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New building project Bishnica

Boarding school, children's home, social station and more: The new centre will bring our long-standing work in the Albanian Mokra Mountains to a new level. Become part of this project – for the children of Bishnica!



Boarding School Bishnica

In our boarding school, children from poor, remote villages are given the opportunity to go to school. From Monday to Friday, they stay with us and attend the village school; from our staff they are given personal learning support and additional music and creative courses as well as foreign language lessons. This way we give them a sound foundation for life. Our service includes: Nutrition, recreational programmes, clothing and school materials, hygienic and medical care, visits to the dentist, psychological support etc. Currently, our staff cares for about 20 children.

Background

School education is a decisive factor for a child's future. This is also known by parents and children in the neglected Mokra region, where there are hardly any roads or infrastructure and surely no jobs – most families live as agricultural selfsuppliers.

The state maintains schools in the bigger mountain villages. Teachers there usually try hard, but there is a lack of school furniture, teaching materials and computers, and the buildings are often in a desolate condition. Moreover, many small village schools have been closed. This means

Currently, the children are accommodated in some flats within a residential block. The neighbouring community house is used for group activities.



that the remaining pupils have to walk one or two hours to the next school – which is difficult in the summer and impossible during the winter.

Development so far

In order to meet this need, in 1999 we set up a dormitory for pupils from remote villages, located in our social station in Bishnica. This provisional arrangement has now been in place for over 20 years, and still for children from several villages it's the only chance to get a school education. In the meantime, several generations of pupils have passed through our boarding house.

The accommodation in a residential block from the Stalinist era is very cramped. Despite some renovation works, they neither meet today's standards nor the state's requirements regarding residential homes for children. The treatment rooms of our social centre are housed in another, private building.

There's an urgent need for new premises.



Life in Bishnica: homework supervision (bottom left) and counselling by the child psychologist (bottom)



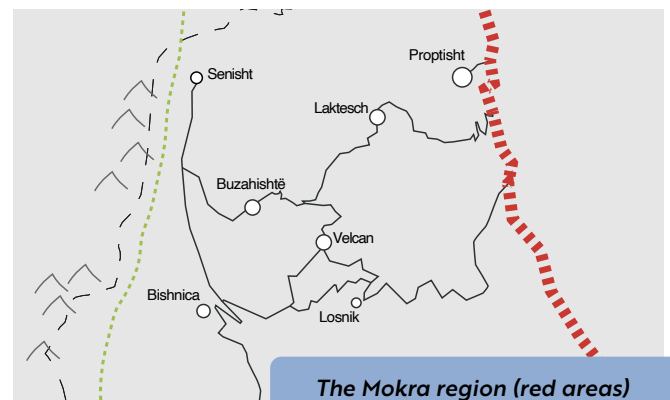
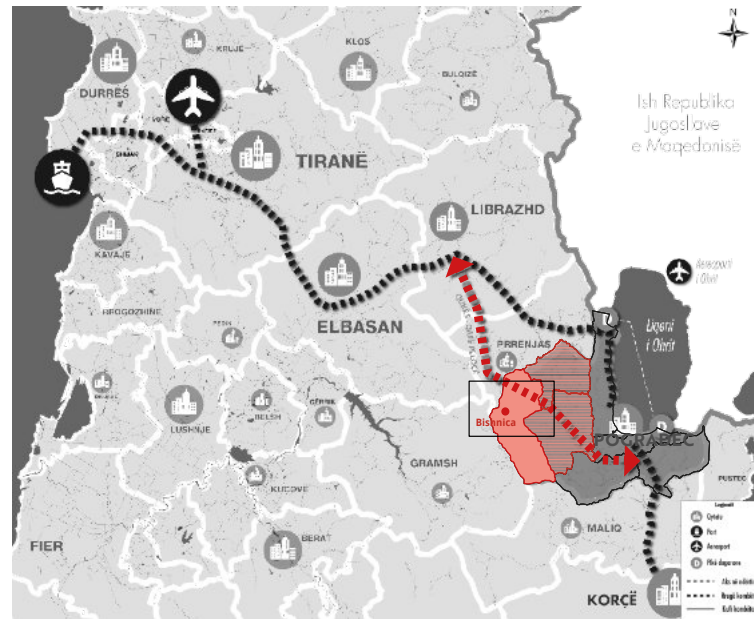
In addition to the residential accommodation, we have repeatedly taken in children with special physical and social problems – from the Mokra and from far beyond. Here in the remote mountain village of Bishnica, we can offer them protection and help them to master their lives through special support.

