

NEWSLETTER

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FONDACIJA
HASTOR

Scholarship Contracts Signed with **334** College Students from All across BH

On Saturday, the 10th of November, 2018, scholarship contracts with 334 college students from all across BH were signed at the ASA Prevent Group premises. Having already signed scholarship contracts with primary and secondary school pupils, the Hastor Foundation now signed scholarship contracts with college students who will be the Hastor Foundation's scholarship holders in the following academic year.

These are the students who have managed to keep their scholarships from the previous year, by maintaining their academic success and achieving excellent results. The Call for Scholarship Applicants with extended criteria, intended particularly for gifted students with a high GPA, was issued as well. In this year alone the Hastor Foundation will provide scholarships for 1.976 pupils and students, which is the highest individual number of scholarship holders of all the registered foundations in BH and the region.

The students were first greeted by teacher Ramo and the Foundation's Managing Director, who congratulated those who were present and wished them success in the new academic year, and then proceeded to explain to the students the basic terms of the contract, the Foundation's rules and the principles of its work.

"They've grown to become self-aware and responsible people, who are now teaching their children those same values. It is wonderful to see someone sign their 13th contract with us, to know them as a primary school pupil and now see them have the opportunity to enroll into a master program, with special acknowledgments. We have several such students. While we talk proudly about the best ones, we also work devotedly with all those whose GPA and status we want to improve", said Seid Fijuljanin, the Managing Director of the Hastor Foundation.

Following its fundamental idea and aim, which means providing the opportunity for young people to participate in the development of local communities and of their personal resources through successful education and volunteering, the Hastor Foundation has thus far supported more than 3.000 young people from the entire BH.

"In BH there are many clever young people, but many of them did not have the opportunity to gain education, especially those from rural areas. We wanted to make that possible, and justifiably so. Those pupils are now students who receive special acknowledgments and win awards in national and international competitions. Every success of theirs is a success of mine as well", said teacher Ramo proudly, who is included in the scholarship program as a volunteer, and has been following the work and progress of scholarship holders from the very beginning, expressing his contentment with the pace and the way in which the Hastor Foundation is developing.

The Hastor Foundation will continue to support children and young people in their effort to become self-aware leaders in their communities and in that way contribute to positive changes in the society we live in.

THE HASTOR FOUNDATION AND USAID WHAM SUCCESSFULLY CARRIED OUT THE „Training for Job – Training to Stay“ PROJECT

During the previous period, the Hastor Foundation carried out the project whose aim was to train young people and provide them with knowledge and skills needed in the labor market. The project titled "Training for Job – Training to Stay" was financed by USAID WHAM Activity.

The implementation of the project lasted from the 1st of April until the 31st of October, 2018, and during this period more than 90 people from the Bugojno Municipality area and the nearby areas received training, and the 60 who completed the program most successfully were given an employment opportunity in Prevent Group company in Bugojno.

Edisa Subašić, currently employed at Prevent Step, shared her thoughts about participating in this training.

"I applied to the Call and, after successfully completing the training, I was given an employment opportunity in Prevent. I am grateful for the given opportunity to gain work experience and to become independent. The training organized by the Hastor Foundation and its partners helped me greatly during this entire process."

The USAID WHAM Activity Chief of Party Fuad Ćurčić said that every new workplace in the textile industry is a challenge for every worker and employer, and that USAID WHAM supported this project with the aim that the city of Bugojno continues to be a place of successful companies and hardworking people.

The project was carried out by the Hastor Foundation that provides direct support to young people in BH through its work, and motivates them to become self-aware leaders through their education, work and effort, and in that way to contribute to the development of the society in general. The Hastor Foundation champions the introduction of the dual system of education, and at the same continuously cooperates with the local and international organizations active in this field of industry.

