

# NEWSLETTER

*august*

2019.



FONDACIJA  
HASTOR





## COME UP WITH AN IDEA AND START A BUSINESS

On Saturday, the 17th of August 2019, Hastor Foundation scholarship holders gathered at the ASA Prevent Group Main Assembly Hall to see their colleagues, expand their horizons, and hear things they would not have the opportunity to hear elsewhere. Although August is a month free of college obligations, students came to Sarajevo in considerable numbers and made our monthly gathering even more important.

Initially, the director of the Hastor Foundation, Seid Fijuljanin, greeted the attendees with a smile on his face and thanked them for coming and for regularly fulfilling their obligations to the Foundation. The director's monthly dose of motivation did not fail to inspire the students to think about how important monthly meetings with younger members of the Foundation can be when it comes to shaping their personalities. The conclusion that the scholarship holders were able to draw was that conversation and communication were very important and that just ten minutes out of our time could mean a lot to them.

The director then announced a special guest for whom majority of the meeting had been reserved. According to the director's introduction, this was a special person who does good things and the students could learn a lot from her. The person in question was Ms Sejdefa Bašić-Čatić, the director of the collective impact of the Mosaic Foundation. Ms Bašić-Čatić wanted to share her inspirational life story with us and introduce us to the work of the Mosaic Foundation, which, like the Hastor Foundation, deals exclusively with young people. Our guest gave a colourful presentation of her life experiences. Unlike many people who have left or are planning to leave Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ms Sejdefa is a shining example because she returned to Bosnia and Herzegovina after her life path took her to Australia and then to Switzerland. She returned to Bosnia and Herzegovina for no other reason but to change the situation. Many of her projects confirm her success and humane personality. Working on healthcare promotion with many foreign companies operating in Bosnia and Herzegovina, she was able to equip many hospitals and health centres with the latest equipment and contribute to the quality of healthcare

in various ways. The biggest accomplishment of hers is working with the Partnership for Public Health, with which she, as Executive Director, launched the project of opening a Centre for Healthy Aging, where elderly people are given the opportunity to solve their biggest problem: loneliness, and to again feel accepted and useful in the society.

In the second part of the presentation, Ms Sejdefa discussed her involvement with the Mosaic Foundation, which began in June 2019. The Mosaic Foundation is a leading non-profit corporation (social enterprise) in the region and it owns two social businesses: EkoMozaik and Mašta Agency. The focus of the Mosaic Foundation is to increase youth awareness when it comes to the importance of entrepreneurship. Ms Sejdefa briefly described the concept of Youth Bank and Impact Incubator as the two programs of the Mosaic Foundation through which young people can obtain financial resources for the realization of their projects.

Students were mostly interested in presenting the Lonac.pro platform – the simplest and the fastest way from an idea to realization of the project or social business. By registering your project through the lonac.pro website, it is possible to get from 500 to 1500 BAM for a project through Youth Bank operating in 46 municipalities, while larger start-

up projects can be implemented through Impact Incubator. Those who can apply are groups of young people (3-7 persons) aged 17 to 35 who, as they say on this platform, need someone to “push” them. In addition to the money, the young people also receive free support and counselling during each stage of starting and maintaining their business. Lonac.pro currently brings together 21,000 young people, and that number is growing every day. There is also a possibility for young people who come from an area that is not part of the Youth Bank program to apply for microbusiness.

Scholarship holders had the opportunity to see several successful projects carried out with the help of the Mosaic Foundation such as PGI Solheat, the first solar air heater, or Euroseed, which produces oil and other products from plum seeds. At the end of the meeting, our guest was surrounded by scholarship holders who wanted to present their ideas, hear her opinion and receive some advice. Our guest has succeeded in motivating scholarship holders to undertake new projects, so we have no doubt that we may soon be writing about the business success of our scholarship holders.

Vedin Klovo





## AMAR HALILOVIĆ VICTORIOUS AT SARAJEVO INNOVATIONS FESTIVAL

Our scholarship holder Amar Halilović is a student at a master's programme at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering in Sarajevo. He is one of those students in the Hastor Foundation who stand out due to their great ideas in the field of innovations, and one such idea brought him the first place at the Sarajevo Innovations Festival near the end of last year.

Namely, at the Sarajevo Innovations Fest, organized last year by the Students' Association of the Faculty of Electrical Engineering "Steleks" Sarajevo, Amar presented his project "Gradnja 3D mape koristeći MonoSLAM algoritam" ("Building a 3D map using the MonoSLAM algorithm") and won.

The purpose of the project is to create maps of unknown terrains, through which a person, a robot or a drone goes for the first time, with a camera, IMU and the hardware needed for data processing and communication attached to it.

