

# ESW Internship in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Engineering College Council

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## Where is Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)?

- In the Balkans of Southern Europe
- Used to be a part of Yugoslavia before the war in the 1990's
- The capitol of BiH is Sarajevo



## Ethnicity

- According to 1996 census, BiH is ethnically 46% Bosniak, 38% Serb, and 15% Croat
- Religiously, the country is mainly Muslim with Orthodox Christians and Roman Catholics making up the rest (though this varies depending on what city you are in)



## Friends of Bosnia

- EWF partner NGO
- Based in Boston, MA USA and founded in 1995
- Support reconstruction efforts in the former Yugoslavia through innovative projects in local communities
- Director of Projects, Chris Bragdon, works in Bosnia running a World Bank project called “The New Initiative”

## The New Initiative



## Classes

- Taught introductory Java programming
  - Assumed only basic knowledge of how to use Windows
- Two separate classes
  - Medresa (conservative Muslim) high school
  - Continuing Education class at Impact Internet center for adults
- A total of approximately 30 students enrolled in the class
  - 20 in the Medresa High School class
  - 10 in the Continuing Education class at Impact

# Medresa High School



# Impact Internet Cafe



## Why learn Java?

- A very marketable skill in their developing economy
- Java is useful for programming web applets and applications for handheld electronic devices
- Programming skills in general have become valuable, and learning the basics of Java will enable students to learn other languages quickly
- Critical thinking skills

## Why teach Java?

- Multi-ethnic interaction
- Entrepreneurship
- Traveling IT class
  - “Payment” for the Java class

## Information Technology

- It can not only bring people in developing countries in closer contact with the world, but also with each other.