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FONDACIJA  
HASTOR





## FONDACIJA HASTOR: A PLACE WHERE SUCCESS AND SENSE OF TOGETHERNESS MEET

On Saturday, the 9th of February, college student scholarship holders from all across Bosnia and Herzegovina gathered at the Main Assembly Hall of the ASA Prevent Group. Some of the scholarship holders began their journey as early as four o'clock in the morning so that they could arrive in time for the meeting and seize the day in the best possible way: by acquiring new skills and knowledge, exchanging their viewpoints and thoughts with people who have similar interests, but also enjoying the wonderful atmosphere of togetherness that is one of the Hastor Foundation's key characteristics. The monthly meeting of the scholarship holders began with teacher Ramo addressing those present and sharing words of wisdom concerning the fields of pedagogy and education – two fields in which he has been accumulating knowledge his whole life. The Foundation's scholarship holders had an opportunity to listen to one of the renowned experts on pedagogy and education, but Teacher Ramo did not limit his short lecture by focusing only on the aforementioned fields; he touched upon universal values shared by all humankind. Those present had many comments, and their viewpoints and attitudes on the topic helped make this lecture even more relevant and successful.

During the second part of the meeting, young people, who are the most recent additions to the Hastor Foundation, introduced themselves to their fellow scholarship holders. Afterwards, all of the scholarship holders were divided into groups, but given the same task to complete. Each group was assigned one of the monthly compulsory topics for 2018/2019. The students had to come up with the best possible way of presenting the given topic during a volunteering meeting, but they also had to foreground the merit of acquiring certain knowledge and skill sets. Some of the assigned topics revolved around the following: learning foreign languages, first aid, public speaking, and pioneers of sports and art. Once the time allocated for completing this task was up, all group leaders presented and summarized the key findings and conclusions of their respective group. Other students mainly listened, but also expressed their opinions and added to the discussion. At the end of the meeting, the scholarship holders offered their overall impressions and then used the remaining time to talk between themselves and get to know each other better.

Razim Medinić



## AJDIN BAJRIĆ PRESENTS HIS FIRST APP CONCEPT AT SEVENTEEN

*My name is Ajdin Bajrić and I am 17 years old. I am currently in third grade of the High School of Electrical Engineering in Tuzla. I play volleyball and like to play chess and solve problems in my free time. My friends and I came up with an idea that would help solve a widespread problem in our society, and in order to make our idea a reality, we signed up for Start Me Up competition.*

Start Me Up: High School Competition was held in the period of three days, from 18th until the 20th of January, 2019. Ajdin and his colleagues signed up for this competition with an idea they called "Arc".

### WHAT IS „ARC“ AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

Arc is a platform/app that offers an easy way of finding and paying for transport services. The basic premise is fairly simple. The user, a person requiring (fast and economical) transport, opens the app to find a driver and a vehicle that best suits his or her needs. The app lists the location of all the service providers in the vicinity, accompanied by other clients' reviews and all the relevant information on the service provider and his/her vehicle. Once the user decides on the service provider, he/she sends his/her location, allowing the driver to reach him/her. Once

the user enters the vehicle, the route confirmation is sent and the money is transferred to the driver's account via e-banking. The platform allows every citizen/user a quick transport solution, regardless of the location or time. The app offers an economical solution for both users and service providers.

### BIRTH OF AN IDEA

The drivers will not receive daily benefits for the service they provide, nor will they require additional licensing.

*We came up with this idea after several discussions and after looking into the state of affairs in our country. We decided that this idea is innovative, economical and profitable. Everyone can use the app, students, retired people... Whoever has access to a vehicle, a driver's license, and a payment card can use it.*

Their hard work paid off, and Ajdin and his team won second place. They are currently working on the app which should become available for users on the 15th of April, 2019.

Razim Medinić





## A SMALL MUNICIPALITY WITH BIG IDEAS



### YOUTH ORGANIZATION „BOSANSKI PETROVAC“

The general claim is that the overwhelming exposure of young minds to negative news and topics, which dominate the media headlines in BiH, has resulted in the passivity and lack of interest in young people when it comes to social engagement. However, this is not true for the majority of the Hastor Foundation's scholarship holders. One of them is a long time scholarship holder of the Foundation, Amila Bešić, who is certainly an excellent example that the will and desire for positive change and progress are key for great success and socially relevant endeavors.

