

NEWSLETTER



FONDACIJA
HASTOR

JANUARY 2020

EDUCATION – THE PATH TO SELF-DEVELOPMENT

The first meeting of college student scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation in 2020 was held on January 18, at the premises of ASA Prevent Group. The main hall was filled with students eager to spend quality time together, gain new knowledge and exchange opinions and experiences. This is precisely how this month's meeting was spent, and our students had the opportunity to listen to an interesting and undoubtedly useful lecture by their colleague and our scholarship holder Adnan Hatibović.

Adnan Hatibović is a master's student at the Department of Sociology at the Faculty of Philosophy in Sarajevo and he has been an active scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation for the second year in a row. To give his contribution to the work of the Hastor Foundation, help his colleagues and bond with them, he decided to give a lecture on one of the currently most important topics with regard to the youth – education.

The focus of the lecture was on the role of education in modeling opinions and behavior. Therefore, the significance of education, as a life-long process, was discussed. In terms of the educational model present in our society, it can be concluded that the Bosnian-Herzegovinian concept of education resembles the encyclopedia concept, which implies simultaneously studying various science fields: natural and social sciences, humanities, etc.

Given that in this day and age education is the fundamental step towards accomplishing many goals, our lecturer talked about education as a specific work "equipment", considering that secondary schools and universities are the most significant places where young people have the opportunity to acquire new knowledge and skills for the labor market, as well as to specialize in and develop numerous practical skills.



Together with Adnan, our scholarship holders reached the conclusion that there are numerous factors to be considered when it comes to success. First and foremost, in order to achieve a certain goal, which further leads to success, we must bear in mind the essential importance of knowledge, along with certain abilities and skills. Furthermore, in order to develop a successful persona, one needs a title, authority, acquaintances and appropriate behavior. It is an undeniable fact that all these factors play an equal role in the process of self-accomplishment.

The last part of Adnan's lecture was focused on the concept of education that is purposeful and productive. In this regard, he mentioned the Humboldtian concept of university education, which implies active participation and involvement of pupils and students in the educational process. Such a model results in studying for the purpose of acquiring knowledge and making better people, who will develop themselves by developing critical thinking and the ability of independent reasoning.



The students present participated actively in the discussion with our lecturer and the meeting was brought to a close with the conclusion that self-development requires developing work habits, knowledge and skills, and encouraging spirituality and creativity, all of this being inseparable from certain moral values. We are proud to say that all the values mentioned are promoted and nurtured in our foundation on a daily basis, with the constant emphasis on the significance of education, which is in the Hastor Foundation- – seen as the choice of winners!r

FROM SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS' PERSPECTIVE: MY ERASMUS EXPERIENCE – SPAIN

Seville

After every one of my trips, I think of ways to share my experiences, feelings and learned messages from those trips with others. It is impossible to express this on just a few pages, but I can definitely try to present the broader picture which could encourage someone to explore more about or one day visit that place.

This time I visited two jewels of Andalusia: Seville and Ronda. Seville is the hottest city in Andalusia, where the average summer temperature is above 35 C. The Guadalquivir River runs through the city, and it is the longest and the only great navigable river in Spain; the Puente de Isabel II sits on it, which is the arch bridge completed in the 19th century as the first strong bridge in Seville, thereby replacing the former floating bridge that consisted of boats (pontoon bridge). It was first built by the Arabs in the 12th century and it managed to persist through seven centuries due to later repairs.

The place in Seville that is commonly visited the first is Plaza de Espana in the Mario Luis park, built in 1928 for the Ibero-American Exposition of 1929. This was actually a world summit, held in Seville and attended by representatives from Portugal and several countries of North and South America, as well as from every province of Andalusia. Seville is the fourth largest city in Spain, and three UNESCO world heritage sites are located in the old part of the town: the Alcazar palace complex, the Cathedral and the General Archive of the Indies.

Royal Alcazars or the Royal Palace in Seville was built by Castile Christians for the Christian King Peter of Castile, in the place of the Abbadid Muslim residential fortress which was destroyed after the Christian conquest of Seville. It is an example of the Mudéjar architecture in the Iberian Peninsula, but it also contains gothic, renaissance and roman design elements. The upper floors are still used by the royal family as their official residence, and they are administered by the Patrimonio Nacional, i.e. the National Heritage Agency in Spain.

The Saint Mary's Cathedral, known also as Seville Cathedral, is a Roman Catholic cathedral, the biggest gothic church, and the third largest church in the world. The total surface of the building is 23.500m². The history of the cathedral starts in the 12th century, when the then caliph ordered a new large mosque to be built in the city which would be bigger and closer to the city Alcazar. Its hall comprised seventeen hallways oriented towards the south, as were many mosques in Andalusia. Soon after the conquest, it was transformed into the city cathedral, the orientation was changed and the windows were divided and ornamented to match Christian prayer practices.

