

NEWSLETTER

2018

June



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PRESENT PAVES THE WAY TOWARDS A VISION OF THE FUTURE



On Saturday, 9th of June 2018, another monthly meeting of the scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation was held at ASA Group's Main Assembly Hall. The Hall's capacity was once again challenged by the number of young, successful people who have arrived at the meeting eager to learn something new and strengthen the bonds they share with their fellow scholarship holders. Those present had the opportunity to learn more about a very relevant topic of sustainable development, but also engage in a discussion about the future of Bosnia Herzegovina, sharing their vision of what it should become by 2030.

A sense of togetherness was, as per usual, palpable during this month's meeting and the lecture that marked it was delivered by Aida Salkic, corporate communications manager of ASA Prevent. The main topic were Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) discussed in relation to BiH and its business world, but also on a more global level.

An excellent indicator of just how incredibly important sustainable development is today, are UN's Global Sustainable Development Goals set back in 2015 and hopefully achieved by 2030. These 17 global goals are interdependent and require commitment of each individual, company and country that they will take no action which goes against their fulfillment. Sustainable development depends on the interaction and balance of three dimensions (referred to as social, environment and economy) which means that companies who conduct their businesses in a responsible manner promote not only economic development and strengthening of their communities, but help solve

a plethora of other issues. It is for this reason that Aida Salkic started her lecture by playing a video presenting Prevent's current activities in various industry branches, all of which help facilitate positive change. College student scholarship holders' first task was to think of companies and organizations in BiH whose conduct reveals commitment to the following goals: protecting environment and using resources responsibly, caring for employees, quality education, transparency, supporting local communities, innovation and infrastructure. Scholarship holders participated eagerly, and many of them named the Hastor Foundation as one of the organizations which promotes quality education and strengthening of local communities.

The main task set before the scholarship holders was to divide themselves into groups and discuss with others how they envision Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2030 and what kind of country it should be. This activity revealed these young minds' capacities and the conclusions presented by the group leaders

were nothing less than impressive. Issues that need to be resolved included the following: free higher education, keeping the educated workforce in BiH, reform of the health system, responsible use of resources etc. What needs to be pointed out, however, is that the visions of all the groups mentioned or focused on a unified, economically stable Bosnia and Herzegovina, or, as one of the groups put it: "a country whose children return to its embrace, rather than wish to escape it". Teacher Ramo commented on a repeated statement that BiH is a divided country by saying that the space which is occupied by the students, who make up Hastor Foundation, is the space where all the dividing lines of ethnicity and religion disappear. Teacher's vision of Bosnia and Herzegovina rests on the humaneness and inherent goodness which makes us want to

help others; being people above all is the greatest step one can make on a path towards stability and prosperity.

This topic will be addressed at the next meeting as well, and it will result in an even more productive discussion since "Business Community and the Sustainable Development Goals in Bosnia and Herzegovina" conference will be held before it. All scholarship holders are more than welcome to take part in this event, since it will certainly broaden their views even more and have a positive impact on their commitment to global issues, but it should be noted that the scholarship holders already showed that they possess both during today's meeting.

Mia Babic



ROUND TABLES

Hastor Foundation and Prevent Group Organize Round Table Discussions on Education Tailored to Suit the Needs of Industry: Youths Finishing Vocational Schools Have a Future in BiH!



In the last two months, the Hastor Foundation organized two round tables on formal education in FBiH, namely need for a curriculum which involves practical work experience, as well as professional development as means of finding employment. The first round table was held on 17th of May in Travnik, while the second was held in Sarajevo on 12th of June.

The topic of the round table held in Travnik was "Formal Education in FBiH: Education and Practical Work Experience/Insights and Activities", with special focus on Central Bosnia Canton. The aim of this round table was to present insights gained by the trainings already introduced as a part of curricula, and which are now, thanks to the steps

taken by proactive schools and companies, held at partner companies without any legal obstacles or amendments.