"We maintain that this is important, both for us as an organization, and for the local community, because the essence of this project was and is providing adequate skills and knowledge to a great number of people so that they could enter the work process and stay in sustainable workplaces. In addition, it was a pleasure cooperating with the WHAM team, and we hope that this cooperation will soon be continued and deepened", said Seid Fijuljanin, the Managing Director of the Hastor Foundation, as he expressed his great pleasure that the aims of the project were completed.

During the realization of the project, 5 trainers were educated, who then provided training for the participants of this project and are now qualified to provide quality training for future employees in the time to come.





AN INSPIRING STORY ABOUT A YOUNG MAN WHO DECIDED TO STAY IN HIS COUNTRY

Every person who has been following the work of the Hastor Foundation, since its establishment until now, is well-aware of the incredible success and growth of this foundation, which is reflected not only in the number of its scholarship holders, but also in the development of its organizational and functional aspect. All of this served to distinguish the Hastor Foundation as the largest organization of its kind, not only in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but in the region as well.

The continuous increase of the number of its scholarship holders is a tendency of which we in the Foundation are very proud of, and we keep on working diligently so that with each new school/academic year we are able to bring as many students as possible under the Foundation's wing. We are glad that in these twelve years since the Foundation's

establishment our efforts keep paying off, because with each year there are more scholarship holders while excellent results are being achieved at the same time.

While the Foundation accepts new scholarship holders each year, there are also many college students who, having completed their studies, lose their status as scholarship holders. Saying farewell to scholarship holders who have been with us for a long time is difficult, because the bond which is established between the Foundation and its scholarship holders goes beyond the formal scope and contractual obligations. In time, this bond becomes like a familial one, and so each scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation is considered to be a member of one large family which is always there to offer support and extend the hand of friendship.

Even after the formal relationship comes to an end, many of our scholarship holders are glad to return to the Foundation's nest, the same nest from which they flew for the very first time, ready to try their wings against any and all obstacles and discover the world. When they return, they are successful people with firm values and beliefs who are eager to join our mission and contribute to the process of creating a more prosperous BH society.

One of such youths of the Hastor Foundation is also Mirza Murga, a young dentist about whom the media have been writing about extensively recently. What put him in the center of the public's attention is his decision to stay in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This decision shocked many, as it was made during a period of mass exodus of intelligent and ambitious young people. In the midst of all the young people and also families who are leaving BiH, this young man of great ambition made a decision to stay in Livno, popularly known as "the ghost town", as the largest number of people leaving for the countries of EU come from the municipality of the same name.

In a different corner of the world, a decision to have a career and start a family in one's own country would be of no importance – here, unfortunately, it is seen as something sensational.

But let us go back to Mirza's story.

He was one of the Hastor Foundation's first scholarship holders, with teacher Ramo personally bringing him into this family, and as such he was a part of the Foundation for ten years. He will be remembered as an extraordinary friend, student, mentor, and a hard-working scholarship holder. As a mentor, he would often surprise both his pupils and the Foundation's Administration with carefully

planned workshops which made the volunteering meetings which he organized a special experience. What we are overjoyed to say when we talk about Mirza is the fact that even after he stopped being a scholarship holder formally, he remained the Foundation's friend and a trustworthy volunteer.

He completed his studies at the Faculty of Dentistry in Sarajevo in September last year. Fast forward a year, and he is about to start with his own private practice in his hometown of Livno.

Mirza tells us that all the preparations, including the necessary licensing and documentation, are nearly complete. He points out that he continues to receive strong support from his local community, but particularly stresses the significance of the Hastor Foundation and Ćurčića waqf.

"With the support of Ćurčića waqf, we have secured a dental chair for the patients, and that, together with the work premises given by the Islamic community in Livno, makes the foundations necessary the dental office's opening. In the course of my studies, as a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation I had the opportunity to witness and experience first-hand the significance of being supported by your community, as well as how important it is that there are socially-responsible organizations that help create opportunities for youth living in all of the country's corners," says Mirza.