The cathedral in Seville was built to represent the city wealth, since it became the main trade center in the 13th century. The construction works on the cathedral lasted for centuries. In 1511, five years after it was finally completed, the crossing lantern collapsed and so the work on the cathedral recommenced. The dome collapsed once more, namely in 1888, and the works continued for at least another 15 years. When you walk around the city and pass by the cathedral, you certainly can see the results of that persistent work and the incomparable work of art.

Modern trams and cars can be seen on the streets at the same time as horse wagons with tourist enjoying the ride in them. On the other side of the road, the huge cathedral can be seen, and right across the cathedral is the Royal Alcazar complex in front of which there are often long lines of visitors.



Ronda

I missed enjoying the nature of Andalusia so I decided to visit Ronda, not knowing that this tiny city, located in the wild mountains with 35.000 citizens, has such a rich history. Ronda is one of the cities which are part of the National Park Sierra de las Nieves in Malaga. Its geographical position is quite interesting because it is situated at the altitude of 750 meters and the Guadalevin River runs through the city, dividing it into two parts and forming the steep El Tajo Canyon which is 100 meters deep, and above which the city is situated. Above the canyon is Puente Nuevo, the newest and most famous bridge in Ronda built near the end of the 18th century. When you set foot on the bridge, you get the impression of being at the edge of a plateau and at the other side of the city you can see the beautiful green fields and private properties. Still further are the olive fields.

We visited the Plaza de toros de Ronda, where the unique and historical bullfight Corrida Goyesca is held annually. Around the city are the remnants of prehistoric settlements from the Neolithic, including stone images. It was first inhabited by the early Celts, who called it Arunda in the 6th century BC.



Ronda was also a favorite temporary residence of many famous writers such as Ernest Hemingway and Rainer Maria Rilke, who described Ronda as follows: "I'm looking everywhere for the city of my dreams and I have finally found it in Ronda" and "Nothing in all Spain is more surprising than this wild town". George Orson Welles, who is considered one of the greatest movie directors of all times, was inspired by Ronda in his frequent trips to Spain when he was working on his, though unfinished, movie on Don Quixote.

As is the case with other cities in Andalusia, there are numerous historical monuments in Ronda from the Muslim period, such as Arab bathrooms and remnants of former mosques and palaces. Souvenirs with Spanish and Muslim motifs can be found in shops. Regardless of whether you are a nature lover and love to escape the everyday life of the modern age, or you love history, literature and architecture, there is definitely something to see in Ronda.



Narcisa Hadžajić

My ERASMUS experience: Portugal



January is in many ways a special month. For me, this is a month where I collect all of my impressions from the previous year and think a lot about where I was a year ago, what my thoughts were, what guided me, what my inspiration was and what has, in the meantime, changed. At the beginning of the year, I certainly did not think that I will be in Spain at its end.

As I have written in the previous issues of our newsletter, from day one I have been very pleased with the new experiences and the invaluable knowledge I have gained regarding the field of my studies and this new language. In addition to the trips that I have already written about, in October I decided to organize my own trip for the first time and set off for a few days in Portugal. It was an experience that was a bit scary for me, because I wondered how I would manage when it comes to language and whether I would be able to find and see everything that I had planned. The truth is I actually found much more than I imagined, and after this experience I felt richer and more satisfied. My trip was to Porto and I spent three days in that beautiful city on the Atlantic coast. Although I have traveled a lot before, I have never seen a similar architecture and tradition where many buildings are paved with pottery. Porto has a long history and seems to be "stuck" in it to some extent. This fascinated me, since they did not allow the old part of the city to be renovated and now you have the opportunity to walk on the cobblestones from the Middle Ages. Many gems and interesting stories are hidden in Porto.

For example, did you know that the narrowest house in the world is located in Porto? It is a house located between two churches; the classical-style Igreja dos Carmelitos from the 17th century and the Igreja do Carmo from the 18th century built in the rococo style. It's about one meter wide! The reason why it exists at all is the law that required two churches not to share a wall. This house really was home to one family until 1980, when it was transformed into a museum. Porto is also home to the most famous bookstore in the world, the so-called Livraria Lello. Since the letter "v" is pronounced as /bi/ in Portuguese and Galician, this brings to mind the English word "library". However, in Portugal, "livraria" means a bookstore. What makes this bookstore world-famous is that British writer J. K. Rowling said that she found the inspiration for her Harry Potter books precisely in Porto and this bookstore where she spent a lot of time while living there. They say you can't leave Portugal without trying three things: the unsurpassed Portuguese wine, bacalao fish and the traditional Nata dessert. You can find these and many other types of traditional food and beverages at every corner of this beautiful city, with people who are extremely warm, enthusiastic and willing to tell you more about the history of Porto.

