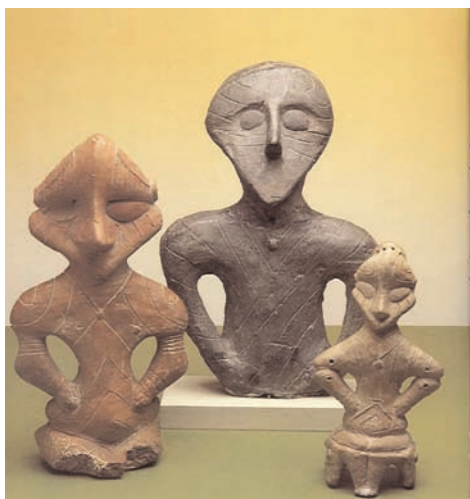


# Kosovo 1999-2002

In November 1999, the Kosovo Museum in Pristina and Patrimoine sans frontières signed an agreement to work together on the re-opening of the museum to the general public.



*Neolithic anthropomorphic figurines*

Founded in 1949 and with its rich variety of collections, the Kosovo Museum in Pristina has played a central role in the cultural memory of the region: more than 24,000 archaeological, ethnological, historical and natural history objects and artefacts are conserved there.

It is also a centre of research for the archaeological heritage of Kosovo. The museum is made up of a central building and an ethnological complex; the house of Emin Gjiku (of 18th and 19th centuries)

## The museum appeals for collaboration and assistance

Following an initial mission to Kosovo in October 1999 to investigate destruction caused to cultural heritage sites, Patrimoine sans frontières was asked by the museum director to provide technical assistance and advice for the re-opening of the establishment. In November 1999, Patrimoine sans frontières carried out a second mission (with scientific assistance provided by the National Museum of Popular Arts and Traditions and financial support from the ICOM) to set up a precise inventory of the situation, assessing the museum's resources, its requirements

and the feasibility of possible interventions. Psf also launched a research programme on the heritage of Kosovo's habitation.

## Objectives

In November 1999, the Kosovo Museum and Patrimoine sans frontières signed a protocole agreement, countersigned by the MINUK (United Nations Interim Mission in Kosovo). The agreement stipulated that, in the case of the museum project and as far as the re-opening of the museum to the public was concerned, Patrimoine sans frontières would assist in the following areas:

- Providing technical and computer equipment for the museum
- Re-entering the museum onto the International Museum Network
- Setting up the museum project along with a programme of cultural events and activities linked to the museum
- Re-organisation and re-structuring of the premises

## Achievements

- Patrimoine sans frontières managed to negotiate free entrance subscriptions to the museum for specialised reviews and magazines
- March 2000: the museum was fully equipped with computers and information technology material
- June 2000: In collaboration with the Kosovo Museum, the Municipal Monuments Institute and MINUK, a photographic exhibition was organised in the Pristina Town Hall presenting ancient photographs of Pristina (with images provided by both the museum and the Municipal Monuments and National Archives Institute collections).
- July-November 2000: Renovation was completed of one part of the Museum to accommodate the ethnological department; the house of Emin Gjiku
- December 2000: In collaboration with the National Museum of Popular Arts and Traditions, professional training was organised and provided for the director of the Kosovo Museum national des arts et traditions populaires.
- March 2002: professional exchanges and France/Kosovo training sessions were provided for managers of cultural institutions in Pristina

## Project Partners

- European Reconstruction Agency (AER)
- ICOM
- French Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- French Ministry of Culture and Communication
- United Nations Interim Mission in Kosovo (MINUK), Pristina
- UNESCO
- National Museum of Popular Arts and Tradition, (MNATP), Paris
- French Archaeological Society
- "Historiens et Géographes" magazine ● CNRS Editions
- *The archaeology files*
- "Ramage" magazine (Paris-Sorbonne University Publications)