

# NEWSLETTER



FONDACIJA  
HASTOR

*december*  
2020.



# Signing contracts

By signing with new and extending contracts with old scholarship holders on the 21st and 22nd of this month, the Hastor Foundation has shown that December does not always have to be the end and that sometimes it can be the beginning of a good and beautiful story. In this way, the Foundation continued to affirm its work with full force, aiming to create a place and a world in which the planned number of 505 students will have the opportunity to learn and gain various knowledge and experience through volunteering and other activities. This year was a surprise for all of us, a struggle, but also an opportunity to show that, if we want it enough, there are no insurmountable obstacles on the road to success. In compliance with all epidemiological measures, the signing of contracts with students was done in the premises of ASA Prevent, where the old scholarship holders continued their journey, and for new ones this was a symbolic beginning of a wonderful and certainly successful adventure within the Hastor Foundation.



Renewing old and signing new contracts is a reminder to us that we are building an unusual story about young people who are bravely stepping towards their goals, and we are here to support their goals. Since its founding, the Hastor Foundation has been a space intended for young people of this country who have clear and formed wills, we are pleased and proud to say that it has remained so today, as evidenced by the numerous successes of our scholarship holders.

The total number of 2207 young people we plan to achieve this year testifies that this story, which began to be told 14 years ago, is truly good and valuable, for only good stories from year to year are kept and transmitted as noble and precious. Countless times we have been convinced that no signed contract was just a trace on paper - it is a symbol of joining a company of brave and courageous people who with their youth, strength, intelligence, hard work and commitment change their local communities, and thus this country.





Signing new contracts every year is also a reminder that from our nest some *birds* go to new worlds, ready for their *independent flight*

Due to the pandemic of the COVID-19 virus, our scholarship holders have shown humanity and responsibility that distinguishes them in various ways. By signing the contract, all of them commit to using their community, which is not a burden but a pure pleasure that we have told many times so far, stories in which young people, volunteering in their communities, help their fellow citizens, make them happy and build a better future for new generations.

This fact does not sadden us, moreover, we are proud because we know that these confident and brave birds have grown in our nest for years, teaching ourselves and others how commitment, effort and investing in oneself always pays off. We proudly wish them luck, confident that they will never give up on their path to success and that their goals will exude nobility and expressive empathy.

What is especially important to point out is the fact that students who are members of the Hastor Foundation have been receiving flattering titles of the best students at their universities for years, which we are extremely proud of, because education has always been the winner's choice. We are pleased to have the opportunity to show their knowledge and abilities in full glory to those who might, due to the difficult financial situation or some other obstacle, give up their academic education. The success of such young people is our inspiration to continue writing our story, multiplying the fund of leading roles this year, but also every following year.





# Scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation Nedžma Salkić was awarded the

*Dean's award  
best student*

## of the Faculty of Economics in Zenica.



*teaching assistant: "Don't allow yourself a day to pass without taking a new step." That was the moment when I promised myself that I will be a better version of myself with each passing day. Every day I tried to achieve more, to learn all new economic concepts, phenomena, laws and theories. In addition to regular literature, I read other books related to economics, all with the aim of expanding my knowledge. The effort paid off after the first year. In addition to the great success I also became a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation."*

She states that she likes to say that her name means star and that she really believes that she was born under a lucky star. She is a big fan of Rumi's books. One of her favorite quotes from Rumi is: "Seek the wisdom that will untie your knot. Seek the path that demands your whole being,"

*"I have been a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation for a year and thus a member of a large family. A family that provides me with help and support and that encourages me to be a better version of myself. Thanks to the Hastor Foundation, I am richer for new friendships, experiences and skills. In addition, through volunteering for Hastor Foundation, I realized the importance of the same and the ways in which young people are changing the world."*

We heartily congratulate Nedžma on her enviable results and wish her good luck in her further education!

Nejla Komar

That the Hastor Foundation brings together the most valuable young people is confirmed by the fact that our scholarship holders are holders of prestigious awards and titles at their faculties. Our scholarship holder Nedžma Salkić, a third-year student at the Faculty of Economics, University of Zenica, is the winner of the Dean's Award.

*"October 8, 2018 was my first day at the faculty and a day that I will always remember because of the words told by my*





# Feather in your cap

It has been known for a long time that only the best scholarship owners grow up in Has-tor family. Their work shows how important it is for one community to have creative, educated and hard-working young people who will improve it on a daily-basis. This time we are bringing you the story of scholarship student Adna Abazović who has been a valuable member of our family for several years.

Adna is a student of the Secondary Technical School of Graphic Technologies, Design and Multimedia in Ilidža and has shown love for the written word since elementary school, so in the last couple of years she participated in numerous competitions and contests achieving good and commendable results, which made her love and passion for writing grow even more. This year, Adna won a well-deserved first place in a school competition called “Work habits of teenagers”. The topic of this competition is extremely interesting and current, which was one of the reasons why Adna, as part of the teenage world she wrote about, let her brave pen to copy thoughts and observations from her own angle drawing, as she points out herself, attention to how important it is to emphasize that none of us was born with work habits and that we acquire and adopt those same habits through life. She also states that it is very difficult to motivate someone and force someone to learn, work and try, until each of us individually understands the essence of it all and the reason why it is important to start at a young age and get used to work and commitment. She adds that people who postpone or skip their obligations destroy their own work habits which are an indispensable need to achieve good results.

