

# NEWSLETTER



FONDACIJA  
HASTOR



FEBRUARY 2020.

# THE STORY FROM THE MONTHLY MEETING

## WHAT IS IMPORTANT FOR FUTURE EMPLOYMENT?

This year's second monthly meeting of college student scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation was held on Saturday, February 15, at the premises of ASA-Prevent Group. This was also the first meeting for the Hastor Foundation's new scholarship holders. After the last Call for Scholarship Applications, the Hastor Foundation family has 21 new members!

The group had the opportunity to listen to Mr. Kenan Kekić, who is currently the Executive Director of Eurofarm Centar, a private health institution. His 17-year-long experience in managerial positions, and the experience he gained through more than a thousand interviews he was part of, led to him being chosen as one member of the Commission for awarding scholarships of the Hastor Foundation. The topics that Mr. Kekić discussed with scholarship holders were "Where to after my studies?", "How to be prepared for an interview?" and "Bosnian proverbs and sayings".

Kenan shared with the Foundation's scholarship holders his life story and his path to success, with a powerful message that nothing should ever be an excuse or an obstacle on the path of accomplishing our goals – both the professional and the personal ones. The following part of Kenan's lecture was given from the perspective of "the one who employs", thereby wanting to provide some guidance to students and present to them what it is that the employer expects from a potential employee.

Kenan devoted special attention to the meaning of the term "positioning", emphasizing its importance by providing different examples. Afterwards, he told the students that preparation and presentation during an interview play the key role during the selection process for any position. This is precisely why the main topic of the February meeting of college student scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation was "How to be prepared for an interview?".

Our guest emphasized that it is necessary to thoroughly read the call for the position you are applying to, and to find out as much as you can about the company – its mission, vision, size, turnover, etc.

Good preparation will not only provide the candidate with self-confidence, but also help them make their CV and come up with the responses to the questions asked. However, our guest points out the fact that about 55% of the impression about a candidate is made based on their non-verbal communication. This is one of the reasons why it is necessary to constantly work on it and improve it.

It is not rare that the employer asks many questions during an interview for a job/scholarship, and these are intended to make the candidate think and to have them show their reaction in front of the employer. The guest lecturer revealed the questions that are most often asked during interviews, as well as the best responses to these questions. He also explained to the scholarship holders how to avoid revealing too much unnecessary information, and how to use the situation for their personal benefit.

Our guest saved the last part of the lecture for proverbs and sayings that can often be heard in our surroundings, especially when interacting with older generations. However, he emphasizes that some of these can have a bad effect on our motivation and decrease the productivity among the employees.

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Once another wonderful lecture by a guest lecturer was brought to its close, the scholarship holders had the opportunity to resolve any uncertainties in terms of their volunteer obligations. The guest lecturer at the February meeting talked about something that is essential to all students when entering the business world. Well thought out techniques and skills linked to nonverbal and assertive communication, good preparation, experience, and that something that "makes us different from everyone else" are the characteristics that will make us valuable and promising in the labor market.



## A roundtable held in the framework of project IDEAL :

### “IMPROVING EDUCATION THROUGH COOPERATION BETWEEN ECONOMY AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS WITH EXAMPLES WITH GOOD PRACTICE”

A roundtable “Improving education through cooperation between economy and educational institutions with examples of good practice” held in Tuzla on February 20, organized by the Hastor Foundation, German GIZ and PREVENT Components d.o.o. Goražde, was primarily devoted to discussing the possibilities of participation of the economic sector in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the creation of educational policies. In that sense, the crucial and the long-term goal of these discussions is oriented towards adjusting the education system to the needs of the labor market, all with the aim of overcoming the increasingly noticeable lack of skilled labor.

According to the previous experience, reflected in the positive practice within other cantons, which implies a kind of synergy and compatibility of the educational and economic domain, holding a roundtable resulted in the creation of a similar initiative in the area of Tuzla Canton. We remind you that PREVENT Components d.o.o. Goražde, in cooperation with the German GIZ, is implementing the project IDEAL - “Improving and Developing the Educational and Learning System for plastic workers in BH”, all within the framework of develoPPP.de, a program of the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development.

Namely, all the necessary economic and legal prerequisites have been secured so that a school in BPC is able to send a whole class of plastician students to full-time internships at companies in their city, all within regular formal education. Considering the fact that the implementation of the said project required serious preparation, including continuous advocacy at all levels, and in accordance with its long-term aspiration, the project was quickly met with support and understanding. This is a specific approach in the field of formal vocational education, which will further result in the necessary alignment of the education system with the specific needs of the labor market, all with the aim of generating a skilled workforce through strengthening and development, beginning in the basic level - the level of regular practical education.



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It is also important to emphasize the fact that the Foreign Trade Chamber of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as a highly relevant economic factor, is involved in the process of promoting and creating occupational standards, and is focused on activities related to animating BiH business entities. Therefore, the primary goal is for the BiH companies to take part in designing high quality curricula and in that sense efficiently align them with specific market requirements and needs.

„What we have done in another local community, we want to do in the entire area, not only of Tuzla Canton, but also in the wider area of BiH. We believe that such activities are not only important for employers and the economy, but in the long run, for young people in BiH and their families, as well as for the country itself, said Hastor Foundation Managing Director Seid Fijuljanin.



One of the most significant results of the IDEAL project is supporting the development of specific occupational standards for plastic workers in the form of a single document that defines specific conditions, or more precisely the set of knowledge and skills required to operate in the plastic industry. The creation of a modern curriculum for the aforementioned profession was based on the established standard for plastic workers, and the curriculum is fully compatible with the needs of the market in the field of BiH plastic industry.

Amina Vatreš

## IMPLEMENTING THE STATE-OF-THE-ART EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM TO GAIN A QUALIFIED WORKFORCE AND RESPOND TO LABOR MARKET NEEDS IN THE LONG TERM

In search of an efficient and long-term response to the contemporary needs of the labor market, and with the aim of overcoming the ever more present problem of the lack of qualified workers in different sections of the industry, the cooperation between Bosnian-Herzegovinian PREVENT Components d.o.o. Company in Goražde, the Ministry of education of BPC and the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ) resulted in designing a state-of-the-art educational system for the profession of a plastic worker. The aforementioned educational system was established by adapting to the specific requirements and needs primarily of the private sector in BiH, and its implementation began in the 2019/2020 school year.

It is important to emphasize that vocational education for the profession of a plastic worker can be gained in only one school in BiH, and that is the Secondary Vocational School „Džemal Bijedić“ in Goražde. The rather significant practical part of the education happens in the facilities of the PREVENT Components Company. Being a socially responsible company, PREVENT Components is involved in different programs and projects which have a clear vision and a specific plan directed towards improving the general image of the society in BiH, in the field of education, as well as in other socially relevant fields. Given that it fully recognizes the specific requirements of the contemporary labor market, this company tries to transfer the knowledge, experience and skills to the students, which they inevitably need to become professionals in their future jobs. In this manner, the company ensures the fundamental prerequisites for generating a qualified workforce.