At the Sarajevo round table, representatives of private companies talked about professional development as means of finding employment. One of the key conclusions reached during the discussion was that there is a burning issue of finding qualified workforce at the labor market which makes it difficult for the employers to keep their companies afloat. Panelists agreed that the governing bodies need to create an atmosphere which will enable the employers to bring much need breath of fresh air to an entire system that has turned stale.

One of the greatest obstacles is the discrepancy between what the formal education offers and what the labor market needs. Panelists agreed that the employers are being forced to employ foreign workforce due to the educational system which produces workers who are not prepared for the labor market, even after completing university level education, which is a particularly alarming prospect. Prevent Group and the Hastor Foundation have noticed and begun to address this problem early on, and one of the ways of mitigating the situation is current carrying out a project called "Strengthening the Educational Practices in Bosnia and Herzegovina – Introducing the Dual System". The project is carried out as a part of the "Prilika Plus" program which is supported by the Government of Switzerland and its aim is to bridge the gap between what secondary education offers and what the industry needs.

"This project consists of two components. First one revolves around our activities in the sphere of informal education, namely assessing the needs of employers who are our partners and then through TAKT Academy, a program which has more than 20 training plans for certain vocations, train people who can immediately start working for these employers on a short-term basis. The second component is based on schools sending their students to gain practical experience in companies, or in other words apply

what they have learned in theory, get acquainted with modern technologies and become familiar with professional industry environment," said Fijuljanin, the Foundation's Managing Director.

By carrying out these activities, it is possible to popularize certain vocations, offer a long-term solution for lack of workforce, that is to say find employees for companies which specialize in industrial production, as well as show young people that, in the future, they will be able to find employment upon finishing vocational secondary schools, making it clear that leaving Bosnia and Herzegovina is not the only option left for them.

Dzulisa Otuzbir

Sarajevo



Travnik



ASA Prevent Group Open Doors Day



Open Doors Day was held today, on 9th of June 2018, at the headquarters of the ASA Prevent Group. It was attended by more than 120 primary and secondary school pupils from the Sarajevo Canton area.

The Group's work was presented to the pupils by its employees. In a very detailed presentation the pupils were introduced to what the Group is all about, and shown all the industries it participates in. The comparative advantages of working in such a company were emphasized, along with the possibilities potential employees are given through its business network. The pupils were eager to talk about what they would like to do once they finish their education, and the ASA Prevent Group employees, with their advice and open-mindedness, pointed them in the direction they think is the best and most useful for the pupils. Some of the presented facts were especially interesting to the pupils:



- Prevent Group components can be found in every third car produced in Europe
- ASA Group has been growing steadily for 22 years
- These two groups together have so far employed one worker a day in average, and nowadays the ASA Prevent family consists of 7.200 members

Due to the great interest young people show regularly for the employment within ASA Prevent Group, similar events will be organized in the time to come.

This event is an activity within the **"Strengthening of Educational Practices in Bosnia and Herzegovina – Introducing the Dual System"** project, which is carried out by the Prevent Group and the Hastor Foundation as a part of the "Prilika Plus" program that is supported by the Government of Switzerland.



Scholarship Holder *Belmana Gerin* Receives Dean's Award



Our scholarship holder Belmana Gerin is among the students who received the Dean's Award for the current academic year. Only ten best students of one Faculty receive this prestigious accolade. Belmana is in her second cycle of studies, at the Department of Ecology and Environmental Management, Dzemal Bijedic University in Mostar. She received the Dean's Award on the basis of her GPA of 9.56 for the first cycle of studies.

"Among these 10 students, I am second-best for the last academic year, and when it comes to the first cycle in its entirety I am the third-best student at the faculty," Belmana tells us.

Besides her parents and their unconditional and selfless support, the Hastor Foundation has been her rock and she believes that the Foundation, of which she is a scholarship holder for 12 years already, played a great part in her success.

"I became a part of the Hastor Foundation in sixth grade of primary school and I have managed to retain the status of a scholarship holder even today when I finished the first semester of Master's studies with

a GPA of 10.00 which I will hopefully achieve in the second semester as well. As one of the best students of the faculty, I was also given an opportunity to participate in "Developing Projects for EU Funds" workshop for which I received a certificate as well. For the fourth year in the row I have completed my mentoring and volunteering duties dutifully and on time, and I am truly happy that I am able to be of help to younger scholarship holders. I wish them to be successful and to stay a part of the Foundation which is not merely our financial but also moral support."

