

# NEWSLETTER

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FONDACIJA  
HASTOR



## PAVING THE WAY TO SUCCESS: DREAMING, WANTING AND GIVING IT YOUR ALL

On Saturday the 12th of January, college student scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation gathered at the Main Assembly Hall of the ASA Prevent Group for their first monthly meeting in 2019. It was an honor to welcome this month's guest speaker, our former scholarship holder Elvir Kadrić, who selflessly shared his knowledge and gave invaluable advice to the Foundation's youth.

The students were first addressed by teacher Ramo and the Foundation's Managing Director, Seid Fijuljanin, who clarified certain points about what the status of a scholarship holder entails and gave general advice on how to approach one's studies.

At these monthly meetings, the Foundation's scholarship holders are often given an opportunity to listen to the life stories of successful young people, experts in their respective fields, who are more than happy to respond to our invitation to come and share their knowledge with a large group of students who are about to enter the dynamic and unpredictable labor market. We are especially glad when it is our former scholarship holders

who come to these gatherings – they return to the Foundation as successful young people who push the boundaries each and every day in what they do. Elvir Kadrić is one of such professionals. Having himself been a scholarship holder just couple of years ago, Elvir is the person most aware of the thirst for knowledge and incredible ambition to succeed held and shared by all of the Foundation's scholarship holders.

Elvir became the Hastor Foundation's scholarship holder in 2007, the time of the Foundation's beginnings when teacher Ramo visited schools personally in search of potential scholarship holders. Elvir was a secondary school student at the time, and he would go on to keep the status of a scholarship holder for the next six years. His bond with the Hastor Foundation, however, would stay strong for years to come.

For the last five years, Elvir has worked at ASA Insurance, the leading domestic insurance company that cares for its clients' well-being, whether in domain of living or business, by offering them products and services that

ensure greatest possible sense of security. In these five years, he has climbed up from the position of an Intern-Associate for Finance and now holds the position of the Manager of the Finance Department.

The scholarship holders were particularly interested in the way Elvir's career has progressed so far. This is understandable given the fact that Elvir managed to reach the top of the company's finance department in just five years, thereby making his dream a reality in a very short amount of time. This modest young man, however, centered his talk on the Hastor Foundation which he believes played a major role in his success. In addition, he shared some of his professional knowledge through two PowerPoint presentations. Elvir first focused on business etiquette, namely professional correspondence via e-mail. Only by knowing these rules can we present ourselves in the best possible light, regardless of whether we are seeking employment or conversing with a business partner.

The second presentation offered an overview of investing (borrowing) in the capital market via securities purchases. Scholarship holders who are unfamiliar with these terms had an excellent opportunity to learn what securities

are, as well as learn about the capital market, namely its features and role, as well as participants.

When discussion was opened, scholarship holders studying economics and business were particularly active in sharing their knowledge and views. This left quite an impression on our guest, but also on their fellow students. The message Elvir wanted to pass onto his younger colleagues who are currently the Foundation's scholarship holders is that they should never give up on their dreams – achieving the goals we set for ourselves and obtaining what we so earnestly want is possible if we give it our all. On that path it is important that we do not lose sight of ourselves and of the values the Foundation taught us. On the other hand, if we continue to work hard and persist on our path, by our good example we will be able to encourage others to contribute to our society.

Džulisa Otuzbir





## PREVENT GROUP CELEBRATES 20 YEARS OF CONTINUED WORK

On 10th of January, with more than 6000 employees present, Prevent Group celebrated its 20th anniversary in Zenica. On this occasion, Prevent highlighted some of the milestones and key events that defined its business over the years, but this event also provided an opportunity to send a strong message of togetherness, as well as affirm its entrepreneurial vision and dedication to continued progress.

Nijaz Hastor, the owner and founder of the ASA Prevent Group and the Hastor Foundation, addressed those present by foregrounding that the 20th anniversary of this business system shows its maturity and confirms its role of a powerful engine pushing the development of Bosnia and Herzegovina forward. "You are my story. I ask all of you to continue it, to continue our growing together and building Bosnia and Herzegovina. And let us mark our next anniversary at Koševo stadium," said Hastor and in that way sent a clear message about Prevent's Group future growth in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

"When it was founded in Visoko, in 1999, Prevent employed 50 people. Already at the start of the following year that number had doubled. The trend continued, and we can say that, on average, we had created a new job opening every day in the previous period," said Adnan Smailbegović, a member of Prevent Group's Supervisory Board, as he reflected on the company's beginnings.

Twenty years since its founding, Prevent Group is the leading industrial brand in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). "Prevent is present at 16 locations in Bosnia and Herzegovina only, and its business spheres include: furniture, fashion, automobile industry, metals, shipping industry, and medicine, as well as electric cable and protective equipment manufacturing," said Haris Rahman, Prevent CEE's Managing Director. He added that Prevent made significant efforts to expand its business and make new acquisitions in the previous period. In addition, it opened a new metalworking facility in Ilijaš, furniture manufacturing facilities in Ključ and Visoko, and started with apparel and shoes manufacturing in Travnik and Bugojno. All of these activities have helped build the foundations for future growth and progress.

