



SHOPPING WITH PURPOSE
VIŠE OD OBIČNE KUPOVINE

ANNUAL REPORT

2023

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INTRODUCTION

2023 will get remembered as the year when we finally settled in our own shop!



After 26 years of moving out through entire Bašćaršija, paying outrageous amounts of rents, we bought our own shop, in the heart of the old city! One of our biggest dreams checked! ✓

This is the year when our US based sister organization Bosnian handicrafts Inc. decided to first minimize, and then cancel on all activities. BHcrafts will always be grateful for all emotional and financial support in

last 20 years. They supported us when it was the most needed.

In March 2023 BHcrafts started implementation of 2-year long CBC project „Together for cultural tourism“, in cooperation with two NGOs from Serbia – NALED and "Etno mreža".



This project is a great chance for gaining new skills and knowledge, build up on BHcrafts references and expand the network of NGOs and companies we're cooperating with.

Everything but not boring, isn't it?



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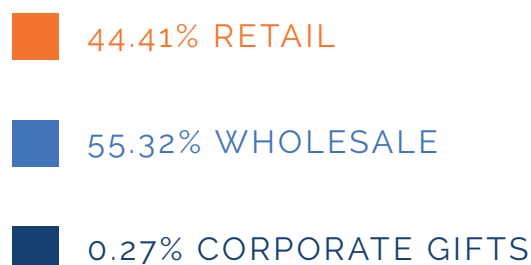
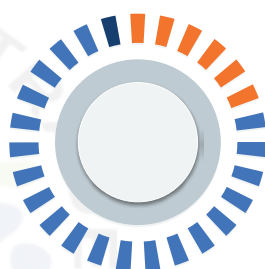
CURRENT SITUATION



The total budget in 2023 was approximately € 320.193, which is 37% decrease comparing to the budget for 2022. The majority of the activities were financed through in-house sources; ie, sales of handi-crafts, in the country and abroad. Income from sales was € 289.717, which is 90% of the overall income.

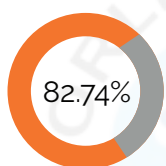
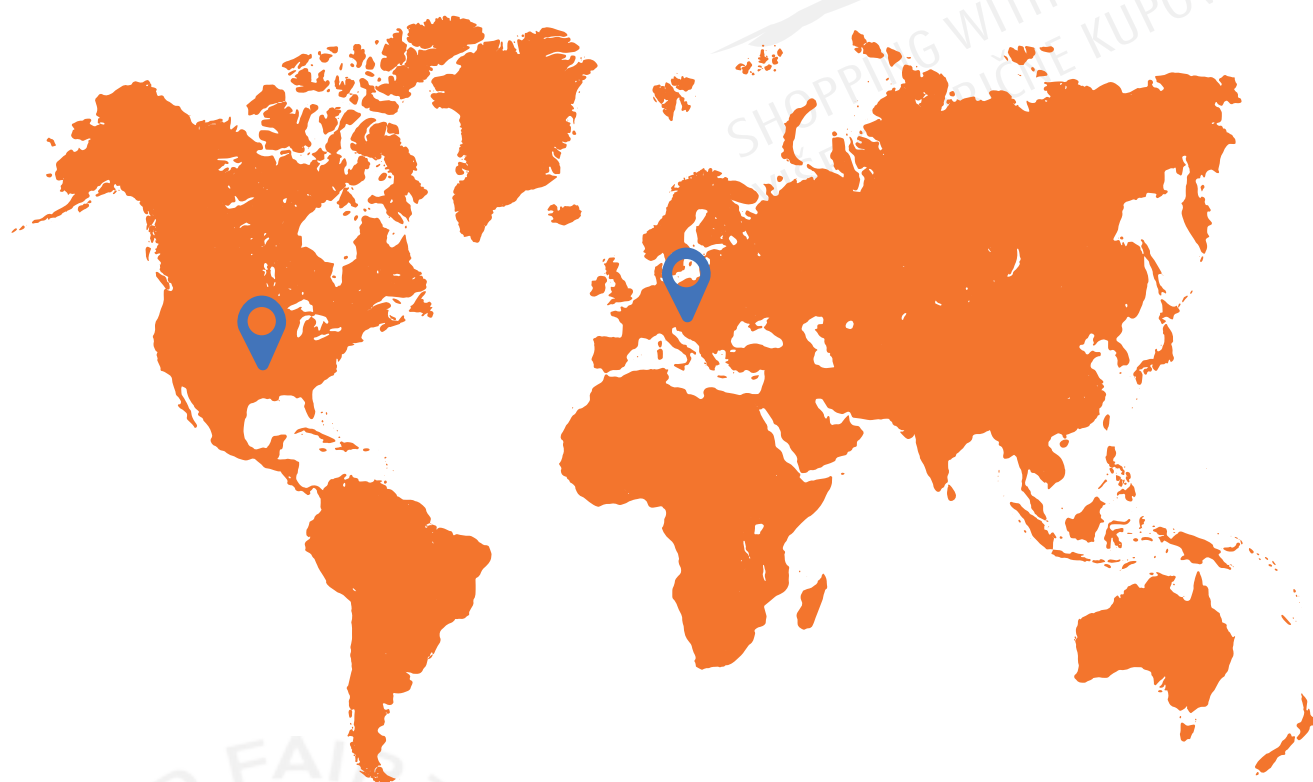
LOCAL SALES