The technology is based on sensor data from the camera and the device called the inertial measurement unit (IMU), which measures the speed and acceleration of the system it is attached to. A

series of photos coming from the camera and the IMU data, which represent the speed and acceleration of the mobile robot, i.e. the system which explores the terrain, are processed using the MonoSLAM algorithm and are used to create a 3D map and to determine the precise position of the robot and the characteristics of its environment. Given that the data from the environment is not reliable in terms of the accuracy of its measurements, the algorithm uses special tools in terms of probability and statistics for a more precise reconstruction of the map of a terrain. MonoSLAM algorithm belongs to the family of algorithms which solve the problem of simultaneous localization and mapping (SLAM) and enables the terrain mapping while simultaneously knowing the location of the mobile robot or the agent exploring the terrain that is being mapped. The algorithm recognizes features on photos, such as edges and corners of objects in the environment. This project can be used to map previously unknown and unmapped terrains. The map created is the so called sparse map, which does not contain many details from the environment, this being conditioned by the demand for system performances in real time. However, the level of details shown in the map is



sufficient for a rough modeling of the environment and the terrain, and can be used as the basis for potential more detailed mappings.

“The advantage of such an approach is that the system can be set on a mobile robot, such as unmanned aerial vehicles and rovers. Such mobile robots can be controlled remotely and can explore the environment on their own, whereas the map created would be shown on a remote computer in a base. The advantage of the applied MonoSLAM algorithm is using only one camera to record the environment in comparison to common SLAM approaches which use the dual system of cameras at the very least. Using only one camera makes it more difficult to get a 3D image since conventional cameras produce 2D images. However, special software mechanisms were used to solve this problem within the algorithm itself”, explains Amar.

The idea for this project came from assistant professor Dinko Osmanković, Amar’s mentor, and the project was actually part of Amar’s BA thesis. It took about six months to go from the idea to the finished project, and this included multiple stages, from the plan itself to the realization of that plan.

Participating at the Festival included preparing the textual part of the work in a special IEEE format and a poster for the presentation of the work. The competition involved presenting the work to the jury. Once the works and presentations were graded, Amar had the highest score and won the first place.

When asked about his own impressions and the plans for the future, he said:

“My impressions were really great. After having put in time and effort to write my BA thesis, and to prepare part of that thesis in the form required for the competition, winning the first place was actually a reward which strengthened my opinion and stance that honest work and effort always pay off in some way.

I plan to start writing my master’s thesis soon, which will involve expanding this topic. The current plans include using additional thermal camera in combination with the already used standard camera in order to achieve better results.

As far as the realization of the project goes in terms of making a product for investors, I don’t currently think about that, and I am entirely focused on my studies.”

Džulisa Otuzbir







## NARCISA'S DIVERSE UNIVERSE

Narcisa Hadžajlić is special in many ways. Her diverse interests, and the love and warmth she gives to every human being simply makes you fall in love with the personality of this extraordinary girl whose life path brought her directly into our Foundation.

She became a scholarship holder of our Foundation near the end of the previous year and in this short period Narcisa managed to stand out as a true jewel of our great family.

The following lines will let you see the beauty of Narcisa's personality and why the entire Editorial Board fell in love with this unusual girl with a big heart!

“My name is Narcisa Hadžajlić. I was born on June 21, 1998 in the city of Qom, Iran. My parents are Bosnians so though I was born in Iran, my roots are actually in Bosnia. I completed my primary and secondary education in Qom. Ever since I was little, I loved the starry sky, the cosmos and galaxies, and my wish was to study astrophysics at faculty; led by that wish I opted for mathematics and physics in secondary school. With God’s help, I was the best student in every year and hence often participated in cantonal and national competitions in the field of mathematics, physics and chemistry, and even painting. I managed to win numerous awards and acknowledgments in those competitions, which makes me very happy since that showed that I am a successful Bosnian girl.

After secondary school, I passed the entrance exam for universities which is organized annually in Iran and was accepted at the Sharif University of Technology in Tehran, one of the world-renowned universities. Though I planned to enroll into nuclear physics or astronautics, I could not do it because I am a foreigner, so I enrolled into general physics. However, I later decided to return to Bosnia with my family and continue my studies in my homeland. I opted for mathematics and computer science in Zenica and I am quite satisfied with my department. I successfully completed the first and second year of studies, and last year I was awarded the Dean’s Award, being one of the best first-year students.

Several months ago, I wrote an essay in English, discussing the topic “Critical thinking in education”, which was accepted by the organizers of the conference Teacher in Europe 2019 held in the Netherlands, where I took part at the beginning of May this year. The travel costs were covered by the diligent and good people of the organization Mladi BiH, for which I am very grateful since it was an unforgettable experience.

I am currently in preparations for my trip to Spain. Namely, I am getting ready to participate in the Erasmus+ program and complete the fifth semester in the city of Jaen, Spain. I am very excited and I believe that this is going to be another great experience in my life, in terms of both education and meeting new cultures and languages.

