

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

At Kuma International, we believe that art has the power not only to represent trauma, but to transform it into dialogue and memory into a shared future.

MESSAGE FROM DR CLAUDIA ZINI

Dear friends, colleagues, and supporters,

As I reflect on 2025, I realise more than ever how much Kuma has grown beyond an educational programme into an international community built on trust, exchange, and meaningful long-term connections.

Throughout the year, Sarajevo once again became a meeting point for people from around the world. Through our Summer School, residencies, university collaborations, youth exchanges, research projects, podcasts, lectures, and artistic programmes, we welcomed students, artists, researchers, curators, filmmakers, and cultural professionals from across Europe and beyond — with especially strong connections to Italy, which continued to play a central role in Kuma's activities.

In 2025, more than 500 Italian students visited Sarajevo through Kuma's educational programmes, while the 8th edition of the Kuma International Summer School welcomed the highest number of participants in its history: 40 participants from four continents. Marking the 30th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide, the programme created a meaningful space for reflection on memory, art, trauma, and peacebuilding, while introducing a new mentoring component that further strengthened the sense of community among participants. One of the most encouraging developments this year was seeing former Summer School participants return to Bosnia and Herzegovina to develop collaborative artistic research projects together. Their return demonstrated how the relationships created through Kuma continue to evolve long after the programme itself ends.

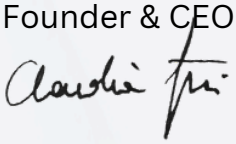
This year also marked an important expansion of Kuma's international activities and collaborations. We continued working with universities, cultural institutions, artists, and international organisations, including a renewed collaboration with the United Nations on the Youth Exchange Italy–Bosnia and Herzegovina programme and a new research partnership with RMIT University in Australia through the project The Art of Remembrance and Peace.

At the same time, Kuma continued developing new artistic and educational directions. We launched our first podcast series in Italian and English together with the University of Macerata, welcomed new artists and photographers in residence in Sarajevo, supported Bosnian diaspora artists through European mobility programmes, and, for the first time, brought methodologies developed in Bosnia and Herzegovina to Italy through the Art for Change project and the Autumn School in Torino — Kuma's first long-form educational programme developed abroad. What feels most important, however, is not the number of activities, collaborations, or participants, but the fact that Kuma continues to connect people across borders, disciplines, languages, and experiences.

None of this would be possible without the extraordinary network of artists, students, institutions, collaborators, supporters, and friends who continue to believe in Kuma's mission and help this community grow.

Thank you for being part of this journey.

With gratitude,
Dr Claudia Zini
Founder & CEO





KUMA INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL 2025

Across eight editions, a growing international community has come together to explore art, memory, and difficult histories. Through shared learning and exchange, new perspectives, connections, and artistic practices continue to emerge.



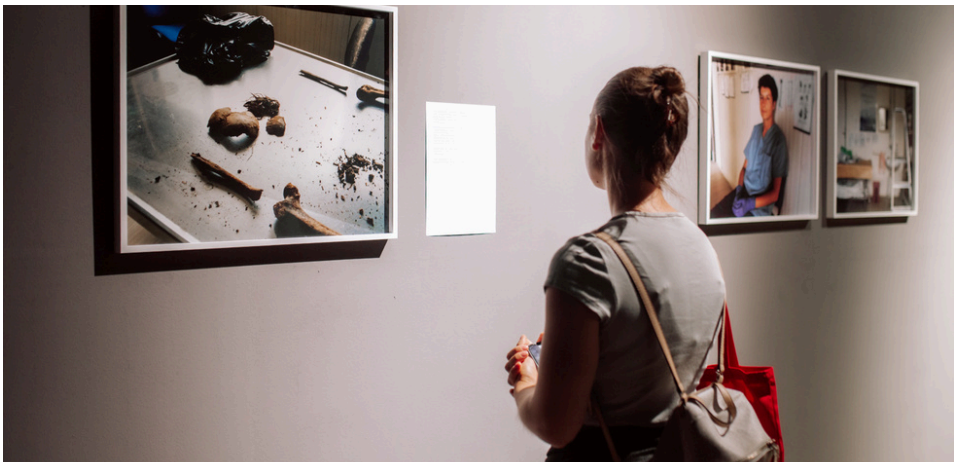


In July 2025, Kuma International hosted the 8th edition of the Kuma International Summer School, bringing together **40 participants from four continents** — the highest number in the programme's history. Marking the 30th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide and the end of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, this year's edition focused on memory, trauma, post-conflict artistic practices, and the role of art as both a form of resistance and a space for healing.