The biggest part of local sales, 55.32%, comes from wholesale program, while 44.41% comes from the retail outlet – BHcrafts shop. In 2021 corporate gifts program was unfortunately 0.27%.

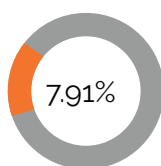


EXPORT 2023

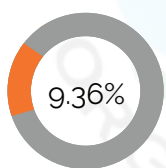
Of the total export sales (€ 195.829), the US market tops the list with 82.74%, followed by France (€ 22.145) 9.36% and Online Sales (€ 18.715) 7.91%.



USA



ON LINE



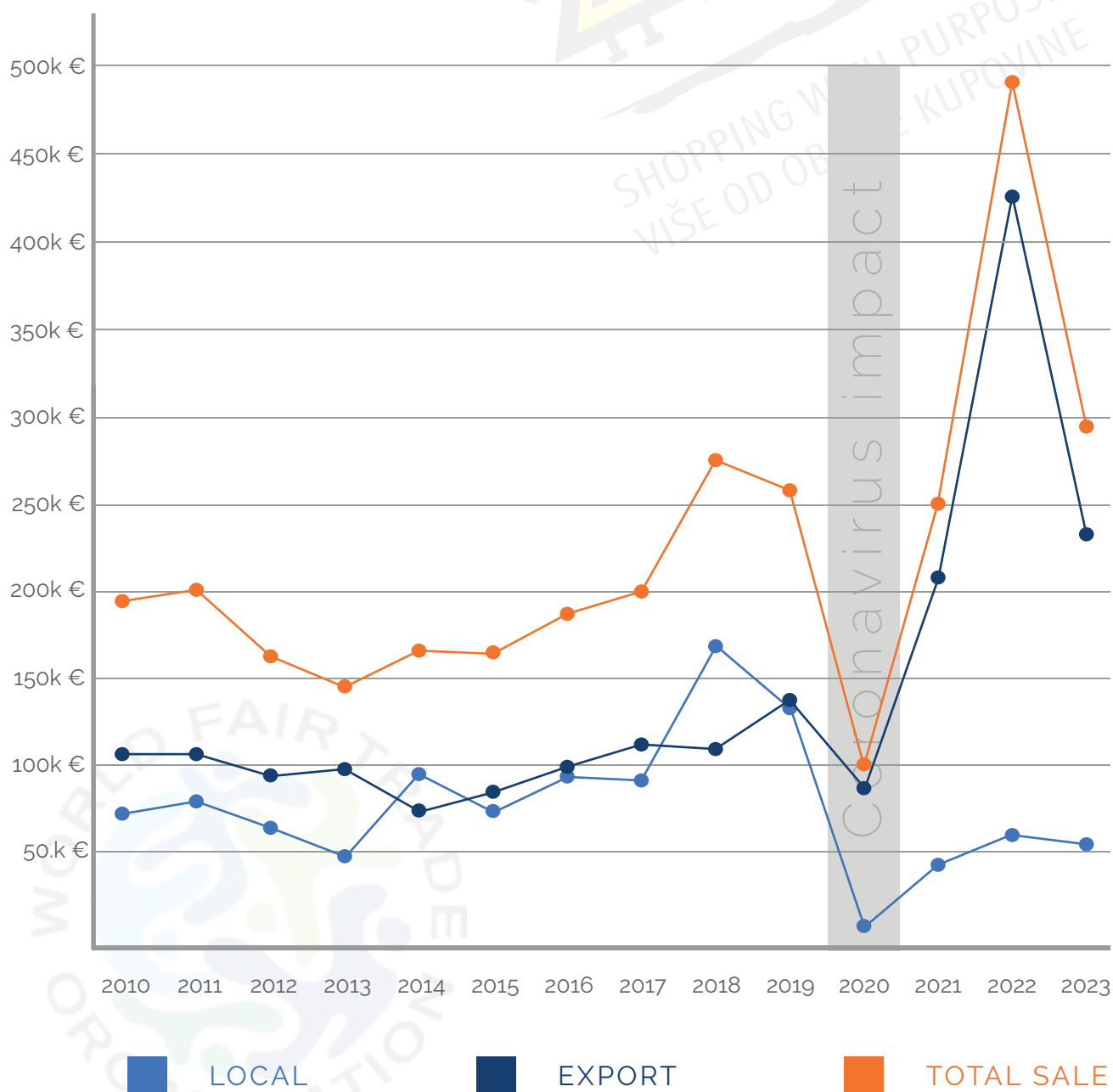
FRANCE



HISTORICAL

DATA ANALYSIS

Local sales got decreased by 17% (the total was €53.028), while export got decreased by 45% to €236,689, which ended up with a total turnover decrease of 37%.



BENEFICIARIES

Around 200 women, from the entire BiH, have been engaged in the production process, all receiving regular monthly payments for all the work they do. In 2023 our beneficiaries earned a total amount of €76.993 which is +/- 27% of the total sale. The amount of €20.957 was paid for pension and health insurance and income tax (73,30% for full time employees, for the "work at home" contracts