Belmana stresses that the Hastor Foundation will always be a part of her, but she would like to remain a part of its large family too and contribute to its development and future successes as much as possible.

Razim Medicin



HOW TO TAKE SMART STUDY BREAKS?

We have all heard different pieces of advice on how to study efficiently on numerous occasions. We shouldn't forget, however, that in order to get desired results we need rest as well, or in other words study breaks. Study breaks give our brain an opportunity to rest and so they need to be filled with activities which direct our attention elsewhere and leave us more energized and ready to get back to work. But, **BE CAREFUL** about which activities you choose! We give you our list of advice:

1. Before you start your study session, set a goal and establish a schedule, for example: before a break I need to go through 6 lessons. Don't give up until you've reached your goal!
2. Ask yourself when and how often do you need breaks and take breaks accordingly.
3. Devoutly stick to your schedule!
4. Don't forget the importance of proper nutrition. Avoid eating fast food, and take some time to prepare a healthy meal. It will pay off!
5. Exercise! Exercising will keep you awake and it stimulates the brain, making it easier to memorize things.
6. Use your study break to read a chapter of a book or an interesting article which is unrelated to what you are currently studying.

Avoid checking Facebook and other social networks even if it will take you only 15 minutes!

Avoid starting a new TV series during the exam period. Series are among the most persistent ways of keeping you distracted since once you start, you can't stop until you've watched all six seasons of it.

Try taking a 20 minute power nap.

After the break, revise what you did previously. Use your notes and key phrases that will make it easier to remember what you've already learned.

Finally, the secret of taking quality study breaks is in staying organized and sticking to your plans!

(taken from studentski.hr)



7.

8.

9.

10.

PARENTAL LOVE

At that moment Omer said: "And will I be able to buy my sisters presents?" "Where will you get the money from?", said Peter jokingly. "Well I won't buy sandwiches so I will save 10 KM". We all laughed. His mother hugged him and said: "My dear child, mother will go mushroom picking so you will have enough money to buy presents for your sisters." When we left this family, Peter said: "They don't have much when it comes to material things, but they have lots of love and that is what makes it one of the happy families."

I spent the entire month of May and the first half of June visiting families of the applicants for the Hastor Foundation scholarship, as well as families of those children who may be chosen for a three-week-long trip to the Netherlands. Since those are low-income families, I met with people whose lives are difficult and who can barely make ends meet. In many of these families whose children are candidates for the trip to the Netherlands, Peter van Laar, Peter Kemmens and I encountered many divorced parents. I can understand that two people get divorced, but what I cannot understand is fathers, and especially mothers, who do not want to sign consent forms which would allow their children to go on a holiday. It would not cost them anything, so it is purely out of malice that they don't allow their own child to enjoy just a few truly wonderful days. We also met families that live as lodgers with no steady income except for the social aid payment which amounts to 100 KM. They welcomed us and were hospitable, full of understanding and love towards each other.

In Kladanj, Safet greeted us at the entrance to his house and led us into a 3x3m room in which he lives with his wife and their three children. They have another room like that one, and when all of us sat down, he hugged his children and said: "I really don't know how I will let Omer go for those twenty days. It will feel like a year to me, but he should go, he should see the world, since I cannot give him that. Since he is given an opportunity, he should go, and thank you. Thank you to all the good people who make it possible for him to feel the joy and beauty of life, to get away from this destitution of ours for at least twenty days. He should go, isn't that right my dear wife?"

He then turned away and wiped his tears which trickled down his cheeks. Those were the tears of happiness and sadness; happiness because his child is going to travel and also of sadness because they have to be apart.