Curated by **Professor Stephenie Young (Salem State University)**, the programme explored contemporary artistic and research practices emerging from contexts of war, displacement, and political violence, while drawing connections with other regions and contemporary conflicts around the world. Sessions addressed topics including **intergenerational trauma, migration, diaspora identities, memorialization practices, forensic aesthetics, artistic research, music, film, and contemporary visual art from post-conflict societies.**

Hosted primarily at the **Historical Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina**, the Summer School brought together artists, researchers, students, and cultural practitioners through lectures, artist talks, workshops, screenings, exhibitions, performances, and collective discussions. The programme also included exhibition visits and collaborations with major cultural initiatives taking place in Sarajevo during the summer, including the WARM Festival.













A new mentorship component introduced in 2025 provided participants with the opportunity **to develop their own artistic and research projects** connected to themes such as memory, migration, exile, intergenerational trauma, identity, archives, and collective histories. Through mentoring sessions and collaborative discussions, participants reflected not only on artistic methodologies, but also on **questions of ethics, responsibility, integrity, and care** when working with personal and collective narratives.









The programme brought together an exceptionally diverse group of speakers, artists, scholars, and practitioners from Bosnia and Herzegovina and abroad, including **Lauren Walsh, Emina Zoletić, Velma Babić, Ana Čvorović, Ismet Prcić, Enes Zlatar, Hariz Halilovich, Isak Berbić, Ferida Duraković, Haris Sahačić, Ado Hasanović, Vladimir Miladinović, Mladen Miljanović, Camilla De Maffei, Velibor Božović, Giulia Casartelli, and many others.**




















AUTUMN SCHOOL – ART FOR CHANGE, TORINO

A new chapter in Kuma's international work, bringing educational practices developed in Bosnia and Herzegovina into a new context. Through art, memory, and dialogue, the programme explored how artistic practices can challenge violence and contribute to social change.







In November 2025, Kuma International was invited by **Rete ONG ETS** to curate the **Autumn School of the Art for Change** project in **Torino**, marking Kuma's first institutional educational programme developed in Italy.

Hosted at **Fondazione Amendola**, the four-day programme brought together workshops, screenings, lectures, and discussions focused on **art, memory, gender-based violence**, and **socially engaged artistic practices.**

The Autumn School approached **gender-based violence in its broadest sense,** examining not only violence against women but also forms of exclusion, dehumanization, and inequality embedded within contemporary societies. Drawing on Kuma's long-term experience working with stories of war, displacement, and violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina and other post-conflict contexts, the programme explored how art can serve as a tool for reflection, resistance, and social change. Curated and facilitated by **Claudia Zini**, the programme brought together artists, curators, filmmakers, educators, and researchers from Italy and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Contributors included artist **Irene Pittatore**, trainer **Isabelle Demangeat**, curator **Lorena Tadorni** (Forme in Bilico APS), photographer **Fiorella Costantini**, and filmmaker **Ado Hasanović**.

Through presentations, screenings, and discussions, participants engaged with questions of memory, representation, inherited trauma, family archives, and the ethical responsibilities of artistic practice.

The Autumn School represented an important milestone in Kuma's international development, bringing educational methodologies developed in Bosnia and Herzegovina into dialogue with Italian and European contexts through a **long-form educational programme abroad.**

The Art for Change project was promoted by **Rete ONG ETS** and partners and co-funded by the **European Union and the Piedmont Region** through the **Connect for Global Change** programme.





3 KUMA'S FIRST PODCAST

A new way of exploring stories, memories, and places through sound. By bringing together personal voices, everyday impressions, and the sounds of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the project opened new perspectives beyond familiar narratives and stereotypes.

In 2025, Kuma International developed its first podcast project, expanding its educational and artistic activities into the field of sound, storytelling, and audio documentation.
Bosnia You Would Not Expect: Travel Voices between Memory and Beauty was produced in Italian and English as part of **Laboratorio Balcanico. Novecento tra Storia, Memorie e Narrazioni**, an educational programme organised in Bosnia and Herzegovina on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Srebrenica genocide.