*“It is very important that young people are involved in various activities that will help us build our personality in the best possible sense, because I believe that every person is equally valuable and that their intelligence and talents should show in full glory. Everything we can dream of, we can achieve...”*



***We just need to start and not give up!***

Adna’s brave pen, which has been faithfully saving her thoughts for a long time, led her to victory this time, so she doesn’t plan to leave writing aside any time soon.

Apart from the fact that she embarks on writing, very creatively and bravely as can be seen, Adna also enjoys reading books, and she is especially interested in psychology and similar topics, so she plans to write one such book in the future.

*“My wish is to graduate from the Faculty of Philosophy, Department of Psychology in the future and to become a motivational speaker, so that I could show to everyone that our commitment to what we love makes sense and that we can become what we truly want to be, each one of us.”*



As a member of the Hastor Foundation family for five years, Adna says that in her heart, long before this victory, the Foundation won first place for taking credits in her victory at this competition, as well as many other victories in her life.

“The Foundation taught me to work on myself day by day, to get better and to see every situation as a lesson, not an obstacle or defeat. Along with my mentors and other fellows, I have also learned that work always pays off. Our mentors try to pass on their knowledge to us which can help us become good and responsible members of our community.”

Adna’s love for the written word started in her teenage years already, opening many vistas and wide ranges of understanding of the world and society around her. Looking at the world from such a perspective, she points out that goals need to be set for success, because if goals exist, paths will be found; she points out that even the slowest ones with a goal in front of their eyes progress faster than the fastest ones without a goal.

Almina Šabanović



“We are researchers and scientists:  
We search for *knowledge,*  
and we choose *education!*”

As many times before, the names of our scholarship holders have shone on the stage of prestigious European competitions, and we are proud that the Hastor Foundation is the wind in the back of young people who choose knowledge as a way to win. Our Igor Petković comes from Sarajevo, where he graduated from the Faculty of Law, after which he enrolled in the master’s program at the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, “ERMA” program. He has been a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation for three years. During his studies at the Faculty of Law, he was involved in various projects such as “Winter School of Arbitration Law”, “Mauritius Convention Project Outline”, “Sarajevo International Summer School”, however, certainly the most important and demanding project were human rights competitions. How it all looked first hand, read below.





„Competitions called “Moot Courts” are organized as part of legal studies around the world. Our Faculty in Sarajevo is the most dominant in the field of human rights, which are the subject of the regional competition “Civil Rights Defenders” and the world “Price Moot”. Our team, in a somewhat wider composition, performed first at the regional competition in the first half of this year. It takes place regionally in two areas, the Balkans and the Scandinavian countries. The winners of both regions then compete in the finals in Strasbourg, a symbolic location given that it is based on the case law of the European Court of Human Rights, which is based in that French city. This year, the oral rounds, unfortunately, were canceled at the last minute, which was quite unprofessional on the part of the organizers, because the preparations were already in the last phase. Fortunately, that did not demotivate us to invest all our efforts in the world competition, which was already underway. The “Price moot” began this summer with the publication of a hypothetical case. The cases usually follow current events in the world, so this one was dedicated to a fictitious state that is rigorously trying to prevent the spread of the virus within its borders and potentially violate the rights of the applicant who protested against them. The team was divided into two parts - two tried to find as many arguments as possible and support the position of the applicant, and the other two tried to position the state.



Igor Petković

As this competition is world-class, it is based on the rights contained in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). In gathering arguments, both sides should use the judgments of the Human Rights Committee (HRC), the case law of regional courts such as the European Court of Human Rights, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, as well as many other non-binding “Soft law” sources (guidelines, recommendations of opinions of international bodies).

Oral regional rounds were held at the beginning of December and our team was very convincing in the group stage, achieving the highest number of points and having the right to choose the side that will represent us in the semifinals. By mistake, we chose the respondent side whose position is always harder to defend, which the opponents took advantage of by placing in the finals. In the round for third place we did not make the same mistake and with a great pleading of the applicants we won third place. The first four places of the regional rounds are placed in the world competition which will be held in three months, organized by Oxford. Unfortunately, we will not be able to travel, but we will do our best to be the first team to win one of the first three positions.”





“

*I started my engagement in faculty projects relatively late, only in the last year of my studies, and I applied for the Hastor Foundation scholarship holder quite late. Until then, I had not shown an excessive desire for volunteer activities. Both examples show how invaluable every opportunity is, whether for life success or an opportunity to help others, and now I do not hesitate to use every opportunity.”*

We congratulate Igor on his activism and wish him a lot of luck and knowledge at the upcoming competition.