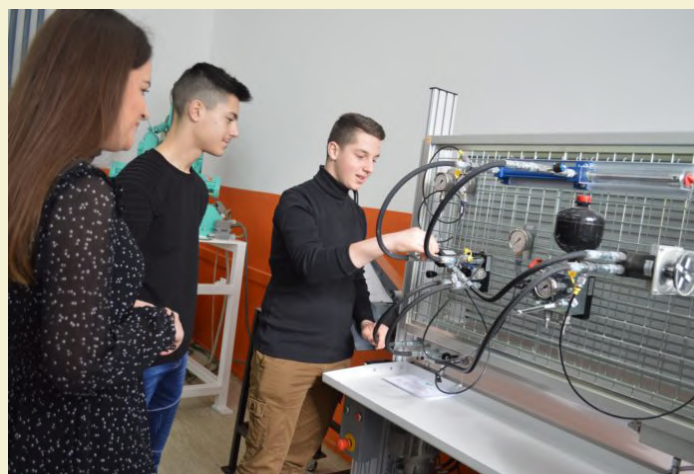
Thinking along these lines, Dženana Omanović, a mentor at PREVENT Components, says that the focus of all efforts should be on creating and sustaining a link between the curriculum and the practical classes, as well as on providing the students with the possibility of applying in practice the theoretical knowledge they've gained. The contemporary curriculum for the profession of a plastic worker determines precisely what the mentor will work on with the students during every one of their visits to the company's facilities.



Namely, the focus is on an individual approach to all students and assigning them to different segments of production; in this manner each of the students will get a more comprehensive insight into all elements, but also into their significance for the whole production process. The recommendation from those in charge at PREVENT Components is to use the aforementioned state-of-the-art curriculum to establish new standards for other professions as well, according to the needs of the private sector.

Considering that the plastic industry is a fast-growing and a strong economic sector in BiH, and given that the lack of a qualified workforce was easily noticed, the impact of the economic sector on creating educational policies, particularly in the cases of vocational professions, is of particular significance. Efficient cooperation and adequate harmony between economic entities and the educational system would largely solve the ever more present problem of the lack of a qualified workforce, but also the search for it.

The importance of this project, both for the students and for the plastic industry itself, is described by Seid Fijuljanin, the Managing Director of the Hastor Foundation, as follows: „Not only did children not have the opportunity to have practical classes in companies, but many of them did not even know what a facility, for the profession they are studying for, looks like. This is one of the great successes of this project. Not only will children become familiar with work processes, production processes, not to mention modern technologies, but they will also be able to learn how to love what they do, to understand that there is a job in BiH that is well above everything that is happening here. Those who seek employment after secondary school will have the opportunity to find it in a modern company and environment, with the support of colleagues.”



We would like to remind of the fact that the PREVENT Components Company and the German GIZ are implementing the IDEAL „Improving and Developing the Educational and Learning System for plastic workers in BH” project, and one of its most relevant contributions is the support to establishing standards for the profession of a plastic worker, which will on a long-term basis define the specific conditions, knowledge and skills necessary to perform this profession. The curriculum, which will be oriented towards meeting the market needs, and in the long term towards increasing the probability of employment after completing secondary vocational education, will be adapted according to the standard established, which is the basis for the further process.

## MULTITALENTERD SCHOLARSHIP HOLDER

# Amina Hećo

## AND HER ACHIVEMENTS IN VARIOUS SPORT COMPETITIONS



Given the fact that the Hastor Foundation is an organization that promotes progress and support for young people in various fields, we are quite pleased when our scholarship holders excel in various sports.

Sport enables children to develop their humane qualities and as such promotes authentic human values, which occurs during a person's upbringing. An upbringing oriented towards love, life, empathy and community protects us from being selfishly on our own, thus building a strong opposition to drugs, alcohol and crime, which are rather widespread today.

For one of our scholarship holders, sport has become an indispensable part of everyday life. Fourteen-year-old Amina Hećo, a ninth-grade pupil at the Primary School "Sheikh Muhammad ef. Hadžijamaković" in Sarajevo, is actively involved in: swimming, gymnastics, ballet, football, whereas she says that judo and volleyball are her favorite, and she has won numerous medals in these sports.







Judo is a Japanese martial art and an Olympic sport, in which Amina has the orange belt; she says that her goal is to represent her homeland at the Olympics. Amina is also a long-time member of the KUD “Bašćaršija” folklore ensemble.

In addition to her schoolwork and extracurricular activities, Amina is regularly present at the monthly volunteer meetings of the Hastor Foundation.

Her mentor, Adela Zenkić, says the following about Amina:

“Amina is full of positive energy, a true sports soul, a great adventurer and always brings a dose of a special atmosphere to our volunteer activities.”

We hope that, in the world of sports, Amina’s name will become a synonym for skill and perfectionism.



## BERINA'S WORLD OF POETRY

Berina Golub is a sophomore student at the Faculty of Philosophy, Department of Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian Language and Literature in Zenica. She played football at ŽNK Čelik for about three years, so her love for football and sport in general is quite high.

Her start in writing was spontaneous, and she mentioned that the world of writing is one that makes her feel very good. She wrote her first verses back in primary school, and after a break, she began writing actively at the end of secondary school, which resulted in the publication of her poem "Trenutak u bijegu" (A Moment on the Run) in the collection of poems.

This is very good, because there are very few such things and events, and this is an exceptional opportunity for students to present themselves and their poetry in the best light. I have always been humble, on my own and inside my own world, and poetry is my second, stronger voice in which I present myself differently.

„Poiesis“ is the first collection of poems by students of the University of Zenica published by the Eidos Association for Philosophy and Social Humanities. As it was mentioned by the association, it is the first, but not the last collection, and they will strive to turn it into a tradition for the purpose of encouraging students to write, but also for them to be able to stand out in that sphere of art.

Berina's friends persuaded her to send her three poems, and one of those poems found its place just inside the cover of the original Poiesis, which resulted in delight.

She encourages all students and scholarship holders of the Foundation who write poetry to use every possible call for poetry contests, or anything related to poetry, and to apply. She points out that sometimes the results will be positive and sometimes not, but that in the end their artworks will be noticed, as well as read.

One can never work too much on themselves, so Berina points out that it is necessary to practice writing, to read and be inspired, in order to improve and perfect over time and so be able to stand out.



## A moment of escape

I let my hair down  
Looking at the silhouette  
Of my shadow on the floor,  
Lying peacefully.

I opened the door to my fears  
To all my wishes not yet fulfilled,  
To go out and chase the others,  
Because I had nowhere to keep them.

The clock is ticking,  
And I stand frozen before it,  
Like a blind man not knowing what awaits  
On this path of no return...

I am still here and I look  
At my reflection on the dusty floor...  
I look too cold,  
It seemed as if it is not me,  
But I cannot stop looking.

The moonlight shone even brighter  
Over my body,  
I saw my shadow,  
I saw someone's blood beside it...

Good heavens!  
I felt nothing,  
Neither pain nor sadness nor grief.  
As if everything in me died  
As if my eyes were of glass...

It's time for me to go,  
Someone is coming for me...  
My last moment in this world...  
And I, I just wanted once more  
To touch her, to look at her,  
That's the only thing I wanted...  
But it was late, I did not turn around...