Recorded during the summer of 2025 by students from ten **Italian Schools of Advanced Studies**, the podcast explores Bosnia and Herzegovina through personal impressions, conversations, ambient sounds, and reflections gathered during their journey across the country. Kuma International led the podcast workshop in Srebrenica together with **Velibor Božović and Haris Sahačić**, guiding participants through listening exercises, sound recording, interviewing techniques, and collective reflection. Through this process, **students were encouraged to move beyond dominant narratives and stereotypes**, creating a multilayered sonic portrait of Bosnia and Herzegovina shaped by memory, history, everyday life, and cultural diversity.

Following the fieldwork phase, the editorial concept, editing, and post-production were developed by Claudia Zini, Haris Sahačić, and Velibor Božović in collaboration with **Atelier del Suono eTERITORIUM.** Original music for the podcast was composed by Haris Sahačić. For Kuma International, the project marked an important new direction and the beginning of a broader exploration of sound and podcasting as tools for education, memory work, artistic research, and intercultural dialogue.









RADIO ELSEWHERES [re.03]

Across three editions, Radio Elsewheres has grown into an international platform connecting artists, stories, and perspectives through sound. Bringing together voices from around the world, it explores listening as a way of understanding borders, memory, movement, and the connections between us.

For the third consecutive year, Kuma International proudly partnered with Radio Elsewheres, **an online and terrestrial low-power digital radio-art project exploring the movement and displacement of people, languages, ideas, stories, ecologies, and memories.**
Conceptualized, produced, and curated by artists **Velibor Božović** and **Steve Bates** together with Kuma founder **Claudia Zini**, Radio Elsewheres has evolved into an international platform connecting sound art, storytelling, social engagement, and critical reflections on borders, migration, memory, and colonial violence.



In 2025, Kuma travelled to **Windsor, Canada**, for the third iteration of the project. Radio Elsewheres [re.03] broadcast live for three weeks, 24 hours a day, from within Velibor Božović's exhibition Elsewhere, on Record at Art Windsor–Essex, curated by **Emily McKibbon**. Bringing together more than **60 artists, researchers, musicians, and contributors from around the world**, the project created a temporary shared acoustic space where field recordings, radio essays, testimonies, live transmissions, eco-acoustic works, and sound compositions intertwined across geographies and experiences.

Since its first edition in Bihać in 2023, Radio Elsewheres has become **an important platform for Kuma's ongoing exploration of sound-based storytelling**, artistic research, and intercultural dialogue. Within the framework of the project, Kuma developed the Kuma Conversations series, inviting artists and cultural practitioners to reflect on memory, migration, identity, and artistic practice through audio-based conversations.





Working from Windsor — a border city shaped by movement, crossings, and layered histories — offered a powerful perspective on borders not only as spaces of separation, but also as places of encounter, transformation, and listening. The project continues to expand Kuma's international network of artistic and research collaborations while opening new possibilities for **understanding listening as a form of knowledge, care, solidarity, and artistic practice**.