Making sure that young and educated people stay in Bosnia and Herzegovina is the Foundation's fundamental aim, and having an opportunity to see our former scholarship holders take bold steps towards success is something which makes us incredibly happy and proud.

Mirza has the fondest memories of his time in the Foundation, and he describes it as *"a pillar of support and an outstretched hand which has not only offered help but taught him many things, and also enabled him to make invaluable friendships."*

We wish our former scholarship holder best of luck for the opening of his dental office and plenty of success afterwards. Knowing that Mirza is an extraordinary person, we are certain that he will become an even better dentist and that he will elicit many a smile in the future!

Džulisa Otuzbir

THE AMBASSADOR OF SWITZERLAND VISITS PREVENT

Andrea Rauber Saxer, the Ambassador of Switzerland to BH, visited Prevent in Visoko near the end of the month of November. The Ambassador, accompanied by the hosts, namely the Chief Administrator of Prevent CEE Haris Rahman and the CEO of Prevent Fabrics Aida Ganić, as well as the Managing Director of the Hastor Foundation Seid Fijuljanin, visited the production facilities of Prevent Fabrics, Prevent Interior and Prevent Leather.

During the visit, the Ambassador had the opportunity to meet the former participants of the TAKT Academy, who are now employees at Prevent Group, and she expressed great contentment about the cooperation with the TAKT Academy and the Hastor Foundation. Furthermore, the Ambassador expressed her enthusiasm about the production facilities and said that she looks forward to the continuation of the cooperation, both with the Prevent Group and with the Hastor Foundation.



ABBREVIATIONS FOR DOKTOR AND MAGISTAR

Dear pupils and college students! In this month's edition of the **HF Classroom** we will clarify some of the frequently asked questions about language which will prove very valuable to you once you reach your desired level of academic achievement. Find out more in the following paragraphs.

- The abbreviations for doktor and magistar (having a PhD and a Master's Degree, respectively), were once written as dr and mr, that is without the full stop punctuation mark after it. This never fully became a norm, since these were often written as dr. and mr.
- This is most likely the reason why the "Ortography of Bosnian Language" recommends that these be written with the full stop. The problem may arise when these need to be written together with a person's full name.
- Today it is the norm that these abbreviations are written before the person's name, although such positioning used to refer only to persons who hold an academic rank at universities and research institutes. Nowadays, it is perfectly common that you find the following too:

dr. Haso Hasić (member of faculty staff) and dr. Huso Hasić (unemployed).

- The same is applied to having a Master's Degree.

If a person's title also indicates the person's academic ranking or their position at a research institute or facility, then these will go before the two aforementioned abbreviations:

prof. dr. Haso Hasić, akademik prof. dr. Haso Hasić, docent dr. Meho Mehić etc.

The dr. abbreviation refers to a person having a PhD, but nowadays it is also commonly written in the medical context too, with sci. written in front of dr. if the medical practitioner has a PhD.

- Inflections are added to the name in accordance with the appropriate case, but the abbreviation's form doesn't change. Although the abbreviation doesn't undergo change, it is always read as a full word:

dr. Asim (read: doktor Asim), dr. Asima (read: doktora Asima), dr. Asimu (read: doktoru Asimu), mr. Ademu (read: magistru Ademu) etc.

USE OF CAPITALIZATION WITH ABBREVIATIONS FOR DOKTOR AND MAGISTAR

These abbreviations are usually not capitalized. This rule is not applied if the abbreviation is the first word in the sentence or a headline:

Dr. Meho Mehić gave a lecture today on Mak Dizdar's poetry; Dr. Hasić has received the highest accolade for his work.

Abbreviations dr. i mr. can also be written with the first letter capitalized if they're a part of a person's signature: :

Dr. Meho Mehić; Mr. Irfan Šehić etc.