Oh, I say farewell to you!  
You, a man of flesh and blood,  
We will never meet again...  
My last words, softly said,  
Somewhere in the depths of something...

## THE TALENTED SCHOLARSHIP HOLDER OF HASTOR FONDATION

# Sara-Medina Šehović

## QUALIFIED OF THE EUROPIAN PHYSICS OLIMPYAD



The Foundation has, first and foremost, provided me with new friends. How it functions is really special. All the scholarship holders are connected, and many of us made unbreakable bonds and friendships. This is why I perceive the meetings in the Foundation as a gathering with my friends where our wish and goal are the same – we want to learn something new.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is a country rich in natural, cultural and historical heritage, but it is also a country with many talented young people.

One of these talented and diligent persons is Sara-Medina Šehović, a fourth-grade pupil at the Richmond Park College in Sarajevo, and she has been our scholarship holder for just over a year. She says that ever since she was little she would solve the tasks and problems that were intended not for her age, but for older students, and ever since primary school she has partaken in physics competitions. Her love for natural sciences persisted during her secondary education, given that she accomplished great successes in cantonal, federal and national competitions. Sara-Medina particularly mentioned the following: Cantonal physics competition, Group A3, 3rd place, and Federal physics competition, Group B, 1st place.

The last competition, held on the 22nd and 23rd of February, was a selectional competition for the European Physics Olympiad. Our scholarship holder won the third place and thereby qualified for the Olympiad, which will be held in Romania at the beginning of June this year.



We hope that she will return with joy and another success – a golden one.

Medina says that numerous competitions are ahead, where she will compete to qualify for the International Physics Olympiad.

In her leisure time, she loves to read, and her inexhaustible inspiration is the nature, whose entire functioning can always be explained in physics.

We are proud and happy to be accomplishing our ideas and visions, which is to help young people – from financial, moral and educational aspects – in becoming conscious academic citizens who will be active members of their communities, and the society in general.

Selma Imamović

# ERASMUS EXPERIENCES OF OUR SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS

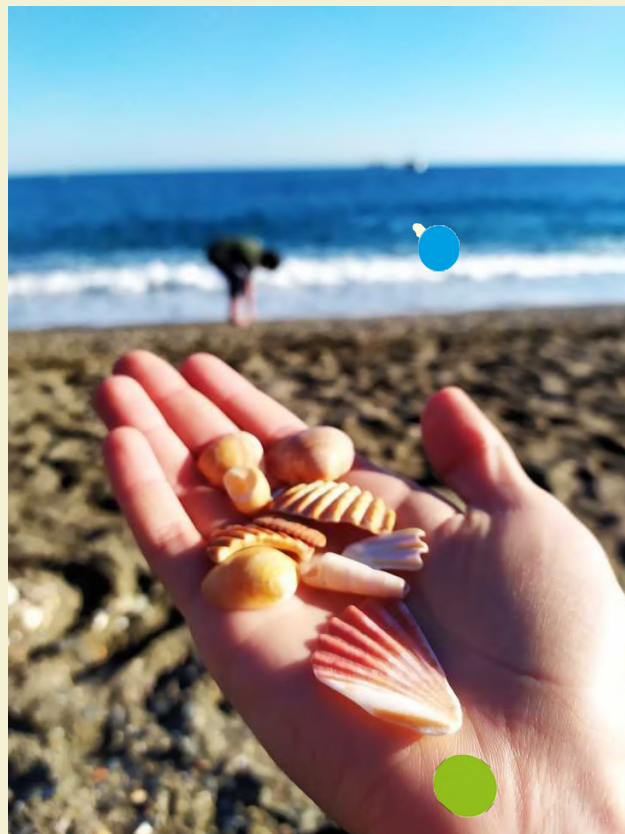


## Narcisa Hadžajlić: Spain – Malaga

Lisbon was for me the most beautiful metropolis on the list of cities I visited during the Erasmus program, but now Malaga comes first. I visited Malaga twice, first in December when my colleagues and I signed up for a day trip and the second time for New Year's.

On our first trip, we first visited the main shopping port of Malaga, where tents with New Year's amenities, souvenirs and sweets were already set up. It was interesting to have a taste of the winter atmosphere and see the artificial snow on the tents and Christmas trees as the palm trees rose in the background of the fair, with the blue sea gilded with sunshine. That day I experienced the hottest winter day of my life with over 20 degrees! As we were passing between the tents and walking along the beach, we came to Alcazaba de Malaga, a castle similar to Santa Catalina in Jaen, both having the same purpose: the defense of the city. Alcazaba was first built by Islamic dynasties in Spain, under whose rule the city was named Malaga or Malaka, which in Arabic means empire. To visit Alcazaba, we had to walk about 15 minutes to the top of the hill where it was located. Today, as part of the castle, a small museum is also present, with war exhibits, medical tools, books and old records, arranged according to the historical course of events. At the foot of Alcazaba, there is also the Castillo Gibralfaro Castle with gardens similar to the Alhambra in Granada.

After the visit and lunch, we returned to the beach to see the magical sunset, where we even found people swimming in the warm December water! Afterwards we headed to the main square of the city, where the famous Christmas lights, Luces de Malaga, are lit every year. There we found a crowd of people gathered at the beginning of the square, with their phones ready to record the spectacular show of turning on decorative bows made of multicolored light bulbs arranged around the whole street of the square. The musical play of these lights began with the New Year's songs at 7pm sharp and lasted for 15 minutes.



After that, the lights remained on and people went their ways, continuing their walks and going shopping.

Wonderful atmosphere and wonderful people, palm trees, beaches and lights of Malaga; all of this made us plan another short trip to Malaga. We were able to find and pay for a hostel for New Year's Eve near Alcazaba, sharing the room with five other Moroccan students. Before the New Year's Eve celebration, we toured the old part of town and the main cathedral, which is very similar to the one in Jaen, only larger and with more artistic details. Not far from the cathedral, a concert was held in the square where small packs of 12 green grapes were distributed, representing 12 months of the year. It is common for all these grapes to be eaten during the last seconds of the old year. Some say that if you don't eat the grapes within the last 36 seconds, the time will pass by faster in the new year! The big clock was ticking on a creamy building behind the scenes and displayed a greeting card: Feliz Ano Nuevo!

The concert continued, with people congratulating each other or sending greetings over video calls. It was by chance that we saw a woman congratulate the New Year on her cell phone in our beautiful Bosnian language. We approached her with a lot of excitement and she introduced herself, saying that she is from Bosnia, but that she has been living in Sweden for a long time. Once again, we were convinced that this is a small world indeed! We carried on, walking in the streets and watching people congratulate each other and families with happy children in restaurants. We also stopped by a Moroccan cafeteria near a hostel and tried a traditional Moroccan soup that warmed us nicely. The soup was slightly spicy with peppers and plenty of lentils, chickpea and some tomatoes. We didn't stay there for too long and we quickly returned to the hostel.

We decided to spend the first of January on the beach. All restaurants and cafes were open and filled with tourists. The weather was nice and pleasant and the sun was bright on the clear sky, but the water was cold.



