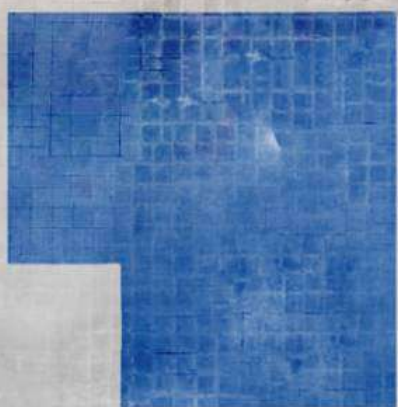


NEWSLETTER



FONDACIJA
HASTOR



April 2023.

THE 17TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EXISTENCE AND ACTIVE ACTIVITY OF THE HASTOR FOUNDATION WAS MARKED

The philanthropic mission of the Hastor Foundation, the largest educational foundation in the region, contained in the pooling of financial and human resources and their direction in the development of education, has completed 17 years of successful implementation this year and has shown better than ever that it is based on a genuine desire for concrete changes in society and an active working on it can create a story for longevity..



Seventeen years of successful work behind the name of the Hastor Foundation is especially confirmed by the impressive numbers of thousands of young people, our former and current scholarship holders, for whom we facilitated their education, providing everyone with equal opportunities for progress and personality development, and changing their lives for the better.



Our scholarship holders, in addition to the continuous financial and mentoring support they receive, are also privileged with the unique opportunity to network with young people from all over Bosnia and Herzegovina through making numerous acquaintances and friendships in the large family of the Hastor Foundation, made up of more than 2,000 young people.

Consistency to the long-established mission and proactive action to achieve our goals, in 17 years of operation, generated more than 1,700,000 volunteer hours, and the initially assembled collective and the number of 304 awarded scholarships, continuous and selfless work and commitment, resulted in a number of almost 24,000 awarded annual scholarships in 135 municipalities and cities throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina.



WE START POSITIVE SOCIAL CHANGES

In the trend of mass migration of young people to other countries, thanks to our scholarship and mentoring program, for 17 years we have been providing young people with a perspective within our country and giving them the opportunity to develop their potential and participate in the improvement of local communities. In this way, we build successful young people, create new leaders and strengthen Bosnia and Herzegovina. We have successfully prepared thousands of young people, our former scholarship holders, for life and business challenges, profiling them through support for their formal education and volunteerism under our auspices, to zealously continue to spread the values and mission of the Hastor Foundation. We are proud that today we can see our former scholarship holders as good, empathetic and successful young people in the roles of faculty assistants, professors, directors, HR managers, IT experts, doctors, owners and founders of companies.



APRIL IN THE SPIRIT OF CELEBRATION



The best way to celebrate successful work and fantastic results is precisely by gathering the young driving force - scholarship students of the Hastor Foundation in one place that firmly connects them all - in the premises of the Hastor Foundation. Namely, together with our scholarship students in the past period, we marked and celebrated 17 years of existence and successful activity of the Hastor Foundation in the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with a joint gathering and an appropriate program, remembering the first steps of the activity. The special focus of the gathering was on nurturing the potential of young people, our members, who enriched the celebration of our anniversary with their activities in what they know best.



Through a series of activities and recalling the results achieved in the past years, we showed that by supporting the educational process, through continuous financial and mentoring support, we were a solid support for the youth of Bosnia and Herzegovina, making their path to success easier and confirming year after year that Education is a choice of winners!



DIPLOMAS AND PRIZES AWARDED TO THE WINNERS OF THE COMPETITION FOR THE BEST LITERARY WORK ON THE TOPIC "HOW THE HASTOR FOUNDATION CHANGED MY LIFE"

On the occasion of celebrating the anniversary, in the past period we also organized a competition for the best literary work on the topic "How the Hastor Foundation changed my life", which received a large number of creative and original works, which testified that the Hastor Foundation can really be proud of the talents within his family. The works were filled with emotions and true messages of our scholars and proved their love and devotion to the Foundation. All scholarship students of the Hastor Foundation had the right to participate in the competition, and works could be written in all forms of prose and poetry.



A large number of scholarship students applied for the literary competition, and the expert jury for the selection of the best literary works had no easy task. From the mass of works woven with pure emotions, expressions of love, respect, togetherness and gratitude - the best ones were chosen. That our scholarship holders do not lack words to remind us again and again of our mission of helping and doing good is evidenced by their written words that have reached us.

At the joint gathering of scholarship students of the Hastor Foundation, a ceremonial announcement of the best works was held. Our scholar Almina Šabanović-Kokot won the first place in the literary contest, and the prize that was presented to her was an electric Ninebot KickScooter scooter. Second place was won by scholarship holder Nedžma Latić, and the prize was a Xiaomi Redmi 10c mobile phone. Third place was won by scholarship holder Aida Suljić, who was awarded a TESLA LED television.

