

# NEWSLETTER



FONDACIJA  
HASTOR

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## *The story about Anđela Gajić, the Hastor Foundation's scholarship holder, whose first acquired language was sign language*

International Week of the Deaf is celebrated during the last week of September, and September 23 is marked as the International Day of Sign Languages (World Federation of the Deaf).

We bring you the story about our young Anđela Gajić from Šekovići, an exemplary pupil of the Primary School "Jovan Dučić", whose first acquired language was sign language, because she was born in a family where both her parents and her two brothers are deaf. She started learning sign language when she was 4, so she could communicate with those dearest to her. Despite all the challenges she inherited by birth, Anđela is a joyful girl who believes in her dreams with all her heart, and in her spare time she likes to write poetry and draw. When she grows up, she wants to become a sign language interpreter, and she also plans to enroll into a secondary medical school and become a heroine in white in the future.

Anđela says that her life is perfectly normal, only with more obligations, and that she has managed to accomplish many goals thanks to her family. We hope that Anđela's dreams will become a reality, and we want just a single thing from all of you reading this story – educate yourself about those who are different from you and listen to the needs of the people around you, because we are each other's support and hope, help and comfort. What is also very important to know is that the term "deaf-mute" has been used incorrectly for years, mostly due to lack of understanding. Deafness does not imply muteness and, besides, a majority of deaf persons is not mute and can speak. As such, this term is labeled as incorrect and offensive to all the persons who are part of the deaf community.

Selma Imamović

*Anđela Gajić*



*The Hastor Foundation*

*Lots of excellent and very good students  
Waiting for luck to knock on their doors  
Those children need help  
So that no one has control over them.*

*The good people of the Hastor Foundation  
Will lend a hand to everyone  
The Hastor Foundation gave children wings  
To make them happy.*

*We should thank them  
For securing the future of students  
You have given us so much love  
And that is why we will repay you.*

*Anđela Gajić*







## “Nature calls you”, a project by our scholarship holder Medina Tahić

*Medina Tahić*

The Hastor Foundation always pays tribute to the active scholarship holders who come up with innovative ideas. We are proud to present Medina Tahić from Bužim, who has been a part of our family for four years. She graduated from the Bužim Primary School and the Secondary Grammar School “Hasan Musić” with excellent results. Through primary and secondary school, she played sports and participated in various sports activities at school, and for almost 8 years she played volleyball at ŽOK “Bužim”, where she achieved notable results. In 2013 and 2016, she was chosen as the most prominent athlete of the municipality of Bužim in her category (the most successful cadet and senior). For a while, she worked as an assistant coach, and she also passed the exam for a volleyball referee. She is currently on her fourth year at the Department of Physical Therapy Studies at the Faculty of Health Studies.

She says that she is still athletically active, running as a member of “Trčanje i to” group whenever she has the time, and she prides herself on completing two half marathons. She ran the first one in Sarajevo and the second in Split, and she also ran several races of 5 and 10 kilometers. Sports have been a big part of Medina's life, and as she says, that's a part of her that she can't do without. She tries to be as active as possible and constantly test her limitations.

*“Sport, and especially volleyball – my first love – showed me that only persistent effort and work can bring results, showed me the importance of team spirit, how to behave in a team and how to get up after a fall. Running has taught me that continuity is very important and if I do not dedicate myself to the goal I am going towards, that goal will not be wholesome, or I won't even manage to achieve it.”*

She says she has decided to start things up and not just be an observer or a critic, but see what she can actually do for her local community. That is how she found out about the competition organized and published by Lonac.pro – a competition for youth projects and their ideas. She contacted several friends and suggested that they do something about sports in Bužim. That is how they came up with the idea for “Nature calls you”, a project which aimed to promote outdoor sports, primarily cycling, volleyball and camping. They did a couple of rides with the members of ŽOK “Bužim” in their local community, where the children are not familiar enough with the work of cycling and volleyball clubs, and they did volleyball training and played an amateur game. As a finale, they organized a trip for the participants to the Svetinja picnic area, where they also rode bicycles, and then carried out various



activities, which included a competition in assembling a camping tent. She states that it was a special experience, because none of them has had the opportunity to do it so far.

*“Taking the children to nature and them telling you how much fun they had and asking when they can come again is really an incredible success, and after that you forget all the difficulties you had organizing the whole thing, because you succeeded in your plan.”*

Medina says that her plans for the future are focused on graduation, enrolment in master's studies, and training in the field of sports medicine or children's rehabilitation, because in addition to sports, she enjoys the company of children and loves to help them.