Amila Bešić is a fourth year student of Faculty of Law at the University of Bihać, and she has been a part of the Foundation for nine years. She lives in a small municipality in the northwest of Bosnia and Herzegovina, in Bosanski Petrovac. Her volunteering and engagement in activism made her stand out even during her primary and secondary school education. In that same period, she also devoted her time to extracurricular activities and was a member of many organizations. She was involved in the realization of numerous projects and activities, and has cooperated with various organizations and institutions. Some of Amila's projects are "School Park", supported by the Youth Information Agency (OIA), "Volunteer for Better Tomorrow", supported by the SHL Foundation, the "Gromača Playground", supported by the Mozaik Foundation, "Educational Workshops with Children with Disabilities", which was also carried out thanks to the support of the Foundation Mozaik.

It should also be noted that Amila was part of the "Madam L Bags" team for creating a personal business, a coordinator of the ASUBiH local team, vice president of VU "MS Bosanski Petrovac", president of the Red Cross Conference of Bosanski Petrovac Municipality, and later president of the Youth Red Cross Conference

of the Una-Sana Canton. For five years, she has been a coordinator of the Youth Bank in the municipality of Bosanski Petrovac and is proud to talk of the realization of a significant number of projects in that period.

*The Hastor Foundation has a special role in fulfillment of all my activities, because I have learned a lot and perfected my skills and abilities both as a mentor and as a scholarship holder, and on this occasion I would like to express my gratitude. Without the Hastor Foundation I probably would not have fulfilled my goals, says Amila.*

All of Amila's aforementioned activities led to her applying to be a youth coordinator in the municipality of Bosanski Petrovac. Sometime after submitting her application, she was elected as a youth coordinator in her municipality and thereby also became a part of the team carrying out programs, supported by the Council of Europe, for the strengthening of underdeveloped municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, divided by the inter-entity boundary line.

By previously inquiring into the needs of young people, an initiative was set in motion for the establishment of youth organizations and youth offices. This was realized in cooperation with the youth coordinators from the municipalities of Petrovac, Drvar and East Drvar. Through the aforementioned program of the Council of Europe, a youth association was established - the "Bosanski Petrovac" Youth Organization was founded in March 2018. "Bosanski Petrovac" is an association based on voluntary work and it is independent of state organs, institutions, political parties, employers and their associations – it represents the interests of its members regarding the social, economic, humanitarian, social, professional and cultural agenda, and is committed to achieving unity of all the young people, in regards to

the fulfillment of their interests. The association was primarily founded with the aim of strengthening the position of youth in the municipality of Bosanski Petrovac, but its Statute also defines one of its aims as organizing scientific, educational, cultural, intellectual, research, humanitarian, ecological and sport activities relevant to young people, with the goal of encouraging activism and volunteerism, drafting and carrying out of projects, as well as cooperation with other associations, institutions, state bodies and companies.

Our scholarship holder Amila Bešić is the president and representative of this association. Amila points out that within the framework of the association, its members worked hard to make their ideas a reality, and in September 2018, at the conference held in Neum, they were given a detailed overview of the way the aforementioned project supported by the Council of Europe will be realized. After the conference, a contract was signed for the strengthening of youth organizations, meaning that 2500 Euros would be spent on adaptation of the youth office and supplying the technical equipment, office supplies and furniture, as well as workshops materials. This project was successfully implemented by the end of 2018, and it should be emphasized that this is of great significance, since there was neither an office nor an association for the youth in the municipality of Bosanski Petrovac.

Amila is also quite proud of the realization of a project called "More Flowers - Less Garbage", which her youth association, in cooperation with the Mozaik Foundation, carried out in November 2018. Its primary aim was to raise ecological awareness through working with children. The project consisted of 3 educational workshops with children of different ages from "Ahmet Hromadžić" Primary School in Bosanski Petrovac, where they learned about ecology, and worked on awareness-raising inscriptions on the boards placed at the popular outing sites Gorinčani and Pečina in the municipality of Bosanski Petrovac. The final activity of this project was to set up 10 boards at the outing sites and spend time in

nature with 15 participants. For the most hard-working volunteers and participants, the reward was a trip to Ethno Village "Čardaklije" near the Bosanski Petrovac municipality.

On the 12th of February of this year, the association carried out another significant activity, with the support of the OSCE Mission in BiH (field office placed in Drvar), titled "Public debate on youth with candidates for the position of the municipality mayor". All candidates competing for the position of the mayor of the municipality of Bosanski Petrovac were invited to speak about the youth and their future plans and programs for the young, considering the fact that the early elections in this municipality were held on the 17th of February. The public debate was attended by all candidates who talked about relevant topics for the young such as unemployment, the young leaving the country, future of young people, solving the problem of space for the youth in municipality of BP (youth centre), youth facilities, formation of the youth council and support of local youth self-government and associations.