Bishnica and the region

As CHW, we have been supporting the residents of Mokra from the very beginning. Starting in 1997, there has been a permanent social station in Bishnica, from which the boarding school emerged in 1999. Since 2012, the work has been carried out by our local subsidiary organisation Fondacioni Diakonia Albania (DA).

Bishnica used to be a centre of forestry in Stalinist times. Since the fall of communism, the countryside has been severely affected by rural exodus. Today, about 300 people live in the village, mainly as agricultural selfsuppliers. Traffic connections are improving thanks to the new main road; the route to Bishnica is also to be developed.

In 2015, most villages of the Mokra region were integrated into the municipality of Pogradec. CHW and DA have good ties in the city administration; our concerns are heard and supported. The president of the city parliament is also a member of the Diakonia Albania supervisory board.

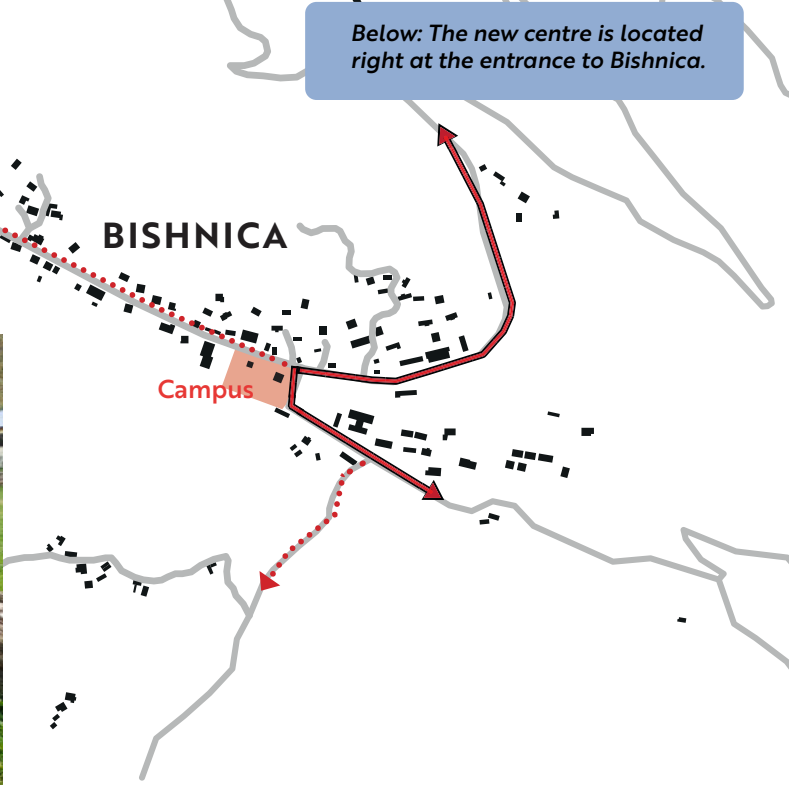


The Mokra region (red areas) with Bishnica and the new main road (dashed red).

Below: The new centre is located right at the entrance to Bishnica.



Below: Some of our children sitting on the new site. School campus adjoins to the right.