Selma Imamović

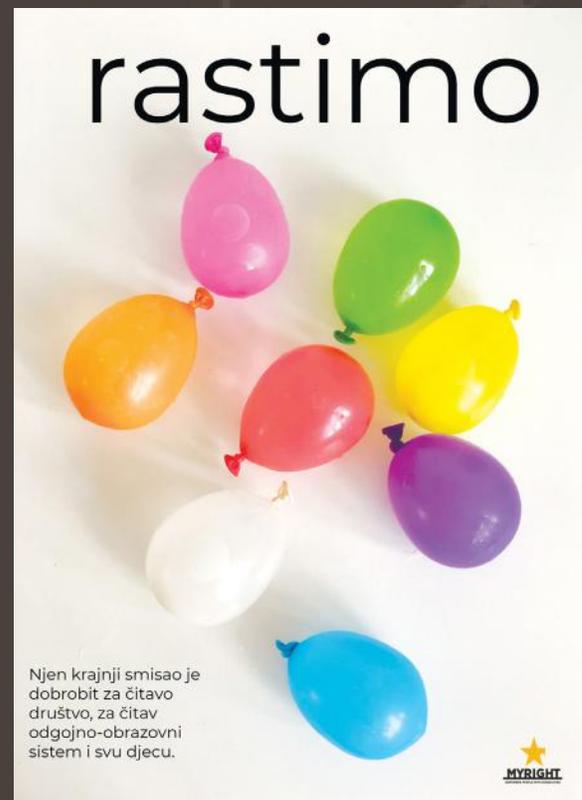
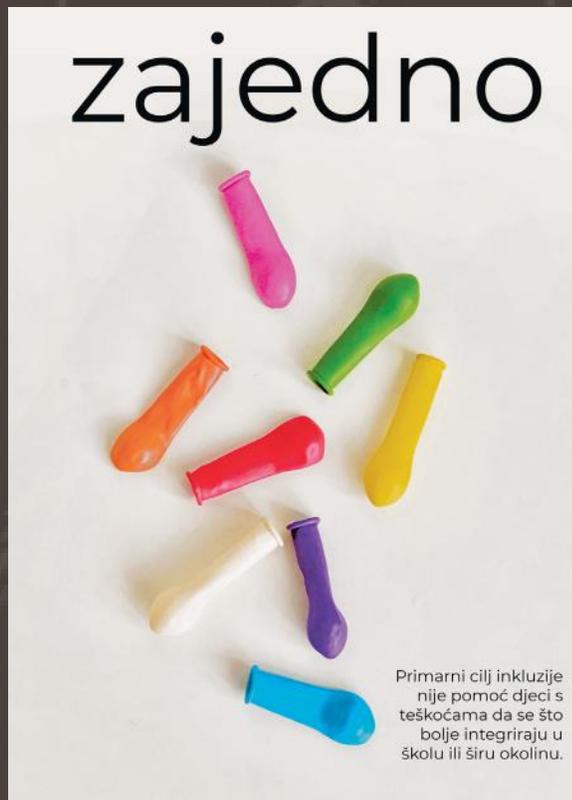


## Third place for Ana Milijević and her work

„Grow  
together“

*Hastor Foundation scholarship holders prove every day why they can be called the initiators of change and implementers of projects important for the progress of Bosnian society. One of the scholarship holders who stands out with her engagement in many spheres is Ana Milijević, who in the past period, thanks to her work, creativity and talent, won third place in the competition for graphic design.*





The competition was held in cooperation with the organization MyRight, which empowers people with disabilities, and the association DUGA. Our scholarship holder, a student of the second cycle of studies at the Department of Painting of the Academy of Fine Arts in Sarajevo and a student of the second cycle of studies of Creative Industries at the Faculty of Media and Communications in Belgrade, presented themselves at the mentioned competition.

*“Something much more important than an award for me is to be part of the fight for the rights of children and young people with disabilities, as well as to be an individual who raises awareness of inclusive education through art. With this I want to say that it is important to change some things, by radically changing their setting into something that is completely different from what is known. Therefore, we need to expand the boundaries of our cognition so that the inclusion of diversity becomes a value that enriches our society.”*

On her poster, which consists of two parts, there is a slogan Grow together, which is reversed and thus the focus is shifted to “community” which is actually a necessity for growth. This is what is shown in the first part of the poster. The second part of the poster shows the balloons that grew together:

*“Our goal should not be a constant life aspiration to copy others in order to fit into the norm that society strives for. We need to be different from each other, to accept our own imperfections and differences so that we can accept others. The symbol of diversity in my work are balloons, different in their colors. Only in such a stimulating environment, everyone can learn and develop well. The question is how to overcome prejudices and change the above, and we find the answer in the notion of inclusion. The poster is intended to be placed in the form of a press in primary or secondary school.”*



Ana believes that by presenting such content in educational institutions, students from the lowest grades learn not to be subject to prejudices imposed by society:

“The school should teach children attitudes and values that glorify love, tolerance, mutual acceptance and equality, regardless of differences!”

Through her work, Ana reaffirmed the vision of MyRight, which consists in striving to create a world in which people with disabilities have equal rights and opportunities to live a life worthy of a human being through inclusion in society.

We witness the versatility and success of our scholarship holder every day, given that Ana is a member of the graphic design team of the Hastor Foundation. In September 2020, she graduated from the Department of Painting, winning the Golden Badge of the University of Sarajevo for outstanding success throughout her education.