*I can freely say that we have done a great thing with this activity and a good promotion of the candidates, as well as the promotion of the "Bosanski Petrovac" youth association, says Amila.*

In the forthcoming period, "Bosanski Petrovac" youth organization plans to implement another project regarding the adaptation of the children's playground in the Dževar area. Amila Bešić, president of the association, expresses readiness and willingness to cooperate with the Hastor Foundation on future projects and activities, but also with the scholarship holders themselves, namely those who recognize the importance of engagement in social areas, activism and volunteerism, which forms the very basis of the activities and of the long-term mission of the Foundation.

Amina Vatreš





## MIDHAT AGANOVIĆ

### YOUNG BOXER AND GRAPHIC DESIGNER

*My wish to succeed made me into a person who sleeps 6 hours a day and spends a great amount of free time reading.*



Midhat Aganović attends the First Gymnasium in Zenica, and has been the Hastor Foundation's scholarship holder for six years already. He is currently in second grade of secondary school, and he devotes a substantial amount of his time to extracurricular activities and informal education. Midhat stresses how happy and proud he is of the fact that the Hastor Foundation recognizes and appreciates the progress he has made in the areas which interest him, thereby also facilitating each new step forward.

Midhat has been practicing boxing for some time now, and he has also studied Arabic and Turkish languages, but logo design is what he is particularly focused on at the moment. Boxing is his old love and his achievements in the ring, in which he has tested his mettle some dozen times, show that. The match he won in November 2018, in the course of a competition held in Žepče, is Midhat's favorite match and his greatest achievement yet – in this match he bested the Croatian national champion! Were it not for his last match held on the 23rd of December in Tuzla, which he lost, Midhat would have remained undefeated.

Midhat is currently working as a freelance graphic designer, designing logos for certain companies outside of Bosnia and Herzegovina. He says that he started learning the basics of graphic design in September last year, after a conversation he had with his cousin, also a graphic designer and his mentor. Midhat started to learn and acquire skills necessary for this profession with the help of his cousin, and after a while he realized that his knowledge increased tremendously. Moreover, as Midhat's knowledge deepened, so did his love for graphic design. The additional benefit that he points out is the freedom of being able to do a job which is appreciated and well-paid from the comfort of his own home. Learning graphic design inspired him to be more creative and eager to pick up a pencil and draw, and while it certainly drew him to this profession, it also made him generally aware of the value of spending one's time productively.

Midhat's primary goal at this time is to learn persistence, in the context of his professional growth, and to deepen his knowledge of graphic design further. He sees the opportunity to design logos for foreign companies as a valuable lesson in collaboration, and as a great chance to gain practical skills and work on his personal improvement.

In addition, it is worth mentioning that Midhat stays at a boarding school where he learns Arabic language, and this endeavor is of greatest significance for his work since a great majority of his clients are from Qatar. He is also learning Turkish language.

These six years of me being the Hastor Foundation's scholarship holder made me realize that a lot of the good things that happened to me wouldn't have happened were it not for the Foundation. Or at least it would've been a lot more difficult. The Foundation's support meant, and still means, being able to afford some things, such as enrolling at certain courses, and helped me a lot overall.

His mentors at the Foundation are two college students, Berina Golub and Nirmela Komarac, who had the opportunity to get to know Midhat in the course of the monthly volunteering meetings. Berina is from Gornja Višnjica and she is in her first year of studies at the University of Zenica, Department of Bosnian, Croatian, and Serbian Language and Literature. This is her impression about Midhat: When it comes to Midhat, I can say that he actively contributes to the meetings and discussions. He seems quiet and withdrawn at first glance, but as soon as we start talking about something, he is quick to share his views and thoughts on the matter. His grades don't really reflect it, but boxing, graphic design and language courses contribute to his personal growth and are an important factor for his future success. I believe that his GPA will also improve, and once it does it will be impossible to say that he doesn't excel in all aspects of education and professional growth.