When I lived in Iran, I often spent time with children from different countries across the world, i.e. children whose parents, like mine, came to Qom to acquire knowledge. Qom is a city with about 2 million

citizens, thousands of foreign students and hundreds of institutions, associations and international faculties and universities. Therefore, my parents were students when my younger sister and I were pupils, which is why I often refer to my family as the “student family”. Such a life is difficult to describe. These circumstances helped me gain knowledge in every moment, and to get to know myself and my identity. I think that this is the main reason why I love my beautiful homeland Bosnia and Herzegovina, whose prosperity I put in first place, as my goal in life after all my spiritual development.

In my student family environment, something new is always happening and new things are created, be it an essay, a book, a translation of a book, or even a work of art or a computer program. My father, mother and I know Bosnian, Persian, English and Arabic, which enabled us to work as a translating team. My parents usually translate from Persian into Bosnian, and I vice versa, given that I studied Persian language and literature in school. One of my tasks within this team was translating into Persian “The Islamic Declaration”, the book by Alija Izetbegović, and the TV documentary about Srebrenica for a Persian television.

The family products that are more interesting and dear to me are e-books for children prepared by my dear father Mirsad and I. Those are the books “Kind Earth for Kind Children” and “Beline priče” (“Bela’s stories”) which we wrote in Persian. My father translated them into Bosnian and English, and I made the illustrations. The idea of the first book is to present moral values to children through short positive messages accompanied by an appropriate illustration. The second book was inspired by an event that happened to my family three years ago and it’s about a little girl, Bela (Belkisa, my little sister) who tries to connect math lessons from school to everyday events at home. We plan to publish more issues of Bela’s stories, this is just the beginning. We hope that our books will one day be printed, but so far they exist only in electronic e-pub forms.

Last year I applied for the scholarship of the Hastor Foundation, recommended to me by my colleagues at the faculty. The first thing they said to me was: this foundation gives the best scholarships and it requires the best GPAs, you can do this! I had no idea about the Foundation, its visions and success. It was only when I came to the interview that I realized I’ve found the right place – a foundation which appre-

ciates people and their wishes, and enables the development of the wider community and BiH by supporting young talents, not only in terms of finances but also in spiritual and humane terms through volunteerism and monthly meetings. In short I have always loved my people, but now that I am part of the Foundation I love them even more. I love the happy faces and kind hearts of the people who are always there to help me and for whom I am always there. I ask God to increase their success and the amount of wonderful stories of all the members of the Hastor Foundation family.

When it comes to my leisure time, I am actively involved in painting and designing, and I sometimes make drawings per request. Bosnians who live outside BiH often want me to draw them motifs and landmarks of Bosnia and Herzegovina. I recently took part in an open atelier in Konjic, drawing Stara Ćuprija with other participants. The drawings were presented at the Heritage Museum. Since I often travel from Konjic to Zenica, given that my parents live in Konjic, I have found a new hobby and that is photography, for which I am inspired by the lovely sights across our beautiful homeland. Plants amaze me and I sometimes gather medicinal herbs.

I love to expand my knowledge about those herbs and about agriculture in general, which can be one of the major sources of income in BiH.

There is one more, perhaps unusual, interest of mine and that is visiting the older people, particularly women, in my neighborhood. Talking to these women about their experiences, mistakes and good decisions is a source of energy for me. These conversations help me determine how to spend my youth and care about my health, so that when I grow old I can be happy with my past days of youth and be grateful to God.

I think about the future a lot. Every night, before I go to sleep, I set my goals and tasks for tomorrow. I write and continuously revise my long-term goals. They are not for the public, but one thing is for sure: every one of those goals supports the one higher goal, and that is justice and love for all.”



## FOLLOWING THE PATH OF GREAT SCIENTISTS: LEJLA KORMAN WILL CONTINUE HER EDUCATION AT THE PRESTIGIOUS UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE



Stephen Hawking, Alan Turing, Emma Thompson, Sacha Baron Cohen and Charles Darwin are only some of the most well-recognized names in the alumni corner of the prestigious Cambridge University. Becoming a part of that same institution and steadily moving onwards in her academic path is now also the privilege and achievement of our scholarship holder, Lejla Korman.

In these times when false values are presented to the public's eye as having a merit, the news of a girl from Sarajevo being accepted to Cambridge resounded and left quite an impression. It was this girl, Lejla Korman, who managed to garner the attention of the public in just a couple of days' time, ensuring that the path of education is seen as a truly valid path towards success, as well as, hopefully, inspiring younger generations to follow such a path. Lejla is an important part of our Foundation, a person who managed to impose herself as one of our most diligent volunteers in a very short amount of time.

Lejla finished her four-year-long BA studies at the SSST University in Sarajevo with a final paper on "The Validity of Okun's Law in Bosnia and Herzegovina" and with a 10,00 GPA.