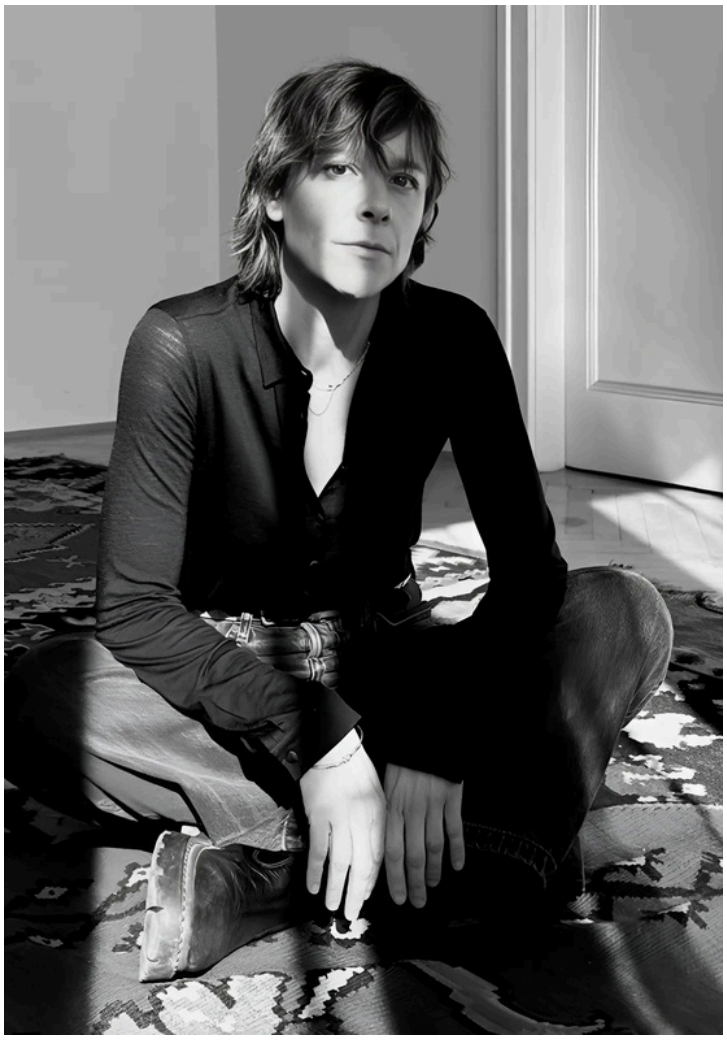


5 KUMA RESIDENCY PROGRAM

The programme supports artistic and research practices that take time, curiosity, and meaningful engagement with local contexts. Through long-term collaboration and exchange, it opens space for exploring memory, belonging, identity, and the complexities of post-conflict societies.

In 2025, Kuma International continued to develop its Residency Programme as **a platform supporting long-term artistic and research practices** engaging with memory, post-conflict societies, migration, identity, and contemporary social realities. Through residencies, Kuma provides artists, photographers, curators, and researchers with opportunities to develop projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina through exchange, dialogue, local encounters, and field research.

One of the major residencies of 2025 was the ongoing research project of Italian photographer **Camilla De Maffei**, developed in collaboration with several international partners and supported by **Strategia Fotografia 2024**, promoted by the **Directorate-General for Contemporary Creativity** of the Italian Ministry of Culture.



Thirty years after the Dayton Peace Agreement, **the project explores the causes and consequences of the massive depopulation reshaping Bosnia and Herzegovina.** Through extensive research conducted across the country, the project investigates how the growing emptiness affecting rural areas and many cities is not only physical, but also deeply symbolic and political, raising urgent questions about memory, belonging, extraction, migration, and the contradictions of contemporary European policies.

During the residency, Camilla met with activists, students, teachers, citizens, and local communities navigating the complex realities of post-war life. Through these encounters, the project reflects on **what remains visible and invisible in post-conflict societies,** and on how people continue to resist, adapt, and imagine futures within fragile social and political contexts. Kuma International supported the development of the research through local connections, exchanges, mentorship, and long-term dialogue.

This project is made possible through a collaboration with international partners in **Italy, France, Spain, and Bosnia and Herzegovina.**

"Kuma is a welcoming, dynamic, and stimulating space that fosters meaningful exchanges and genuine collaboration. Thanks to the invaluable support of Claudia and her team, I was able to expand my research by connecting with local artists, scholars, and researchers, enriching my work with fresh perspectives and valuable insights." ***— Camilla De Maffei***

In April 2025, Kuma International also hosted Italian photographer and researcher **Fiorella Costantini** in Sarajevo through a residency supported by **Culture Moves Europe** and the **GoetheInstitut**. During her time in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Fiorella developed **Stories of Legacy**, a long-term photographic and research project exploring the question: **“What remains after a war?”** Through meetings and conversations with young people across the country, the project investigated themes of **memory, identity, belonging, faith, intergenerational trauma, and hopes for the future**. Rather than presenting a single narrative of post-war Bosnia and Herzegovina, the project highlighted the complexity, contradictions, and diversity of contemporary lived experiences.

Kuma supported the research process by facilitating connections, encounters, and conversations, while accompanying the development of the project throughout the residency period. The collaboration reflected Kuma’s ongoing **commitment to supporting international artistic research rooted in listening, dialogue, and socially engaged practices**.