Moreover, Prevent's two decades of work were crowned with an award for overall contribution to BiH economy and society that was given as a part of the "100 Greatest" project.

Those in attendance enjoyed the performances of renowned BiH musicians: Divanhana, Amel Ćurić, Adnan Jakupović and Enes Begović, while the evening's hosts were the fantastic Adrijana Kurtišaj and Enis Bešliagić.

The Hastor Foundation's scholarship holders greatly contributed by aiding the event's organization team,

but also by participating in the program itself. Namely, the group of scholarship holders who are students of the Sarajevo Music Academy prepared several musical pieces that they performed together with the Foundation's newest member – Ilma Karahmet. The aim of the performance was to present the Foundation and its work, and this was done in the best possible way.

The second group of scholarship holders, namely those scholarship holders who live or study in Zenica, has helped organize the event. They made sure that

everything went smoothly and have been working and helping the organizers from the break of dawn until late hours when the event's program was over. Diligence, persistence and responsibility are only some of the positive traits that our scholarship holders display on every occasion.

We are proud of our scholarship holders and all that they have achieved. We hope that we will continue to hear such wonderful stories unfold.



## EMINA TODOROVAC'S RESEARCH PAPER PUBLISHED IN "DRUGS AND CHEMICAL TOXICOLOGY" MEDICAL JOURNAL

The Hastor Foundation's scholarship holders are extremely devoted to their studies and the fact that they frequently gain prominence in their respective field of studies testifies to that – Emina Todorovac is no exception. This young scholarship holder's hard work and dedication have made her stand out not only in her field of studies, but also in the volunteering activities she carries out.

Emina Todorovac comes from Novi Travnik and she is currently in her first year of graduate studies at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Department of Biology. She is specializing in Genetics. In addition to having successfully completed her undergraduate studies, this young woman can be proud of her dedication to scientific research. Her dedication proved fruitful at the end of the previous year when the research paper, that she wrote in collaboration with her colleague and teaching assistants, was published in "Drugs and Chemicals Toxicology" Medical Journal, after previously receiving favorable reviews.

In 2018, this diligent scholarship holder had worked not only on her final thesis, but also conducted a complex research together with her colleague Irma Durmišević and several teaching assistants. Emina says that writing the paper was a painstaking process that required months of lab work and microscopic testing of samples, but the end result titled "Evaluation of Toxicological and Antimicrobial Activity of Lavender and Immortelle Essential Oils" was more than worth it. Thanks to their joint effort, the paper was finished as early as May and approved by August.

Emina had the honor to present the results of the aforementioned research in September, at the Botanical

Congress in Novi Sad. The paper received positive reviews and it was published a month ago. Nevertheless, our scholarship holder told us that she is already working on a new research concerning the toxicity assessment of paraben that is widely used in the cosmetics industry, and she hopes that she will wrap up this research sometime next year. Regardless of the time it will take her, Emina will certainly gain new insights and knowledge.

Emina points out that genetics were always interesting to her, as early as primary school, in fact, when she dreamed of becoming a famous scientist in this field. "I'm glad to say that genetics remained a field of interest throughout my primary and secondary school education, and it's because of that that I eventually enrolled at the department where I currently study. Last year was marked by success since I graduated and also married soon afterwards. I decided to continue with my education, however, and my husband and the rest of my family give me enormous support."

She became the Hastor Foundation's scholarship holder in 2008 and she points out that this was also a major success for her. Today, she sees the Foundation as a part of her identity.

"In addition to everything that I am, being the Foundation's scholarship holder for the eleventh year in a row is a great success. The Foundation's financial and moral support has made my education easier and all in all it was the wind in the sails that I needed. Today I can proudly say that I'm a part of one large family that will remain with me even after I complete my studies."

Maida Husnić



## KENAN KRAKOVIĆ WINS HARVARD UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP

The number of Hastor Foundation's scholarship holders has grown exponentially, and the great majority of these young people have repeatedly confirmed that they are worthy of that title and that they, the future self-aware leaders of their communities, are the carriers of positive social change. We are extremely proud of the fact that with each passing year scholarship holders are even more ambitious and successful, that their talent and continuous work earns them recognition in the sphere of academic and scientific work. Our new scholarship holder, Kenan Kraković, is a prime example of this. Kenan won a scholarship from Harvard University, one of the most prestigious institutions of learning, and can enroll in a course called Fundamentals of Neuroscience: Electrical Properties of the Neuron.

The awarding of this scholarship was a joint initiative of City of Zagreb, BH Futures Foundation, EU Youth Department in Croatia and the Harvard University. All applicants needed to submit a motivational letter, as well as write down their previous experience with the subject of the course. The best among them, including Kenan, were awarded a scholarship amounting to 3000 dollars. The course will be treated as if it was taken regularly and will carry the previously determined number of ECTS points.