The idea of studying at Cambridge University became appealing to her mostly because of the fact that this University offers some of the highest-quality master programs in the world. One of such programs are the Development Studies for which Lejla applied and ultimately secured herself a spot that will allow her to examine most important economic, political, and societal aspects of development.

*I am truly happy and excited to go and study at a university which is a world of its own and which will give me a chance to meet and exchange experiences with students from all around the world. I have to add that I hope I'll become accustomed to the educational process as quickly as possible, because it is a great challenge, but also privilege to study at the university that was once attended by some of the greatest minds of our world, people such as Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin and Stephen Hawking,* said Lejla for Klix News Portal.

Being accepted at Cambridge University is a dream come true and another confirmation that hard work and sacrifices we make are always worth it. Lejla points out that the very process of applying was a long and difficult journey, one filled with uncertainties and expectations.

The letter of acceptance for one of the most prestigious universities in the world seemed unreal, especially considering the competition, namely the young experts applying to the same master program I applied for and ultimately was accepted for.

Lejla also looked back on the most difficult obstacle of the whole story, that is the costliness of the study program which cannot be compared to the living standards in BiH. She received a much needed financial support from the Rotary Foundation, Municipality Novi Grad and Prevent Group.

For our Newsletter, Lejla spoke of the experience and skills she acquired as a volunteer of our Foundation:

*As the development of human potentials is a crucial aspect of the development studies program I enrolled at, volunteering in the Hastor Foundation was certainly one of the experiences that greatly contributed to my Cambridge application being accepted. The experience and skills I gained while fulfilling my volunteering tasks prepared me for the challenges that I will face through this process. What helps make the*

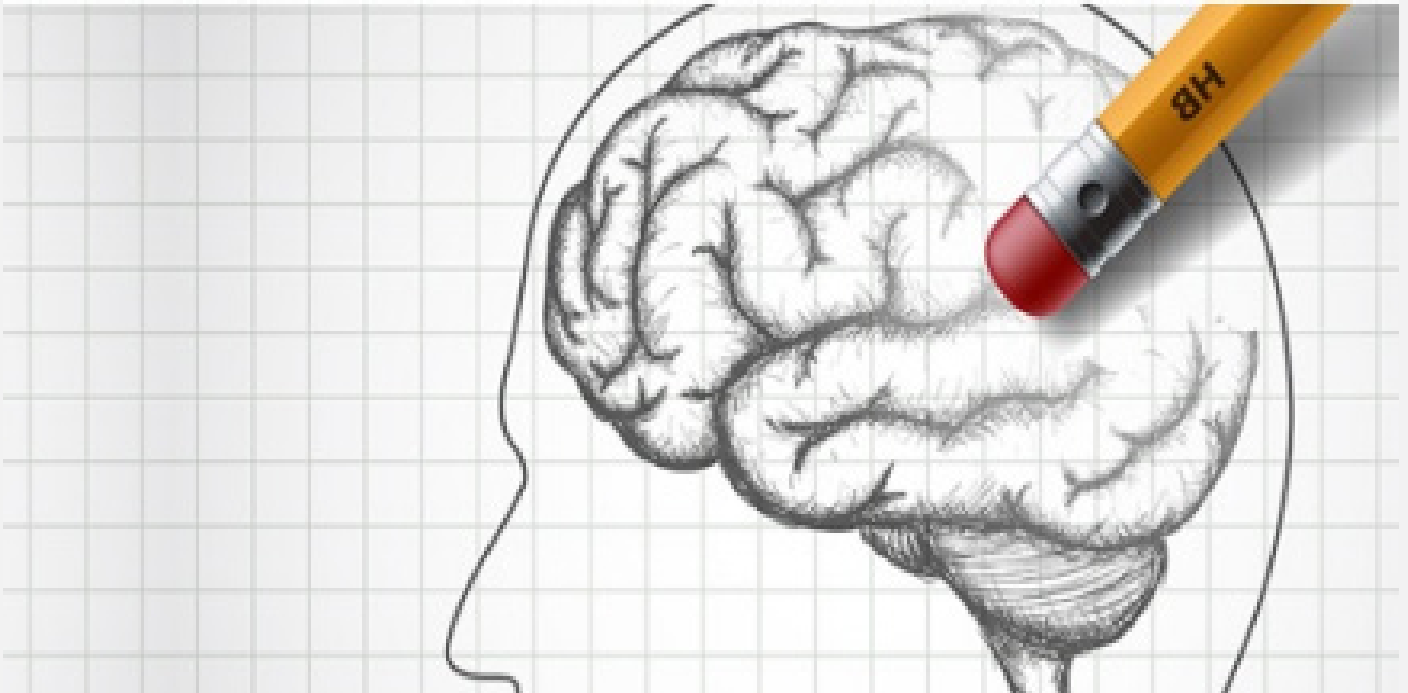
*experience of being a part of the Hastor Foundation stand out is the focus on providing mutual support, and in line with that, I do hope my mentoring aided the personal growth of younger scholarship holders. Moreover, the financial support of the Foundation was very helpful for the application process that demands significant expenses.*

For Lejla, studying at Cambridge University can be considered a dream come true and a leap in both her academic and professional development, and since she is considered one of the best students at her home university, as well as one of our most devoted volunteers, we have no doubt that she will soon stand out as a student of Cambridge University too! For us in the Foundation, Lejla's success motivates us to continue with our mission of helping young people reach their full potential.