In order to choose the 38 kids for the trip, we visited over 50 families from Kalesija, Memici and Sapna. The chosen children went to the Netherlands by bus, on the 9th of June this year, accompanied by the Hastor Foundation student scholarship holders Belma Gutlic and Amila Mekic. The partings of children and parents, the meetings of the children and the Dutch parents, and then three weeks later the partings of those parents and the children with so many emotions, tears and laughter, sadness and joy, will remain in their memory as the most beautiful period of their lives.

In Buturovic Polje I entered the second floor of a 14x10m house. Once the conversation for which I came there was brought to a close, I asked the host: "What do you do with such a huge house?" "My father made it for musafirs (travelers). Our relatives, friends and passersby often came here to spend the night, but the house is now empty. There aren't even any children, let alone musafirs. Not only here, but in the entire village, there used to be nearly a hundred children aged five to fifteen, and now there is only a dozen of them, they are all going somewhere, the houses are left empty, there are only some elderly people, or just one person in an entire house," said the host in a said voice of someone who is parting from their loved ones while standing among headstones.

While I was returning from those places and paying attention to the traffic signs, images of the people I spoke to appeared in front of my eyes, and their words came back to me: "...mother will go mushroom picking so you will have enough money to buy presents for your sisters", or "...they are all going somewhere, the houses are left empty..."

Ramo Hastor



Selma Imamovic

Based on all the effort and hard work when it comes to the Hastor Foundation's activities, but also her great devotion to the Foundation's mission and the values it has cherished for many years, **Selma Imamovic** has been chosen as the scholarship holder of the month of June.

Selma is a first-year student at the Faculty of Health Studies in Sarajevo, Department of Laboratory Technology. She is from Prozor, and she completed her primary and secondary education in Bugojno, deciding then to continue her studies in Sarajevo. We talked to Selma and it became clear right away how much she loves and is fond of the town in which she grew up and in which she made her first significant steps towards realizing her future dreams. This affection is best shown by quoting her own words: "I grew up in a small place in Bugojno, with people who never had much, but everything they had they shared with others."