*“For me, the Hastor Foundation represents a second family, support and motivation. As much as I try to be successful, to make my parents proud of me, I try just as hard to brighten the face of the Foundation. The Foundation is not just material support, it is much more than that. Through mentoring, and now as a member of the administration, I learned about responsibility, organization and setting priorities.”*

The Hastor Foundation praises Medina's initiative and readiness to turn her ideas into concrete plans and, ultimately, a successful project. We hope that such and similar stories will encourage our scholarship holders to believe in themselves and realize their ideas. We wish Medina good luck in her studies and in all the extracurricular activities that are an integral part of her story.





# Azra Zahirović and her participation in the Independent Media Empowerment Program (IMEP)



**The public call for grants for civic journalists remains continuously open, and all necessary information can be found on the website <https://imep.ba/> in the section Grants, subsection Open Calls.**

Azra Zahirović is a long-term volunteer and scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation. She says that in her 23 years of life she was active half of that time, so the title of volunteer became an integral part of her name and life path. She crowned her achievements in formal education by becoming the winner of the highest recognition of the University of Sarajevo - the Golden Badge. In 2019, Azra acquired the title of a Bachelor of Political Science, completing the first cycle of studies at the Faculty of Political Sciences, majoring in International Relations and Diplomacy. She decided to continue her education at the School of Economics and Business in Sarajevo, following her aspirations in the field of economic diplomacy, while not neglecting her social engagement. Azra describes the importance of volunteering and proactive action in the life of every human being by using the well-known sentence of Martin Luther King:

*"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."*

In addition to numerous other projects of which she was part during her entire schooling, Azra also took part as a volunteer in the Media Empowerment Program (IMEP), the details of which we bring to you below.

The Independent Media Empowerment Program (IMEP) is a five-year USAID program implemented in BiH by the Center for the Promotion of Civil Society (CPCD) and the Open Network, which, in addition to supporting the establishment and functioning of independent media, also promotes civic journalism. The phrase "civic journalism" refers to a concept that implies the possibility of placing information and news by citizens who are not professional journalists, in other words, by people who are not professionally trained in the process of production and dissemination of news. Civic journalism presupposes the active participation of citizens in the process of collecting, producing and distributing news and socially relevant information in order to improve the general state of society, but also to point out to certain issues and problems. In this regard, this concept is considered one of

the democratic principles that encourage citizens to be actively involved in various social issues through modern technologies and available media tools.

Following the positive trends, IMEP has created a web platform, as well as a mobile application Imep.ba, which allows you to be part of creating your own news and information, freely express and share your values about the various events you witness, all in order to provide active contribution to encouraging dialogue, social activism, but also critical thinking while returning the focus to life and everyday problems. Civic journalists can be freelancers, bloggers, vloggers, photographers or citizens who simply like to write-paint-record, i.e. independently create media content with a critical review of socio-political events in their environment, but also express a personal opinion about any topic relevant for them, and share it with the public.

In addition to the space where you can send and publish your news, IMEP also offers the opportunity for grants that can help citizen journalists realize their ideas.

*"Working as a volunteer on this project, I realized how important civic journalism is in an era of fake news, hate speech and unclear media ownership. Working on the campaign I had the opportunity to meet creative people full of positive energy. The IMEP team will answer any questions or concerns and provide full support to anyone interested in this form of activism.*

*In addition, the knowledge base that you can find on the website offers a lot of useful content that will surely motivate Hastor Foundation's scholarship holders, especially those studying journalism or related fields.*

*I think that this project is a very good opportunity for young people who want to work on themselves, and at the same time contribute to impartial and objective reporting. All that matters is that you have an idea and something you want to write about! Therefore, if the media do not report on topics that are important to you or you do not like how they do it - be a civic journalist and create your own media content."*



# Interesting facts about literary works and authors

The novel "Gone with the Wind" was rejected by 38 publishers prior to its publication.

Sherlock Holmes is the most shown character of all time in film and television.

"Gulliver's Travels" contain descriptions of the satellites of Mars, almost a century before astronomers confirmed their existence.

Franz Kafka asked his friend to burn all his works. "The Trial", "The Castle", and "Amerika" were printed against his will.

"The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" is the first book written on the typing machine.

"Alice in Wonderland" was at the time forbidden in China, because it includes talking animals!

Prior to writing "The Da Vinci Code", Dan Brown was a pop singer and songwriter.

The original title of "Pride and Prejudice" was "First Impressions".

"The Great Gatsby" was almost called "Under the Red, White and Blue".

Gabriel Garcia Marquez never allowed his book "One Hundred Years of Solitude" to be made into a movie.

Vladimir Nabokov wrote "Lolita" on little pieces of paper, during his trip across the US, while collecting butterflies. His wife Vera later stopped him from burning the said manuscript of the said book.

There is almost 130 million books in the world (to be precise: 129.864.880).

Shakespeare is the creator of many words in the vocabulary of English. Some of those are: gossip, advertising, champion, addiction, etc.