We talked about a lot of things in that beautiful atmosphere, and our main topic was: why do we celebrate New Year and is it because we feel like we were given another chance for a better life or is it just some kind of euphoria? One may be sad because they have actually aged another year or have achieved nothing positive during the last year; someone else, though, may be happy because they see the new year as a new opportunity, regardless of the successful or unsuccessful year behind, because it is just another experience and cannot be brought back. While collecting beautiful orange and white seashells on the beach, we came to two conclusions: that we embrace the new year as our dearest guest who brings us 365 golden opportunities and that we will celebrate each new day as we work to bring happiness to ourselves, our family and others; and that we still miss some snow in this New Year's atmosphere!

# Nejla Komar: Spain



After two weeks of exam terms and successfully passed exams from the previous semester, many changes were ahead. Namely, the only girl from Bosnia and Herzegovina who was with me at the Conservatory went back home in Tuzla in late January. The friends from Serbia and France, that I met here, were also here for only one semester. It was sad to say goodbye to them, but I will never forget some of these moments, such as the last ones when we realized how much we all changed, how our perspectives were broadened and what we got as a reward - our unbreakable bonds. After saying goodbye to them, going back home and continuing with my life felt like being here again for the first day. I felt like I was starting so many things from scratch. In fact, this was also one way of getting out of my comfort zone, moving from my closest friends to some new people, a new schedule and a new life with new roommates. Of course, not all is new - I still have my close friends, the Spaniards, who seemed to somehow know that this would happen even before I did, so they devoted even more of their time to show me new places and focus my attention on other things.

Two of my friends, Emilio and his brother Santiago, took me to the traditional Galician celebration of San Blas (saint).

St. Blaise is the saint of wild beasts; in Italy he is known as San Biagio, and in Spanish speaking countries as San Blas. Many places “borrowed” his name (e.g. the San Blas Islands in Panama). This was my closest experience and encounter with the Galician tradition: it all happened in a small village in the mountains called Bembrive, where people were dressed in traditional clothing. Each house served their own home-cooked food specifically for the occasion. Although, you would probably be full of something called tapas, which is the common name for the (free) food served with any drink you order. An obligatorily traditional one and something you won't find anywhere else; sweets are usually served with coffee and salty snacks with other drinks. You need some form of transport to the nearest store.

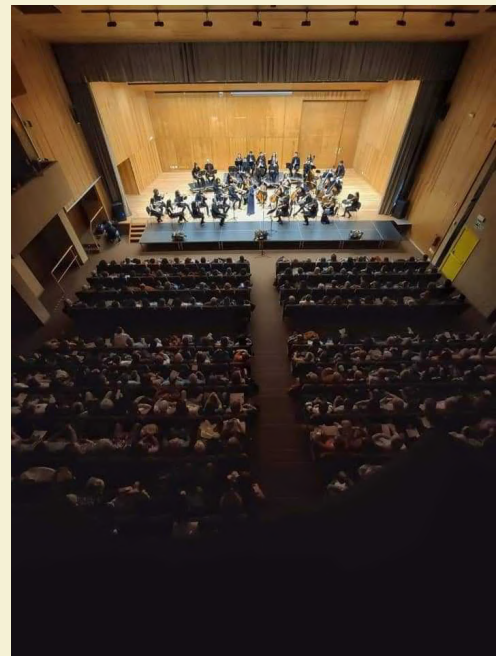
I had the opportunity to listen to traditional bagpipe ensembles, the so-called Pandereteiras. It really was an experience I couldn't get anywhere else, and it is not likely that I would have found it by myself. To my great delight, and given that the two friends I mentioned are musicians and have their own ensemble, they have prepared some songs from the Balkans for us! My heart was filled with joy while listening to them trying to sing the lyrics in our language, while trying to grasp and present our style of music to the people there. Those who heard this music for the first time were intrigued by new rhythms and a completely different sound.



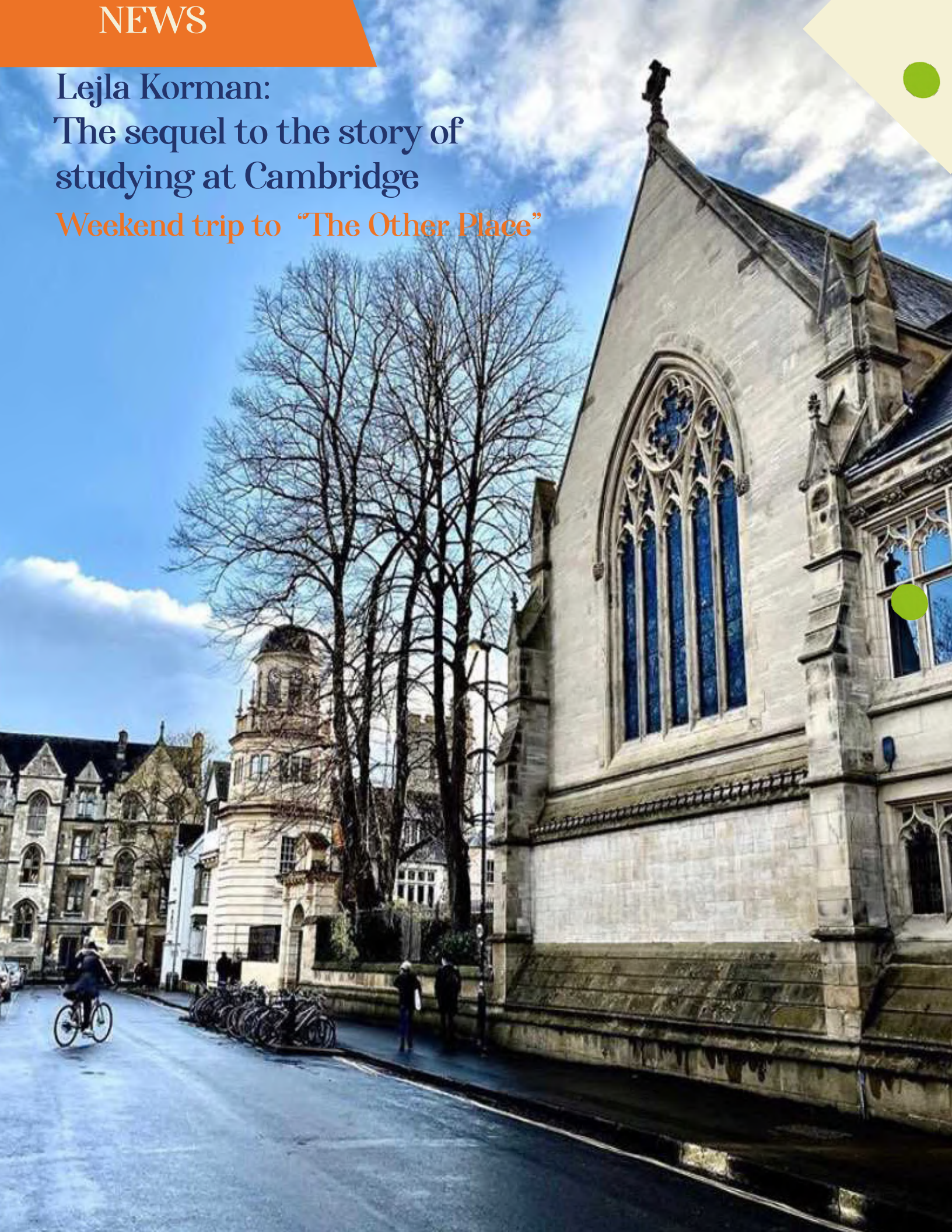
In the middle of the month, I had the honor to be part of another project with the Orquestra Vigo 430, the orchestra I have played with several times before. This time we hosted Rosanne Philippens from the Netherlands, who is considered one of the best violinists of today. This is shown by the fact that she was given an extremely rare violin, a Barrera from 1727, from the Stradivarius family. There is only a handful of Stradivarius violins in the world and they are originally from Italy - the architect Antonio Stradivari was born in 1644 in Cremona, and to this day he is considered the most significant maker of musical instruments. His instruments are estimated to about \$45 million, but they are regardless almost impossible to buy - they are usually only lent to extremely influential musicians, and with strict rules. Seeing such a specimen in a museum is one thing, but listening to and playing along with it is something else entirely.