“From the very start, I was able to work with peace of mind, knowing I had the support of a solid, present, and thoughtful organization, one that made me feel grounded and never alone. Kuma offered far more than logistical support: they provided genuine listening and insightful guidance.”
— Fiorella Costantini





6 OTHER PROJECTS

Through educational programmes, intercultural exchange, and collaborative artistic research, Kuma creates opportunities for learning, connection, and shared exploration. By bringing people and perspectives together, these projects encourage new ways of engaging with memory, cultural heritage, and contemporary social realities.

Educational Programmes with Italian High Schools



Dates: February - April 2025
Location: Sarajevo
Participants: Over250 high school students from Milan, Reggio Emilia, Bologna, Turin, and Trieste



Kuma International continued its long-term collaboration with Italian schools, educational organisations, and student groups, **further strengthening the cultural and educational exchange between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Italy.**

Between February and April 2025, Kuma hosted **12 educational workshops** in Sarajevo involving more than 250 high school students from Milan, Reggio Emilia, Bologna, Turin, and Trieste. Developed in collaboration with **Viaggi e Miraggi and Confluenze**, the workshops encouraged collective reflection on memory, art, responsibility, and the legacy of the Srebrenica genocide.









Led by artist **Aida Šehović** in partnership with Kuma International, each workshop centred around the ritual of Bosnian coffee as a tool for dialogue, listening, drawing, writing, and shared reflection. Through these encounters, students were invited to think about **monuments and remembrance** not as static symbols, but as living practices of care, participation, and resistance. The programme also included screenings and discussions of the documentary **Where Have You Been**, opening conversations about memory, post-conflict societies, and intergenerational responsibility.

A highlight of the programme was the visit and dialogue with **Italian Ambassador Sarah Eti Castellani**, who welcomed the students and reflected on the cultural and historical ties linking Italy and Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Youth Exchange Programme with UNFPA



Dates: July 2025
Location: Sarajevo
Participants: Group of 17 Italian students

In 2025, Kuma International once again collaborated with **UNFPA Bosnia and Herzegovina**, **the Italian Embassy in Bosnia and Herzegovina,** and **the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund** on a new edition of the *Youth Exchange Programme* in Sarajevo.











Over four days, **Claudia Zini** and **Adela Kusur** guided a group of 17 Italian students through Sarajevo's artistic, historical, and cultural landscape through lectures, artist talks, studio visits, museum visits, and film screenings. The programme explored **the role of art, storytelling, and memory practices in post-conflict societies** while encouraging critical reflection, dialogue, and intercultural exchange.

Through encounters with artists and cultural practitioners including **Aida Šehović, Velibor Božović, and Adis Fejzić**, participants engaged directly with artistic practices addressing memory, identity, war, migration, and reconciliation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. These conversations offered students the opportunity to connect historical and contemporary perspectives, while gaining a **deeper understanding of the role culture and art can play in processes of remembrance and social transformation.**



Returning Participants & Artistic Research



Dates: April 2025
Location: Bosnia and Herzegovina

One of the most meaningful aspects of the Kuma International Summer School is witnessing how connections formed during the programme continue to evolve long after it ends. In 2025, three participants from the 2024 edition of the Summer School — **Anita Karabašić, Selma Maglić,** and **Stela Knežević** — returned to Bosnia and Herzegovina through a collaborative artistic research project developed in partnership with Kuma International and supported by **Culture Moves Europe.**

After first meeting in Sarajevo during the Summer School, the artists continued their exchange and developed a shared research project **exploring memory, displacement, cultural heritage, and post-conflict realities in Bosnia and Herzegovina**. In April 2025, less than a year after their initial encounter, they returned for a two-week research residency during which they developed and presented **Tražim ("I Search"),** an ongoing artistic project composed of three interconnected research directions.







Through **photography, film, archival research, and site-specific interventions**, the artists engaged with questions of return, loss, family memory, cultural heritage, and the traces left by war in contemporary Bosnian society. Their work reflected different perspectives and methodologies while remaining **connected through a shared interest in memory and post-conflict narratives.** Kuma International supported the residency by facilitating local connections, research encounters, mentorship, and logistical assistance, while continuing to encourage long-term artistic exchange and collaboration among emerging artists working across disciplines and national borders.

KUMA INTERNATIONAL 2025 | Qualitative impact



Beyond numbers, 2025 demonstrated the long-term impact of Kuma International's approach to education, artistic research, and intercultural exchange.