"Robinson Crusoe" is the first-ever English novel.

The first hand-written Bible (after the invention of the printing press) cost eight million dollars, and it was made during the course of 12 years.

While reading, we often wander into other, imaginary worlds, thanks to the stories set far away in history or in the imaginary future. A person, by listening and reading, takes in the literary work which, first and foremost, distances them from their immediate environment in which they live, and from their concrete reality. Still, behind all those interesting stories and within the literary titles themselves are often hidden special stories linked to the author's life, family, and interesting situations which occurred prior to, while writing the literary work, or after its publication. We present you some less known facts about some works and authors!



## SCHOLARSHIP HOLDER OF THE MONTH

*The magic of life is seen in every person leaving behind a mark of their existence and work. Sometimes, that is just a small trace, and sometimes it is a much bigger one, which depends on the person's effort and commitment, on the depth of the groove they plowed and the seed they sowed. And what is the gift of reasoning, if not a trough in which and from which the beauty of speech pours, the beauty that a human being shares with others. If this was not the case, the human being would be lonely and bleak in its existence. Once again, we present to you the beautiful moments which spark the life of our scholarship holder who definitely left her mark in our Hastor family.*

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**Bosnian  
carpets are  
the main  
motif and  
theme  
of every  
Jonze story.**

*Zehra Jonuz -  
Silajdžić*

Zehra Jonuz-Silajdžić was born in October 1998, and she became part of the Hastor Foundation 3 years ago, and, as she says, many things would not be the same if her life path did not lead her to our address. Zehra is currently a graduate at the School of Economics and Business, University of Sarajevo, at the Management Department, Studies of Business Analytics. Several months ago, she added another surname to her own, and we are happy that our scholarship holders can and manage to harmonize family obligations with those at their faculties and outside them.

In July of this year, she participated at the Western Balkan Youth Conference, organized by Balkan Studies Center, IUS. The research topic that Zehra and her team wrote their paper on was “Determinants of life expectancy in EU countries”, thereby standing side by side with doctors of science and PhD students.

Besides her student and volunteer tasks, her other love, pride and commitment is the “Jonze” brand:

*“Namely, almost two years ago I founded and initiated the Jonze story which is nowadays actively followed and supported by nearly 2.000 people on social media. The name Jonze is the acronym of my surname (JONuz) and name (ZEHra). Our little (spreading) team, my mother, father, husband and I, brings a part of Bosnia into your homes and we do it in a particularly interesting way. Upon completing the graphic design course, I started designing Bosnian carpets and transfer them to various objects, so today we have more than 15 carpets which we transfer to about twenty different objects in our selection. There are posters, trays, sinija, coasters, planners, key chains, etc. You can find it all on our Facebook or Instagram account @jonze. In addition to traditional Bosnian motifs, I also design logos for companies and creative people and I really enjoy doing that.*

*“I find motivation and inspiration for everything I do in the fact that every effort, no matter of what type, always pays off. And this is not just another expression. I don't only think along the lines of “What will I get from it?”, or as my professor likes to call it the what's-in-it-for-me principle.*



**What I think more often is: what do the people around me get from my actions?  
Will those actions help someone or hurt them?  
Make things easier for them?**