Berina's fellow mentor is Nirmela Komarac, who is from Kaonik and is currently a first year student at the Faculty of Economy, University of Zenica. She studies Management and shares Berina's opinion about Midhat and his volunteering, but also other undertakings: *She is communicative and gets along with the group. He is successful in what he does, and his contribution to the volunteering meetings confirms it. Midhat always has something new and interesting to say about what he is currently up to, and is ready to crack jokes or amuse us with a funny anecdote. In addition to all that, he likes to read.*

Midhat's aspirations for the near future revolve around starting a company together with his fellow students who have similar interests and possess the knowledge from spheres relevant for the business in question. He points

out that he never had a perfectly clear vision of what he wants to do in the future, since many different things interest him and he considers himself a rather mercurial person, but he definitely strives towards incorporating these various interests in his future profession and being the very best in what he does. My wish to succeed made me into a person who sleeps 6 hours a day and spends a great amount of free time reading, says Midhat. If we consider that the overwhelming wish to succeed is the starting point of future success, whoever is prepared to continuously put in effort and work diligently is guaranteed to have a bright future and prosperity waiting just around the corner.

Amina Vatreš



## HASTOR FOUNDATION'S SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS AND SPORTS: RIJAD AGANOVIĆ'S OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS

The Hastor Foundation's scholarship holders are a prime example of how good will and hard work result in future success, and Rijad Aganović is one such scholarship holder. Rijad was born in Sarajevo, where he finished Primary School „Mehmedalija Mak Dizdar“ and where he also enrolled at Gazi Husrev-bey's madrasah, for his secondary school education. He is currently in second grade.

Rijad's interest in sports was evident fairly early on, since he started playing sports when he was six years old. He practiced karate for many years, and although the practices, organized several times a week, were intense, his effort paid off. The results Rijad highlighted were his first medal, a bronze he won at the „Salko Ćurić“ Memorial Tournament, and the second place he reached at an international competition held in Bugojno. As he, however, had many obligations and other concerns in one period of his life, he had to give up karate, but he soon devoted himself fully to a different sport: water polo. This is the fifth year Rijad has been a member of the „Dabar“ Water polo Club, and in that time he has played against local clubs, but also had a chance to face off many foreign players at tournaments and competitions held in Croatia.

Rijad's love for martial did not dwindle in the least, however, and he started practicing Brazilian jiu-jitsu at „BJJ Arena“ Club. Although he joined only last year, he hopes that this year he will have an opportunity to compete at tournaments and distinguish himself. Rijad's combining of martial arts with a water sport is not new to him, since he also focused on at least two sports in the past, when he practiced swimming and karate during the same time period.

Despite the time he devotes to sports, Rijad's academic achievement is also worth mentioning – he has finished each grade with excellent GPAs. He says that this is due to him knowing how to organize his time well, but even more so due to his devotion to what he loves and regular attendance at school. He wishes to continue his education in Vienna, but he plans to return to his hometown of Sarajevo upon completing it. Faith plays an important part in Rijad's life and it is what gives him courage every time he needs to take a bold step forward.

Rijad has been the Hastor Foundation's scholarship holder since he was in the sixth grade of primary school, and the monthly scholarship has helped him take care of any financial worries – the monthly membership fee, equipment, travel costs – that may have otherwise thwarted his athlete's ambition. He points out that he has had good relationships with all his previous mentors, but he is particularly full of praise for his current mentor, Senada Podžić, and grateful for the support she provides.

*I am happy to be a part of this team that has all these positive sides to it: hanging out, good communication, and the possibilities that await us once we complete our education.*

We used the opportunity to contact Rijad's mentor, Senada, who told us of Rijad's dedication to fulfilling all his obligations on time, including the extracurricular activities, and his successful balancing of these with his monthly volunteering obligations at the Foundation.

*The greatest proof of this is his success in different sporting disciplines and him taking part in all these competitions from which he often returns with medals, golden and silver and bronze ones. Rijad is a very diligent and hard-working student, active in different spheres and yet regularly coming to volunteering meetings and fulfilling his obligations on time.*

Maida Husnić



Dear students of primary and secondary schools, as well as universities, in this month's edition of the HF classroom section we have prepared a list of the eight most common spelling and grammar mistakes.

### 1. S AND SA

We witness the incorrect use of the prepositions *s/sa* on a daily basis, and to make this less frequent, in the following paragraph you will find briefly (and clearly) outlined rules. *Sa* is used only before the words that start with *c, s, z, č, ć, š, ž, đ* and *dž* (e.g. *idem sa sestrom/sa Željkom/sa Sonjom*), before the words that start with a consonant followed by *s, z, š* or *ž* (e.g. *sa psom*), or word groupings that are more difficult to pronounce (e.g. *sa mnom*). In all other cases, the preposition *s* is used.