In addition to painting, she is involved in various arts, such as photography and film, and has achieved various awards and recognitions in these fields, such as the first prize at the Children's and Youth Film Festival and the Sarajevo Film Festival within the Teen Arena. She is a member of the significant world project “Draw not War” led by Matteo Valentti. She is improving her painting skills in the colonies, such as the Colony in Trebinje in 2019, and spends the rest of her free time learning foreign languages, so she currently speaks Italian and English, and is improving her French. She exhibits at group exhibitions at the Cultural Center in Trebinje, at the Academy of Fine Arts in Sarajevo, at the City Hall in Sarajevo, at the Museum of Literature and Theater Arts, at the National Theater in Sarajevo and at the April 6th exhibition at the History Museum in Sarajevo.

*“Within the description of my work, I spoke about tolerance, love, mutual equality and the need to nurture these concepts. I **believe that everything we create, everything that is the fruit of our creativity, has its roots in the everyday life we live.***”

***We need to be different from each other, to accept our own imperfections and differences so that we can accept others. Therefore, let's overcome stereotypes and grow together!***

*I can say that this award of mine would not have existed if I had not entered the world of graphic design a year ago, due to accidental circumstances within the Hastor Foundation. Dear reader, don't worry, the previous sentences are not an introduction to the theory of empiricism, in these lines we will not deal with the terms we hear about in college. These lines, however, are reserved for a much more important term - love. She was and remains the main guide of life, which only with her wings can soar into the infinity of goodness, education as well as true values and qualities. For my work, which represents a micro-mission to spread equality and goodness in this world, everything I carry from the ranks of each of our monthly newsletter is very important, which, at the time of the pandemic, when our meetings were canceled, became rare places of our meetings. I think that the strength of the Hastor Foundation is in that. No matter how far apart we are, we are close to each other in these lines where our life experiences are. From month to month we prove that even though the whole world is changing, our love and connection remains the same. We encourage each other by letting know that we are not alone and by that we grow together.”*

We would like to congratulate Ana on her successes so far, with sincere wishes that she will continue to follow the path of success in the future and that she will be a motivation to our scholarship holders, but also to other young people!

## WHERE WORDS DON'T COUNT, MUSIC SPEAKS



*Through this section, we will present our scholarship holders who are bound by one common love - music. Some of them practice this art professionally, studying at Music Academies, and for others it is a hobby that is simply an integral part of their lives and without which they would not be complete.*

Our scholarship holder, Nejla Suljević, comes from a town on the right bank of the Sava - Brčko. She is currently a third-year student at the Faculty of Dentistry with clinics in Sarajevo, where she lives. She says that her love for music, more precisely the piano, was born at the age of 5-6, when she received her first piano as a gift from family friends. As a little girl, it was just fun and an everyday occupation until she started private piano lessons in the second grade of elementary school. After a year of getting acquainted with the keys and notes, the next step was enrollment in the Elementary Music School in Brčko - Piano Department. She believes that a significant factor in these initial steps was the musical talent of her father, who still sings in the choir in his spare time. Throughout the school, she was in the classes of several excellent teachers, but the greatest influence on the love of music was had by professor Branislava Popović. She was very happy to work and collaborate with her and master compositions in accordance with the school program, but also outside it.



*I loved spending time in the school building, especially playing in free classrooms and thus filling the time between various activities at the time.*

*“After the third grade of lower music school, with the support of my teacher, I engaged in all school performances and other activities. I didn't taste a lot of competitions, because then the main focus was on them in guitar and accordion, but these, almost monthly performances, were a great opportunity for me to conquer my stage fright in front of the audience.”*

After graduating from lower music school, already playing serious pieces for high school, the expected choice was to prepare for the entrance exam for further education in music. At that time, she was only in the ninth grade, so she spent that year practicing on her own and preparing with the instructions of the then professor.

*“It was a combination of my wishes at the time, because I also wanted to finish high school.”*



## WHERE WORDS DON'T COUNT, MUSIC SPEAKS



Unfortunately, despite the efforts of many, the establishment of this high school program did not take place, so she enrolled in the “Vaso Pelagić” High School in Brčko.

*“Before the beginning of this academic year, I read with enthusiasm the news that now as many as two music directions have been introduced in the Gymnasium, Music Performer - instrumentalist, and Music Associate - theorist. Although I did not have that opportunity myself, I am glad that a large number of students from our city will get their secondary music education in Brčko.”*

She continued to play through high school, but in a slightly different form from the one she was used to - as an accompanist for the school choir and later for the Mixed Choir BZK Preporod Brčko.

*“For me, who until then had only played classical music, and from the notes I received in school, it was a significant change. Now I was forced to look for parts of the compositions and fit them into wholes, and by myself, by ear, to supplement them. This prompted me to play and process on the piano the songs I was listening to.”*



In the last three years, since she has been living primarily in Sarajevo to study, she has returned to the piano only occasionally, when she goes home to Brčko, and now she already has the opportunity to be in the role of a teacher with her sister who has also recently started playing.