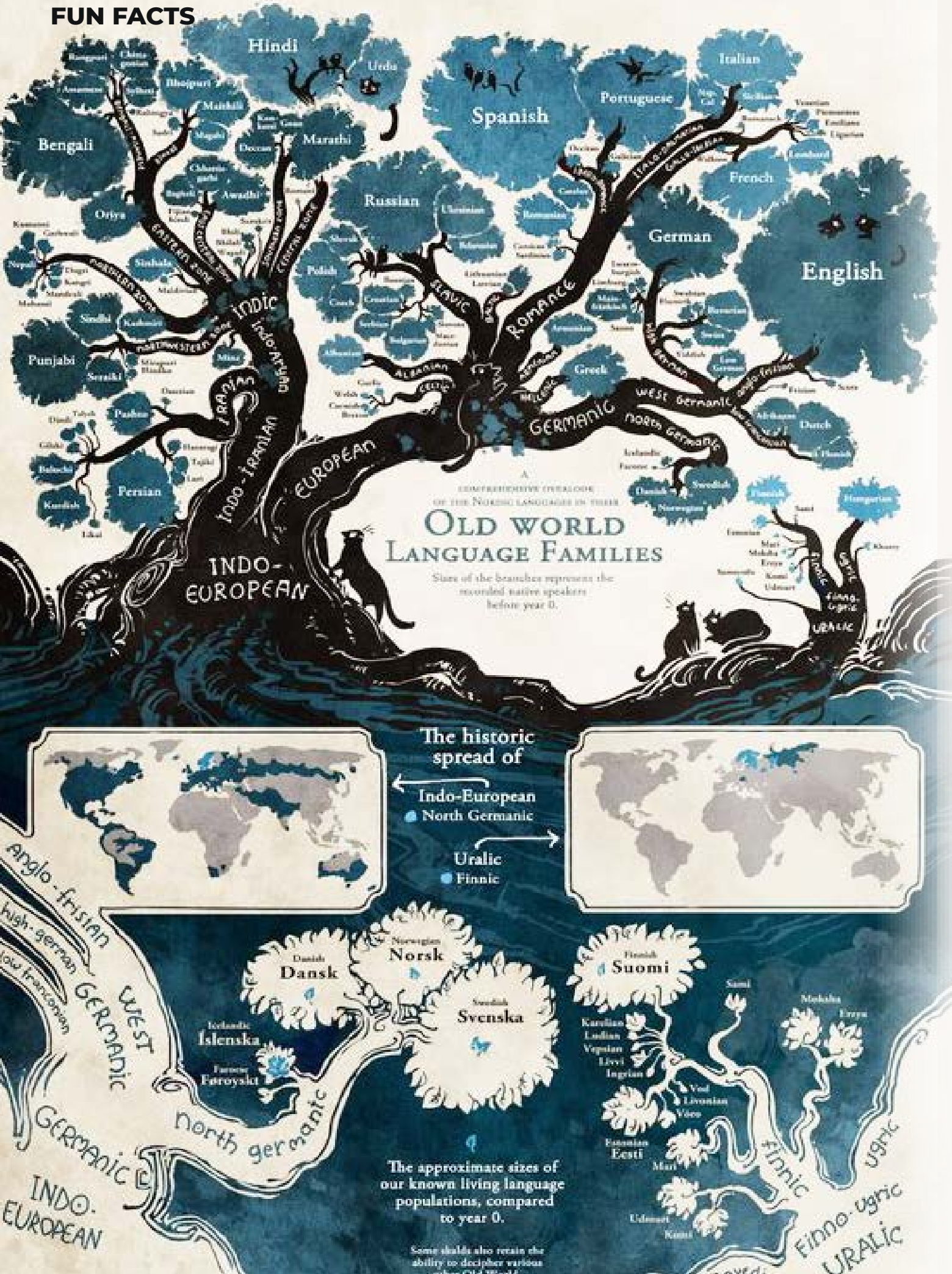
*And ever since I started thinking about the well-being of all people, and not just my own, the opportunities present themselves and the successes just keep on coming.”*

And yes, the future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams. Till some new lines, stay healthy and always cheerful and smiling like our Zehra.

Selma Imamović



**FUN FACTS**



# Wealth is in the language

Language is a part of our everyday life and overall identity. We all do not speak the same language, but still some say that it would be better if there was one universal language which would be used to communicate. But is that really the best solution? This would result in the loss of too many beautiful cultures and peoples who associate everything important in their lives with their language. Also, it would imply one opportunity less to work on ourselves. By learning a foreign language, we perfect ourselves and show that we care about different attitudes, cultures, and traditions. The more languages we know, the closer we are to the rest of the world.

The importance of knowledge of foreign languages has never been questioned, and in the period of globalization and internationalization of business, knowledge of a foreign language is not a choice but a necessity. Foreign languages also play a major role in the development of education. Learning foreign languages increases creativity and various skills, such as critical thinking or analysis. Our cognitive abilities become much better when we speak another language in addition to our mother tongue. Studies have shown that this directly affects the improvement of remembrance and memory and increases the range of attention. People who speak multiple languages solve logical problems much better, but they are also much more creative than those who know only one language, freer and have more self-confidence. This is one of the reasons why it is important to teach children foreign languages from an early age.

## Did you know?

*It is estimated that there are about 6,500 languages in the world today. It is known that 573 languages are "extinct", that is, they are no longer spoken or learned (most of them were dialects whose words and alphabets were not written and thus lost).*

Another benefit is that you feel closer to a culture, not only through communication but also through art: you will understand their music, literary works etc. in a different way. It will open you up to a new dimension of enjoying the same. We will see other people's culture differently and we will understand them better. We will go away from our culture and be not so attached to it, which will draw us even closer to it. Although it sounds paradoxical, it happens because we consciously see the beauty of our culture when we are exposed to another, instead of just accepting it because it is ours. A Latin proverb says, "The more languages you know, the more you are human."