Building Long-Term Relationships

One of the clearest indicators of Kuma's impact is the continued engagement of former participants. In 2025, alumni of the Summer School returned to Bosnia and Herzegovina to develop collaborative artistic research projects, demonstrating how connections formed through Kuma continue to generate new initiatives, partnerships, and creative work long after programmes conclude.



Supporting Artistic Research

Through residencies, mentorship, and international collaborations, Kuma supported artists and researchers working on complex questions related to memory, displacement, identity, postconflict societies, and social transformation. These projects contributed new perspectives and created opportunities for meaningful exchange between local communities and international practitioners.



Creating International Dialogue

Kuma continued to strengthen connections between Bosnia and Herzegovina and a growing international network of universities, cultural institutions, artists, researchers, and students. Throughout the year, programmes connected participants from Europe, North America, and Australia, positioning Sarajevo as a site for critical reflection, learning, and artistic exchange.



Expanding Educational Methodologies

2025 marked an important expansion of Kuma's educational practice. New mentorship formats, podcast production, sound-based storytelling, and international educational programmes demonstrated how methodologies developed in Bosnia and Herzegovina can be adapted and shared across different cultural and institutional contexts.

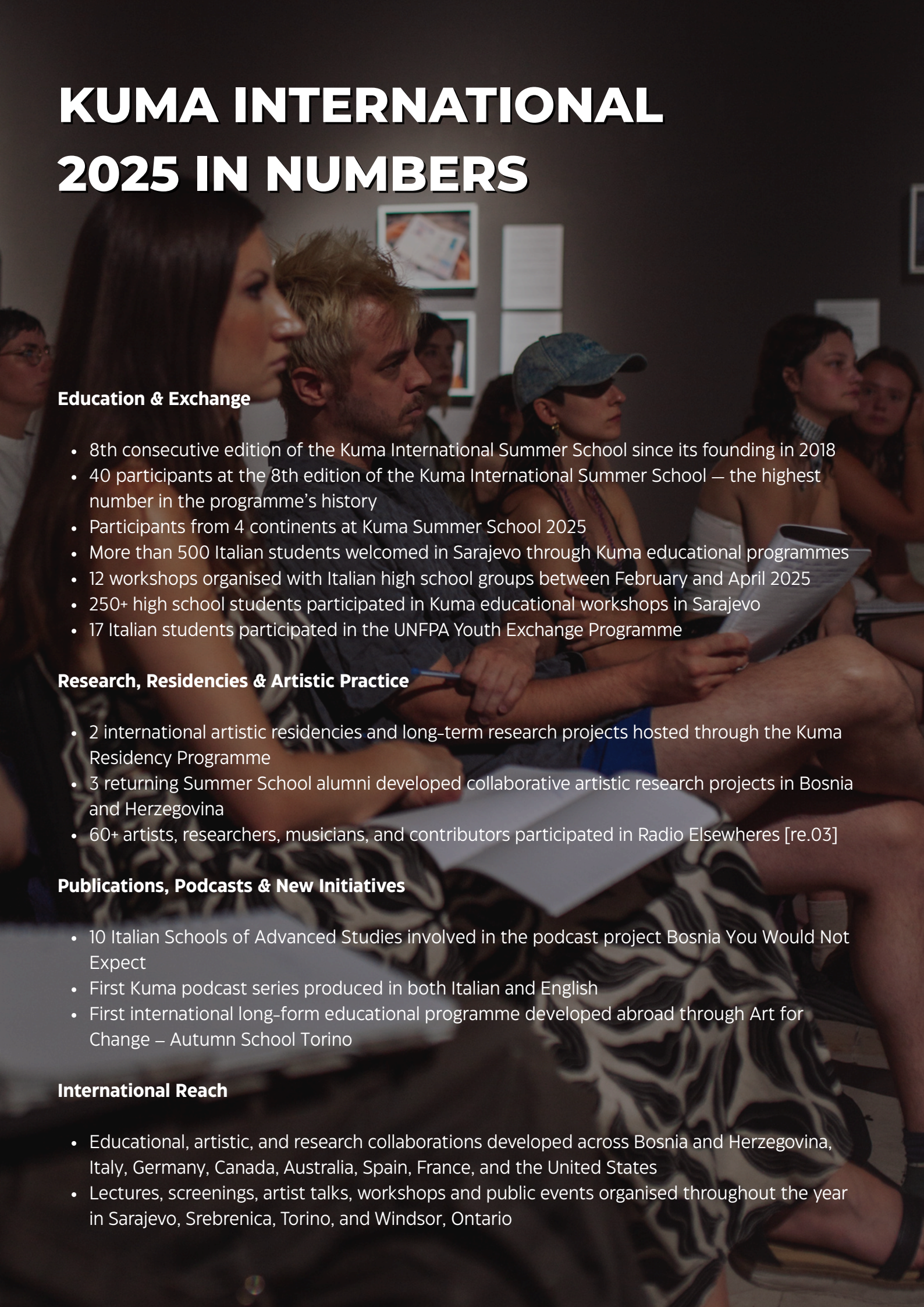


Strengthening Spaces for Reflection and Care

Across all activities, Kuma remained committed to creating environments where difficult histories and contemporary social issues could be approached through dialogue, listening, critical inquiry, and artistic practice. Participant feedback throughout the year highlighted the importance of these spaces in fostering empathy, trust, and meaningful engagement across differences.



KUMA INTERNATIONAL 2025 IN NUMBERS



Education & Exchange

- 8th consecutive edition of the Kuma International Summer School since its founding in 2018
- 40 participants at the 8th edition of the Kuma International Summer School — the highest number in the programme's history
- Participants from 4 continents at Kuma Summer School 2025
- More than 500 Italian students welcomed in Sarajevo through Kuma educational programmes
- 12 workshops organised with Italian high school groups between February and April 2025
- 250+ high school students participated in Kuma educational workshops in Sarajevo
- 17 Italian students participated in the UNFPA Youth Exchange Programme

Research, Residencies & Artistic Practice

- 2 international artistic residencies and long-term research projects hosted through the Kuma Residency Programme
- 3 returning Summer School alumni developed collaborative artistic research projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- 60+ artists, researchers, musicians, and contributors participated in Radio Elsewheres [re.03]