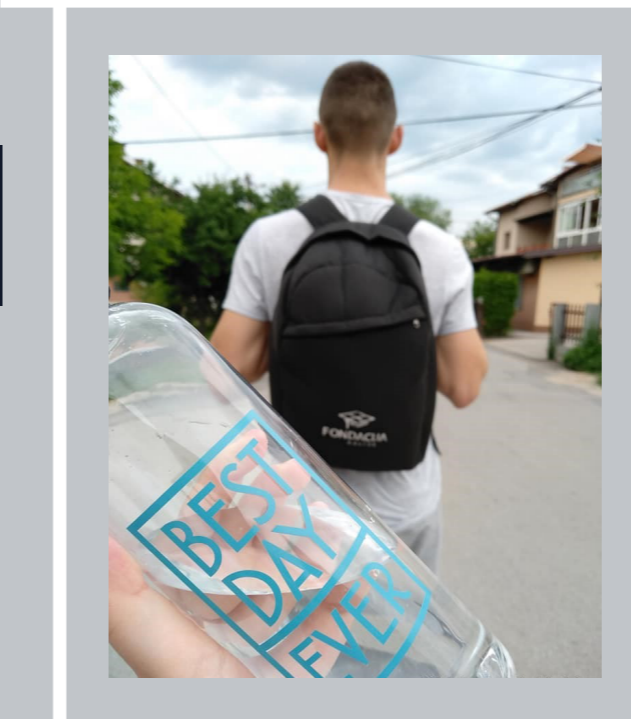
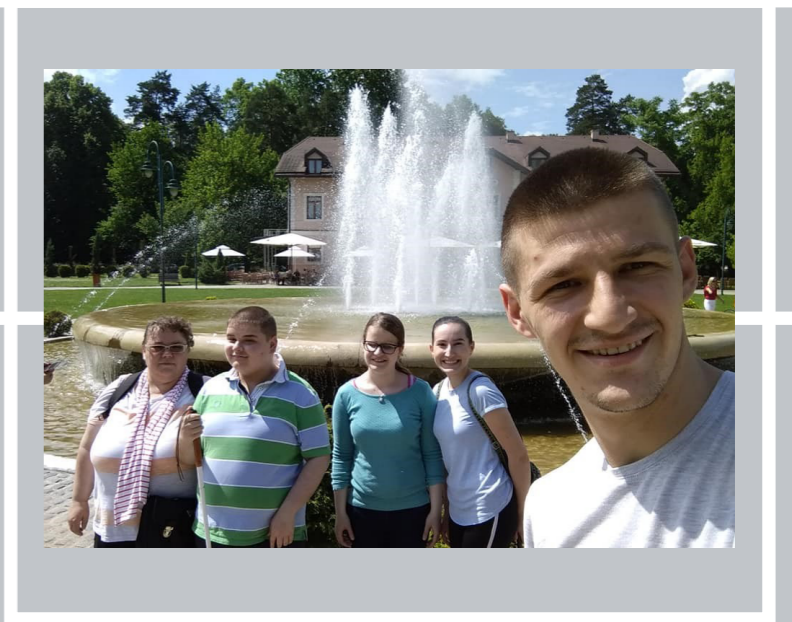
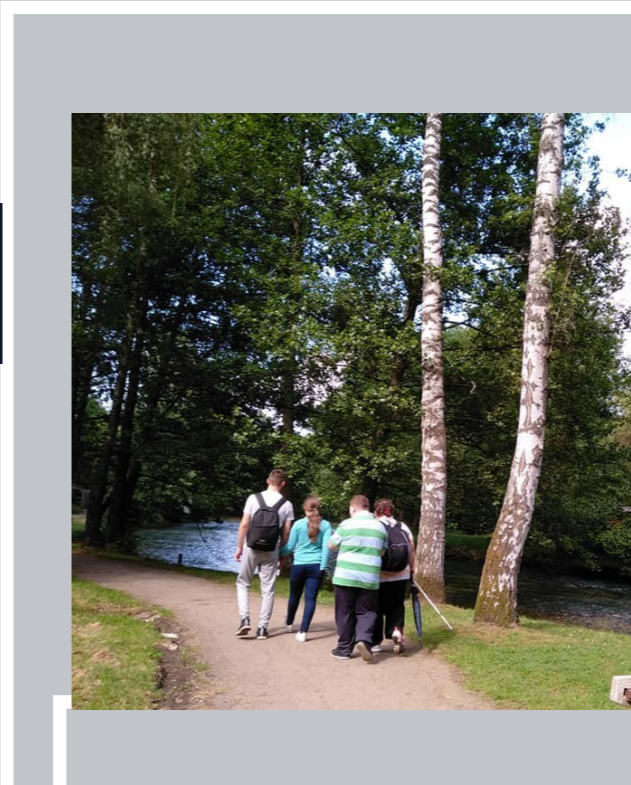
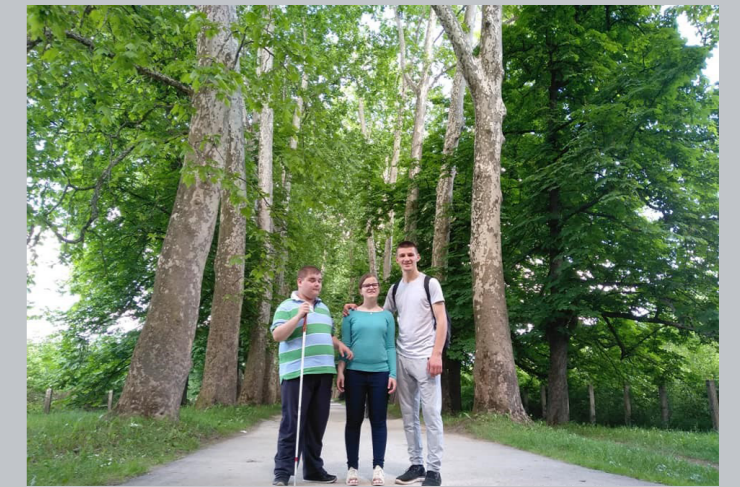
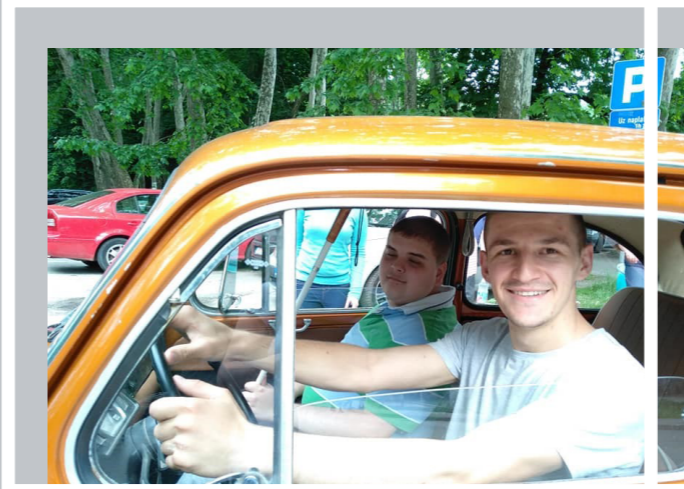
Besides the field of her studies, Selma mentioned that ever since she was in primary school her primary interests have been languages and writing poetry, although neither is very close to her formal education or professional orientation.