When the abbreviations dr. and mr. appear as a part of a headline or a signature, but placed after phrases which refer to a person's academic ranking (prof., doc., ass.) there are not capitalized:

Prof. dr. Hasić Receives the Highest Accolade for His Work; Doc. dr. Meho Mehić; Ass. mr. Irfan Šehić etc.

THINK THINGS THROUGH

Our scholarship holder Saira, a pupil at the Secondary Dental School, wrote a letter on the 25th of March, 2018, in which she describes how she was properly punished for a good deed of hers.

“My classmate asked me to lend him my phone so he can call his mother. I gave him the phone and I think I did something good. However, he took advantage of my kindness. He called the police and said that there was a bomb in the school. After a talk at the police station, in the presence of my father, I come to school and learn that our entire class received a formal reprimand from the Principal, and ten of us even had our school conduct grade lowered. Once I came home, I read the scholarship contract and realized that I will lose the scholarship of the Hastor Foundation. I would like to ask you, teacher Ramo, and the Commission for awarding scholarships of the Hastor Foundation, as humane and righteous people, to examine this case of mine. The school punished me by lowering my school conduct grade, my father punished me by taking away my phone, and I trust the Hastor Foundation to make the right decision.”

I thought about this letter, but since there was enough time until the end of school year, I thought that Saira's homeroom teacher could ask the Principal and the Board of Teachers to make a decision about withdrawing the reprimand. That was not done, and the Administration team of the Hastor Foundation, according to our rules, didn't offer a new contract to Saira and she lost the scholarship.

In October, I took the letter from the archives, where it lay among many others, and I agreed with the Hastor Foundation's Managing Director, Seid Fijuljanin, to arrange a meeting with the Principal of the Secondary Dental School in Sarajevo. During this meeting, Principal Elvira Jašarbašić told us that on the 19th of March, 2018, the police received a call that there was a bomb in the school. Of course, the claim proved to be a false alarm.

“Given that the police, teachers and I responded quickly, the truth soon came out. One group of children

made the call because they wanted attraction, and the whole matter prompted us to increase our presence among the pupils in order to prevent something worse from happening, given that they are now in puberty”, said the Principal.

“And what about our scholarship holder, your pupil Saira, whose phone was used to call the police?”, asked Seid.

“She showed solidarity for her classmates and we punished them by lowering their school conduct grade, having no idea how much that was going to cost her!”, replied the principal.

I could not stop myself from saying: *“More than 17.000 marks, in terms of money only, and there is also having her phone taken away and everything else that comes with it!”*

As the meeting progressed, I concluded that the director holds no grudges against her, because she said that she was pleasantly surprised by our visit and the fact that there is such a foundation which cares so much about its scholarship holders. Once we returned to the office of the Managing Director Seid, we called the administration staff as well and we made a unanimous decision not to take Saira's scholarship, but to draw her attention to think carefully about the people she chooses as her friends in the future.

Ramo Hastor



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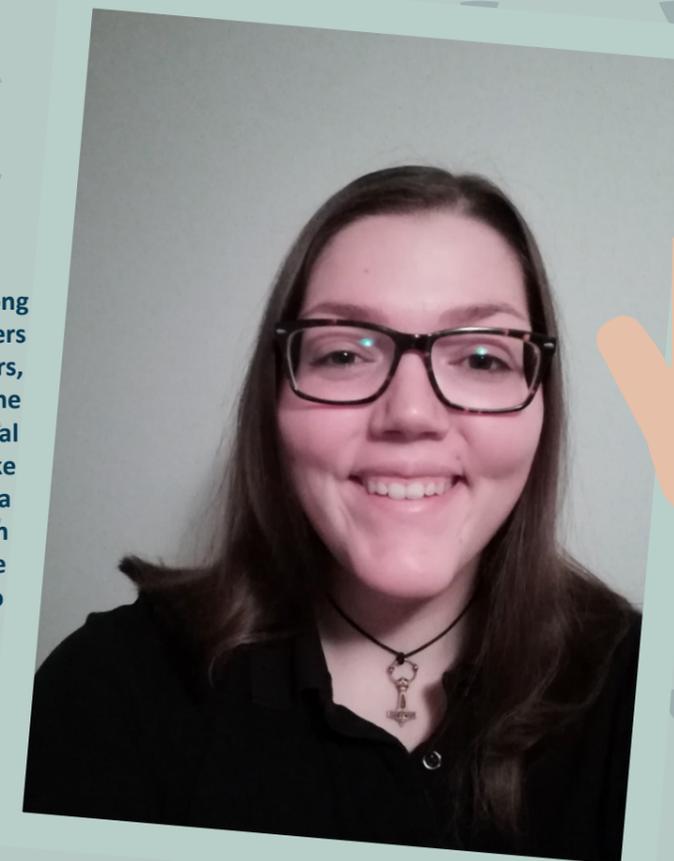
Mia Babić