Rosanne is a violinist whom I listened to throughout my education and learned from her recordings, and now I had the opportunity to work with her. It was the first time I had met someone who is so influential in what they do and possesses the following characteristics; she is extremely modest, down to earth, relaxed, and radiates incredibly positive energy. I have learned that working with someone so important does not necessarily mean feeling inferior in any sense - quite the opposite. She worked with us so we all felt like we had been working together for years and I realized that we were absolutely worth her time and effort. We reached that moment precisely because of that. In orchestras, a lot is actually a matter of communication and mutual respect. We had three concerts with Rosanne in three cities: Redondela, Lugo and Vigo. The one that left the greatest impression on me is Lugo.

Lugo is a small town in northern Galicia, a few hour's drive from Vigo. What is interesting is that it is the only city in the world surrounded by completely intact Roman walls, reaching a height of 10 to 15 meters along a 2117 meter-long circle, surrounded by 71 towers. The upper part of the wall is continuous in a circle and has ten gates. These 3rd century walls are protected by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. Before I visit a place, I usually read a lot and explore more about it.



Lejla Korman:  
The sequel to the story of  
studying at Cambridge  
Weekend trip to “The Other Place”



One of my favorite destinations in the UK that I visited this year was definitely Oxford, or as Cambridge students call it “The Other Place”, because of the centuries-long rivalry between the two universities. The city of magical colleges, punts on the river and academics riding their bicycles is perfect for a weekend getaway. There are hundreds of years of academic and literary history, with museums through which famous scholars, philosophers, authors and politicians have walked. However, Oxford also has its modern side, with many cafes and restaurants to explore. Seemingly very similar to Cambridge, Oxford is a much larger city than Cambridge and has a large business community.

The University of Oxford comprises 38 colleges spread across the city. Many are open to visitors. The most famous college is Christ Church - because of the role of Hogwarts in Harry Potter, but also because of celebrated alumni like Lewis Carroll, Albert Einstein and a record of 13 British prime ministers.

I began my journey with a multimedia tour of the grand staircase, dining room and cathedral of Christ Church, which is also the main cathedral of Oxford. After that I went to many other colleges, such as Merton, Magdalenu (pronounced “mawd-lin”), Corpus Christi, Hertford, All Souls and Oriel.

To get an insight into the strange and beautiful world of Oxford, it is advisable to join the 90-minute Oxford Walking Tour, which takes you to some of the oldest historic sites. Along the way you get insider information on college history and rituals that are very interesting.

As you would expect from a university town, Oxford is full of museums and the largest is the Ashmolean Museum, which contains a rich and truly diverse collection of art and archaeological exhibits, ranging from Greek statues to paintings by Turner and Canaletto. Prior to touring the museums and exhibitions, we also visited the Panorama, a glass observation deck on the roof of Ashmolean’s masonry walls that offers an incredible panoramic view of the city.



After visiting the museum, we took a stroll through the city and visited one of the most important historic pubs in Oxford (Eagle Pub), where writers like CS Lewis and JR Tolkien used to meet in the 1930s.

Then it was time to visit another Oxford museum - the somewhat strange Pitt Rivers Museum. This eccentric anthropological museum was founded 125 years ago by archaeologist Augustus Pitt Rivers, who has donated more than 20.000 items that he had collected. Since then, the museum has grown with more than 600.000 strange and beautiful exhibits from around the world.

A trip to Oxford would not be complete without a visit to the Magdalen Bridge at the Botanical Gardens, where we rented a punt and enjoyed the river. Given that the botanical gardens are located a little further out of town, the river is not very busy, allowing you to really get a thorough look at each college.

Finally, since most Cambridge colleges, including Queens’ college which I am a member of, have their sister colleges in Oxford, I visited our ‘sister’ college - the beautiful Pembroke College with my friends. Although the members of the college really tried to make us feel “at home” in Pembroke, the Oxford-Cambridge rivalry was really palpable, but at the same time, very sweet.

## INTRODUCING NEW SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS

The Hastor Foundation family has grown richer by twenty-one new scholarship students in the previous period. In the following text you have the opportunity to get to know some of them!



**Aiša Alić** was born in Tuzla, where she graduated from Behram-bey's Madrassah. She is currently in her third year of studies at the Faculty of Philosophy in Tuzla, Department of Preschool Education. When she was still in secondary school, she started volunteering in preschools, and that helped her understand what she wanted to do in her life: I have always been a creative, curious, persistent person, and I think that is what children need most. Volunteering has enabled me to acquire additional knowledge, new experience, but also the confidence and reassurance that I am on a good path to becoming a great educator. The honest smile and love I get from my children every day is more than enough motivation for me to be an even better student and to be persistent in my wishes.

She points out that she heard about the Hastor Foundation by accident and then started exploring more about the Foundation, after which she decided to apply for the Call for the Scholarship Applications for college students:

„What caught my attention were the insights into volunteering at the Foundation, on the basis of which students help people to cope with certain problems. First and foremost, the Hastor Foundation wants to support young people and encourage them to achieve great success during their studies. By joining you, I have been given another opportunity to volunteer with children and to realize through meetings that my choice was not a mistake. This is a great opportunity for me and a motivation for further work. It is truly an honor to be part of this large family, to communicate and exchange experiences with scholarship holders from different parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Once again, thank you for your trust.



**Esmā Arifović** was born in Tuzla, where she graduated with highest grades from the Ismet Mujezinović Gymnasium. She is a sophomore at the Faculty of Health Studies in Sarajevo, majoring in Physiotherapy. She spends her free time reading books and hanging out with family and friends.

She learned about the Hastor Foundation through colleagues who are also its members and decided to apply:

„I am honored to have been selected, among so many good candidates, to become a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation, and I hope to succeed in justifying the trust that has been given to me and in being a useful member of this community. I think that my hard work and effort so far have paid off, and I consider it a reward to become part of this large family that is a support, encouragement and a wind in the sails of many successful students, which helps them achieve the best possible success both in their studies and in other segments of life. Volunteering at the Foundation and working with young people is of great importance to me because by getting to know others, I have the opportunity to learn many new, useful things, but also to contribute to the Foundation’s work. Volunteering also has a positive impact on me in the sense that it encourages me to complete my tasks on time, to be responsible and to develop new skills in order to be more successful in carrying out my duties. Although I have only been a part of this family for a short time, I have realized its strength and I am grateful to be part of one of the most famous stories in our country.