### 3. FUTUR I

Futur is the first verb form that expresses the future time and it consists of the infinitive verb and the present form of the auxiliary verb *will* (*ću, ćeš, će, ćemo, ćete, će*). But what we should keep in mind while forming it is that when the infinitive ending with *-ti* comes before the form of an auxiliary verb, the final *-i* is dropped and therefore we should write: *gledat ću, pjevat ću, bit ću, čitat ću*. In other words, it is wrong to write and pronounce: *gledati ću, pjevati ću, biti ću, čitati ću*.

### 5. NEGATION

When it comes to the negative auxiliary *ne*, it is written separately from the verb - *ne učim, ne čitam, ne radim*. However, the verb *htjeti* (to want) is one of the exceptions. Its unstressed form (*ću, ćeš, će, ćemo, ćete, će*) and *ne* are written together (*neću*).

### 2. USE OF COMMA

A comma is a sentential and orthographic punctuation mark which separates smaller portions within a sentence with the aim of easier understanding. It marks sequencing, subsequent addition or contrasting. There are more subgroups and rules when it comes to commas, and we will only include those cases where the comma is most commonly misused or is not used in the right place in the sentence.

The comma separates sentences with contrasting meaning that begin with conjunctions *a, ali, nego, no, već*, while in front of the joining (*i, pa, te, ni, niti*) and separating (*ili*) sentences, comma is not written. Note: In exceptional cases, comma may be written in front of the constituent or separating conjunction if it is an inserted clause, or a sentence offering an explanation.

### 4. PLEONASM

Pleonasm is a group of words in which one of them is superfluous, that is its meaning is identical or already contained in the meaning of another word. For example, *mala beba* is a pleonasm, because the baby itself is small, so there is an unnecessary adjective that describes it as such. Some of the pleonasm that are used every day are: *mala kućica, velika većina, oko desetak, nužno potrebno, često puta, žena vozačica, mjesec januar, ja mislim, četvrta godina zaredom*.



## 6. CAPITALIZATION

We note that some official websites are managed similarly to the private profiles and it is usually not taken into account whether the sentences begin with a capitalized word. Such practices on official websites or profiles, depending on the social network, often give away the impression of negligence, so this should definitely be taken into account.

## 8. EXAGGERATING WITH ELLIPSES

Dots are often used as decorations, but their primary function is to signify the incompleteness of the sentence and serve as a mark of unpublished or omitted text, so be careful and avoid exaggeration.



## 6. RELATIONAL ADJECTIVES

On the other hand, the relational adjectives (ending with *-ski, -ški, -čki, -čki*) derived from personal names are often written in capital letters, but they are correctly written only in small letters (e.g. *istarski, bosanski, travnički*).

Today I will be telling you about humankind, what human stands for in the real sense of that word. Homo homini lupus est, but we can rise above it; how prideful it sounds all the same.

Within every human being there are the basest of instincts that drag one into a dark abyss, but at the same time there exist the noblest aspirations that make us rise and move forward.

If someone is to be a real member of the humankind, that someone needs to show respect and consideration towards his or her fellow human beings, that someone needs to curb his or her wrath and allow it to dissolve completely, but also rid his or her heart of envy and of passion for giving orders. One should not get into arguments nor should lapse into miserly behavior; humility and contentment and love for a fellow human being who is in need should dominate one's character instead of tendency towards excess.

It is important to advance science in order to reach wisdom and talk of others only if you have something good to say about them. Nobility means taming all of the temptations that assault our minds.

No matter what you do in life, the crucial ingredients for success are hard work, self-discipline and perseverance, but even more so it is crucial that there is love, truthfulness and trust between us and the people we interact with. One needs to increase his or her knowledge constantly and share it with others.

In order to share this knowledge and impart it on others, one should follow the rules found in pedagogy, rules that are crucial for each educator's practice. These include:

1. **Respect the other person's feelings**
2. Do not create a situation that makes the other person feel rejected,
3. **Never talk rudely of one person's weaknesses in front of others,**
4. Encourage and motivate the other person whenever possible, so that they are better at what they do,
5. **Make sure that your assessments are always as objective as they can be, and always question them because you should never be utterly convinced that they are true,**