Concept of the new centre

The new building will not only accommodate the boarding school, but also other areas of our work and, moreover, create completely new possibilities. In addition to a typical dormitory, there will be a home for children with special needs, our nursing service will be housed here and there will be space for village events and for visiting groups. Therefore, the project runs under the official title "Multifunctional Centre for Care, Welfare and Community".

Spatial conception

The new centre is located in the centre of Bishnica, next to the existing village school. By dividing the centre into small structures, it fits into the village environment and offers both publicly accessible and private areas:

- 1 Mensa** Dining room for children and guests, also used as location for events of the village community
- 2 Administration** Offices and meeting rooms, library, in the basement a sports room, showers and storage
- 3 Dormitory** Living rooms for 10 girls and 10 boys, study rooms, downstairs therapy and staff rooms, upstairs guest rooms (e.g. school hostel, international encounters)
- 4 Home** Permanent accommodation for children with special needs (physical, mental or intellectual handicaps, absent or permanently overburdened parents), upstairs rooms for groups and for people in emergency situations (according to Albanian law), downstairs technical/storage facilities

Additional possibilities

All functions necessary for children are located on the ground floor and are accessible by wheelchair. The buildings are grouped around a half-open inner courtyard; this arrangement makes it easy to convert the building for different use at a later date, if necessary.

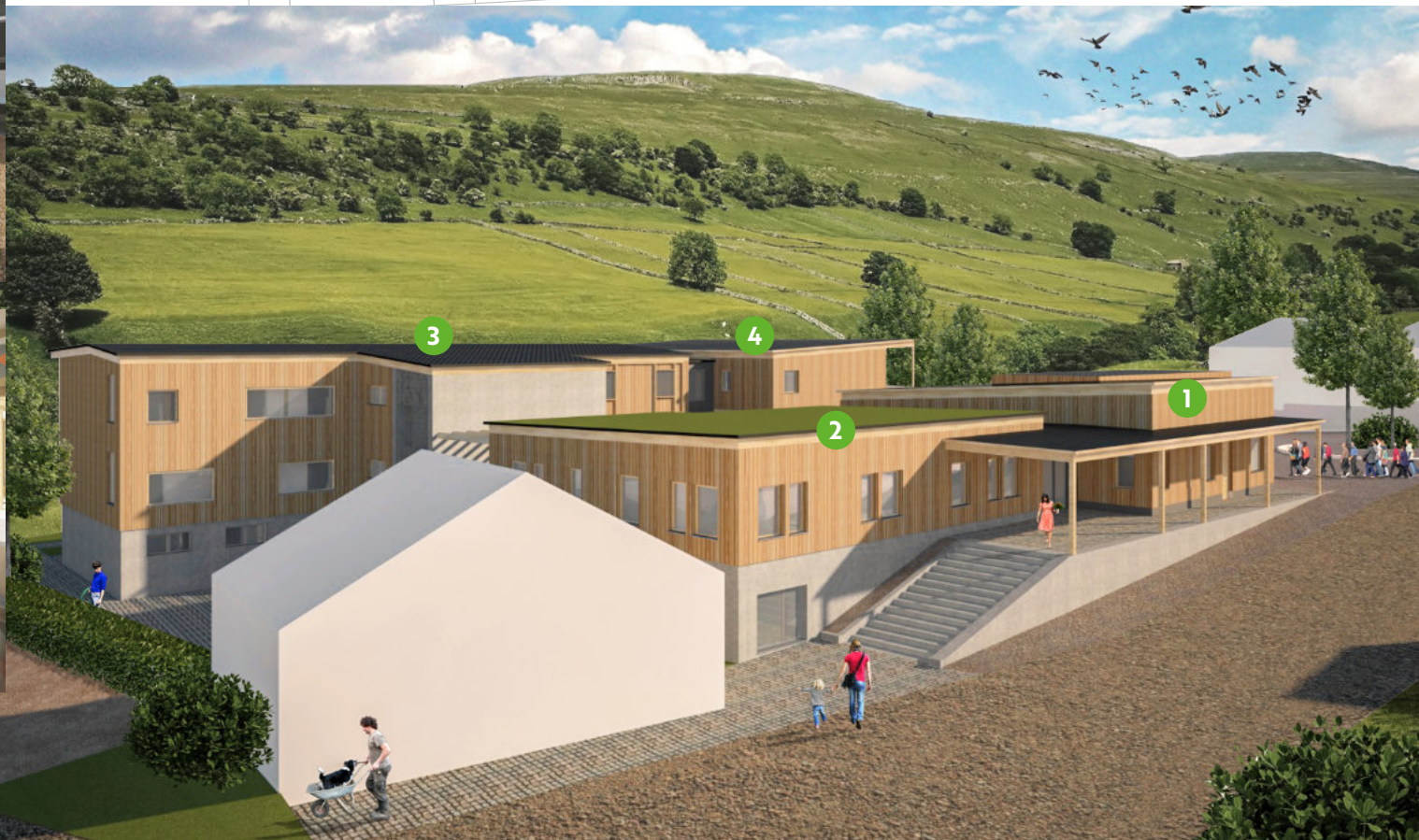
Southwards, there is a meadow with playground and sports facilities. On the area between the new centre and the existing school, there is space for a smaller multifunctional building (workshop, tourism office with sales of local products), for tent camps and open-air events.