**Kemil Bekteši** was born in Belgrade fourth-year student of the Academy of Fine Arts in Sarajevo, Department of Painting. He is an employee of the National Theater in Sarajevo and instructor at a painting workshop. When it comes to his hobbies, Kemil particularly mentions reading and long walks.

When it comes to the Hastor Foundation, he points out that this is a place that has been missing for young people in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and as such becomes a gathering place for young, smart and ambitious people who are ready for new challenges and changes:

“As a student at the Academy of Fine Arts in Sarajevo, I couldn’t help but notice how little attention is paid to culture in our city and how little is invested in the cultural scene of the country. As a future academic painter, I am really passionate about the state of the art scene and would like to raise awareness of young people, my colleagues and friends that Bosnia and Herzegovina possesses wealth – natural, cultural and historical. I wish the stigma that currently prevails on culture becomes a thing of the past. Working with children alone guarantees a better future because through their learning we work on our community and make it richer.”





**Aida Čančar**, a third-year student at the Department of Communicology at the Faculty of Political Sciences in Sarajevo.

Ever since primary school, her hobby has been jewelry making. It is the hobby to which she devotes as much time as she has at a given moment, and she says that it is something that is always relaxing for her.

For more than a year now, Aida has been a volunteer at Hayat TV, where she had the opportunity to gain the work ethic and experience in journalism: I have learned that the job of a journalist is full of challenges and responsibilities; when combined with my studies, a lot of giving up was required for everything to function properly in the end.

In her leisure time, she also tries to do online marketing and attend numerous seminars and courses that might prove useful some day.

She says that she is happy and proud of herself for becoming part of this great family, particularly because of the fact that she has met so many people so far: I look forward to participating in activities implemented by the Foundation because, besides the financial help that definitely facilitates my studying, I know that there are other things that I will get the chance to learn about, and which will come in handy at some point. I was convinced of this when I attended the monthly meeting, which is a wonderful experience for me that provided me with the opportunity to hear interesting stories and tips. I think that people feel special when they help others, even only with nice words, because sometimes a simple smile is what someone might be missing. This is why I want to use my volunteering in the Hastor Foundation to make someone's day, or even a small part of it, better simply through nice words or acts.

**Ajka Čamdžić** is a second-year student at the Faculty of Pharmacy in Sarajevo. In her leisure time she likes to keep up with the novelties in the world of pharmacy, she reads scientific literature, listens to music and spends time with her family and friends.

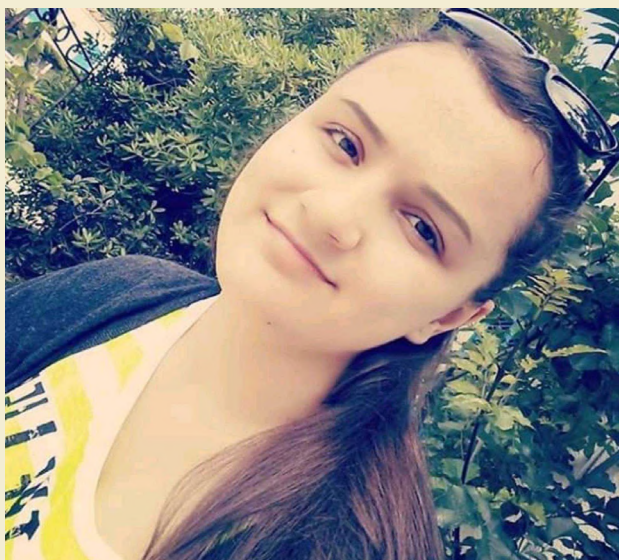
I think that the Hastor Foundation has recognized my qualities and it as truly an honor for me to be part of this family of ambitious people who want to leave their own trace in this world. Young, talented people with a clear vision have the strength and will to bring about the important changes and being a member of such a movement makes me feel highly honored and motivated. I expect to gain new experiences and knowledge that will be of great significance in my life.



**Amra Dedić** is a fourth-year student at the Faculty of Economy in Zenica, Department of Business Management. She is quite devoted both to formal and informal education. She is the golden student of the Faculty of Economy in Zenica. She also likes to stress that she is a certified youth leader in her community. She is a trainee of the Akademija demokratije (Democracy Academy) and Uči, misli, djeluj (Learn, Think, Do), and she spends her leisure time volunteering: Besides my faculty tasks, I find some time for art. I like poetry, and my writing was deemed valuable by my professors and teachers during my education. One of my poems was recently published in the student collection of poems “Poiesis”. I read, write and breathe to the fullest. I hang out with my friends and learn new things. I often like to mention that I am in love with economy as a science and it is probable that this is the reason why my involvement and activism is recognized also by eminent professors.

I applied to the Call of the Hastor Foundation after it was recommended to me by Alem Merdić, a teaching assistant at my faculty, who is a former scholarship holder of the Foundation: His success and work are a great motivation and inspiration for me. In this short time that I have been a scholarship holder, I managed to meet diligent and hard-working young people, but also to learn something useful from every one of them. I hope that my energy and creativity will contribute to an even better work of the Foundation. I hope that it will grow even further and that volunteering will bring me numerous useful experiences that I will gladly remember in the future. I expect new knowledge and new friends. ću se rado sjećati u budućnosti. Očekujem nova znanja i nove prijatelje.“





## Aida Jaganjac

“Don't just go through life, but grow through life - because it is not the length of life that matters, but the depth and the way you spent it.”

Our scholarship holder of the month of February is Aida Jaganjac. In addition to being an exemplary student and volunteer of the Foundation, she proved to be very diligent when we worked on organizing activities for numerous projects. Aida took upon her a great number of tasks and completed them in short time.

Aida comes from Bosanski Petrovac and she is a second-year student at the Faculty of Education in Bihać, Department of English Language and Literature. She has been our scholarship holder for over 10 years, almost since the very beginning of the Hastor Foundation.

When asked what the Hastor Foundation means to me, I really don't know what to say except that it has shaped my life in many aspects. Ever since I was a child, I knew that I wanted to study English because of the love for languages that my dear professor instilled in me. However, due to financial reasons, I wasn't sure if I would ever be able to make that dream come true. When I received the scholarship, I knew that there was no longer an obstacle preventing that from happening. I was an introvert and I would always find myself in some problems because no one really understood me. Through numerous meetings and workshops, I managed to overcome my fears a bit. In secondary school, I engaged in various extracurricular activities, such as acting and journalism, and I am certain that I would not have been able to do this without the help of the Foundation. I just want to say that you are my second family, and that you definitely left a mark on my life and changed it for the better. Thank you for all that you have done for me in these 10 years and for helping me make my dreams come true.

Aida is fluent in four languages, she reads books and perceives herself as a persistent and diligent person; she believes that it is precisely her persistence that has brought her to where she is today.

We wish our Aida much happiness and success, because only by raising others do we grow as well.