tax percentages are 18% in Federation of BiH, and 11% in the Republic of Srpska). Total VAT in 2023 was €4.200. The amount paid for the pension, health and unemployment insurance, and income tax for 7 employees (2 sales persons, Designer / Production Manager, CEO, and admin staff) was €44.618. Thanks to socially responsible buyers and all BHcrafts customers our beneficiaries, despite the World crisis, were able to buy firewood for the winter, books and bus tickets for their school children, and last, but not least – feel more confident and useful society member.

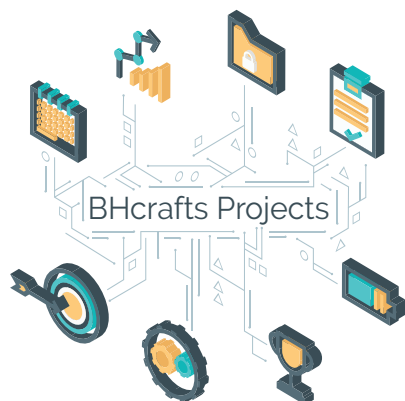


The number of 14.700 final products, plus 130.000 parts of the final products/details (crocheted flowers, felted balls, etc.) made in 2023 shows the productivity, motivation, and good organization of the production in this small-scale social enterprise. Some of our beneficiaries consider this work as a steady source of monthly income, with the great benefit of working at home, taking care of their children, or grandchildren, gardening, and doing all daily housework, at the same time.