Construction plans and views:
www.chwev.de/neubau



Ground floor plan



Construction details

Structure

The basement including the staircase is to be built as a massive construction, whereas the first floor and the upper floor are to be made of prefabricated timber construction elements.

- A modern timber construction offers approaches to resist earthquake impacts with little effort
- Wood is a sustainable material: The new building is meant to set an example for environmentally conscious construction in the region
- Short assembly times for rapid completion of the shell, also with the help of unskilled labour and volunteers

Energy and environmental concept

Further planned measures on the building:

- Fully biological small plant for independent waste water treatment
- Greenery on the roofs and solar energy via rooftop PV modules
- No expensive and maintenance-intensive equipment is required: ventilation works naturally, roof overhangs provide thermal protection for bedrooms and lounges in the summertime

Construction phases

For planning and financial reasons, the centre is to be built in two phases:

1 Mensa and Administration

The rooms of the administration building can temporarily accommodate 16 children in partial and full inpatient care. The sanitary rooms on the ground floor (toilets, washrooms) and the showers in the basement are available to the children. The cafeteria is also mainly used for boarding school purposes. Upon request of the city of Pogradec, the small multifunctional building with open space in front of it will be realised in the first construction phase.

2 Dormitory and Home

After the 2nd phase, there will be space for up to 20 children in partial inpatient accommodation (boarding school) and up to 8 children in full inpatient accommodation (home area). The rooms in the administration building can be transferred to their final use without any problems after completion of 2nd construction phase. Staff and therapy rooms in the basement as well as the upper floor with guest facilities and emergency accommodation can now be fully used.



Status of planning, partners

Building site

- Diakonia Albania has already acquired the ground for the first phase of construction (financed by donations from two companies)
- The property for the second phase will be leased from the municipality on a long-term basis

Funding 1st construction phase

Construction planning costs (2022)

For the planning of the building (architect's services up to building permit) we expect costs of € 30,000.

Construction costs (from 2023)

We are cooperating with the Renovabis relief organisation on an application to the BMZ in the amount of € 900,000. This requires € 150,000 of our own funds.

Own funds: € 200,000

Together with an extra € 20,000 for unforeseen costs, we are collecting project donations of € 200,000.