Given that nearly every month she is among those college student scholarship holders with the greatest number of volunteer hours, Mia Babić is our scholarship holder of the month for the second time. Her exceptional promptness and sense of responsibility make her stand out, even though she has been a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation for only three years. She is especially active in the part of volunteering related to translating texts for the newsletter and the web page, since Mia is, in accordance with her formal education, part of the group in charge of the availability of the information regarding the work of the Hastor Foundation for English-speaking persons. After graduating from the Obala Gymnasium in Sarajevo, Mia decided to continue her educational and professional path at the Faculty of Philosophy in Sarajevo, where she is currently a fifth-year student at the English Department, Literary Studies. She spends her leisure time watching films, and she is also trying to learn French.

Her ambitions for the future are primarily directed towards enrolling into another masters program, and if an opportunity arises, applying for the position of a teaching assistant at the Faculty of Philosophy. In addition, she plans to continue her work in the field of freelance translation as well.

“What makes me love studying English language and literature, with the emphasis on the literature part, is that the program goes beyond the basic knowledge of language, making it possible to understand the complex interconnectedness of historical events with the social and cultural phenomena, through the interpretation of literary works.”

Mia said that the influence the Foundation had on her personal and professional development goes beyond measure. What she is especially grateful for is the fact that it is now much easier for her to leave her comfort zone and to find ways to apply her own knowledge in different contexts. Here she primarily refers to two work experiences she gained after joining the Foundation: her experience as a tourist guide, and her current employment at the War Childhood Museum.



“When I became part of the Foundation, I knew that I like English and languages in general, but I had no clear idea of what I want to focus on and what I can even do with my knowledge. I think that the sense of uncertainty about the direction you're heading in is among the greatest dilemmas that young people face nowadays, and that is why guidance and support on the path towards self-actualization is so crucial. This is precisely where the Hastor Foundation's greatest value lies.”

Mia is truly an example of a young, intelligent, and ambitious person, who managed to find the path she wants to follow, the path of continuous progress and constant improvement of one's self. In addition, she managed to fully grasp the significance of the opportunity of being a scholarship holder, and the Hastor Foundation is proud to say that such young people are a part of it.

Amina Vatreš

Photographs from the signing of scholarship contracts with college students



The database showed that the scholarship holders and volunteers of the Hastor Foundation reached the number of 20.274 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 279 volunteering meetings in 61 municipalities across Bosnia and Herzegovina. Our students who volunteer with the Administration team and Editorial Board of the Hastor Foundation contributed greatly to this number, as well as students who work on developing the Hastor Foundation app and are in charge of web page maintenance. The compulsory theme that our scholarship holders discussed in volunteering meetings during the previous month was "How to improve the work of the Hastor Foundation?"

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



Some of the most interesting themes:

“Let’s protect the Earth”

“How I see myself in the future”

“Art and society”

“Discrimination in the society”

“Basic norms of conduct”

“Helping the elderly – Day of Older Persons”

“My favorite book”