"This scholarship gives me a wonderful opportunity to deepen my knowledge on neuroscience from the aspect of bioengineering," says Kenan. Kenan studies at the Burch University where he founded a Biomedical Research Club. As a part of the club's activities, he and several of his colleagues are finalizing their first research paper. Kenan's plans for the future also concern research in the field of neuroscience and thus this scholarship gives him an



excellent opportunity to acquire new and deepen his existing knowledge – he will be able to converse and consult with Harvard's scientists and other students from all over the world.

Kenan started his formal education in P.S. "Harmani 1" and continued it in Bihać Medical High School that he finished at the top of his class. In the course of his high school years, Kenan had accomplished a lot, but the achievements he highlighted are the following: finalist of the federal competition in the field of genetics, finalist of the cantonal competition in the field of physics, first place in CIVITAS's "Citizen" project, first place at UNESCO's regional competition on "Protection of Water Resources", first place at the national oratory competition held in Banja Luka. In addition to all this, Kenan participated in the "Youth Leadership" program organized by the U.S. Embassy, took part in Petnica International Science Summer School held at Petnica Science Center in Serbia, and also volunteered and was one of the participants of the 2018 European Researchers' Night. He currently studies Genetics and Bioengineering at the International Burch University and his GPA is 10.0. Kenan's results

speaking for themselves and what is certain is that they could not have been achieved without unwavering dedication and his engagement in different social and scientific spheres.

Besides academic achievements, Kenan is a very active and successful athlete. Namely, he has won the title of a karate champion of Bosnia and Herzegovina six times, and in all age groups, and in 2015 he was a champion of the Balkans. He has a black belt and currently works as one of the mentors at the "Champion" karate club. Kenan also plays the guitar in a band that is still being formed and spends his summers at Ferhadija as a street performer. He likes to compose music for the electric guitar. His interests

lie in the sphere of poetry, prose and aphorisms too, and his poems were published in several regional poetry collections.

Kenan recognized the Hastor Foundation and its intricate network of young talents from all across Bosnia and Herzegovina as the perfect opportunity for his personal growth and improvement. He believes that by being one of its scholarship holders he will have further incentive for him to be even more successful in the scientific field that interests him the most.

Amina Vatreš

## HASTOR FOUNDATION IN COOPERATION WITH PREVENT GROUP LAUNCHES TAKT ACADEMY'S NEWEST CYCLE

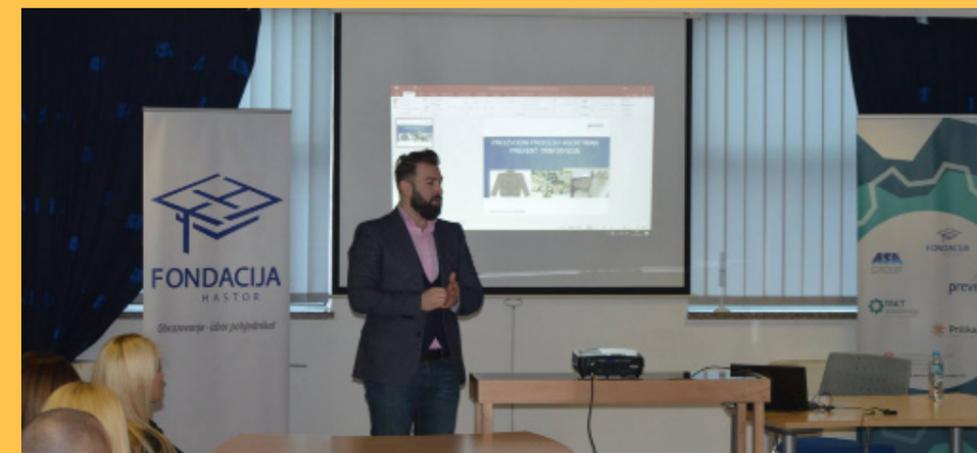
TAKT Academy is a unique project that has been implemented for several years in a row by the Hastor Foundation, in cooperation with Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and Embassy of Switzerland in BiH. Those participating in TAKT Academy's program acquire knowledge and skills needed to work in the fashion, textile, and automotive industry, as well as furniture manufacturing.

The program offers a systematic approach to adapting the educational system to fit the needs of the labor market, and covers the manufacturing and process management aspects. The target groups are vocational/technical school seniors and graduates who have received a degree in technical sciences and humanities.

The project's aim is to train human resources whose knowledge and skills will be adapted to work with latest technologies in some of the leading companies in BiH

and the region. The main reason why this initiative was brought forward is the incompatibility between the educational system and companies' needs, namely the lack of practical classes for fields where prior practical experience is necessary.