Finally, is there a need to emphasize further how proud we are?

Džulisa Otuzbir





## THE DISEASE OF FORGETTING

Prepared by: Kenan Kraković

In 1901, doctor Alois admitted a patient by the name of Auguste D. who was suffering from dementia, paranoia, mood swings, and who had difficulty communicating. Doctor Alois would supervise her case until her death in 1906 when he published his observations and findings. Even back then, doctor Alois identified two unusual structures in the brain of his patient; these didn't belong in a healthy brain and are today known as amyloid beta and hyperphosphorylated tau protein. Doctor Alois's surname was Alzheimer, and the disease he discovered was named after him.

Today, nearly 120 years after the first patient, we still don't have the cure that would produce satisfying results. With the advance of medicine and higher living standards, the population of a great number of countries is reaching very old age. Predictions are that in the next 30 years over 150 million people around the globe will have Alzheimer's disease, making it imperative to develop effective treatment.

This summer I had an opportunity to conduct scientific research project regarding Alzheimer's at the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden. I have

previously mentioned two major characteristics of the Alzheimer's Disease, namely amyloids and tau protein. It is very common for scientists to approach research by focusing on one of these two "trade-marks", bringing rise to a culture of "tauists" and "amyloidists", depending on your approach towards origins and treatment of sickness. The group of scientists I worked with happened to focus on amyloids and their effect on some other cascades of molecular events inside the brain.

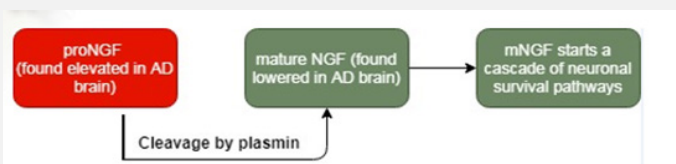
Here is some background on the amyloids: amyloid is literally an aggregate of proteins. Proteins within cells are used until they are used up, which is when another protein comes by, cleaves it, and begins the recycling process. This is an ongoing, dynamic spectacle in our cells. When it comes to brain cells, there is a protein that plays a key role in keeping neurons healthy: the AP protein. The system sometimes gets faulty and the AP protein is cleaved by a wrong protein – since the products of the cleaving tend to bind with one another, this leads to the creation of amyloids. Alzheimer's amyloids are referred to as beta, because they are a result of recycling of an enzyme called beta-secretase.

Amyloids congest around neurons and it is believed that they inhibit communication between them.

And now some background on the project that I've been working on: a particularly vulnerable part of the brain, in regard to Alzheimer's, is the so-called basal ganglia. It is a great source of brain's acetylcholine which are necessary for neurons' communication. Disruption in communication between neurons has consequences on how one's memory is formed. The health of neurons in the basal ganglia depends on one molecule in particular, NGF. If the number of NGFs is sufficient, neurons are alright and memories are successfully formed. However, for the NGF to be active, it needs to be activated and transformed by another molecule called plasmin.

For Alzheimer's disease, the concentration of precursors to NGF is heightened while mature NGF and plasmin levels are lower than they should be. If we consider this, it is reasonable to believe that the problem arises in regard to maturing of NGF, and is thus plasmin-related. As a part of this project, we were examining the effect of amyloid on plasmin, in other words, their influence on NGF maturing and health of the neurons that play a key part in memory-forming. Our experiments lead to a curious finding. We have discovered that brain cells can produce plasmin inhibitors when in contact with a great amount of amyloids!

So, if you have Alzheimer's disease, the concentration of amyloids in your brain is high. These help induce production of plasmin inhibitors that prevent NGF transformation. No mature NGF means no healthy neurons that would allow memories to form. These results are still preliminary and the experiments need to be repeated in different setting and with different premises so that we can be absolutely sure of the result: that's when the identifying of the inhibitors begins. The scientist that lead the team I was working with, Dr Maria Eriksdotter, has been developing a cure for the last ten years. The cure is based on targeted delivery of an NGF capsule directly into the brain via surgical implants. The cure is clinically tested and it had positive test result, but the capsule still requires improvement. Her idea is to incorporate these new findings about plasmin into the capsule, thereby improving it. Will this be the final step in curing Alzheimer's Disease? I am not sure, but the findings look promising.



Picture 1. Precursor NGF transforms into mature NGF needed for healthy neurons. Transformation is induced by plasmin.