Despite the fact that Selma has been the Hastor Foundation scholarship holder for only two years, that is, since her fourth year of secondary education, she has managed to show her devotion, primarily by staying true to the Foundation's fundamental values, but also to its long-term aims such as helping others and building a better society

in our country, a society whose future pillars will be educated and ambitious young people. Faith has always been an important part of Selma's life and she maintains that what lies at the core of faith, namely the discourse of love and mutual respect, also characterizes the Hastor Foundation. She points out that it is precisely the Foundation which stands as one of the essential factors contributing to the successes of all of its scholarship holders. Besides the financial help, what she holds as particularly valuable is the sense of responsibility that she had developed by volunteering with children, as well as the Foundation's emphasis mutual help and showing respect.

Selma emphasized that her greatest wish and long-term goal after she completes her studies is to use the knowledge she gained to provide help to those people to whom the medical help is unfortunately not available.

Amina Vatres



Mehmed Mehic:
Photos from a volunteering meeting

The database showed that the scholarship holders and volunteers of the Hastor Foundation reached the number of 14.814 volunteering hours during the previous month. As usual, most of these hours were spent on our scholarship holders' volunteer meetings – students, primary and secondary school pupils in 275 volunteer meetings in 60 municipalities across Bosnia and Herzegovina. Our students who volunteer with the Administration team and Editorial Board of the Hastor Foundation contributed greatly to this number, as well as students who work on developing the Hastor Foundation app and are in charge of web page maintenance. The compulsory theme that our scholarship holders discussed during volunteer meetings during the previous month was “Natural treasures of Bosnia and Herzegovina – how do we promote them?”.

Besides the compulsory theme, the scholarship holders discussed other interesting topics as well, and our students also spent some volunteering hours helping our younger scholarship holders in understanding the school material better.



Some of the most interesting themes:

“ Tourism in Bosnia and Herzegovina ”

“ Appearances as an imperative Peer violence with the emphasis on cyber-bullying ”

Superpowers in real life

Developing children's imagination /nurturing imagination or relying on reality

“ How aware are we of our rights? Media literacy ”

The exodus of young people from BiH and how to prevent it My role model ”

Old Bosnian crafts ” Music and its impact on our life

The value of a smile and the gifts it brings ”

The municipalities in which the volunteering workshops were held during the previous month:



THE HASTOR FOUNDATION

The Hastor Foundation is the best
We wouldn't trade it for anything else
A big heart it truly has
Embracing as many pupils as she can.

That education is the choice of winners
Is the moto of our students.

Ten hours a month are for volunteering
So we spend our leisure time
In both merriment and working.

Teacher Ramo gives advice,
Helping us become teacher's delights.

Azra and Ifeta are always willing
When it comes to explanation giving.

We try hard our knowledge to show
And that way also improve what we know.

We look forward to volunteering,
Eagerly waiting for each new meeting.

Iman Sunje
Nejra Maric

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