The committee selected 25 participants for TAKT Academy's latest cycle. Theoretical training commenced on the 16th of January 2019 while the practical training will be held at the premises of potential employers, that is Prevent Group's companies. All candidates who complete the TAKT Academy program successfully will receive a certificate and will be offered an employment opportunity at Prevent Group's companies.



Dear students of primary and secondary schools, as well as universities, this month's HF Classroom section will give you a few pointers on the uses of affricates. After you read through these, the final excerpt will help you practice your pronunciation.

## DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN Č AND Ć

- Failure to distinguish between phones č and ć is a common feature of Bosnian vernaculars and the phenomenon is widespread. Linguists point out that as long as the primary function of communication is fulfilled, nothing that we utter based on our feeling for language can be proclaimed as linguistically incorrect. While that is true, no one has the right to impose the specific features of their dialect onto others. Naturally, this refers mainly to those whose speech is public and is thus heard by many, namely teachers, journalists, news presenters, radio hosts etc. If a kindergarten teacher does not make a distinction when pronouncing č and ć, then there is the possibility that the children he/she supervises will also acquire that habit. However, the way a speaker pronounces č and ć does not have an impact on our understanding of which word was used.

For example, if we need to make a difference between:

- *spavačica* (the one who sleeps) and *spavaćica* (sleeping garment), *čar* (allure) and *ćar* (gain), *jahačica* (female rider) and *jahaćica* (a mule or similar beast of burden), u razlikovanju će nam pomoći situacioni kontekst, jer ćemo uvijek znati razlikovati spavačicu od spavaćice ili jahačicu od jahaćice, the word's context can help us understand which word was used.

- Nevertheless, standard Bosnian language demands that we make a distinction between č and ć in both written and spoken form.

Naturally, we should not hold it against those who cannot distinguish between the two sounds in their pronunciation, unless of course their profession demands that they do. As mentioned previously, these are teachers, professors, journalists etc.

Even if you cannot emphasize the difference between the two, you should not feel like this is a big issue. A little bit of practice and "self-control" when you speak and the problem should resolve itself, because this is not a speech impediment, but rather an acquired habit. And habits can be broken.

Here is an excerpt for you to practice your pronunciation a bit.

Try to correctly pronounce these sentences a couple of times. They were taken from an old textbook, with minor changes.

*Otrčao čobančić u dućančić da kupi čančić, bič i lančić. Čuču momčić na ćilimčiću i ćeličnim čekićem tuče čavle u čvornatu daščurinu. U bašči iza kuće ciče kučići, mijauču mačići, pijuču pilići, ćućeore pačići.*

## DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN DŽ AND Đ

- Certain vernaculars do not distinguish between phones dž and đ. Instead, đ fulfills the function of both of these, thus it is possible to hear:

- *đamija* (instead of: džamija), *piđama* (instead of: pidžama) etc.

- This is not a feature of the standard Bosnian language. Nevertheless, such mistakes should not be pointed out if they occur in personal names: Đenana, Đemal, Đehva and other names in which dž is likened to đ.

- + It should be noted that this applies only in those cases where the name is written as such in identification

documents. In other words in cases when the person chose such spelling intentionally.

Although this is unacceptable in standard language, alternative spelling is a reality, and adjusting this reality to the standard would mean lengthy administrative procedures that are not worth it.

Razim Medinić





# OPTIMISM

Not so long ago, I was at the offices of the Hastor Foundation and there I had an opportunity to take part in a conversation of our Foundation's college student scholarship holders.

"Teacher Ramo", said Hasan to me, "I have been a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation for many years, I attended many meetings, official and unofficial ones. I've had casual conversations with scholarship holders, sometimes with only one, sometimes with two, and sometimes with many more, but I never heard any of them say a swearword or any other bad word."

"You've narrowed it down a bit", said Ajla. "I never even heard a no, or I can't, not even I'll do it in a minute. We all try very hard to complete our assignments on time", she concluded.

"We don't talk about the bad things that media report on constantly. During our meetings, we talk about the many successes achieved at school competitions, as well as municipal, cantonal and national competitions. There are also some great results in international competitions", said Asim.

"I talked to my parents yesterday," Amina began her story. "I said: 'Can you imagine that the Hastor Foundation's scholarship holders showed such knowledge that they were sent an invitation for a reception at the premises of the Presidency of BH?' On the 27th of December, 2018, Jasmina Kavgić from Srebrenik and Maida Husnić from Mostar, spoke with Šefik Džaferović, Member of the Presidency of BH. Isn't that a great accomplishment?! Who knows, maybe they or some other scholarship holders will be offered a position of a counselor, since there are so many of us who are very clever and educated," Amina concluded.

One of the main things that characterize the Hastor Foundation's scholarship holders is their optimism. You can spend hours and hours talking to them and listen only to stories about good things, about their plans that will help them achieve their aims more easily, about making wishes come true through hard work and effort. They talk to one another, talk about the ways they climbed to success, whether success means doing well in school, getting higher grades in a particular subject, or winning competitions in various school subjects, or in fine arts, music, or something else.