## MY PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE AND THE ADVICE I CAN GIVE

6. Do not create conflict that disrupts others' relationships,
7. **Establish and nurture relationships that are based on fairness and warmth,**
8. Assume authority because your personal qualities call for it, and not by instilling fear,
9. **Build trust between you and those in need of assistance by basing the trust on your knowledge, experience and responsibility,**
10. Make sure that your verbal communication with others is unrushed and characterized by carefully chosen words that show respect that you have for the other person,
11. **Do not allow yourself to start arguing with the person you are talking with,**
12. If a person's behavior is problematic, talk of the problem and possible solutions, rather than about the personality of the said person,
13. **Take into account that punishment cannot solve all problems, and make sure that any punitive action is fair,**
14. Do not express bitterness or hatred towards your interlocutor, no matter if these feeling were caused by some of his or her actions,
15. **Do not make a hasty pedagogical assessment,**
16. **Do not accuse, intimidate and ignore the person you are talking to,**
17. Do not impose your opinions on others, but try to suggest what you see as the best solution and let the other person come to the same conclusion based on their own beliefs,
18. **Listen more than you speak – you may learn (teach) more that way, and offer better support,**
19. Try to exude emotional stability, sense of serenity and safety when speaking,
20. **Increase your knowledge constantly, as it is limited, where ignorance is boundless.**

# Muamer Duratbegović

The Hastor Foundation can indeed boast of the great number of scholarship holders who achieve notable results in fields of education and science. The Foundation's team consists of young people who contribute to the work of the Foundation, improving it with their knowledge and skills, but also with their devotion to volunteering within the Foundation. One of those young people is our scholarship holder of many years, Muamer Duratbegović, who was chosen as the scholarship holder of the month of February, and deservedly so.

Muamer was born in Bugojno; he completed his primary education in Novi Travnik with excellent success, and then graduated from a Secondary school of economics as an excellent pupil. The only logical step to take after this was to enrol into a faculty of economy. He is currently in his fourth year of studies at the Faculty of Economics, Department of Accounting and Audit Management, at the University of Zenica. He said that he had the opportunity to partake in a national competition in the field of bookkeeping when he was in secondary school. Muamer also said that winning the first award at a university competition in business ideas is one of his greater results.

Muamer has been the Hastor Foundation's scholarship holder for 12 years already. Through volunteerism, he acquired presentational skills and conquered the fear of public speaking. The Hastor Foundation is my other family and my great support. Thanks to the Foundation, I was given the opportunity to rise intellectually, to show my potential and to accomplish my life goals. Living in Bosnia and Herzegovina is difficult, but it is much easier when you have a constant and immeasurable support, which I regularly receive from the Foundation.

After he finishes his BA studies, Muamer plans to enrol into the master studies. He says that he is really interested in the field of accounting, and that he will work hard to become an auditor. Apart from this, his wish is to work in a secondary school, so that he could accomplish another one of his goals, and that is transferring knowledge to younger generations.

He spends his leisure time collecting old banknotes, and his collection currently comprises more than 300 different banknotes.

In an event that was held last month in Zenica, in the presence of more than 6.000 employees, the Prevent Group formally marked the 20th anniversary of its existence. The Hastor Foundation's scholarship holders contributed greatly to the organization of the

event, and to its programme. Muamer was among those scholarship holders who were actively engaged in working with and helping the organizers, from early morning hours, so

that this event could be realized in the best way possible. He expressed his great satisfaction and gratitude for being given the opportunity to show his abilities and skills in terms of organizing an event of such importance as was this one.

*This was a great challenge, both for me and for my colleagues, because we have not dealt with such assignments before. This experience is a priceless one. Hard and tiring work paid off in the end, since we completed all our tasks successfully. Once again, we showed that we – the Hastor Foundation – are the real team!*

Maida Husnić



## 1. AJLA AGANHODŽIĆ (ZENICA)



She is a third-year student at the Faculty of Economics at the University of Zenica, Department of Accounting and Audit Management. She completed her primary and secondary education in Zenica. Ajla told us that she knew she wanted to be an economist when she was in the fifth grade of primary school, and then, following her dreams, she enrolled into the Secondary school of economics in Zenica, and later into the Faculty of Economics.

During the previous years, I partook in various seminars, workshops and conferences, but none of those were as great and as strong in terms of the support they provided, and then I heard about the Hastor Foundation. Once I learned more about the work of the Foundation from its scholarship holders, I felt that this is a family I want to be part of. Having applied to the Call and received the first call to learn that I became a shortlist applicant, I spent several sleepless nights expecting this important event in my life. I love working with children and spending time with other people, I love learning new things and everything else that the Hastor Foundation has to offer, and which cannot be put on several pieces of paper.



## 2. IGOR PETKOVIĆ (SARAJEVO)



Igor is in his third year of studies at the Faculty of Law at the University of Sarajevo, and he is devoted to reading professional literature, but also bestsellers. Besides reading, he spends his leisure time writing and engaging in sport activities.