*“Even though it hasn't become my profession, I always like, digging through old notes, to get back to playing and making music which I consider to be one of the most beautiful blessings in this life.”*

She added for the Foundation:

*“This will be my second year as a proud scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation. I heard about the Foundation on several occasions, but I applied for the competition only on the initiative of the faculty, which proposed me as a successful student who had completed the first year at that time.*

*Now, after a full year, I can say how enthusiastic I am about the way the Foundation works and the concept of its work. It is, in addition to our family, an additional motivation that pushes us forward and supports us, morally and materially. It gives us the opportunity to work, prove ourselves, but also learn from each other and take care of each other. Through volunteering, we instill and deepen the habit of selfless helping, giving and humanitarian action.”*

*“During that period, this became my new hobby, which, even without a formal music education, preserved my love for the piano, not allowing it to fall into oblivion.”*



*RAM is, by definition, the working memory of a computer. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the “working memory” are the proactive and diligent young people who are by their actions an example of the society that our country needs. 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!*

Mahir Salkanović is originally from Maglaj, where he finished primary school and high school of economics. He is currently a third year student at the Tax Academy in Dobož. He has been a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation since the third grade of high school. He says that his activities are aimed at making life easier for people in his environment. Sometimes he helps on his own initiative, and sometimes in agreement with friends.

***Simply, if we look around, more or less always someone needs a helping hand, and that help can take many forms.***

Mahir’s desire to volunteer and at the same time the main initiative for the same was born in 2014, when his city, town and family were hit by catastrophic floods. It was then that he realized that “our little is a lot to someone”, so this saying became at the same time his guiding star on the path of volunteerism.

***“Apart from the fact that you are part of a story that brought a smile back to someone’s face, all volunteering activities are of great importance. Socializing, new acquaintances, cooperation with institutions, in short, those represent learning that certainly affects personal development.”***



*Mahir  
salkanović*

The activity that Mahir is most proud of and that he sets apart from all the others in the series of activities he realized during his volunteer engagement is the idea of visiting and talking to old, exhausted and ill people in the neighborhood where he grew up.

***“The realization of the activity itself began with approving of modest hadiyas (Arab: gifts) by a successful businessman at my request. That socializing and experience has no price for me.”***

Mahir, also, like many other young people, believes that it is of great importance for young people to be socially active, because the activity can change a lot to give all categories of our society a better tomorrow.

The Hastor Foundation is a wind in Mahir’s sails, as he emphasizes volunteering in private. In a series of volunteer hours, besides socializing, he used the time in the Foundation to help the elderly in preparing for the winter, but also in other responsibilities such as garden maintenance, mowing the grass, chopping and stacking wood, visiting the Zenica-Dobož Canton Center for Children and Adults with Special Needs located in Zavidovići, and also helped a family move into a new house.

## RAM

In order to help the recovery of the population due to the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, he cooperated with the commissioner of a settlement in Maglaj municipality, with whose help he met many humanists from the municipality of Tešanj.

*“Many have lost their jobs and regular monthly incomes, so it is necessary to help children master the curriculum as successfully as possible in the new circumstances - online learning. Simply, only if we look around will we surely come across someone who needs a helping hand. I see no reason not to be that hand.”*

Mahir’s current plan is to finish college on time, find a job in the profession and contribute to the local community and the whole society with his efforts and work, while remaining in, as he says, “our only country, our Bosnia and Herzegovina”. Finally, Mahir says:

*“My message for the scholarship holders of the Foundation is to first be good children to their parents and then to fight for the best possible results and levels of education. With all that, wherever you are, look around you, give a helping hand the best you know and can because “our little is a lot to someone.”*

Una Karabeg

## SCHOLARSHIP HOLDER OF THE MONTH

*Adisa  
Bajramović*



*“With all that, wherever you are, look around you, give a helping hand the best you know and can because “our little is a lot to someone.”*



## SCHOLARSHIP HOLDER OF THE MONTH



Adisa Bajramović was born on 5th February 2000 in Tuzla. She lives in Čelić, where she finished primary school. In Brčko, she graduated from High School „Vaso Pelagić“ as the best student of the generation. Currently, she is a sophomore at the Medical University in Tuzla where she studies medical-laboratory diagnostics. In her free time, she volunteers as a part of the Hastor Foundation in various spheres of social life and she also reads, writes and researches. She loves to spend time with people who support and inspire her.

*“I often make effort to participate in the education of other people, face-to-face or online, on the topic of different events in society related to scientific and especially medical phenomenon.”*

Volunteering is a trait that Adisa considers as one of her virtues. Considering that she was conscious and aware of the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, where the number of infected citizens is rising on a daily basis, she decided to use her volunteering time to curb the spread of the disease.

*„With the help of my mother, who owns a sewing machine and who taught me the principles and techniques of the trade, I sewed a number of protection masks. After that, I made an informative brochure about the ways to protect oneself from COVID-19, in which I explained the importance of washing hands, wearing a mask, avoiding contact and similar activities. On the back of every brochure I left my phone number for those that need help in this time of crisis. While distributing masks and brochures, I noticed the joy and gratitude of the local inhabitants.”*

This, of course, is not Adisa's only humanitarian activity. Our redaction has written about her past deeds in the „Rubric of the Active Youth“ (RAM) when in September she and her colleagues made presents for first-graders. A similar activity she has also completed in February and March when she distributed factory-made protection masks and telephone numbers of volunteers which persons older than 65 could call when they had an urgent need. Adisa says that that activity inspired her to do something for the local community once again.

“I believe that volunteering awakens our most caring sides especially then when we notice the joy and satisfaction of others.”