They have their downfalls, but they don't talk about that unless it serves as a proof that they learned something from that failure and succeeded in the end.

Besides optimism, selflessness is also common to scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation. They are always prepared to help others even if they have only the briefest of moments to spare. "I only helped her cross a street covered in ice, and she, a woman of seventy years or so, looked at me and said: 'Thank you child, God bless you!'"

"And how should He bless me?", I asked, smiling. "'May He bless you so that you never want more than you need.' From that day on, everything is going great, and I'm doing everything with ease," said Safet.

"In April, Hamed was in his ninth grade of primary school. He asked me to help him get a better grade in English because his grade at the time was bad for his GPA. We

met in June when he was going back home from school with a diploma in his hand. 'Look, straight As. Thank you!', he said as he looked at me and then rushed home. That look and those two words of gratitude are always with me, and everything is going just the way I want," said Raza.

I listened to a few more of these true stories of the Hastor Foundation's scholarship holders, and then said my goodbyes as I had other obligations to fulfill. As I was leaving the office, I realized that having a conversation with these young, smart and educated people is better than any antidepressant or any other medication for anxiety and depression.

Rsnmo Hastor

## SCHOLARSHIP HOLDER OF THE MONTH

Thanks to her previous involvement and contribution to the work of the Hastor Foundation, and a number of successes in the field of education, the title of the scholarship holder of the month was more than well-deserved by Jasmina Kavgić.

Jasmina Kavgić is a Hastor Foundation scholarship holder who comes from Srebrenik and is currently attending the first year of the second cycle of studies at the Faculty of Economics at the University of Tuzla, opting to focus on Accounting and Auditing. During her primary and secondary education, she took part in various extracurricular activities and competitions, among which she highlights winning the first place in the national bookkeeping competition, held in 2014.

Jasmina attended the High School of Economics at the Combined Secondary School in Srebrenik. In 2014 she successfully completed high school education, and then, that same year, she enrolled at the Faculty of Economics in Tuzla. She emphasizes that every beginning is extremely difficult, and no success can be achieved overnight.

Jasmina  
Kavgić

"Once you start doing what you want, there are many challenges waiting for you, tempting shortcuts and tumultuous storms. Actually knowing how to struggle on and reach your goal is a form of art. During my education, I also encountered many obstacles and challenges that, on many occasions, seemed impossible to overcome, but still the most important thing is to remember the beautiful moments and to rise as a winner from every fight. What is also important is that we learn a lesson from every obstacle, because everything that happens, happens for a reason. Every obstacle should toughen us up, making us strive for the top even more. I can freely testify to this."



Jasmina emphasizes that, although there were moments when she wanted to give up on everything, accept whatever grade she could get and enjoy. Something, some sort of relief, will, and desire combined, however, would make her go forward and persist in her path.

Since she has always worked hard during the whole year, each year of her studies has been successfully completed in June, so her free time before the start of the new academic year was devoted to gaining experience in practice. Among other things, Jasmina worked as a promoter in a marketing agency, finishing her professional training at Sberbank. In addition, she had a chance to work in her own field, for the Džeko-commerc d.o.o company in Srebrenik, where she gained a lot of knowledge and experience thanks to their working team.

Jasmina graduated on the 2nd of July of last year, defending her thesis on the topic "Organization of Accounting Supervision in a Company". Thanks to her dedication to the university she attends, this enthusiastic and extremely diligent young woman can boast of a series of success she has achieved during her schooling. In December 2018, she received the Golden Plaque as a Golden Student and Student of the Generation of the Faculty of Economics in Tuzla. What the wider public immediately noticed was her GPA, unique in the University of Tuzla. At the Faculty of Economics in Tuzla Jasmina is only the second student in history with an average grade of 10.00.

For two years in a row (2017 and 2018), she was elected as the best student of the Faculty of Economics at the University of Tuzla and on that occasion she was awarded recognition and a monetary reward by the Federal Ministry of Education and Science.

The culmination of her success and education at the first cycle of the studies was the presentation of the University of Tuzla in the Presidency of BiH. Namely, Jasmina, together with her colleagues, the best students of all public universities in BiH, attended the grand reception organized by BiH presidency member, Šefik Džaferović. "It was indeed an indescribable feeling to be among the eight best students in Bosnia and Herzegovina and it's nice to know that my efforts and work have really paid

off. The acknowledgments and rewards I have received represent a great satisfaction and motivation for building a career in Bosnia and Herzegovina and a proof that there is a better tomorrow. They are exactly the proof that an investment in knowledge gives back the highest interest, and the struggle for success, motivation, ambition and focus result in victory on the road to success", Jasmina said.

A special thanks, she says, is owed to the Hastor Foundation, whose scholarship holder and volunteer she has been for the past three years. "The support from the Hastor Foundation was of immense importance to me. It was not easy to fight the temptations I encountered during my education, but it was much easier to face new challenges, knowing that there is someone who gives us additional support. The Hastor Foundation is proof that effort and hard work are appreciated and that they pay off. It's great to be part of the Hastor Family.