## International women's day



The day celebrating women's economic, political and social achievements - International Women's Day, is celebrated across the world on March 8th. The day which highlights the equality of women and men was first commemorated in March of 1909, in the United States by Socialist Party of America. The following year, the very first international women's conference was organized by the Socialist International in Copenhagen, where it was officially decided that International Women's Day should be celebrated every year on March 8. The initiative was made by the famous German socialist Clara Zetkin. Since then, the celebration of this day has spread across Europe, and around the world.

These events coincided with a fire at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory in New York, when it was discovered that poor occupational safety measures were to blame for the deaths of more than 140 women. However, it all started back in 1857 in New York when workers at a textile factory went on strike on March 8, demanding better working conditions for women. Protesters were dispersed by police, but the women formed their union two months later. The protests of women continued in the following decades, and the most famous one occurred in 1908, when 15,000 women marched through New York seeking shorter hours, better wages and voting rights.

In March of 1914, just before World War I, women held demonstrations for peace across Europe, while protests on the occasion of the International Women's Day in Russia were the first stage of the Russian revolution. Following the establishment of Bolshevik rule, the day became a national holiday to commemorate the heroism of the workers.

## World Kidney day



World Kidney Day is a global campaign designed by the International Society of Nephrology (ISN) and the International Federation of Kidney Foundations (IFKF) and it is observed annually on the 2nd Thursday in March. The purpose of the campaign is to raise awareness of the importance of kidneys in maintaining health, reducing the incidence of chronic kidney disease and its detrimental effect on the individual, their family and society.

The leading causes of kidney disease are diabetes and high blood pressure, and it is important to emphasize that patients with these diseases should maintain blood sugar and blood pressure levels under control. The cause of the increase in HBB is also the aging of the population, an increase in diabetes, but also unregulated hypertension, obesity, excessive and uncontrolled consumption of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and exposure to various environmental toxins.

Regular medical examinations that include assessment of kidney functions are recommended, but another advice is also the adoption of healthy lifestyle

### 8 golden rules!

- Get moving - live an active life
- Check your blood sugar regularly
- Control your blood pressure
- Eat healthy foods and control body weight - reduce salt intake to 5 gr/day
- Maintain healthy fluid intake
- Do not smoke
- Do not take unregulated medicine
- Check your kidney function if you have one or more risk factors: diabetes, high blood pressure, obesity, or if someone in your family has been treated due to chronic kidney disease.



## 15th MARCH – World Consumer Rights

**Day** World Consumer Rights Day, which was first celebrated on March 15, 1983, annually updates the debate on issues and problems related to consumer protection. It is also an opportunity to promote the fundamental rights of all consumers and to demand that these rights be respected.

World Consumer Rights Day has its origins in the “Consumer Bill of Rights” issued by former U.S. President John F. Kennedy in 1962. The Bill defines four fundamental consumer rights in the market for goods and services:

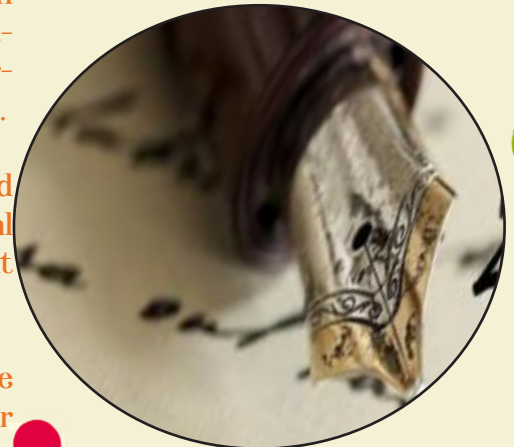
- the right to the security of goods and services
- the right to complete, truthful and timely information
- the right to choose goods and services
- consumers’ right to be heard.

## 21st MARCH- World poetry day

In 1999, UNESCO proclaimed March 21 the World Poetry Day, with the aim of promoting reading, writing, publishing and teaching poetry all around the world, as well as of giving recognition and encouragement to national, regional and international poetry movements.

On World Poetry Day, an international Julius Meinl promotion called “Pay with a Poem” has been organized around the world for several years in a row. This global initiative is becoming more significant every year.

Julius Meinl wants to inspire people to write poetry and thus make the world a better place, so on March 21 you can pay for a cup of your favourite espresso using verse as a currency.



## 21st MARCH- International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

In 1966, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed March 21 as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Six years earlier, on that day, the police killed 69 protesters who participated in peaceful protests against laws that supported apartheid (Apartheid was a system of racial segregation in South Africa. It divided the population of South Africa into whites, blacks, Indians and the “colored” (mulattos), with only whites having full political rights. Apartheid began to be phased out in the 1980s, and was completely abolished in 1994 after Nelson Mandela came to power).

Racial discrimination can be counteracted by raising awareness, the level of knowledge about the unacceptability of racist, xenophobic and prejudice-based attitudes.





## 22nd MARCH–World Water Day

World Water Day is celebrated every year on March 22. The commemoration of this day was determined by the adoption of the United Nations General Assembly Resolution in December 1992.

According to World Health Organization estimates, freshwater on planet Earth accounts for only 2.5%. Out of this percentage, groundwater accounts for 30.8%, lakes and rivers for 0.3%, while most freshwater is trapped in glaciers (68.9%). It is estimated that only 1% of fresh water or 0.007% of the total amount of water can be used for humanity. In the world, as many as 1.1 billion people do not have access to drinking water, and 2.4 billion live without basic sanitation. The dynamic development of the society and increasing pressures on the natural environment, and therefore on water, are becoming one of the key issues for sustainable development, as pollution of groundwater, lakes, fluids and the sea further affects the reduction of existing water supplies. Increased water consumption due to higher standard of living, urbanization and industrialization has led to an increase in the amount of wastewater discharged into natural water systems.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is one of the few countries in Europe and in the world that has significant reserves of drinking water. However, wastewater poses a threat to our water resources as it flows into watercourses and lakes without prior biological-chemical treatment. Rivers and lakes cannot accept waste materials without serious consequences to their natural balance, leading to intense pollution of water resources and loss of quality water.

## 27th MARCH – World Theatre day

World Theatre Day was initiated by the International Theatre Institute (ITI) and for more than 50 years now, ever since 1961, it has been celebrated on March 27 across the world.

This tradition began in 1961, at the 9th ITI Congress, when the then president Arvi Kivimaa from Finland proposed that a World Theater Day be initiated, which was accepted with delight by those present. Ever since, the World Theatre Day is celebrated on March 27 (the date of the opening of the “Theatre of Nations” season in Paris in 1962).

Every year, national centers of the International Theatre Institute and the entire international theatre community organize various theatre events to celebrate this day, of which the most important one is the traditional International Message, written by a world-renown theatre figure, at the invitation of the ITI.

The Message is read to tens of thousands of visitors in theatres, translated to more than 20 languages, printed and published in hundreds of newspapers, magazines, radio and TV stations on all continents. The first Message for World Theatre Day was written by Jean Cocteau in 1962.



## 24th MARCH World Tuberculosis day

World Tuberculosis Day, March 24, is celebrated annually with the aim of raising awareness of tuberculosis, one of the world’s leading health challenges. Tuberculosis is a contagious disease that spreads from person to person through the air. A person with untreated tuberculosis can infect 10-15 people a year by coughing near them.