# TEN STRATEGIES OF MANIPULATION (NOAM CHOMSKY)

Manipulation is an act of exerting one's influence over an individual, group or wider public as means of serving a certain interest. This is achieved by using false data, twisting facts, and presenting untrue interpretations aimed at creating a false impression that is then used to exert control over others. For those reasons (namely exerting control and power), manipulation was always interesting, present and widely used. Not even such widespread use helped wear out the most common strategies of manipulating people, so here they are:

**1. THE STRATEGY OF DISTRACTION:** is achieved by directing attention away from core issues onto those that are of little importance through overflow of information that bear little importance. By doing this, the public stops thinking about greater, more essential issues.

**2. CREATE PROBLEMS:** so as to have a portion of the public try to answer it. Once the public is hooked, it becomes much easier to manipulate.

**3. THE GRADUAL STRATEGY:** taking months or years for a change of sort to take place. It moves at such a slow pace that the change is ultimately barely noticed or felt.

**4. THE STRATEGY OF DEFERRING** : is a way of helping the public "swallow" unpopular and unwanted changes. These are announced much in advanced, with the aim of having the public grow accustomed to them and thus accept them, although they are essential against these changes.

**5. GO TO THE PUBLIC AS A LITTLE CHILD:** addressing the public as one would a child, making the public repress its critical consciousness and thus allowing the message a greater influence.

**6. USE THE EMOTIONAL SIDE:** or rather abuse it. A classic technique that wreaks havoc on rationality. Critical consciousness is substituted for emotional impulses. Outrage, anger, fear and similar emotions help keep the public away from making sense of the facts.

**7. KEEP THE PUBLIC IN IGNORANCE AND MEDIOCRITY:** as ignorance is essential, the quality of education in one society is purposefully and systematically decreased, making the masses easier to manipulate and creating an unbridgeable gap between the common people and those who are privileged.

**8. TO ENCOURAGE THE PUBLIC TO BE COMPLACENT WITH MEDIOCRITY:** the public needs to accept mediocrity as a fact of its existence, and thus examples of stupidity, primitivism, vulgarity, ignorance, and mediocrity being good need to be shown daily.

**9.SELF-BLAME STRENGTHEN:** : this strategy refers to convincing an individual that he/she is solely to blame for his/her misfortune, due to lacking knowledge, skills, or ambition. By becoming too preoccupied with our own failings, we give up on investigating the true reasons for our position in the society and do not rebel against the economic system.

**10.ABUSING KNOWLEDGE:** of biology, neurobiology and psychology gives the System an advantage while manipulating the public.

And finally, "All over the place, from the popular culture to the propaganda system, there is constant pressure to make people feel that they are helpless, that the only role they can have is to ratify decisions and to consume." – Noam Chomsky.

# Zehra Šarić



**“Education is a continuous process in life. It is like riding a bike - unless you keep pedalling forward, you cannot go any further.”**

According to her punctuality and commitment, primarily when it comes to activities within the Hastor Foundation's graphic design team, Zehra Šarić has been named scholarship holder of August 2019. Zehra was consistently available throughout the year whenever the team of graphic designers was tasked with creating various logos and memoranda, and designing the Foundation's newsletter.

Zehra Šarić was born in Iran, where she began her primary education, which she then continued and finalized in Bosnia and Herzegovina. After graduating from high school at the School of Graphic Technology, Design and Multimedia in Ilidža, she decided to enrol in the Visual Arts and Communication Design Program at the International University of Sarajevo, thus continuing to build her professional path within the previously chosen field directed towards design and art. She completed her previous semester as an exchange student in Ireland at the University of Limerick, and after that she graduated in June of this year. Zehra points out that during her studies, she showed a strong interest in the field of social design, towards which she seeks to direct her future career. Her BA thesis was precisely dedicated to the aforementioned field. She designed a board game which highlights the issue of maternity leave in BiH, conceptualized as an educational tool which can serve within non-governmental organizations.

For the past four years, Zehra has worked as a freelancer, upgrading both herself and her portfolio. This has, simultaneously, brought her great experience when it comes to working with different clients. She can also be proud of her volunteer work at the gallery “Preporod”, as well as the CURE Foundation, in which she has participated

in numerous workshops, primarily oriented towards equality between the sexes and genders, advocating for positive social change.

Her current plans for the future include entering the visual and graphic design industry where she would gain significant work experience. This would further facilitate her enrolment in a master's programme, which is also one of her goals.

I consider myself an ambitious person with high, but not unattainable goals, and I will always strive to invest in myself, my education, work and knowledge. Education is a continuous process in life. It is like a bicycle - unless you keep pedalling forward, you cannot go any further.