I think that becoming a shortlist applicant was primarily due to my high GPA. During the interview, I tried to provide honest answers to the questions about the real reasons that motivated me to apply to the Call of this Foundation for the first time. I will try to justify the trust I was given in the best way possible.



She spends her leisure time reading books and scientific papers about painting. Sometimes I make a work of art simply to refresh my mind, and other times I make them for other people.

She often listens to online lectures and documentaries on astronomy, mathematics and history. Exploring the history of ancient civilizations and the history of Bosnia and Herzegovina is something she particularly loves to do.

When I first heard of the Foundation from my colleague, I was thrilled that something like it exists. For me, the Hastor Foundation represents a sea of positive energy and wonderful stories about the successes of hardworking and ambitious young people, who continuously contribute to their families, society and the homeland. I felt like a river full of hope and positivity in search of such a sea. I think that the Commission

recognized my great desire to contribute, but also my communicativeness. I enjoy productive conversations and I am thrilled to hear stories about the successes of our youth; what I also love is the positive atmosphere that is present in the Foundation.

The Hastor Foundation's support implies having a strong network of talented members who are ready for any challenge and willing to help one another in any situation. For them, that is, for us, problems are no problem actually! They are the paths towards future successes. Therefore, I maintain that the real support of the foundation is seen in "I" becoming "we". I also have to mention the financial support, which is very significant and makes studying a lesser burden.

## 4. LAJLA LEKO (TRAVNIK)



Lajla is a second-year student at the Faculty of Political Sciences in Sarajevo. Being a member of the Association of Citizens "Reunion Novi Travnik", she partook in the organization of annual events, humanitarian events and various creativity workshops.

Lajla was also a participant of the two-year English Access Microscholarship Program, which is sponsored by the American Councils for International Education BiH, and with the support of the U.S. Embassy and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the US. The Program involved strengthening language skills through exploring the culture and society of the US, the cultural differences, tolerance, and understanding. She also took part in the regional Spelling Bee competition in Zenica.

She used to do karate and play basketball, and she also graduated from the Primary musical school in Travnik (piano). She also has the A1 certificate for Spanish, which she improves in her leisure time with quality movies and shows.

It is an honour to be chosen among the hundreds of candidates to become a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation. I think that my work and effort have paid off, and I feel that my reward came in the form of becoming part of this great family which provides great support for the future.

## 3. NARCISA HADŽAJLIĆ (KONJIC)



She was born in Iran and lived there until she was 19. Once she passed the general entrance exam at the University of Iran in 2016, Narcisa enrolled into the famous Sharif University of Technology and became a student at the Department of Physics.

Despite this great success, Narcisa decided to continue her education in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the country she considers her homeland. She is now a second-year student at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Zenica, at the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. Last year she received the Dean's Award, due to her high GPA of 9.8.

She is also professionally engaged in painting and partook in painting competitions and exhibitions in Iran where she won awards and various accolades.





5. ANĐELA MRDA  
(ISTOČNO SARAJEVO)



She is a second-year student at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering at the University of East Sarajevo. She plays volleyball and due to her great effort she managed to qualify for the position of a republic volleyball judge. Anđela is also a member of the Association of Volleyball Judges of the Republic of Srpska.

She devotes great attention to the needs of her local community and is a volunteer for the Association of Parents of prematurely born children "Mrvica". She spends her leisure time with her family and friends.

I think that the Commission of the Hastor Foundation recognized my virtues, humaneness, honesty, diligence, cheerful spirit and the readiness to work hard in all spheres of the society. The trust the Foundation placed in me means a great deal to me and I will try to meet their expectations.



6. ESMA BEŠLIJA  
(ILIJAS)



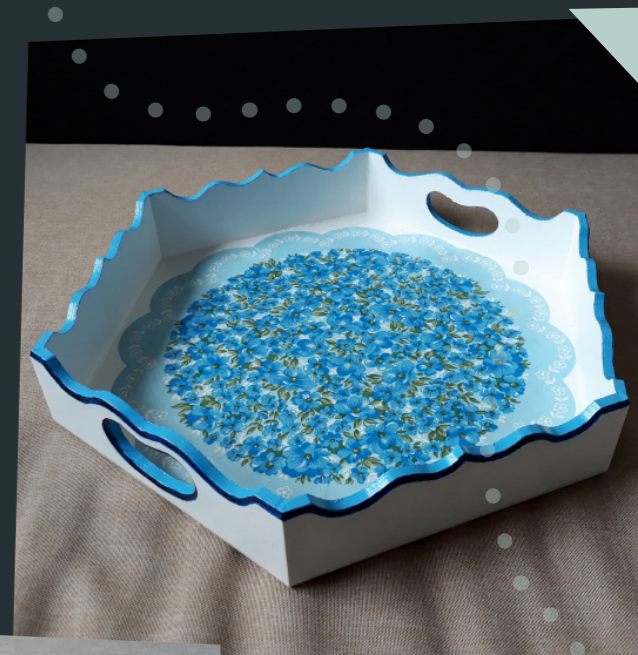
She is in her third year of studies at the Academy of Music at the University of East Sarajevo, study program: piano. Esma's main hobby is music, and she devotes most of her leisure time to her instrument, either playing it or reading literature dealing with piano art.