## 1. KENAN KRAKOVIĆ



After applying to the latest call for potential scholarship holders, Kenan Kraković officially became a scholarship holder of the Foundation and a part of this big family thanks to the extraordinary results achieved during his education. Numerous achievements both on national and regional competitions as well as participation in many projects testify to Kenan's dedication, persistence and progress in his fields of interest and formal education as well. Perhaps Kenan's greatest success is winning the scholarship of one of the most prestigious universities in the world, Harvard University, for the course: Fundamentals of Neuroscience: Electrical Properties of the Neuron.

Attending the Medical High School in Bihać, Kenan earned the title of the student of the generation, and decided to continue his formal education at the International Burch University, where he is currently studying Genetics and Bioengineering with a GPA of 10.00.

Within his home university, Kenan has founded the Biomedical Research Club whose primary



purpose is precisely to research, develop scientific knowledge and write scientific papers on topics from the field of neuroscience.

His view of the Hastor Foundation, its long-term mission as well as the members of its structure, Kenan describes as following:

The Hastor Foundation is a huge network of talents of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Some of the best and most intelligent young people I've met are members of the Hastor Foundation. To be a member of such a powerful group of people of strong character and bright minds is a great privilege and for me it means a lot, primarily in the sense of personal development, since such people always make you think about whether you can do more in your own field. I hope that in the near future I will meet members of the Foundation from the rest of BiH and cooperate with them in a certain scientific endeavor.

## 2. AJŠA ĐUHERIĆ



Ajša Đuherić was born in 1996. She graduated from First Gymnasium in Zenica, and after that started her studies of English Language and Literature at the Department of English at the Faculty of Philosophy in Sarajevo. Last year, she graduated from the university and obtained the degree of Bachelor of English Language and Literature. After choosing a literary course, she enrolled in the second cycle.

I have been familiar with the work of the Hastor Foundation for quite some time, but I found out more information about the Foundation during the previous Sarajevo Film Festival, when Mr. Hastor became the recipient of the Honorary Heart of Sarajevo. I was impressed with the work of the Foundation and, after learning that I have become a scholarship holder, I was even more motivated to continue my work. As an English language student, I find that languages are one of the key factors in connecting with different cultures, and I hope that in the future I will have the opportunity to further expand my knowledge. I spend my free time enjoying various hobbies - mostly theatre and music, but also spending time with friends.



## 3. IVANA LAZIĆ



Ivana Lazić was born in Janja, where she currently lives. She graduated from the Secondary School of Economics in Bijeljina and after that she enrolled at the Faculty of Law of the University of East Sarajevo, namely its department in Bijeljina. Her love for law was born during the seventh grade of primary school and that's when she decided on her main goal: to become a graduate lawyer who will impart their knowledge on others and help people solve the problems. She points out that she does not have a lot of free time, but in moments when she is not occupied by studying, she occasionally likes to write poems or stories. For Ivana, exercising is at the same time an obligation and a hobby. Due to problems with her leg and the fact that she needs a cane in order to walk, exercising greatly helps her maintain the strength in the lower extremities. She loves to cook and spend time with her parents and friends who are her greatest support.



I found out about the Hastor Foundation from a friend. I visited the Foundation's website, read all the information about the Foundation, and I was pleasantly surprised by the goals that the Foundation wanted to achieve, namely supporting young people and encouraging students to achieve the best results during their studies. What attracted my attention was what I've learned about volunteering in the Foundation, how older students help the young ones overcome certain problems and provide help in other life circumstances. However, I did not succeed in applying for the call, so I submitted my application in mid-November 2018. There was a surprise a couple of weeks later when I received a call for an interview, after which I was told to come to the interview with the Foundation's Commission in Sarajevo. The

conversation I had with teacher Ramo, a respected gentleman Seid and other members, showed me that I had found in the Foundation what I've been looking for for years in my surroundings, in people around me. Primarily, I found honest friends I can always contact when I have a problem, people who are willing to provide others with selfless help and solve every problem. I can say freely that I was surprised to hear what they told me, and I took in each of their reactions. The following week, after the interview, the Hastor Foundation's Administration team contacted me and told me that I became a new scholar of the Foundation, and I was pleasantly surprised, realizing that I had become a member of a big family that provides love and happiness to everyone around them.

## 4. ADNAN HATIBOVIĆ



Adnan is a student of the Department of Sociology at the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Sarajevo. He was born in Sarajevo in 1996, where he finished his primary and secondary education. He is currently a student of the first year of the master's degree program, and he graduated from his first cycle in 2018 as one of the best students.

can help improve the physical aspect of a person, and offer the possibility of psychological relaxation and release, which contributes to better functioning in other activities, but also helps acquire new acquaintances and develop personality traits. In his free time, he likes to draw, read literary works and spend time with friends.