Tuberculosis can affect any part of the body, but most often it attacks the lungs. Most people with tuberculosis can be cured with six months of therapy. If left untreated, the disease is often deadly. Anyone can get tuberculosis. However, illness is strongly linked to poverty and poor living conditions, often targeting vulnerable and marginalized groups.

In Europe and North America, the number of patients began to rise in the 17th century, reaching epidemic proportions during the 18th and 19th centuries, after which the number of patients gradually decreased due to improvements in general living standards and hygiene habits, as well as medical discoveries.

## Spring inside of us

Once there was spring  
And there was I  
Happy to live through another April  
Looking at the blue sky and unwittingly ad-  
miring the harmony

Once there was spring  
And there was a white flower  
I ran to pick it and adorn my hair  
And then I remembered that it was living  
too, and imagined the intoxicating scents it  
infused into the world

Once there was autumn  
And in my heart the scent of blossom  
Since then, she no longer falls into the cor-  
ners of my heart  
Because I enriched my life with the blue sky  
I admire,  
With flowers that continue to bloom undis-  
turbed,  
With dreams dreamt by happy children  
And that blossom scent in my heart... When  
everything was withering, in death I saw  
birth.

Gone is the drabness  
The senses come to life  
Spring lives inside of me

You all should know  
A human does not have to dream about the  
sun  
It is inside of them  
They just has to find its trace  
When the day comes that is not particularly  
dear.



**Azra Bećirović** from Sarajevo is a first-year student of Information Technologies at the International Burch University in Sarajevo. She has been a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation for many years, since her 7th grade of primary school, and the volunteering and mentoring in the Foundation has helped her develop into who she is today. She jokingly says that she is a cat lover by religion and loves the Foundation because it does not discriminate against people on that basis.

Jokes aside, like many other scholarship holders, Azra was also motivated by the Foundation to become socially active. She says that, ever since primary school, she considered it important to attend volunteer meetings, because she wasn't exactly the most outgoing person; it was her mentors who helped her break free and make friends more easily, and she still carries many of their tips with her through life. *da se oslobodi i da lakše sklopi prijateljstva, a mnoge njihove savjete i danas nosi kroz život.*

“The Hastor Foundation saw something in me that I couldn't see myself. Due to its valuable work, I was able not only to study at this college but also to have the opportunity to study at all. Without the scholarship, there is no way that I could finance my studies. Now, however, I can proudly say that I pay for my education myself.”

Due to all of this, she says that it is very important for young people to be part of something, some network of acquaintances, be it at the Hastor Foundation, or in some humanitarian, non-profit, non-governmental and numerous other organizations, since this is the only way to develop into complete personas ready to make the world, and first and foremost Bosnia and Herzegovina, a better place.

The IT world and programming are extremely important to Azra, which was recognized by her university, so she received an invitation to be the educator at this year's Hour of Code. She taught the basics of the Python programming language to primary and secondary school students. The scope of the program was much broader than she thought, and she was pleased to see that, although she was not a professional in this field, she was able to impart knowledge

“Up to this point, I was not aware that I was part of such a huge project and that I was partly responsible for over 100 primary and secondary school students first of all having fun and also learning something new and useful.”

Shortly after the Hour of Code, she was contacted by a staff member from the Business Education Center, who wanted her to give a lecture on programming to primary school students together with two other colleagues. Afterwards, she had the opportunity to once again teach primary school students at her college, which is a proof that the Foundation really supports

“These were all volunteer activities, but I was very happy to be given and to use this opportunity. It is important to share your knowledge, especially with people who are so young. The happiness on their faces when they solve a program was invaluable. “

When it comes to her volunteering, it is the Foundation where she is the most active, and it also represents her escape from reality. Throughout her primary and secondary education, she had many mentors, and learned important things about the Foundation from them, and now she finally has the honor of being a mentor to a wonderful group of students from the Secondary Dental School in Sarajevo. It is precisely her role of a mentor that she is the most proud of, because she can finally be there for her younger colleagues and share with them some experiences from her secondary education that can help them to at least realize that they are not alone and that the same problems have happened to others.

“No matter what problems I currently have at home, at school, in my love life or in absolutely any sphere of my life, during volunteer meetings I can share these problems with other students and get their honest and friendly advice.”

Her advice for scholarship holders, especially mentors, is not to take volunteering for granted:

“Whether we want that or not, our younger colleagues perceive us as a great role model, as is the case with their mothers or some professors. We are here to introduce them to many things about the world and culture, as well as to the current topics. Our volunteer meetings are a great opportunity for that. Due to appropriate topics, plans and programs, these meetings can be very interesting and this time can be very fulfilling. “

CREATIVE WORKSHOP BY OUR SCHOLARSHIP HOLDERS



BIHAĆ

BUGOJNO

GORAŽDE



ZENICA

KAKANJ







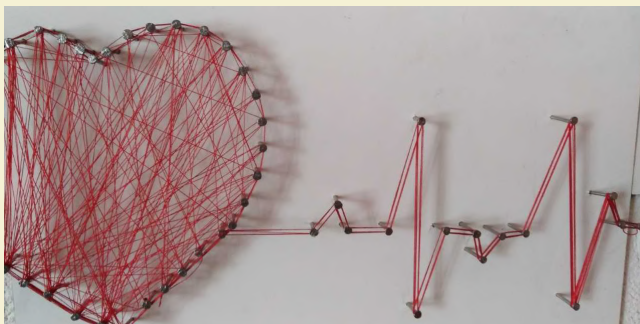
SAPNA



MAGLAJ



SARAJEVO

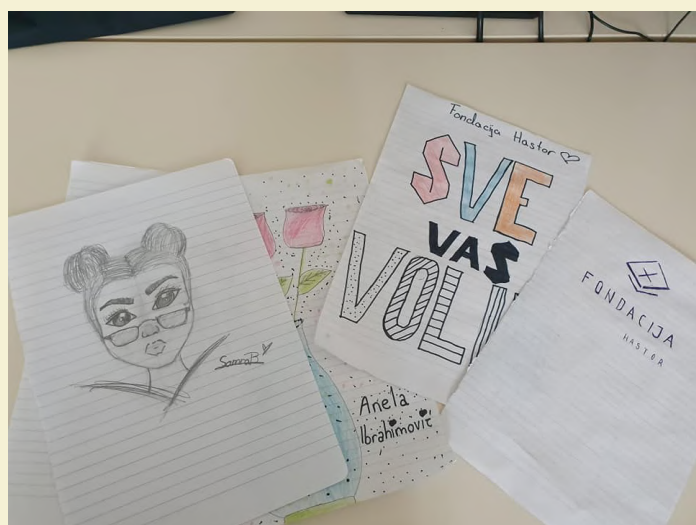


VOGOŠĆA





## GORAŽDE



## ZENICA



## ZENICA

## PODLUGOVI





Vildana Halilić, Prnjavor

The database showed that the scholarship holders and volunteers of the Hastor Foundation reached the number of 20.657 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 293 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.

20 657  
volunteering  
hours

293  
volunteering  
workshops

68  
municipalities

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