A large number of BHcrafts beneficiaries earn a decent monthly income, compared to the average salary in the textile sector in BiH, while the others treat this work as a hobby, therapy, or additional income. Regardless of the workload they do, or their ethnic background, all beneficiaries have the same treatment, with the same access to information, technical help in the production process, and the same price for the work they do.

Working with BHcrafts is not just a source of income, but also an improvement of skills, gained knowledge in design, colors, fashion trends, and cultural heritage/tradition of different ethnic groups living in BiH. Social reintegration raised confidence and financial empowerment are very important factors that differentiate this project from similar ones.

IMPLEMENTED PROJECTS

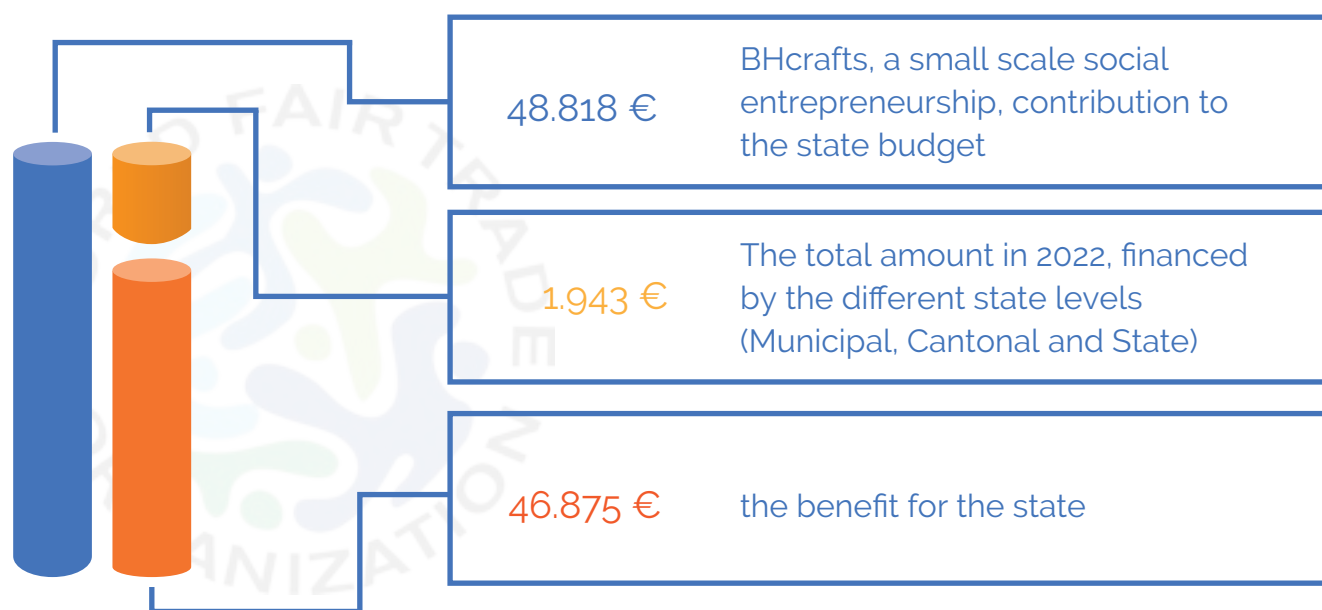


BHcrafts got supported by BHcrafts Inc. with the total amount of € 13,674. The other projects in 2023, all successfully implemented and reported to the donors, are as follows:

- City of Tuzla € 1,943
- BHcrafts Inc. USA € 13,674
- EU CBC project € 14,860

WHO BENEFITS THE MOST?

It is not hard work to calculate that BHcrafts, a small-scale social entrepreneurship, contribute to the state budget with the amount of €58.151 or cca 11.60% of the total turnover. The total amount for the projects and government incentives in 2023, financed by the different state levels (Municipal, Kantonal, and State levels) was €12,632 which brings us to the difference of €45,519 as the benefit for the state.



FACT SHEET

BHcrafts – Shopping with purpose



Who we are?



From humanitarian to successful business project

BHcrafts is the title of the project which unites creative, humanitarian, business and psychotherapeutic characteristics in a highly balanced and outstandingly successful manner.