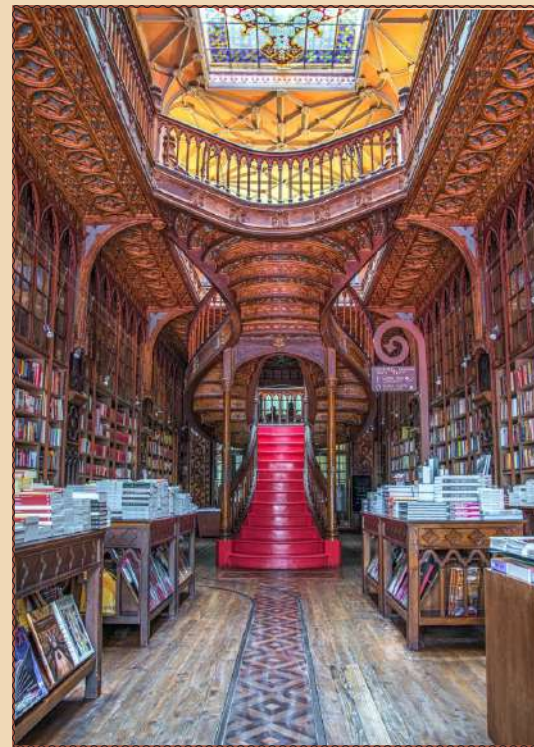
I spent my New Year's holidays in Vigo. The traditional New Year's Eve in Spain involves people having a family dinner and then gathering in the main square and awaiting midnight while enjoying the music of local musicians. When entering the square, you are given grapes, 12 pieces in particular, because for every clock tick at midnight you should eat one. If you manage to eat everything, it is believed that luck will follow you for all the 12 months of the following year. After the concert, you walk almost to the other side of the city, more precisely to the old part of the city by the ocean, where there are traditional cafes and restaurants that serve traditional beverages and food. The Spaniards, I would say, are tireless - their fiesta (party) lasts until dawn. Given that most of my friends went home for Christmas and New Year, I had full two weeks to explore and learn more about the city I am currently calling mine.

I discovered the so-called El mejor banco del mundo de Redondela, the place where the “most beautiful bench” in the world is located - the view that awaits when you reach the top of the hill is simply breathtaking. Galicia is full of such romantic and untamed coasts, and one of them is Costa del Muerte, or the coast of death, named after the large number of those who lost their lives in shipwrecks that have occurred in its turbulent waters. Years ago, people believed that this place was the end of the world and “the place where the souls of the dead start their journey to the stars.”

Today, Vigo is the largest city in this autonomous province - Galicia, and it is a blend of the traditional and the urban. It is surrounded by beautiful mountains on the one side, and on the other are the great and long beaches of the Atlantic Ocean – the smell of the ocean is felt even in the centre of the city.



In January, I also visited Cangas, a small town near Vigo, which can be reached by ship (the tickets cost just as much as bus tickets!). This town is quite small and has about 20.000 citizens, but it is extremely well developed. It is located along the coast so that “everything” is by the ocean. As you walk along the modern promenade, you will pass by many coffee shops and restaurants as well as benches with a wonderful view of the ocean. The day was sunny and warm, so my friends and I walked in summer shirts and no jackets in the middle of winter (January 13th!). As winter days without rain in Galicia are very rare, every day I spent as much time as possible on the nearby beaches and mountains.



LEJLA KORMAN – MY CAMBRIDGE EXPERIENCE (Tour of London)



After completing my first semester at Cambridge, my faculty friends and I decided to spend a few December days to visit London, prior to returning to Sarajevo. Although one of the first associations to London is rain, the temperature almost never drops below zero in winter, but the brisk wind is something you should be prepared for if you plan to visit London.

The journey from Cambridge to London is not a long one, more precisely it takes an hour by train. Upon arriving, I decided to first visit the Royal Observatory Greenwich which is in the immediate vicinity. The observatory itself is located on a hill, providing a panoramic view of the city from the observation posts. Greenwich, the part of the city where I was located, is a residential part and one of the most peaceful neighborhoods in London, buzzing with purity and built primarily of duplex cottages built with the characteristic English red brick.

In the evening, I decided to make the best of the Christmas spirit that was present in London and visit the Winter Wonderland, the event that takes place annually from mid-November to early January at the famous Hyde Park.