Publications, Podcasts & New Initiatives

- 10 Italian Schools of Advanced Studies involved in the podcast project Bosnia You Would Not Expect
- First Kuma podcast series produced in both Italian and English
- First international long-form educational programme developed abroad through Art for Change – Autumn School Torino

International Reach

- Educational, artistic, and research collaborations developed across Bosnia and Herzegovina, Italy, Germany, Canada, Australia, Spain, France, and the United States
- Lectures, screenings, artist talks, workshops and public events organised throughout the year in Sarajevo, Srebrenica, Torino, and Windsor, Ontario

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Universities & Academic Institutions:

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ASSI ALLEANZA SCUOLE SUPERIORI D'ATENEO

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manifesto

Fondazione Giorgio Amendola

Associazione Lucana in Piemonte Carlo Levi

Artistic & Cultural Collaborators:

RADIO ELSEWHERES

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LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026

As Kuma International continues to grow, 2026 will focus on strengthening long-term international collaborations, artistic exchange, and new educational and research formats connecting Bosnia and Herzegovina with wider European and global contexts



One of the major upcoming initiatives is a new artistic exchange programme between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Germany. Developed in collaboration with German partners, the project will bring artists and researchers to Sarajevo for a residency and research programme in March 2026, followed by a residency and exhibition programme for Bosnian artists in Germany later in the year. The exchange aims to foster dialogue around memory, migration, post-conflict societies, and contemporary European realities.

Kuma will also continue developing new educational methodologies through a long-term collaboration with Italian artist, curator, and researcher Giulia Casartelli. Together, Kuma and Giulia are creating an autobiographical writing programme that combines artistic practice, memory work, and collective reflection, with activities planned across Bosnia and Herzegovina beginning in 2027.

Another key focus will be the expansion of Kuma's collaborations connected to Ukraine and contemporary conflict-related artistic practices. In July 2026, Ukrainian curator and art historian Alona Karavai will join Kuma in Sarajevo for a public programme exploring connections between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Ukraine through contemporary art, displacement, memory, and post-war cultural practices.

Looking ahead, Kuma International remains committed to supporting artistic research, education, and international exchange while continuing to position Sarajevo as a meeting point for artists, researchers, students, and cultural practitioners engaging critically with questions of memory, conflict, identity, and social transformation.