At first I did not even plan to apply to the Hastor Foundation, but due to certain circumstances I made a decision to try, and fortunately I managed to become a scholarship holder. Namely, certain administrative problems at the Faculty of Philosophy have prevented my original goal of submitting my application to the municipal scholarship, so I had to decide which other options I would consider. I heard about the Foundation from an acquaintance, and I decided to try. I was familiar with the criteria of evaluation and aware that the Foundation insists on its principle of objective assessment. Despite the suspicion and worry might not be accepted, I got a chance. That makes me very happy and I hope that I will be able to live up to the expectations

In addition to showing particular interest in his studies, he is also interested in sports and recreation. His leisure time is devoted to fitness. He believes that sport is a wonderful thing which



## 5. DEJANA SAVIĆ



Dejana comes from Bijeljina. She graduated from the Secondary School of Economics as a business-legal technician, and that is where her love for law was born. She is a fourth year student of the Faculty of Law at the University of East Sarajevo with a department in Bijeljina.

The narrow field of her interest is the civil law, with family and social law being her focus. Among her hobbies she highlights sewing, knitting and embroidery, and in this hobby, as she says, she finds escape from everything that makes her unhappy.

By becoming a part of the Foundation, I have been given the opportunity to volunteer with children and, by spending time with them, I now understand even more that I belong to this area. They have become one of the sources of my motivation and I can entertain new ideas – ideas that I will fight for in the future, when I become a lawyer. Younger scholarship holders have expressed the desire for me to teach them how to knit and make handmade items, so we have jointly found a new method of treating the topics assigned to us.

Our time together will be spent on multiple purposes – we will relax by doing handicraft and talk about our topics.

It is my honor to be part of you and to communicate with scholarship holders from different areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina, to exchange experiences with them. This is a great opportunity for me and I will try my best to use it in the best possible way and honor the trust you put in me. I am very grateful for your help and support.



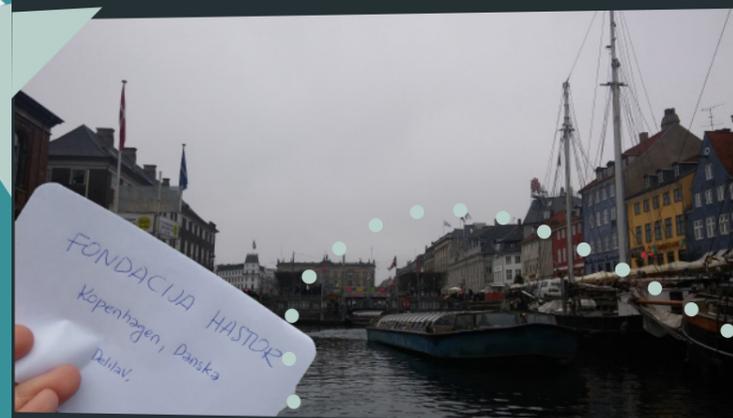
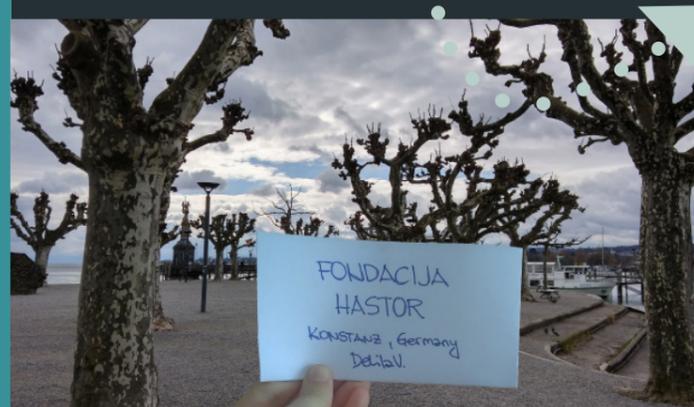
## 6. ILDA BAJRIĆ



Ilda comes from Bihać, where she studies German language at the Faculty of Pedagogy. She graduated from Bihać Gymnasium in Bihać and was the student of the generation in primary school. In her free time, she likes to read, especially Russian literature, and until recently she was a member of a cultural-artistic association.

In December of 2018, she became a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation and she points out that being a part of such organization is a great honor.