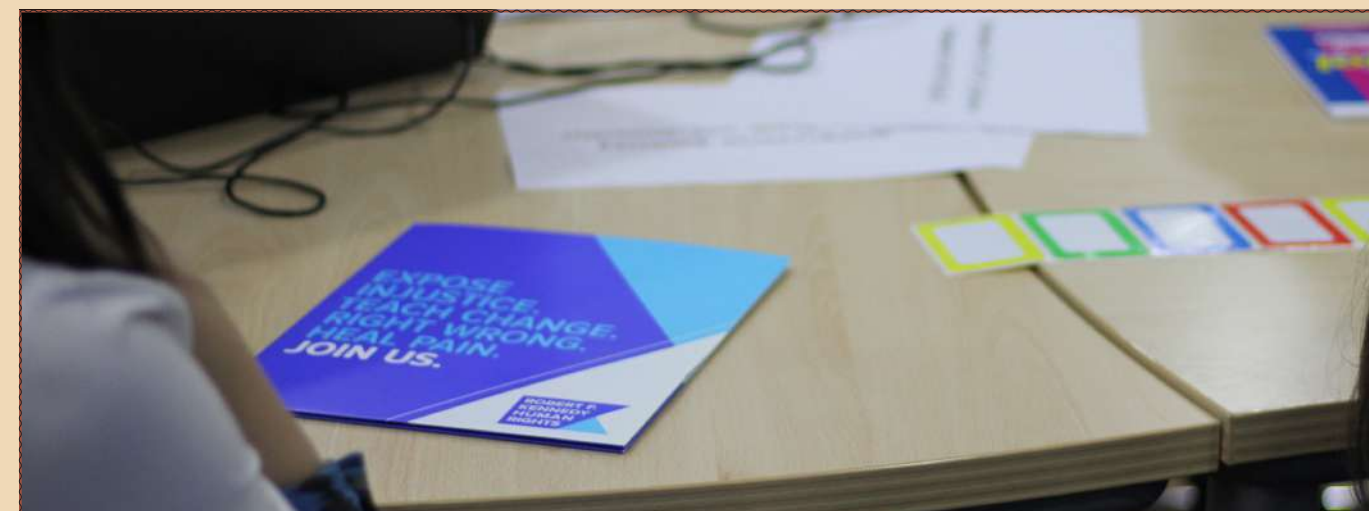
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In the evening, I decided to make the best of the Christmas spirit that was present in London and visit the Winter Wonderland, the event that takes place annually from mid-November to early January at the famous Hyde Park. Although I had previously looked up this event, I couldn't even imagine what the atmosphere in the city would be like. I would also say that it is best to visit the Winter Wonderland in the evenings, when the festival itself looks magical. Thousands of people were singing along Robbie Williams' hits, children and adults alike were entertained at the amusement park, and at one point it seemed to me as if the entire London was in one place.

U okviru programa „**SPEAK TRUTH TO POWER**“ održana dvodnevna radionica tematski posvećena zagovaranju ljudskih prava

The primary goal of the two-day workshop held in Sarajevo in cooperation with the Foundation Shared Societies and Values and titled „Speak Truth to Power“ was to build a more promising image of the Bosnian-Herzegovinian society by focusing primarily on the young people as the defenders of human rights. Given that respecting human rights and basic freedoms is one of the basis of the democratic model of a society, and that there are numerous examples in the BH society which show that these rights and freedoms are violated, it is of great significance that this problem is given more prominence. The focus of these workshops was on teachers and professors, i.e. the people who transfer their knowledge onto the young people, who are the carriers of our future. The essence of this project is to provide the insight into specific examples of human rights defenders in the world, which would then serve as the initial bases for implementing the fight for human rights in schools, communities and cities; this would consequently be reflected in the broader picture of the BH society in general.



The Hastor Foundation's Managing Director, Seid Fijuljanin, emphasized the fact that building a better and more perspective BH society is what should be essentially strived for, with the purpose of promoting and respecting human rights by fighting for a better tomorrow, both for ourselves but also for our community. The outcome of these workshops is that there are now 40 new young leaders who are human rights defenders in their local communities.



The idea to organize these workshops came from the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Foundation from the US, and the plan is to establish a regional network of both educators and human rights defenders in the Western Balkans. Another seminar of similar character is planned for this year, which would bring together both the professionals from the field of education, but also the decision makers.



STUDYING TIPS

The Funnel Method in Studying

reduce the stress in the exam period and improve your grades

The Funnel Method, whose ultimate goal is to optimize the complex process of acquiring new knowledge, is a comprehensive learning process comprising four authentic phases. These phases function as steps which bring us closer to the complete integration of new knowledge into our cognitive system. The aforementioned method is based on the compilation of a large amount of material into just a few sheets of paper with only the fundamental segments of knowledge that were previously required to be adopted. The funnel method is effective and applicable primarily because it is oriented towards the measurable and visual goal that we strive to achieve, by simultaneously measuring and monitoring our own progress. In addition, this method directly affects the reduction of pre-exam stress by positively affecting our self-confidence and providing visible evidence that you are entirely prepared for the exam. One particular benefit is that by implementing this method in your learning process, you will eliminate one of the most common questions most students ask themselves right before the exam: “have I covered all of the materials,” or “have I left something out”. Following the steps that will be explained in detail below, the funnel method can become your success formula!

1 PHASE: ORGANIZATION AND PLANNING

Although the common perception is that this step is a waste of time, its importance is almost crucial in learning according to the principles of the funnel method. The effective organization, which also includes an activity plan with dates specified, is considered as one half of the work you have to do. Not only does this reduce stress, but it also provides us with a great way to keep track of our own progress while studying for a certain subject. This in turn also affects our confidence.

2 PHASE: NOTE MAKING

When studying natural or social sciences, making notes related to the materials we strive to learn is considered the best way to involve all the senses in the cognitive process of remembering new concepts. As we work intensively on some materials, writing increases the possibility of remembering it, as well as of its transfer to the long-term memory.