*English is the most widely spoken and widespread language in the world if both native and foreign speakers (non-native speakers) are counted. If only native speakers were counted, then Mandarin Chinese is in the first place. It is interesting that this language is considered the "most difficult".*



## FUN FACTS

**Tamil is recognized as the oldest language in the world and is the oldest language in the Dravidian family. This language was present approximately 5,000 years ago. Some Tamil words have come into wider use around the world (e.g. mango).**

The fact is that knowing a foreign language can be a decisive factor in winning a job. It often happens that jobs that require knowledge of another language are better paid and have better working conditions, but it also happens that sometimes this is given priority over work experience. It is important to note that in the 21st century, knowledge of the English language is implied, both at the academic or business level, and on a daily basis. Do not limit yourself to it, but develop and grow by investing time and effort in your education, because with the knowledge of each new language you become more competent and competitive.

Nejla Komar

**Papua New Guinea has the most languages - about 840 living languages. In second place is Indonesia with 710 living languages, and in third place is Nigeria, which has 515 living languages.**

**French is spoken in many African countries, which currently have some of the highest population growth rates, and that is why French is one of the fastest growing and expanding languages in the world.**

## The Nordic Languages



Þetta er myndin - Þetta er myndin - Þetta er myndin

### ICHLANDIC

An archaic language that greatly resembles the old Norse spoken by the ancient Vikings. The Scandinavian languages were also born out of old Norse, but are no longer mutually intelligible with Icelandic.

Detta är bilden - Dette er bildet - Dette er bildet

### DANISH, NORWEGIAN, SWEDISH

Knowing one of the Scandinavian languages is enough to understand all three, especially in written form. Spoken Danish can prove tricky to grasp, particularly for Swedes, but Norwegian bridges the gap between Danish and Swedish.

Tämä kuva - Tämä kuva - Tämä kuva

### FINNISH

Not from the same language family as the other four Nordic languages. Absolutely gibberish!







**Boards that  
mean life:  
theatrical  
art from the  
perspective  
of scholarship  
holders**

*Milica Savić i Nikolina Gagić*

Theater and acting can have little, big, or no significance in the eye of the beholder. However, what is in the eye of an actor on stage? How does he or she see the world? Milica Savić and Nikolina Gagić are scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation, who have a history of engaging in theatrical art, and this section aims to show what the world of theater looks like from their perspective.

Milica, who is in Prijedor, is currently working on a new novel and sees herself in her hometown in the future. She says about herself that, without self-pity, she realized that the beginning of her progress was zero, from which she moves away by working on herself and improving. She is pushed by the recollection of the most difficult days in life that push her forward, as well as the time spent with family and friends. Although she is not currently engaged in theatrical art, it marked an important period of her life.

The love for acting was born in childhood through watching various series, mostly Spanish soap operas popular at the time. She wanted to act, and theater boards have always intrigued her. Questions like what to do when the text is forgotten or how to keep the audience's attention have always been mysterious. After her mom took her to a New Year's Eve show, she felt some warmth.

As her city has a collaboration with an Italian organization, one of them was Paolo Vincentini - a director who wanted to gather young people and perform a play.

*"I did not stop to think whether to accept the offer, I immediately said 'YES' out loud. However, we did not immediately get to the theater, but rehearsed the first parts of the play in various schools and free spaces. Sometimes I didn't feel good, I thought I was wasting my time and as a child I didn't realize that maybe it's not easy to get free days in the theater and that we are children, amateurs and they don't even know if we will succeed."*

Milica performed her first play, "Romeo and Juliet", in Ljubija, a place known for its mine, which was opened on that day. She played the role of Julia's mother. After that, they went to Italy and only there did they encounter theatrical boards that left a strong impression on them.

*"After the first show, the feeling was indescribable. I walked with my back straight with a wide smile on my face. I was proud of myself because I had succeeded in something new. I was happy."*

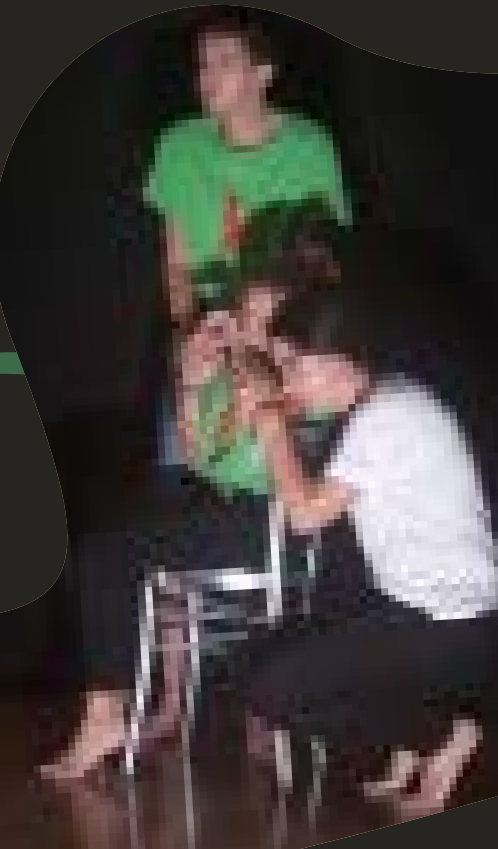
Stage fright, she points out, has always been present. However, Milica perceives her as positive because it keeps her on stage and prevents her from making mistakes. Over time, the stage fright, after getting to know the protocol and the steps that will take place, decreases, but it is certainly an integral part of life.