**COVID-19-kako se zaštititi?**

**BUDI OPREZAN, OSTANI KUĆI !**

**Adisa Bajramović**

- studentica medicinsko-laboratorijske dijagnostike
- stipendistica Fondacije Hastor

**Temeljito peri ruke!**

Pranje ruku je prvi i najlakši korak u prevenciji. Koristi sapun, toplu vodu i trljaj dlanove najmanje 20 sekundi. Uvijek uz sebe nosi dezinfekciono sredstvo za ruke.

**Ako kašlješ ili kišeš, pokrij lice!**

Uvijek nosi papirne maramice i odmah ih baci nakon upotrebe. Ako nemaš, kašlji i kiši u lakat, nipošto u dlanove!

**Nosi masku!**

Ovo je posebno važno ako imaš respiratornih problema ili si u kontaktu s nekim ko ima bilo kakve respiratorne simptome.

**Testiraj se!**

**Čisti i dezinfikuj svoj dom!**

Redovno čisti površine koje koristiš, naročito one koje se često diraju rukama (posuđe, brave, telefon...).

**Izbjegavaj dodire!**

Ne dodiruj nos, usta i oči neopranim rukama.

**Izbjegavaj fizički kontakt s ljudima!**

Uvijek budi udaljen najmanje 1.5m i ne primaj kućne posjete, ako nisu neophodne.

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**PIKTOCHART**

## SCHOLARSHIP HOLDER OF THE MONTH

She points out that volunteering is very useful for young people, because in that was they can work on developing their own personality, as well on a number of other skills that can be useful not only on a professional, but also on a personal level. As one of the reasons for her commitment, Adisa mentioned the social community which can considerably benefit from the knowledge, youth and will of the volunteers.

*"I strive to be inovative every month in my volunteering ideas to include all ages and show everyone that they can always count on me. After volunteering I feel pride and happiness, not because I caught the attention of others, but because I can write down for myself that I did another good deed."*

Una Karabeg



She points out that volunteering is very useful for young people, because in that was they can work on developing their own personality, as well on a number of other skills that can be useful not only on a professional, but also on a personal level. As one of the reasons for her commitment, Adisa mentioned the social community which can considerably benefit from the knowledge, youth and will of the volunteers.

*"When I am requested to give a word to others, I always use the following quotation of Francis Bacon: 'A sly man despises knowledge, the unlearned is marveled by it, but the intelligent man uses it.' Therefore, to the readers of the Newsletter, I say that they should never give up on seeking knowledge, because that is the only thing no one can truly steal from us and which is invaluable. To the scholarship holders of Hastor Foundation I especially advise to value your status as a scholarship holder, because the Foundation opens many doors of success for you and gives us all the oppertunity to show our skills and qualities equally."*

## LET'S BE MORE COMPETITIVE

I want to write a good educational course application! In the 21st century, success in the educational field is not enough to make a person attractive on an international scale, or for studies and employment opportunities. It can often be heard or seen that recent Bachelor or Master's degree graduates are unemployed, despite sending their CV (Curriculum Vitae) to apply to many published job postings. Fewer young people can properly use available online resources, such as correct e-mail etiquette. The purpose of this section is to educate young folks about applying to various educational courses, seminars, exchange programs, but also to demonstrate how students around the globe work on self-improvement.



This month, we'll show you how to write a good application for a seminar or an educational course. Further in this section, you can read some tips and tricks on applying, learn how to leave a good impression, and stand out from the crowd. Also, you will learn what not to write inside any more complex application.

The person reading applications inside an organization usually expects a particular type of people to apply to their posting. For example, if the course is related to dramatics, they can expect applications from young people who love acting, theatre, and stage performance, and whose hobbies and extracurricular activities are closely tied to these fields. Because of this, your personality doesn't play a huge role, and it's crucial to pay attention to many little things that can significantly improve the quality of your application.



## **SPELLING AND GRAMMAR ARE #1**

The golden rule is to avoid grammar mistakes, typos, and writing letters without respective diacritics (e.g. 'c' instead of 'č' or 'ć').

Despite looking harmless, this actually carries significance for the person on the other side. To put it simply, this is your chance of an introduction. Do you really want someone to think you don't care enough, or you didn't separate enough time to read, review, and write the application properly? Of course, you don't! The process isn't time-consuming, and it will help the organizer form a more complete and appealing image of you. However, clarity doesn't imply that the application needs to be short. Be detailed, yet concise. Applications that are too short, with only a couple of sentences, show your rush and overall lack of motivation.

## **SLOWLY-WRITTEN APPLICATION IS NOT A BAD APPLICATION!**

There's a saying that goes, "Haste makes skill equals foolishness." It's often the case, especially when writing applications. Because of that, it's important to give yourself enough time to write a quality application when you feel motivated enough to do it. Even if you really want to attend a seminar, there are always moments where you're more eager than usual. In these moments, it's best to start writing because your motivation and desire will be imprinted in the application.

There's no such rule that the application needs to be finished in one sitting! Follow your tempo and what suits you best. If you notice you can't maintain focus, you should take a break and continue later, or even tomorrow. Sometimes, even the smallest thing can knock you off track, and it's key to stay objective, realistic and allow yourself enough time to write the application.