3 PHASE: IMPROVIZED TEST

The principle of active reading involves a phase in which we actively approach our notes. During this step, the one who is studying plays a special role – according to your best way of remembering, you determine your own type of learning, which is most suitable for acquiring new knowledge (visual, auditory or combined). Numerous tests designed to determine the most effective type of learning are widely available on the web and within just a few minutes you can obtain this information based on the tests available. After determining the optimal way of learning, it is necessary to begin with the active learning process, which primarily involves summarizing the notes already made during the second phase of implementing the funnel method in the learning process.

4 PHASE : IMPROVIZED TEST

Designing an improvized test as a way of preparing for learning is something rarely done by students. However, by looking at all the benefits that this subsidiary segment has for learning, we come to the conclusion that it really needs to be given more importance. Namely, one of the most common stress factors during an exam is the psychological encounter with the new and the unknown. If we do our own simulation of the exam before taking the real exam, assuming we approach this step really seriously, our brain will be prepared for the situation, and consequently the stress will be reduced. The test also helps us to see our own mistakes and shortcomings in learning, and to use the remaining time before the exam, according to the results obtained, to work more on them.

Amina Vatreš

Adnan Hatibović



Our scholarship holder of the month of January is Adnan Hatibović, who has been part of the Foundation for only two years but has excelled at all his tasks and therefore justified the trust we placed in him.

Adnan was born in October 1996 in Sarajevo, and he is in his final year of master studies at the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Philosophy in Sarajevo. He says that he enrolled in this faculty following his affinities, not taking into account the perspectives of this field and the demands of the labor market, wanting to gain insights into issues that have been interesting to him through much of his educational process and that have prompted him to think more about them. He also maintains that the labor market should not dictate the choice of studies and that people should fight against the “industrialization” and “commercialization” of education which turned a person into means, thereby blocking their diverse potentials.

In short, doing something you love means investing a lot of effort that then leads to great success; being the best at something is a ticket to overcoming the grayness of the daily restrictions and obstacles.

Adnan spends his leisure time drawing comics, especially those of the Japanese Manga. He believes that one should develop their personality in a multidimensional way, focusing on the intellectual, spiritual-moral, creative-artistic and, ultimately, the physical aspect for the purpose of building a wholesome personality and fulfilling the human potential.

The time I spent and spent at the Foundation has been quite fun, inspiring, productive and stimulating for me. Within the Foundation, I have made new friendships and expanded my perspectives; the time here has allowed me to develop my abilities in different ways and given me opportunities to develop new ones necessary for my personal life and my career; I received inspiring impulses, heard inspirational stories and witnessed some stimulating projects or procedures first-hand- the Foundation provides us all with the financial help and the support that we need. In this way, the Hastor Foundation has given me the opportunity to develop in areas that I consider essential to human life and human progressiveness and to pave the way for further progress. Therefore, I am very happy to be part of this family.

We are very pleased to express our happiness and pride that our scholarship holders are young, enthusiastic, and perspective people who just need the opportunity to channel their potentials towards the domestic labor market. We heartily wish you to go through life doing what you really love, just as Adnan studies sociology!

Selma Imamović

DATES TO REMEMBER



World Cancer Day is celebrated every February 4 to raise awareness of cancer diseases, their prevention, diagnosis and treatment. Since 1933, we have historically associated the celebration of World Cancer Day with an international organization, the so-called Union for International Cancer Control, or UICC.

Founded in Geneva, this organization has highlighted the need to share knowledge and scientific and practical issues in all cancer-related fields worldwide. The idea for World Cancer Day was introduced at the first World Summit against Cancer held in Paris in 2000, where the representatives of various world governmental agencies and cancer organizations signed a charter known as the Charter of Paris against Cancer.

This charter cites ten different articles that describe how the global community is committed to improving the quality of life of cancer patients, as well as finding the cause and the means to end the disease. Article 10 of this Charter establishes February 4 as World Cancer Day. The World Health Organization predicts that the global number of patients will increase from 18 million in 2018 to 29.5 million in 2040, whereas the death toll will increase from 9.5 million to 16.4 million annually.

February 21 International Mother Language

International Mother Language Day, which is celebrated on February 21, was established by UNESCO in 1999. The United Nations General Assembly has recognized this holiday with a resolution and designated 2008 as the International Year of Languages. At a public rally on March 21, 1948, Mohammed Ali Jinnah, Governor General of Pakistan, declared Urdu the only official language of West and East Pakistan.

The people of East Pakistan (present-day Bangladesh), whose native language is Bengali, began to protest the decision. Students decided to protest on February 21, 1952, in order to call on all of East Pakistan to revolt. However, the government had called on Article 144 a day earlier. Although students had decided to protest but not to violate Article 144, police opened fire and killed several and wounded hundreds. International Mother Language Day is regularly celebrated by the UNESCO member countries to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism.