Zehra Šarić has been a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation for a year now, and she points out that she regrets not becoming a part of it earlier. Funding her studies has helped her gain wonderful experiences, meet new people and do what she loves and what fulfils her. “I am delighted that I am part of the Hastor Foundation family and that I have helped at least in a minimal way with everything they do for young people and their education. I will always be happy to respond and assist the Foundation in each of their projects and missions.”

Amina Vatreš

Amina Vatreš



# september

Prepared by: Amina Vatreš



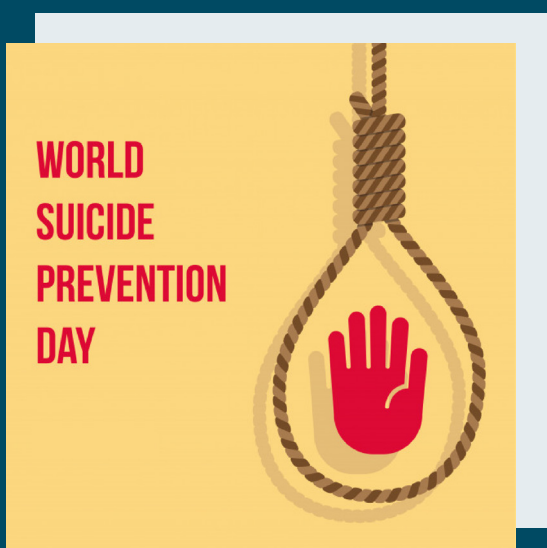
## SEPTEMBER 5

Given the fact that eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and a necessary requirement for sustainable development, September 5 is internationally celebrated as the **International Day of Charity**. The UN agenda on this global issue calls for a spirit of strengthening global solidarity, focused primarily on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable. In this process, the private sector plays an elemental role, ranging from micro-enterprises and collectives to various civil society and philanthropic organizations. Such organizations have the potential to transform our lives and our planet by providing a framework for the work of philanthropic institutions, so that every person is able to contribute in some way to the global improvement of life quality.



## SEPTEMBER 8

International Literacy Day, which is celebrated every year on September 8, is an opportunity for governments, civil society and stakeholders to highlight improvements of global literacy rates growth. It is also an opportunity to critically re-examine the remaining global challenges related to these issues. The focus of the UN **International Literacy Day 2019** will be primarily on literacy but also on multilingualism. Despite the progress made so far, challenges in the field of literacy continue to exist, with uneven distribution across countries and population groups. Acceptance of linguistic diversity in education and literacy development are key prerequisites for addressing literacy issues as well as achieving long-term sustainable development goals.



## SEPTEMBER 9

**World Suicide Prevention Day**, celebrated on September 10, is organized by the International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP). The elemental purpose of commemorating this day, which falls within the field of protecting the mental health of the population, is to raise awareness among people around the world that suicide can be prevented if adequate preventative action is taken. Over the past few years, over 300 activities in about 70 countries have been reported to the IASP, including educational and commemorative events, press conferences and conferences that directly address this issue. In most cases, the World Health Organization (WHO) sponsored the mentioned activities and events.

## DATES TO REMEMBER



**International Day of Democracy** serves an opportunity to remind us that democracy, as a concept, was created by people and that they are its central interest. Democracy is based on the inclusion and equal participation of all citizens, and is therefore a fundamental precondition for peace, sustainable development and respect for human rights and freedoms. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that "the will of the people will be the basis of government" (Article 21.3), has encouraged the adoption of democratic constitutions around the world and has contributed to the global acceptance of democratic values and principles. Therefore, democracy as a concept provides a natural environment for the protection and effective realization of human rights. True democracy is a two-way street based on continuous dialogue between civil society and political actors, and it is essential that such dialogue has a real impact on political decision-makers. It is for this reason that political participation, civil society and social dialogue form the very foundations of good governance.



September 21 is celebrated annually around the world as the **International Day of Peace**. It was established by the UN General Assembly in order to promote the ideals of peace, both within and among all the nations. The member states of the UN adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals in 2015, recognizing that it would not be possible to build a peaceful world unless steps were taken to achieve economic and social development for all people everywhere and safeguard their rights. The Sustainable Development Goals cover a wide range of issues, including poverty, hunger, health, education, climate change, gender equality, water, sanitation, energy, the environment and social justice.

According to The World Federation of the Deaf, there are approximately 72 million deaf people worldwide. More than 80% of them live in developing countries. They collectively use more than 300 different sign languages. Sign languages are completely natural languages that are structurally different from spoken languages. There is also an international sign language used by deaf people at international meetings and informally when traveling and socializing. It is considered a simplified form of sign language that has a limited lexicon and is not as complex as natural sign languages. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recognizes and promotes the use of sign languages. It advocates that sign languages are equal to spoken languages by status and commits states to facilitate the learning of sign language while promoting the linguistic identity of the deaf community. September 23 is designated by the UN General Assembly as the International Day of Sign Languages to raise awareness of the importance of sign language as a step towards full realization of the human rights of deaf people. The first International Day of Sign Languages was celebrated in 2018 under the slogan: **"With sign language everyone is involved!"**





## SEPTEMBER 27

Over the past six decades, tourism has undergone continuous expansion and diversification, and it has become one of the fastest growing and most important economic sectors in the world, benefiting from destinations and communities worldwide. International tourist arrivals worldwide have increased from 25 million in 1950, to nearly 1.3 billion today. Similarly, international tourism revenues from various destinations worldwide increased from \$2 billion in 1950 to 1260 trillion in 2015.