*"I would advise young people to be aware of the fact that there is a stage fright even when we answer at school or wait for the professor to call us, and everything still turns out fine."*

Like many, due to the new situation, she rarely visits the theater, although she enjoys it, especially now that she knows some tricks and ways to practice a certain action. Her favorite performances from the point of view of the observer are certainly plays played by friends.

The main obstacle she encountered was communication with the mentioned foreign director who did not know our language and, accordingly, could not adequately describe the emotion he wanted to see in the actors or explain how to get there.

*"That's why we spent hours practicing every emotion, with music, with one word, creating our own little play or picture from a few movements and the like. At that moment I was trying to come up with the best solution, at first very unsuccessfully. I stayed locked in the room in front of the mirror for hours and watched myself and filmed my role so that I could notice irregularities as an observer. Now that I look back, I see that all these exercises have contributed over time to dosing every emotion and eliminating unnecessary ones, and to put it simply, I grew up with it all."*







“

**Theater is a wonderful and useful way to invest our free time in it.**

*“The drama section, the charity play, the exam and professional play, they all bring with them different feelings. Each has excitement, fear, passion, relief, and many more emotions, they are just dosed differently.”*

She points out that the feeling after the play is something specific and inexplicable, but not necessarily positive, and that the feeling during the play is much more important than the one after.

*“If fear is an obstacle for anyone, I can freely say that if, despite it, I go out and do my job as much as I can, they certainly can too. The essence of anxiety is that you should not prevent, maybe just warn or prepare someone for work. In the end, it can happen that everyone makes mistakes, but no one in the audience knows the text by heart and no one evaluates how accurately you pronounced the text. You have to believe in yourself at all times, in general, and then reduce it to small moments on stage, which are rehearsed.”*

Nikolina visits the theater as often as she can and watches the same plays in Tuzla several times. As a mentor, she took the students to the theater, and some of them then continued to go on their own, which makes her especially happy. She enjoys being part of the audience, but she can't always indulge in the story because of the critical aspect of watching the play because something else draws her attention (acting, speech, movement of actors), which is not surprising considering that Nikolina is a graduated actress.

*“Lately, I have realized that whatever problems there are, they are solved by practice, even when the problem is external, or internal, or if there is a problem in someone else. It's all a matter of practice and belief.”*

However, each person is different and sometimes it is necessary to find a like-minded person, and sometimes a “tough love” approach is needed, all depending on the character, but it is necessary to indulge in things and live them.

*“I don't think I had an 'OH' moment because from the beginning, as a child, I agreed that I love this, and I do it because I love it. When I was first rejected at the entrance exam for the academy, then I said that I would go to the entrance exam until I was accepted. And everything that bothered me at the academy could not be strong enough to stop me from finishing it, because I knew I loved it and wanted to do it.”*

Both Milica and Nikolina agree that theatrical art is not sufficiently represented, but that this has become significantly worse with the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic.

*“It is no longer a matter of free time or money that will be set aside for watching a play, but only the habit in society to spare some time for something useful or to learn something new. I can't say that I am sorry for adults, but because they do not create a useful habit in their children,” said Milica Savić.*

*Nikolina says: “Before the pandemic, theatrical art was present little enough to be said to exist, and now the situation is even worse, and I hope that after this, things will improve.”*

This clearly shows that the lack of audience is one of the challenges that theaters in Bosnia and Herzegovina face and that it is necessary to motivate both young and old to participate in cultural events where, above all, they can see talented young people like Milica and Nikolina.

Una Karabeg



Her "OH" moment was at the end of the first play in the theater, when a shiver went through her whole body and when she felt tears in her eyes with a thunderous applause that filled the space. She felt she had succeeded and then said to herself,

*“That's it, it wasn't hard, we'll move on, for sure.”*

Milica points out that the most important thing in everything we do in life is the love for it, the desire to succeed and the understanding that hard days are normal and that there will be many, and that success requires a lot of sacrifice, effort, tears and fatigue. It is necessary to accept that this is a process that leads to success and that it is necessary to go through, and that the fear of failure should be put aside.

*“Fear is always present, it is there to warn us that we should give our best, but not to sabotage us. Theater is a wonderful and useful way to invest our free time in it. In every difficult moment, I told myself that I was doing all this so that one day I would be proud and happy.”*

On the other hand, Nikolina is a graduated actress, who is enrolling into master's studies in philosophy in Sarajevo, where she lives. She graduated in acting in Tuzla, and once she earns a master's degree in philosophy, her wish is to earn a master's degree in acting in England, and then a PhD in philosophy. What fulfill her are constant learning, research and travel, and every kind of activity that involves getting new information. She says that she is driven by various things, but that sometimes she must force herself to move when she gets caught up into a routine.