February 20 World Day of Social Justice

World Day of Social Justice has been celebrated on February 20 since 2007. After the proposition was unanimously supported by 192 UN members, the day was formally established by a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly. With this resolution, the General Assembly emphasized that social justice is only possible in societies that respect all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The purpose of commemoration is to ensure equal rights and opportunities within nations and among nations. The concept of social justice can be defined as a matter of poverty, unemployment and unjust exclusion, which necessarily lead to a degree of social harm. This undermines the welfare principle which is essential to the existence of any rule of law. Equal opportunities for all - the foundation of every healthy society! In a wider sense, social justice is the construction of a fair and just society in which all members can participate equally in the distribution of goods, that is, in the development of the human community.

In this section we will introduce the active young scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation, who, in addition to volunteering, do phenomenal things and thus represent the Foundation at its best! In the January issue of the newsletter, we present the scholarship holder:

Lamija Mezit

Lamija Mezit is a second-year student at the Faculty of Information Technologies in Mostar, majoring in Software Development, and she has been our scholarship holder for over a year. Prior to her entry into the world of activism, she focused on formal education, and the training offered by non-formal education and projects seemed abstract. The training of the Institute for Youth Development KULT "Learn, Think and Act" generation 13, changed Lamija's view of education. She found a new way to show her commitment and willingness to learn. Each starting point is difficult, and she admits that she did not immediately understand everything. Such work methodologies were not used throughout her education, but she quickly saw how applicable and useful the acquired knowledge was.



At that moment, her goal was to improve society and her local community through civic activism.

Civic engagement gives us the opportunity to voice our opinions out loud and not follow any party leaders. We can express our views and fight for what we truly believe in.

Non-formal education has provided her with a variety of theoretical knowledge applicable in practice and the development of competencies that are significant in today's labor market. She points out that in today's society it is impossible to expect and have a guarantee of a single job for an entire lifetime, for which we are prepared through the process of formal education. After that training, she participated in numerous seminars, workshops, courses and administrations of governmental and non-governmental organizations.



By actively participating in all these activities, I have become enriched with a multitude of new experiences, knowledge, skills and ability to respond successfully to new challenges and obstacles in the modern and turbulent lifestyle. Through non-formal education, much more attention is paid to interpersonal relationships, which has helped me expand my perspectives and better understand myself and other people.

Her first project is titled "The beach is in order! Let's all go for a swim!". This project is an example of a positive activity that leaves the future generations of her fellow citizens with enough space for action and a motivation and basis for many other positive activities. Among her virtues, she emphasizes persistence and the fact that, despite so much work, she manages to reconcile all obligations and does not give up any of the activities she chooses to pursue. In her spare time, she creates websites and is also a member of the Association of Volunteers and Friends of the Konjic Region, which provided her with the greatest support in the implementation of the project.

Community recognizes quality youth! In December 2018, she was recognized for civic activism and developing democracy, and in 2019 she was recognized as the best volunteer of the year in the Konjic Municipality.



"In addition to the realization of the project 'The beach is in order! Let's all go for a swim!' there is another project that I have worked on with the Volunteers and Friends of the Konjic Region, which is called the Children's Smile Carnival. We have been implementing it for six years in a row now."

Community recognizes quality youth! In December 2018, she was recognized for civic activism and developing democracy, and in 2019 she was recognized as the best volunteer of the year in the Konjic Municipality.

I think that young people need to devote more time to youth activism. Activism, in whatever form, is something incredible. Young people often perceive it simply as free labor, but it is so much more than that. Activism provides incredible opportunities for learning, working, traveling, but most importantly, it provides an opportunity for your voice to be heard. This is the most important thing, through all this work that I do, a young person can gain a lot, but they can also help their peers, parents, the local community and so on.

She has a few words for the scholarship-holders of the Foundation:

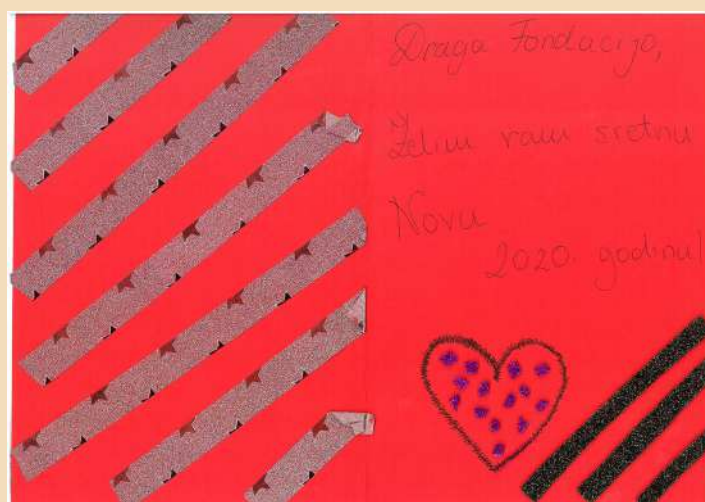
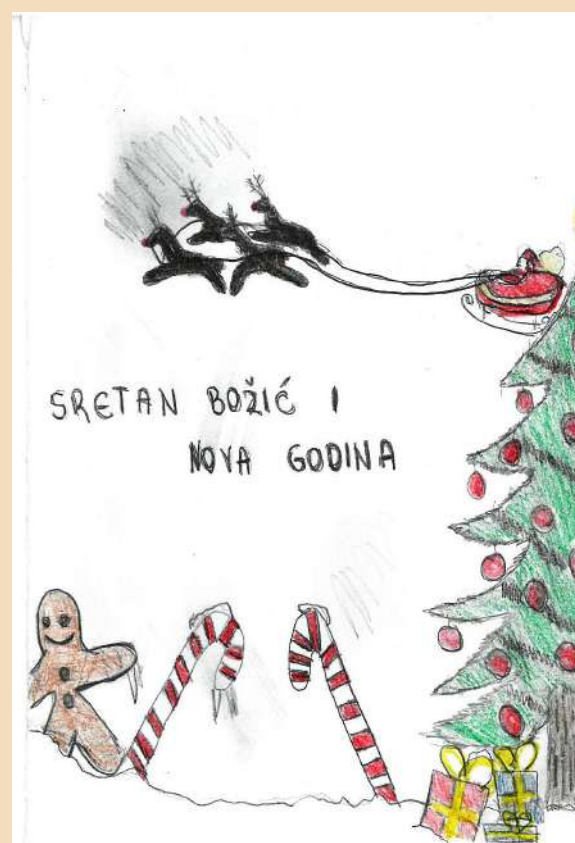
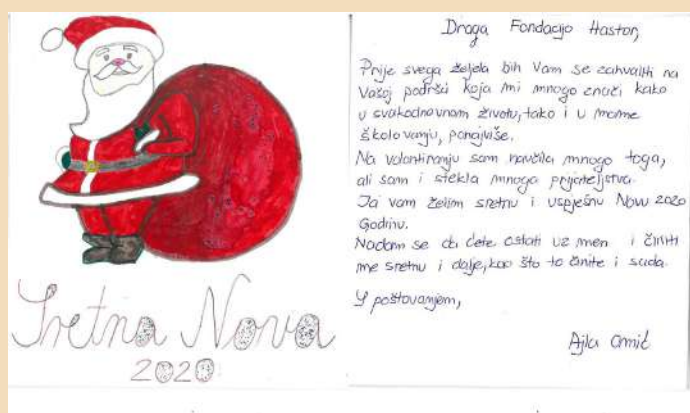
“We need to take matters into our own hands and deal with situations we encounter throughout our lives, so we need to activate and fight to be in a better place. That is why we have to learn over and over again, expand our knowledge and our capabilities.”



His name is Happiness

Joy is sometimes a stranger to our paths, but once we get to know her, the beauty of her presence stays with us forever. On the thirty-first of December, now already last year, I found happiness in the smile of a child, and it settled into my life and gave me the promise that it would be here for the entire year of the paths I have yet to walk. Worrying I might be late because of the festive crowds, I walked quickly to the bus station. As it turned out, there was no need to worry, but the desire to feel the smell of my home as soon as possible justified my pace. On platform 10, a refined lady was trying to calm her mischievous son, who could not wait to get to Novi Pazar where his grandmother was waiting. I remember the colorful hat that covered all his hair, and the lips stretched out in a smile. It seems to me that the joy he was spreading made it impossible for anything else to spread around. We didn't exchange many words, but he told me that he was looking forward to his grandmother's dish sarma and that he did not know any greater joy than that. His mother and he had left before I did, but the happiness hidden in his eyes was still trembling in my heart. I decided - I'll be happy because I'm breathing. Nobody needs a better reason than being alive. You should be happy too. Make every day an opportunity to make someone happy with a smile. May every morning of yours be bathed in sunshine. This is mostly up to you. Remember that you are alive and let that be the motivation for you to express joy of a boy whose name I did not know. However, I feel somewhere in the depths of myself that his name is Happiness.