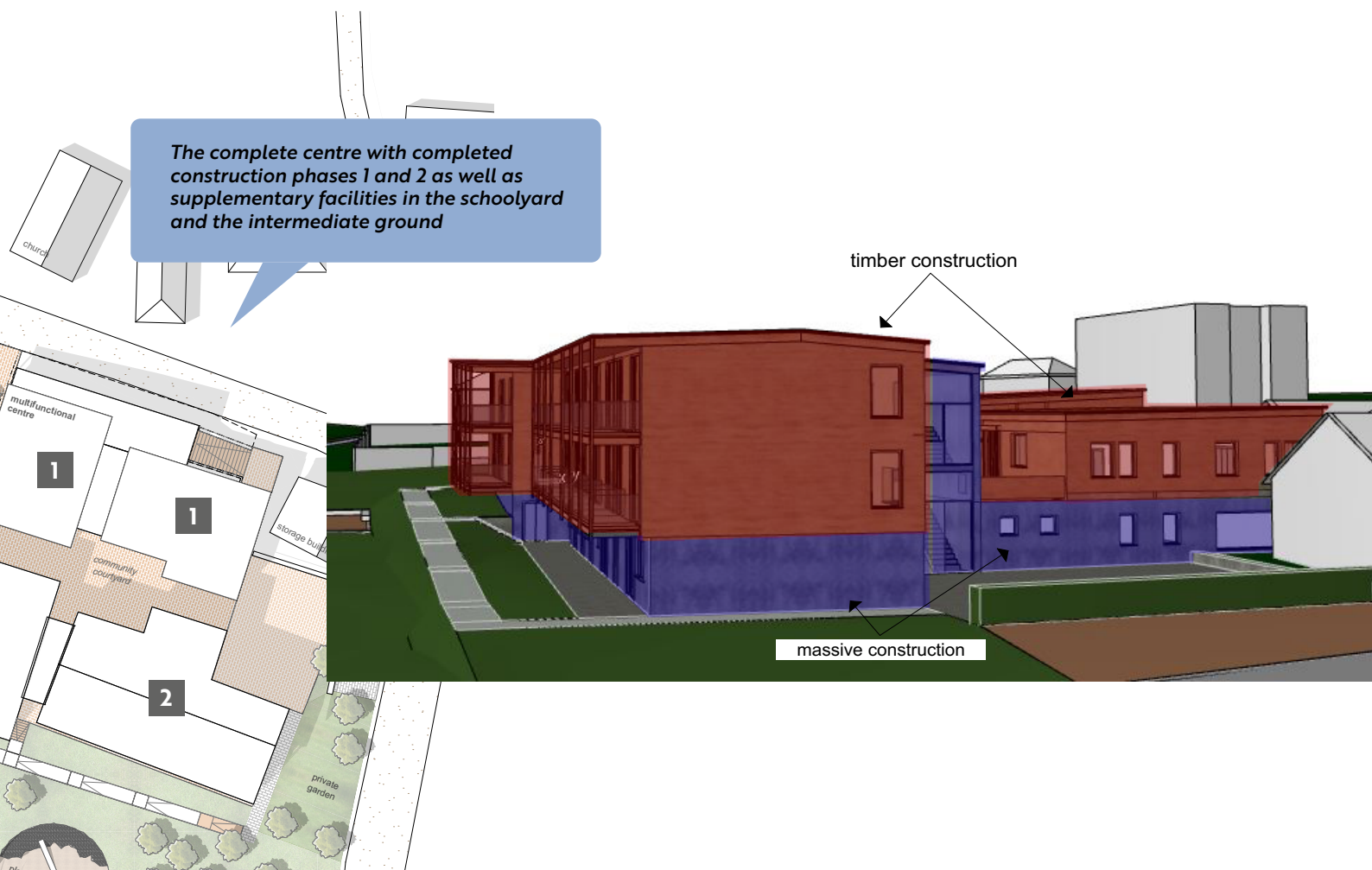
Preparation 1st construction phase

So far, the following building partners have already been confirmed:

- An Albanian construction company will build the shell construction
- A German timber engineering company will be responsible for the planning, trimming and logistics of the timber construction elements.

