received at least one new student. Serbian classes have become increasingly popular over the course of the year, with almost all of our new students from Burundi opting to learn Serbian.

Student Demographics

In 2022, we taught a total of **176 students (137 in-person and 39 online)**.

In-person

The Workshop currently works on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays between 3 and 6 p.m., although it's common for students to arrive as early as 2:30 and stay until 6:30 due to their work commitments.

From August to December, we offered classes to a total of **39 different students** in-person.

Of the 39 students, 18 were female, meaning:

46.15% female students

53.85% male students

Of these 39 students who attended our in-person classes, 26 were from Burundi, 3 from Russia, 2 from Afghanistan, 2 Congo, and 1 each from Cuba, Togo, Kosovo, Syria, Pakistan, and Guinea-Bissau.

While these numbers are reduced compared to the first half of 2022, it's important to consider that a majority of these students came to The Workshop on a much more regular basis than what we saw earlier in the year. As such, we've seen excellent progress among students in regular attendance. For example, two students from Burundi who came to The Workshop as complete beginners in March achieved a result of B2 in an online Serbian language test at the end of August. It's also worth noting that many of our current students work full-time and attend classes after finishing their shift.

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Online

With pandemic restrictions now completely removed and people having greater opportunities to move around, online classes decreased in popularity towards the end of 2022.

In the second half of 2022, online classes were provided to a total of **9 students - 5 male and 4 female**.

Of these, 3 were from Iran and 1 each from Iraq, Burundi, Comoros, Guinea, and Afghanistan, with the other student of unknown origin.



Information on Classes

In the second half of 2022, we offered **360 in-person classes** and **116 online classes**, meaning a total of **476 classes**.

Out of the 360 in-person classes, **242 were Serbian, 104 English, 1 German, 11 maths, and 2 French classes**.

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It's worth noting that during this period, it became more and more common for several students to work together in small group classes, signifying a change from our previous model of one-on-one learning. In some cases this was due to a lack of volunteer teachers, but in most cases it represented students' willingness to learn together and help one another. This model also allowed us to regularly have classes that went beyond the standard one-hour timeframe.

With this in mind, towards the end of the year we introduced another metric for in-person education: **learning hours**. For example, if a class of **5 students** went for **2 hours**, this would represent **10 learning hours**. We feel that this metric better reflects the services we provide with the resources at our disposal.

Out of the 116 online classes, **36** were **English**, **42 German**, **12 Serbian**, and **26 Arabic** classes.

In **Niš**, a total of **12 group English classes** were held for a total of **11 students**. We decided to suspend our Serbian classes in Obrenovac, as there wasn't enough demand; only two students attended regularly, one of whom subsequently left the camp. It seems that because of the transitory nature of the Obrenovac camp, very few beneficiaries intend to stay in Serbia and English classes would better suit this demographic. This is something that we intend to propose to the Commissariat in 2023.

This means that **throughout 2022, we held 1,127 classes: 714 in-person, 365 online, 27 in Niš, and 21 in Obrenovac.**

Teacher Demographics

Since the start of August, **30 volunteer teachers** provided classes, of whom **2 taught both online and in-person, 5 taught only online classes, and 23 taught in-person classes only**. Our **4 staff members** - Jana (Serbia), Nick (Australia), Rhys (Wales), and Jess (US), as well as our **intern Zach (US)** - also regularly taught classes throughout the year, mostly Serbian and English.



Of the 30 volunteers:
9 Serbians, 7 British, 4 US citizens, 3 Germans, 2 French, and 1 each from Libya, Luxembourg, Sweden, Taiwan, and the Netherlands.

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Cricket Sessions

With the assistance of the Serbian Cricket Federation (SCF), The Workshop was able to continue hosting weekly cricket sessions in Obrenovac until late September. Most weeks, these consisted of T10 matches, however, when the weather didn't allow for a match, training sessions were held.

With support from KIRS and SCF, we also organised two hard-ball sessions using full protective gear for beneficiaries at Serbia's national cricket ground. The first of these was a training session in which 13 beneficiaries spent several hours playing a match simulation. The structure of this session allowed everyone to bat and bowl, which served as a confidence booster and made the session very enjoyable for everyone.

The crowning glory of our cricket season came a week later, when we arranged a four-team T20 tournament for beneficiaries, also at the national cricket ground. This all-day event involved two teams each from the camps at Obrenovac and Adaševci and consisted of two T20 matches plus a final. In total, 55-60 beneficiaries were involved, getting opportunities to enjoy the occasion both as players and spectators. For lunch, we provided Indian biryani from a local restaurant. Adaševci's first team won the tournament, and the wild scenes of celebration following the presentation of trophies and medals showed just how popular this event was among beneficiaries.



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The Workshop's New Space

At the end of September, with the help of several students and volunteers, we moved from our home of more than five years to a new space across the road from Beograđanka shopping centre. Finding an appropriate space was quite difficult given our specific needs and the dramatic increase in the price of rent across Belgrade in 2022. Furthermore, we even faced rental application rejections due to the nature of our work. However, after a long search, we've been thrilled with how the new space has turned out.

This new location has two separate but open rooms, allowing us to better manage concurrent classes with minimal noise interference. It has a much better kitchen space, allowing us to more efficiently prepare tea and coffee for students and volunteers, and there's also a fridge, meaning we can easily store food and soft drinks for parties and team-building events. The location - close to the #12 tram - is very convenient for students travelling from Krnjača, and the off-street location and motorised roller door provide excellent security.



New Year Celebrations

In collaboration with our volunteers, we were able to prepare 12 presents for refugee children accommodated at the Institute for Youth Education in Niš and 1 present for our youngest student at The Workshop - a 9 year old boy from Togo.

We also hosted a small party at The Workshop to celebrate with our students and volunteers. We shared food, our favourite music and learned some party-related vocabulary through games!



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Conferences and Events

From August to December, members of The Workshop team attended the following events:

- An information session held by Volonterski centar Vojvodine
- A session on refugee higher education and work opportunities hosted by Belgrade Centre for Human Rights
- Ideas roundtable sessions
- A fair promoting the UN's 17 sustainable development goals
- A Conference on Practices of Securitisation and Externalisation of EU Border Regime.



Other

From September 2021 until December 2022, The Workshop was the primary organisational sponsor for the Fulbright Association grantee Zachary Goodwin's original qualitative research on migration in Serbia. Goodwin's project analysed the Serbian asylum system and Serbia's migration management relationship with the EU through the oral history testimonies of 13 refugees who have received or are applying for protected status in Serbia. In support of this research, The Workshop has provided Goodwin with a work space, connections with partners, and interpretation for interviews. Mr. Goodwin has also volunteered as a teacher and has worked with The Workshop team on grant-writing and strategic communications initiatives. His project was published in December 2022. Read the full report in English [here](#).

Furthermore, thanks to The Workshop's Project Manager, Jana, as of November 2022, The Workshop's website is now available in Serbian. You can access our website by clicking [here](#).

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