New Year Greetings from our Scholarship Holders

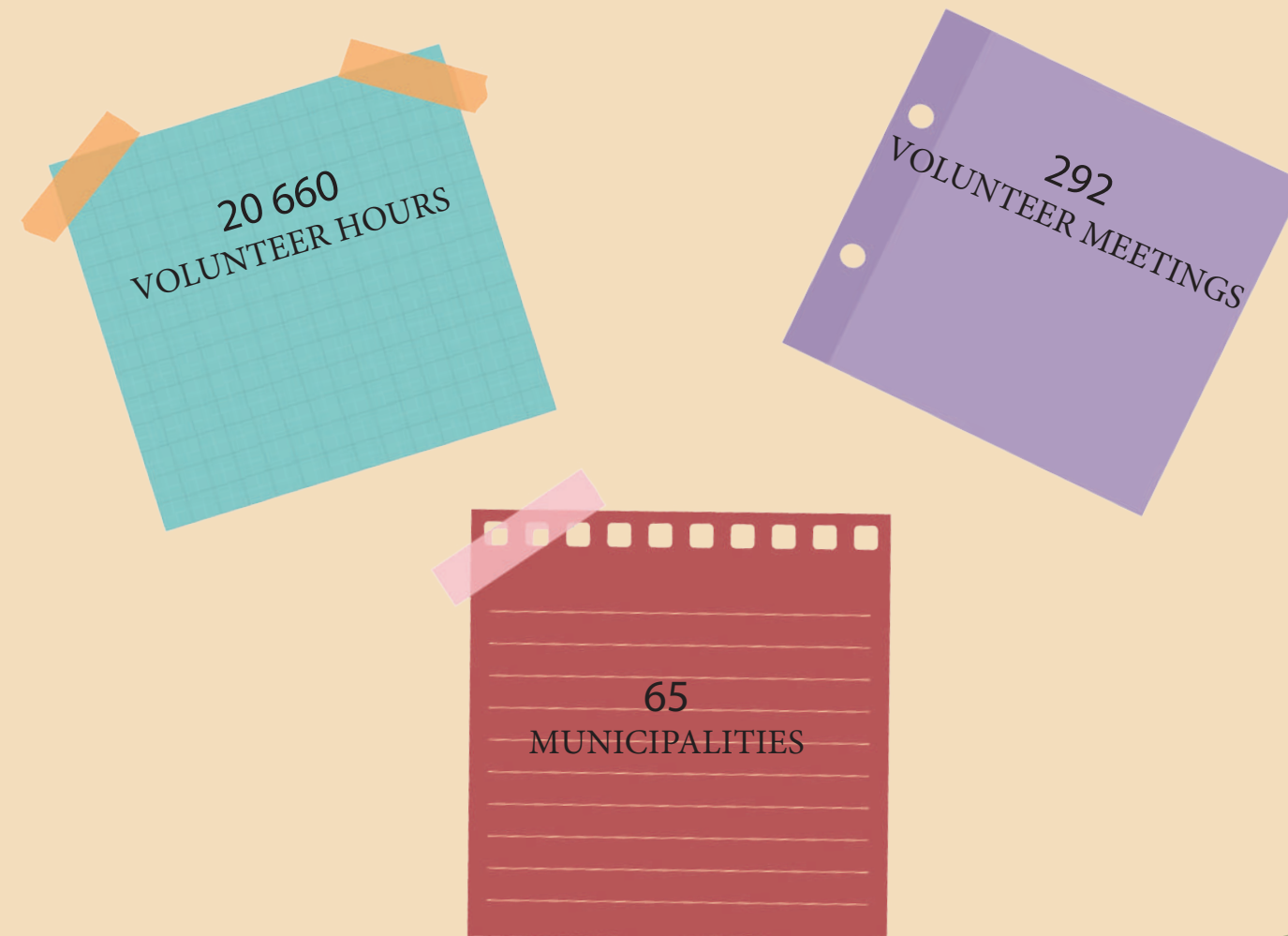


Dear Hastor Foundation,

Before I write anything, I want to thank you for your help and all that you have done for me during all these years. My life has changed a lot since I became your grantee. I now have two families; the first is the one I live with and whom I love a lot, and the other family is you. With your help, I met many scholarship holders and made new friendships. Mentors who work with us do our best to help us whenever we need help with anything. My mentor Armin helped me a lot with English last year, and then mentor Alija took his place. Ever since last year, I wanted to write this letter to you, but I felt ashamed. I thought I had the courage, but I failed again. Here is what it is all about ... As you know, I am a 7th grader in Primary School Donja Lohinja. I don't know where to start, but I'll just write the basic stuff. It seems to me that the school attended by my brother, two sisters, myself and many other children is getting worse from day to day. Children from our school with their teachers make cakes and various things according to the possibilities, which we sell, and with the collected money we buy something for our school. At a collective meeting held at our school, parents and teachers decided to seek help from different foundations for the renovation of our school in the hope that at least some of them would respond and help us. I have decided to address you first, to ask you if you are able in any way to help us renovate my school. There are teachers in my school who buy the necessary hygiene products with their own money. Old benches, broken tables, wooden stairs, broken doors in classrooms are just some of the things we students hope will be replaced with better ones with the help of good people. We are determined, like our parents, to provide help, make various things and sell them in the hope that we will at least raise some money for the things mentioned before. Most of all, I would love if you could be our guest at school and see for yourself in what conditions students learn, work and achieve great results. If you are not able to help us, I want you to know that you have done a great deal for me, and for that I am very grateful. I can promise you that I will work harder, learn, and strive to be an even better student, if God gives. When I grow up, I want to do research and help those who need help. People I never knew made my life more beautiful and better, not only for me, but for my family. I, too, want to make many others happy, just as my other family does. My Hastor Foundation. Greetings to you all.

Your scholarship holder,
Talha Alić

The database showed that the scholarship holders and volunteers of the Hastor Foundation reached the number of 20.660 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 292 volunteer meetings in 68 municipalities across Bosnia and Herzegovina. Our students who are part of the Administration Team, Editorial Board, Translating Team, Design Team, Social Networks Team and the Monitoring Team of the Hastor Foundation contributed greatly to this number, as well as students who work on developing maintaining the Hastor Foundation app and web page.



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