Nongovernmental humanitarian organization Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) has started this project in 1995. In the beginning, in the post war BiH society, women were deeply traumatized: they had lost their men, their homes, and they had lost their land, in a rural, agricultural society. But they could knit. This is how humanitarian NGO Bosnian Handicrafts was born, with the help of NPA.

BHcrafts enterprise is a project that arose from Bosnian Handicrafts NGO and today it has developed into a successful and export-oriented business, which is still successfully developing. Today BHcrafts Ltd is in charge of promoting and selling Bosnian handicrafts in country and abroad, while Bosnian Handicrafts still remained providing specialized training for women on standardizing skills in traditional handicraft techniques.

What we do?



BHcrafts produces handmade clothing and decorative items, involving women from Bosnia and Herzegovina. BHcrafts promotes the cultural heritage of BiH while using its traditions to develop products appealing to the modern market. Each product is unique, hand-made in traditional techniques of knitting, crocheting and weaving, which have made BHcrafts products recognizable and appreciated. These products, regardless of whether they are clothing items, table cloths or carpets, cannot be the subject of mass production. The products are hand-made, with devotion and persistence, without the use of machines.



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Our Mission



BHcrafts involves women from Bosnia and Herzegovina, especially ones with poor socio-economic background into working engagement, for production of bh handicrafts, strictly following Fair-trade standards, since BHcrafts is the only certified fair-trade producer in the Balkans. Our purpose has never changed: to improve the lives of Bosnian women and their families. Profits from business income is entirely used to expand the business, which reflects on higher working engagement of women.

Ecology, business, and self-consciousness



Most of the products are made of chemically untreated wool and cotton, in the process which obeys the strict ecological standards. BHcrafts works with domestic raw materials, thus supporting the economy of BiH. Ecological considerations are taken into account at every stage of production, using paper bags and boxes for shipping and wooden looms for weaving. Our products are a mixture of traditional methods and modern design combined to appeal to a world market. Our products are mixture of traditional and modern achievements of design, which is the combination that ensures a successful existence at the demanding world market.

Social responsibility and fair trade

BHcrafts is the first recognized, and awarded, social entrepreneurship from Balkans (The Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship in 2002), as well as the first certified fair trade producer, and still the only one in BiH (International Fair Trade Association – IFAT in 2009) and the winner, in the category "URBAN& REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT", of Sustainable Entrepreneurship Award – SEA, in 2013. As the pioneer in both categories, BHcrafts has kept promoting Fair Trade principles and Socially Responsible Business ever since then.



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Our Portfolio



Chrocheting

Crochet is a process of creating fabric by interlocking loops of yarn, thread, or strands of other materials using a crochet hook. The name is derived from the French term *crochet*, meaning 'small hook'.



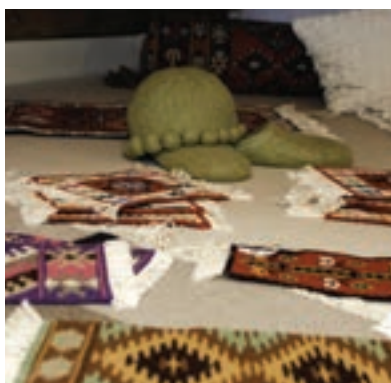
Knitting

Knitting creates multiple loops of yarn, called stitches, in a line or tube. Knitted fabric consists of a number of consecutive rows of intermeshing of loops. As each row progresses, a newly created loop is pulled through one or more loops from the prior row.



Embroidery

Embroidery is the craft of decorating fabric or other materials using a needle to apply thread or yarn. Some of the basic techniques or stitches of the earliest embroidery are chain stitch, blanket stitch, running stitch, satin stitch, and cross stitch.



Felting

Felt is a textile material that is produced by matting, condensing and pressing fibers together. Felt from wool is considered to be the oldest known textile.



Weaving

Weaving is a method of textile production in which two distinct sets of yarns or threads are interlaced at right angles to form a fabric or cloth.



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