## : Delila Veispahić



**Dženita Ibrić, Brčko**

Faculty of Special Education and Rehabilitation, University of Tuzla

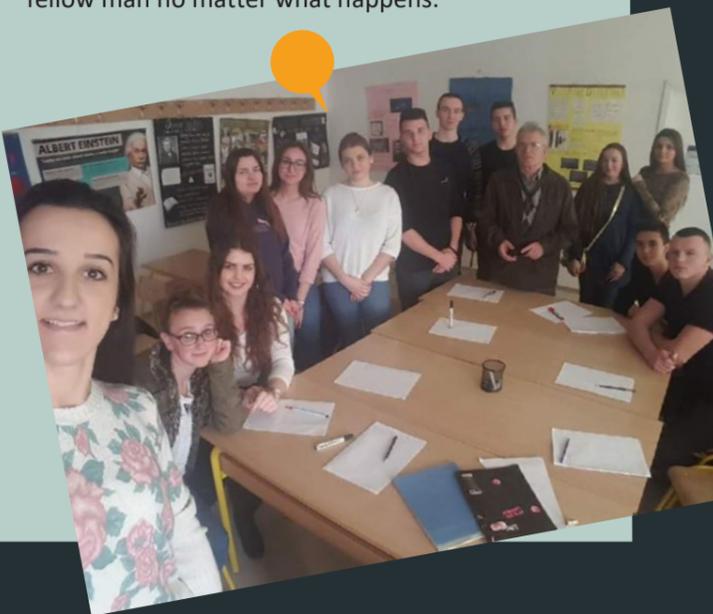
They say that there is only one true family, made up of a father, mother, and siblings, and this family is your everything. That is true, but only in part. It is true only for those who are not a part of the Hastor Foundation. The Foundation is one big family made up of so many members who do their best to make life beautiful and more fulfilling. The same way fledgling birds hide under their mother's wing during a storm, scholarship holders can find protection and shelter under the Foundation's large wings. It protects us from ignorance, the horrible people and time that we live in. It is the same for all of us, from the youngest scholarship holders, who have barely begun to learn what life is about, to those who have nearly achieved their goals and established themselves in their respective fields. The Foundation alone appreciates knowledge and effort of students – it gives its all to inspire us to use this knowledge to help those around us. Words are not enough to contain and express everything that needs to be said about the Hastor Foundation, how all of us are happy to be a part of this family that loves and respects all its children equally.

Every volunteer meeting is a new experience, but one always characterized by the beaming smiles of students, by positive stories, opinions, and worldviews. The meeting I want to focus on was held on a cold November morning.

It was a cold, or rather freezing morning. Greyish pillars of smoke rose and dissolved in the cold morning air. Windowpanes were no longer clear but decorated by frost's various patterns. All of us were shivering from the cold when we entered the premises to warm ourselves with some tea and through exchanging kind words. All of us were smiling, eager to get on with our work. We started discussing the month's compulsory topic, but at one point we looked out of the window. We saw three young men getting up from their sleeping bags that were positioned beneath the building's eaves, to hide from the weather. Worldlessly, we exchanged glances. We were silent for some time, shocked by what we've witnessed. Those three youths rose from their bags and went to try and wash

their faces by collecting the grass blades' frozen water. They were refugees. They were people like us, people who had the misfortune to be forced out of their homes and leave their loved ones behind. They were forced to flee to other cities where people are bound to look on them with contempt and with fear. Yet, they are people too. We exchanged glances, aware of the larger story behind what we were seeing. Eyes of some of the scholarship holders began to fill with tears. Seeing it was not easy. We all agreed on going to the convenience store immediately. We would buy them food that could last them a couple of days. At first, when we approached them, they looked on us with fear. Perhaps they were afraid we would chase them away or ridicule them. However, when we gave them the shopping bags all three of them began to weep and thank us. Indeed, an outpouring of feelings that were locked away. We returned to our meeting, but we could see them through the window. They were smiling and sharing some of the bread, happy with what they had. The knowledge that we helped and made their day, that we made them smile drew our smiles too.

This is only one occasion, but these things are not at all uncommon in the Foundation. We would always help each other and we would always help a random passerby in need. It is wonderful to be a part of the Hastor Foundation, our family that always reminds us to look beyond ourselves and be there for our fellow man no matter what happens.



The database showed that the scholarship holders and volunteers of the Hastor Foundation reached the number of 20.057 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 271 volunteering meetings in 63 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 **“Public Speaking: How to Conquer Your Fear?”**. Besides the compulsory theme, the scholarship holders discussed other interesting topics as well, and our students also spent some volunteering hours helping our younger scholarship holders in understanding the school material better.

20 057

volunteer  
hours

workshops

271

63

municipality

## Some of the most interesting themes:

- **Every end is a new beginning**
- Teamwork and its importance
- **Volunteer Day (5th of December) and the significance of volunteering**
- **Reading and assessment of TOEFL Reading Tests**
- **Prejudice and stereotypes**
- **Humankind and nature, ecology and technology**
- **How I became successful and happy with my life**
- **Set a goal and make it happen!**
- **The importance of art in our society: to which extent is art present in BH?**
- **The exodus of youth from BH**
- **Emotions and feelings**
- **Waste as a problem of today**
- **A friend is a mirror to their friend**
- **Concrete methods and ways of learning**
- **The point and value of education**
- **Why is reading important??**
- **Advertisements and media**
- **Labor market discrimination**

The municipalities in which the volunteer workshops were held:



New Year's Card



Šejla Alispahić, Ensar Hinović, Hana Cahanaј



Nejla Totić

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