Za nju pozorište već odavno nije hobi, ali je. For her, theater is no longer a hobby, but it used to be a long time ago, when she enrolled in the drama section at school at the age of 6, because, she admits, she was in love with a guy who went there. However, he soon left, but she stayed because she fell in love with the art and work she encountered there.

She had many first performances; it all depends on where they are played and what weight they carry.





*Ajla Buljubašić*

**Through this section, we will present the active young scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation, who, in addition to volunteering, do phenomenal things and thus represent the Foundation in the best light!**

Ajla Buljubašić is a social pedagogue by profession, and she has been a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation since her fifth grade of primary school, i.e. for full 12 years. This young girl from Novi Travnik continued her formal education by enrolling into the master studies at the Faculty of Law, Department of Criminal Law, with the desire to improve her knowledge and learn something new, which will be useful for her future.

What makes Ajla stand out from other students is her love for social pedagogy, which she fell in love with at first sight, because it provides help to children with behavioral disorders, addicts, offenders, etc. According to her, though not everyone is yet familiar with this vocation, its significance in the society is great and it is therefore necessary to raise awareness on the importance of social pedagogy.

For all our readers, Ajla described what social pedagogy is:

*“The fundamental principle of social pedagogy is negating universal solutions and accepting the possibility of multiple perspectives depending on the circumstances. The goal of the principle is not providing the solution right away, but enabling the person to find solution on their own by developing competencies and skills, and so to overcome difficulties they face. A social pedagogue can come across numerous difficulties of children and youth: ADHD, aggressive behavior, psychological difficulties, disrespect of authority, substance abuse, committing crimes and difficulties related to the school environments, etc. The need for a social pedagogue in our society is seen in the fact that a police officer, a manager and a seller all have the same goal, which is to be the best in their field. This is precisely why good psychological and mental health is necessary, and a social pedagogue should intervene in time in order to contribute to a successful life and work of an individual and the whole community!”*

Ajla had her first volunteer experience within the Hastor Foundation, and afterwards she volunteered while in faculty and by partaking in numerous internships. She perceives volunteering as a form of personal development, where she helps herself by helping others. Her desire for volunteering and contributing to the local



community was further strengthened by being part of the “Sumero” organization, where she faced something new which left a positive impression on her – non-institutionalized approach to people with intellectual difficulties and their active involvement in the local community in Zenica.

*“Developing support within the community is of great importance to the individuals who can contribute to the society with some other abilities and who need to be supported. I think that this is the best organization, because it goes into the core of social pedagogy, where people are not left out from the society based on their difficulties and disorders, but their capacities are used for positive purposes and in that way their identity is returned to them. This exempts stigmatization and any form of excluding people from the active part of the society, which is positively reflected on the psychological development of a person.”*

Due to all the aforementioned, Ajla is looking forward to her future volunteering within this organization. Ajla improved her experience by volunteering with the student information portal [STUDOMAT.ba](http://STUDOMAT.ba), where she had the opportunity to interview and meet numerous successful persons.





**“That is the work that is also fun, because children always bring a smile to my face, but on the other hand this carries a great responsibility which pushes me forward and shows me that I can always be better at what I do!**

Her activist and volunteer story continues in the JU Family Home Zenica, where she had the opportunity to organize fun and educational workshops for children without parental care, together with her colleagues from the faculty.

*“During those days, I had the opportunity to meet children of different profiles, and to realize just how much expertise and care this work requires, because everything carries a double weight when you work with children from different centers and institutions.”*

She is currently a member of the Association of Social Pedagogues BIH, whose members are active young people like her, who have the opportunity to implement projects and be a great example of how to improve the work of social pedagogues in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

*“During my studies, I strived to improve as a person, acquiring social and communication skills, empathy, responsibility, teamwork, creativity, and various work approaches in terms of counseling or other areas of work (helping children, the area of health, working with the elderly, marginalized groups, helping persons with disabilities).”*

Ajla is one of those students who seek the opportunity for personal development through numerous student internships. She was an intern in different centers: Center for mental health in Zenica, JU center for elderly Zenica, Center for children and adults with special needs of ZDC, but also in Primary School “Musa Ćazim Ćatić” Zenica, where she made the Book of didactic practice and Book of pedagogical practice. Outside of Zenica, she was also an intern in Fojnica with the JU Institute for care of mentally disabled persons – DRIN and Institute Bakovići.