## **WRITE THE APPLI- CATION IN YOUR OWN DOCUMENT!**

Often (especially during the COVID-10 pandemic), application forms are created using Google Forms or other platforms like Microsoft Form, Formsite, etc. If you're filling such applications without backing up your answers, you can risk losing your answers in case of a power outage or an unplanned failure of your device. It can even happen just as you're about to submit the form!

To avoid this inconvenience, back up the questions and your answers in a document (Word, Notes, etc.) or rewrite them in your diary or notebook. After that, proceed to write down the answers in the document you created. When you create the application, just rewrite or paste your answers in the corresponding text boxes and send it out!

## **PC OR A LAPTOP IS BETTER THAN A SMARTPHONE**

Using a PC or a laptop is great, not just because of clarity, but for practical reasons as well. You can't have many windows visible simultaneously on your cellphone, and the application might require you to check your CV, your accreditations, or the timeline of previous events from the same organizer you might have attended, as it can be an important factor for participant section.

## **BE HONEST!**

Honesty is always the best way to go. It's important to stay realistic. Being honest is not the same as writing what you think about yourself, but writing about who you really are. Don't write things like "I have a very high IQ," or "I think you should choose me because I'm better than other candidates." Avoid such phrases even if you mean them, and let your application say it for you.

## **RESEARCH THE ORGANIZER AND THEIR PREVIOUS EVENTS!**

It's a step that almost every applicant goes through, but it's still worth mentioning it here because research can show if the seminar is something that suits you. There are various organizations with different approaches to working with young people. Each person knows themselves the best, and what suits them. If you don't do enough research on the past work of an organization and their positive and negative examples in practice, it can lead to a course/workshop where you'll feel unpleasant, which often results in a feeling disappointed on the way home.

Writing a quality application takes away plenty of free time, and, certainly, you don't want to waste your time applying to a seminar that might not even suit your expectations.

## **THROW IN A PERSONAL NOTE!**

One of the most important factors for anyone who selects the participants is to see the passion and desire for progress, the motivation pushing them forward, and an indicator that shows the applicant has a goal in life they pursue. If you're someone who knows what they want, don't hesitate to show it. Feel free to write how you think the educational activity will benefit you, expand your knowledge, etc. Show the organizer how much participation in the event really means to you. With the right dose of emotion, you can never go wrong!

We hope this section will help you with your next seminar application. The editorial staff of the Hastor Foundation wishes you luck and plenty of accepted applications in the future!





*Sara Patković*



*Mediha Ribić*



*Azra Bećirović*



*Ajla Hrvat*



# E-MAIL vol2:

## *How to properly use this unavoidable communication platform?*

Today, it is impossible to imagine a day without using e-mail. Whether you are a high schooler, a student, a worker or a company, you can not avoid this type of communication. It is widely known that before the pandemic of COVID-19, this type of communication served only one part of users, but now its use has largely surpassed the level of professional communication, considering that e-mail is being used by most educational institutions. Because of the platform's great importance in communication today, it is necessary to know some basic unwritten rules, in order for our communication with our interlocutor to be of optimal quality.

Surely you have met different types of e-mails of which you are not quite certain who the sender is, or they were of unclear and unprofessional structure. The redaction of Hastor Foundation have decided to indicate the importance of the proper use of e-mail to their faithful readers through several additional advices, with which your e-mails will look professional.

### **READ THE E-MAIL YOU HAVE WRITTEN!**

Even though this sounds harmless, it is very important to read the e-mail you have written. A grammatical error might have slipped you, or a typo, or you might have forgotten to attach the files. The control lasts only a minute or two, and it can spare you of unpleasant situations.

### **USE DIACRITICAL SIGNS AND SUGGESTED EDITING OPTIONS!**

E-mail is, after all, a platform different from social networks or messages for your friends. It is very important to write grammatically correct messages.

Considering the fact that Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian languages have diacritical signs č, ć, đ, š and ž, as well as the diacritical dž, their use is of great importance. Writing c, s and z instead of the signs leaves the reader an impression of being in a hurry, negligence, as well as illiteracy, because it is easily assumed that the sender is writing c in a sentence because he does not know whether it is correct to write č or ć.

Do not write in caps when you want to emphasize something, for that purpose you can use bold letters (Ctrl+B), italic (Ctrl+I), and underline (Ctrl+U). If you underline one sentence, it will be much more expressed than it would be if you would write it in all caps. Be considerate of emphasizing things that have to do with the subject of your e-mail.



## **PAY ATTENTION TO WHOM YOU ARE SENDING YOUR E-MAIL, AS WELL AS WHO ARE YOU REPLYING TO!**

If you are sending an e-mail to multiple recipients, there are three ways to do it:

× **TO:** you simply type in all of the recipients, all of the recipients will be able to see each other

× **CC (carbon copy):** this is a copy of your e-mail, in which you state the secondary recipients whom you wish to inform of the content of your e-mail

An example of use of "CC" can be seen when, for example, you wish to send an e-mail to your school professor in the name of your student group/class, considering a certain task or literature. In the "TO" section you will type in your professor, and in the "CC" section you will type in your classmates/colleagues, so they can get the copy of the e-mail and see that you did actually send it.