The sector represents an estimated 10% of world GDP and one in ten jobs in the world. The UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) expects that tourism will continue to grow at an average of 3% per year until 2030. This increase reflects the progressive expansion of access to tourism, thanks to a decline in transport prices, especially air travel. The recognition of the right to vacation in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the adoption of labour rights in many countries have also supported the expansion of tourism. These factors also serve as a backdrop for the resilience that tourism has shown in recent years. The sector has experienced almost continuous growth despite challenges such as the global economic crisis, natural disasters and pandemics.



## SEPTEMBER 30

**The International Translation Day** is conceived as an opportunity to honour the work of language professionals and translators, who play a significant role in bringing nations together, facilitating dialogue, understanding and cooperation, contributing to the development and strengthening of world peace and security. The translations of literary or scientific work, including technical work, from one language to another is a necessary factor in maintaining clarity, a positive climate and productivity in international public discourse and interpersonal communication in general.



• Photos from volunteer meetings



BUSOVAČA



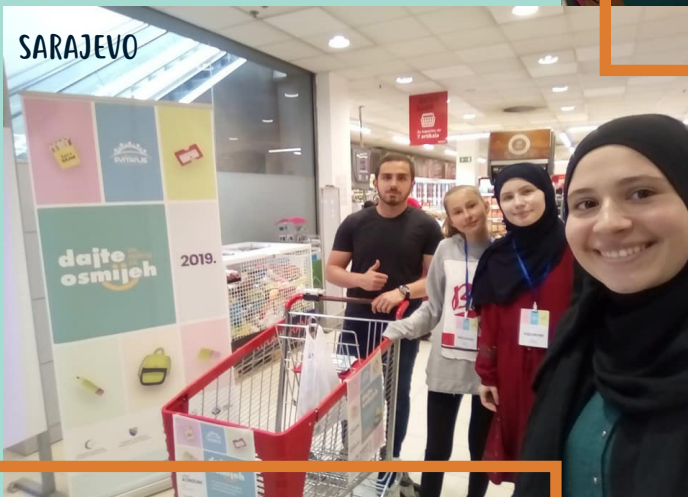
ZENICA

DOBOJ



KAKANJ

SARAJEVO



SARAJEVO



SREBRENİK

TUZLA



JAJCE



## Vedin Klovo

### Elektrotehnički fakultet Sarajevo

When I was in first grade of secondary school, my mentors Ajla and Zehra had a wonderful idea for us to brighten the day of older citizens of Sarajevo by writing many wonderful, motivational and encouraging messages on colorful papers and hand them out in the streets. Naturally, some of us were at first not so happy about this idea, not having participated in such activities before, and we were not that optimistic about this meeting. However, the meeting started and we decided to meet at Ciglane, where we would begin with our planned activity. We handed out papers with smiles on our faces to all the older citizens that we would see until we had no more papers. Some of the reactions were so lovely that we completely forgot the feeling of shame that was present at the beginning. The faces of people we gave the papers to clearly showed that we made their day and they only had words of praise for us. There were, of course, other cases where people would try to avoid us or would simply refuse to take the paper. Some would also comment on our foolishness. Some of those reactions can be easily justified by the fact that when it comes to groups like ours standing in the streets and handing out something, people expect to receive ads for certain products, promotional leaflets of political parties or maybe an offer to participate in a questionnaire, which certainly can last too long.

Still, the reactions of those who took a minute of their time to take our papers and messages were sufficient to consider our meeting a successful one, and one of those meetings I will remember for a really long time.

The database showed that the Hastor Foundation scholarship holders and volunteers recorded **20 128** volunteer hours in the past month. As usual, most of these hours were spent in our scholarship holders' volunteering meetings – students, primary and secondary school pupils in **274** volunteer meetings in **62** 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 the 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 “**Who are the heroes of today**”. In addition to 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 topics:

- **How music affects our mental health**
- *When you start changing yourself then you start changing the world too*
- *Provide an idea which will make a better atmosphere*
- **Old Bosnian crafts**
- *Creativity is part of our personality*
- *Advantages and disadvantages of the Internet*
- **Natural beauties of BiH and how to promote them**
- *Self-confidence and communication*
- *My BiH, my heritage*
- **The importance of teamwork**
- *Stereotypes and prejudices*



The municipalities in which volunteer workshops were held:



Narcisa Hadžajlić



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