I think that the Hastor Foundation, besides acknowledging my effort to maintain a high GPA at the Academy and to expand my knowledge, also recognized my will to share that knowledge, and the knowledge in other fields, with others (during volunteer meetings), to help and motivate others, to use my skills to contribute to any event in which that would be possible, and perhaps to inspire someone to devote their life to studying this or similar type of art. The Hastor Foundation's support is of great significance for me – it is a new source of motivation, not only to maintain my GPA and to continue being successful, but also to strive towards something better with every new day; there are also other scholarship holders which I meet, which come from some other cities and faculties, and I perceive every monthly meeting as something refreshing for my everyday life.



Artwork of our scholarship holder Zehre Jonuz

<https://www.facebook.com/jonuz.zehra>





## Smajkić Šejla, Zvornik

### Faculty of Medicine, Tuzla

The workshops I was present at perfected one part of me, or more particularly of my knowledge. We could learn something new every time and hear moving stories which bring all sorts of emotions with them. Given that I have been your scholarship holder for many years, we used several of our monthly meetings to help families whose financial situation is not as great. One of those “several” found a place deep down in my heart.

It was about a mother and a boy who lived alone and had no incomes. Our volunteer heard about this family and told us, scholarship holders, about their life story, after which we started a humanitarian action. Once we gathered enough money, we went to a supermarket and bought some basic and necessary life supplies. As we approached the house, we saw that they actually lived in the basement. Our visit brought both tears and smiles to their faces. We sat with them for quite some time and talked.

I was particularly moved by the boy saying “Wow, mom, they even bought us a shampoo!”, which was something so small for us but meant so much to him. I am glad that I was part of this humanitarian action, and that I am part of the Foundation itself, which gave us opportunities such as this one to help others just as the Foundation helps us. Thank you!

The database showed that the scholarship holders and volunteers of the Hastor Foundation reached the number of 20.034 volunteer hours during the previous month. As usual, most of these hours were spent in our scholarship holders' volunteering meetings – students, primary and secondary school pupils in 278 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 in volunteering meetings during the previous month was **Thinking minds – are people immune to the traps of their own mind?**. 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.

20 034

volunteer  
hoursvolunteer  
workshops

278

60

municipality

### Some interesting themes:

- Diversity is a fortune
- The train of life
- Marketing and its straps
- The importance of literature for a human being
- Self-confidence as a successful person's greatest weapon
- The possibility of choice
- The significance of a carefree childhood
- Mother Language Day – February 21
- Immunity
- Path to success
- How do the media influence us
- E-learning – how much do we know about it and to what extent do we use it?
- Become the best possible version of yourself
- The present (the time behind us and the readiness for the future)
- Raising awareness and improving the knowledge about cancer
- We know a lot, and understand a little
- The history of Bosnia and Herzegovina



The municipalities in which the volunteer workshops were held:



Dear Foundation,

I would like to use this opportunity to thank you for the scholarship you have provided for me, and to tell you about my volunteer work during the winter break. I have spent my volunteer hours helping the old and helpless in my area. In the course of two weeks, as my break in January lasted this long, I have visited several older women a number of times and helped them prepare firewood.

Here in my region (3 kilometres from my house) lives Saliha Osmanović. She is the wife of Ramo Osmanović, a man who, on one of the war tapes, calls for his son Nermin to surrender to the soldiers. Grandmother Saliha lost her husband Ramo, sons Nermin and Edin, and she lives all by herself. She is old and ill and my parents and I visit her every other day or whenever we can. We visit her and try to help her if she needs anything.

During the break I often visited, cleaned snow around her house, and cut firewood. Sometimes I brought her the pie my mother makes, since she is unable to do so herself. I've always tried to be useful to those who are old and ill, and when I learned that you would accept this as a form of volunteering, that encouraged me even more. Once again, I thank you for the scholarship you have provided for me.

Amer Muminović, Srebrenica

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