Other partners are being sought, including for

- Interior works
- Building services incl. waste water treatment, solar technology and heating
- Roof covering
- Outdoor facilities



Become a project partner

Wanted: Sponsors for the new building

So far, sponsors have enabled us to purchase the ground and to start the construction planning. We are collecting € 200,000 for the further planning until the start of construction and for our own share in the first construction phase.

This large sum would be quite achievable if we divide it into 20 "lots" of € 10,000.



**Will you donate a lot?
Or do you motivate business partners to jointly (as a "consortium of donors") contribute a lot for the project?**

In the finished building, the donors will be named on a commemorative panel. If you are interested, we will also publish your

names on the website and in our publications.

Donations

Please donate by bank transfer to the donation account below. You will receive a donation receipt from us.



QR code for your banking app

Wanted: Volunteers for construction works

Would you like to get involved in the construction of the new centre as a company, church, association or privately? There are no exact dates yet. However, it would be a great help if you let us know your interest in advance.

Further information

This project will change the lives of many children, but also the village as a whole and the region. Do you want to get involved in this important mission? We will answer your questions and also gladly present the project in person. Please contact our office or Frieder Weinhold directly, by E-mail at info@chwev.de or by phone at +49-171-4154606.



Project and donation information:
www.chwev.de/neubau



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IBAN: DE51 1405 1000 1200 0141 00
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Diakonie

Member of
Diakonisches Werk

Update February 2023



Property

In December, the city of Pogradec passed a council resolution according to which they will provide us with neighboring areas of the already purchased private land. The resolution describes our work as very important for the region which shows the appreciation by the city. Currently, we are jointly preparing the contract for partnership in our project. According to this, the city of Pogradec will initially provide us with the land for 20 years free of charge (lease), which can be extended afterwards without any problems.

On this base we can create better working conditions for Diakonia Albania, acting in the interest of the city and its citizens. To strengthen our partnership, the city of Pogradec can use parts of the new building itself in accordance with contractually agreed project intentions.

Construction planning

Since the last publication, the multifunctional building (MFG) between the school and the center has developed into a tangible design and is now to be included in construction phase 1. The city of Pogradec will be able to use parts of the MFG (in

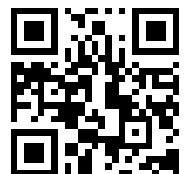
the picture on the right, slightly set back). A tourism office and a garage for a winter service or fire truck are planned.

Project status

The preparation of the approval documents for both construction phases (1+2) is progressing in Albania. A German engineer will prepare the required timber construction statics (the planning process is also being carried out in partnership between the Albanian and German sides).

All documents available so far have been submitted to the Catholic relief organization Renovabis, through which state and church funds are applied for. The responsible bishop of southern Albania has given his written recommendation for the project and is looking forward to further cooperation. The final cost estimate/cost calculation for the overall project will be finalized when the Albanian architect's plans are completed.

 Latest information:
www.chwev.de/neubau



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Diakonie 

Member of
Diakonisches Werk

Response



Send by post to CHW, Turnplatz 4, 23970 Wismar, Germany
or by E-mail to info@chwev.de

I would like to support CHW's new building project in Bishnica and organise a donation lot of € 10,000.

I/we participate financially in the new building project

Donation 2022: € 1st half of 2023: €

This donation counts towards the lot from

Please transfer to our donation account at Sparkasse Mecklenburg-Nordwest,
IBAN: DE51140510001200014100 with reference "New building Bishnica"



QR code for your banking app

We would like to be practically involved in the construction, please contact us

I would like to receive regular information about the work of CHW

You can revoke your permission at any time. In accordance with applicable law, you can ask in writing at any time whether and which personal data about you are stored by us. You may request deletion of this data, unless we are obliged to store it for a certain period of time under statutory provisions.

Date, signature

Sender

Name
Company
Street
ZIP, city
Telephone
Mobile
E-mail

Further partners / other information

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