× **BCC (blind carbon copy):** this is a hidden copy of your e-mail. None of the recipients stated here will be able to see any other recipient.

An example of use of "BCC" can often be seen in the results of seminar applications, in order for students not to create prejudice of one another, or in order for the participants not to meet before the beginning of the seminar.

Companies and organizations often use chain e-mails in order to send the same e-mail to all of their members at the same time. That is why it's very important to pay attention to whom you are replying.

**REPLY** – you are replying only to the sender  
**REPLY ALL** – you are replying to everyone (the sender, as well as all of the recipients of the chain e-mail)

Also, you will often find yourself in a situation that you received an e-mail you wish to forward to someone (for example professor sent an e-mail meant for your group to you alone, and you need to forward it, and that e-mail includes a link, as for example a link for the Zoom classroom access). A screenshot is not the best option because links, phone numbers or stated mailing list can not be accessed by the screenshot. To be clearer, it is impossible to copy text or open a link. That is why there is a phenomenal option such as **FW (Forward)**, which opens a window as if you were sending a new e-mail, where you can choose an option of the whole message of the primary sender being visible or not, you can choose the people you wish to send it to, and it gives you the option of adding your own message to it.

## **WHEN YOU CREATE AN E-MAIL CONTENT, FOLLOW THE UNWRITTEN RULES OF PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION!**

After you have met all of the (un)written rules and possibilities of this communication platform, the way of addressing and e-mail structure should be clear, specific and adapted to the recipient.

It is very important to pay attention to next things:

× Address the recipient with respect – considering the fact that e-mail is being used in professional purposes, it should be used professionally.

"Hey", "Hi", "Sellam", "Hello" and similar greetings are not a reflection of professional communication. You should avoid this by using simple epithets such as "Respected", "Esteemed", "Dear".



On these epithets you add the title of the person and their last name: "Respected professor", "Respected Mrs. Srećković", "Dear dr. Hadžić".

If you are addressing a religious institution, a religious greeting might be preferred to a formal one, such as the ones listed above, but that, of course, is an exception. In that case a full greeting is required instead of its short version. Religious greetings are never acceptable for a public institution or professional communication in general.

× Separate the addressing from the rest of the e-mail– this is sort of an unwritten rule which significantly contributes the beauty of the structure of the e-mail. Link the greeting to an appropriate phrase with which you will never go wrong, such as: "I hope you are doing well", "I apologize for the disturbance", "I hope I am not disturbing you".

That looks like this:

**Respected professor, I hope you are feeling well. I am contacting you because...**

It is useful to state the reason for contacting that person (even though it is already stated in the subject). Considering the fact that the subject is often only a short version, here you can write it nicely. If you have, for example, contacted the professor for three reasons, you will divide each one of those three reasons the same way you have separated the greeting from the rest of the e-mail.

× Finish the e-mail with a suitable greeting and a signature– ending of an e-mail is very important for the structure, and it should also be separated from the rest of the text. Without the ending an e-mail is incomplete and leaves the impression of being in a hurry.

Some great greetings are:  
"Sincerely", "Best regards", "Thank you in advance".

***We hope that this section has helped you, and that you will apply some of these advices in order to keep your communication as professional as possible. Of course, these are only advices for general use, you know best the culture of your organization, school, college or company. Anyway, it is very important to be professional and without prejudice or personal feelings in an e-mail. Keep in mind that this is a professional platform after all!***

Una Karabeg



## *My dear Foundation,*

partings are never easy. I remember February and the monthly meeting of scholarship holders, when we greeted each other and said goodbye, I had no idea that this would be my last monthly meeting and the last time I would be in the Foundation's role as its scholarship holder. Seven months later, due to the corona virus pandemic, and unfortunately not seven monthly meetings after, my formal connection with the Foundation is severed and it is time for another separation. Not at all simple.

My first encounter with the Foundation took place in 2007 when I was part of the Hastor Foundation project and spent an unforgettable holiday in the land of tulips and windmills. Our paths diverge after that, but not permanently. Ten years later, they reunite by becoming a scholarship holder of the Foundation. Although I was in this role for just over 3 years, it was more than enough time to learn more about the mission and vision of the Foundation and to realize the true values that it nurtures and on which it bases its activities. I am glad to say that these values have become an integral part of my worldview as well.

For this relatively short period, I have managed to improve my skills in various fields and gain valuable experience in the profession that will surely prove useful in the future. I am immensely grateful to the Foundation for that.

However, the greatest wealth I gained as a member of the Foundation are the people I met there. Scholars of the Foundation, both pupils and students, have such different and interesting life stories that a simple conversation with any of them is a great opportunity to learn something new and expand your horizons. I am most grateful for that.

For the end of this somewhat longer letter, I would also like to thank all the employees of the Foundation who are always there for all the scholarship holders, whether they need help, advice or just a conversation. Thanks to teacher Ramo whose stories I will always remember, and the lessons I learned from them will surely be my guidelines in life. Thanks to my colleagues from the translation team for their cooperation over the past three years through which we have, no doubts, learned a lot.

My dear Foundation, for everything that happened - thank you. For everything that comes - you can always count on me.

Almedina Smajlović



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