*“These internships provided me with the opportunity to meet the institutionalized approach to this work and the conditions in which it is performed. This was a special story for me, which fit into 4 years of studies, where I realized just how little these people need to smile and just how important expertise is in working with them.”*

**“This is the profession where a single meeting is enough for you to be loved by an innocent being**

Practical approaches in these centres broadened Ajla's perspectives on social pedagogy and precisely one of her internships, the one with the Cantonal Court in Zenica, encouraged her to choose Criminal Law for her master studies. She developed her interest in a case hearing, which speaks further about the importance of practical work in the educational process, but also when choosing a career.

*“I think that this field needs further development in order to facilitate the life of the most emotional children and elderly, and those certainly are the persons with behavioral disorders!”*

In terms of active involvement of the youth in the society, Ajla mentions the famous saying that the future is in the hands of the youth, which refers to its importance.

*“Regardless of its type, every work brings many commodities and it is therefore necessary for a person to progress and develop. Through these activities I have acquired numerous abilities, learned new things and gained new skills. This path has not always been easy, but it was definitely worth it!”*



Given that she has been a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation for 12 years already, she says that she is proud of being part of this family for so long.

*“I perceive the Hastor Foundation as my life companion, the family which supported and helped me in my development. The Foundation has followed me while I achieved numerous successes and during my studies, and while volunteering I gained new experiences and broadened by perspectives.*

While volunteering, she had the opportunity to help people of elderly age, with whom help sometimes implies a simple conversation and what you get in return is numerous life lessons which are of special importance for her, as well as for all young people who learn and acquire new things.

Her message for the youth is:  
*“Fight for your place under the sky, no matter how difficult that sometimes is. It is important to overcome fear of failure by trying hard and enjoying the success you achieve in life. Have a goal, because that is how you have purpose, and never give up, even when you cannot see anything positive, because that could be precisely how things are coming into their place, and I think that everything in life happens for a reason!”*



# Nedžma Latić

## Does the moon need to dream too?

*I move, and I stand still  
At one moment I'm trembling, and at another I resist the  
wind.*

*Let the confusion beside me grow  
And I will water it, lost.*

*I watch the moon that has to float in the sky  
How it waits for the opportunity to hide behind the clouds  
He doesn't mind that I can see him  
He just wants to sleep in peace for a minute.*

*I always ran away from people  
Not because they don't understand my dreams  
But because this silly human is afraid  
Of what other people are creating in their heads.  
It's me, the passenger  
That doesn't walk slow, but strangely fast  
To escape from this earthly sky  
To which I never belonged*

*Tonight, the moon is not above you  
And you immediately think it's no longer there  
It's really breathing sleepily  
Yawning hidden from the human eye!*

*I'll too run for the clouds one day  
When I think I've found the dream sky  
And with the sunrise I will come again  
To my parents' house.*

# Adnan Hatibović

Almost two years have passed since I received my first scholarship. A short period, but it was enough to create a mutual bond and to notice the fundamental ideas that this team represents. This time was the time of large duality: from the aspect of duration, it was a rather short period; from the aspect of experience, it is an incredible sequence of my life, a proof that one can learn fast by making the right moves in the right situations. I have had diverse positive moments and encountered different forms of volunteering, through which I developed and got enriched.

The significance of the scholarship is first and foremost seen in the financial aspect. The scholarship facilitated the daily activities and education, which contributed to a certain relief in terms of the family budget. Still, reducing the gains to the one just mentioned would mean reducing the past time to a single aspect; focusing solely on the financial contribution would imply disregarding the multidimensionality of the personal growth I had in the Foundation. While working with pupils I developed my pedagogical skills, whereas volunteering with the Administration Team provided me with the opportunity to improve my knowledge and skills in terms of the organizational aspects of work.

Additional activities that I partook in enabled me to test my own competences and potentials, gain self-confidence, acquire additional acquaintances and different positive experiences.

Finally, I was also provided with the opportunity to develop inter\_\_ relations, spend quality time in meetings and develop my own sociability.

However, this period also came to its end. In the moment of the formal farewell, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Hastor Foundation and the people who contribute to it in various spheres, including financial support, self-improvement and quality time spent together. A truly rich ambience, the one in which real ideas and values are promoted, enables the individual an equally rich development – in my case, the Foundation is one of the factors which helped me overcome my obstacles. The formal end, however, does not imply the real end. I do not want to express the gratitude to the Hastor Foundation solely using written word. The fundamental ideas of the Foundation imply activism even after the period of receiving the scholarship. Due to the said contributions, I express my will to maintain mutual connections. Though I am formally leaving, I remain present to show through my actions, and in accordance with my abilities, my gratitude to the Hastor Foundation. In other words, this is neither a goodbye nor the end of our relations, but only their transformation and activism in some other form.

*Sincerely, and with honest gratitude*

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