In the rest of the text, read the work of scholar Almina Šabanović-Kokot, who took home the title of first place, and see for yourself how truly doing good, a firm hand and support in the most difficult days can encourage and motivate young people on their not-so-easy life path..



HOW THE HASTOR FOUNDATION CHANGED MY LIFE

THE STORY OF AN UNUSUAL FRIENDSHIP

I begin this story in a completely unusual way, simply and easily. That's how, you know, I never started any of my stories, and I started many, once upon a time. I struggled with them, for days I wasted hours and hours thinking that all great stories must begin with some great and, apparently, special sentences. I wrote and deleted one after the other because none was big enough or special enough to start my story with. That's why, I guess, I don't even write my stories anymore, because of those big and special words... I never found them...



Let this story be in spite of the big and special words that I will never find. Lately I realized that great stories can start with completely ordinary words, in a completely ordinary way, their greatness is anyway in themselves. This is an unusual story about an unusual friendship, so let it start from the beginning, where the friendship began.

On my way of growing up, like all people in this world, I had numerous companions. Some stayed shorter, some longer, and some still travel with me and increasingly become an inseparable part of me. When I was still a very small girl, on my way, when, it seems to me, I had the least strength to walk it alone, an unusual and strange companion stepped. There are certain moments in your life that are destined to be remembered forever, that's how I remember the moment when I wrote a letter to the address of the Hastor Foundation in elementary school. Even though I was little, I didn't really believe in miracles, I didn't even believe that someone could answer that letter of mine written in a distant and isolated village. But, in all seriousness, I still wrote and sent the letter. In it, I remember, it was said that I am growing up and that I am a little afraid that my family will not be able to educate me because I will soon have to go to school in the city, so I am looking for a friend to help my family a little.

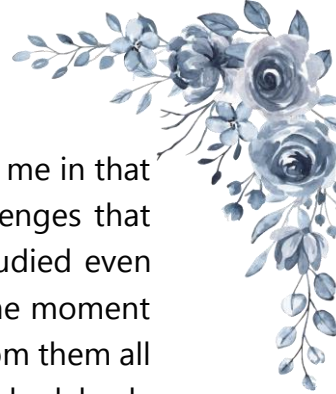
It wasn't long before a beautifully wrapped envelope was found in the mailbox of my small yard. I opened it in disbelief and read, a bit clumsily still, how my letter arrived at the address and how my request was accepted - soon I will get a friend (helper). Then, however, I began to believe in miracles a little bit. That was a miracle. Living in the

countryside and almost breathlessly reading every book I could get my hands on, until then I thought that in reality, such letters, sent from such a distant place, never receive answers - they only exist in books.

At that time, I was going to our small village school and I knew that the time was coming when I would have to leave that small school and go to the bigger one. I was afraid of everything that size brought with it, and there was no way to approach it slowly and cautiously.

I was also a little afraid that my mother would say that she couldn't send me to that big school, but I believed that there would be a way to do it, so I diligently studied and waited. In fairy tales, there is a rule that all good and righteous heroes in difficult times get friends and helpers with whom they become invincible. I will confess to you, but let it remain there, among us, because people do not believe in it, that I, having received an answer to my letter, began to live like the heroes in fairy tales - an unusual companion then solemnly walked into my path and was there to ease my fears. At that time, I was still young to truly understand how much my life began to change day by day. It was not so easy for me to get to know larger city schools and their students from my regional village school alone. There were hundreds of them, and there were only four of us. Even today, I remember how scared I was just by the stories about what it will be like when we finish elementary school and start big high school classes. But did I tell you that I have a helper and that I live my fairy tale with him - and in a fairy tale everything is possible. Almost overnight, he started taking me to a big school in the city every month, showing me that it's not that hard to get used to. He got used to me gently and slowly. His assistants, whom he called by some unusual name - mentors - taught me and prepared me for all my challenges. While the mentors helped me, my great friend helped my mother and my childhood fears slowly disappeared one by one. I grew and matured, and my unusual companion held my hand and firmly believed in me - sometimes he told me this himself, and sometimes he told me this from his superhero mentors (is there a better name for a superhero). Later I found out that I also got my superhero name, my name was Volunteer, and that miracle deserves a special story.

The miracle of volunteers is a special world in my companion, he introduced me to it slowly and cautiously, making sure that I understand it as well as possible and love it as much as possible. He told me that in that world, which he called volunteering, the law of good and helping rules, carefully designed and created. We sat down at the entrance of that world, and my companion began the story of how he received my letter and how he receives dozens of such letters almost every day. He told me how this world of volunteering was born together with him, at that very moment, and that their only and most important mission is to help children believe in miracles, the way they helped me. Then I ceremoniously received my volunteer badge and started on my way. I was still a small volunteer and my mentors, through their actions and behavior, taught me without



words about what kind of volunteer I should grow into. They didn't only help me in that field, there was also school and they skilfully prepared me for all the challenges that awaited me. I soon enrolled in high school and my journey continued, I studied even more often and even better, looking up to them and patiently waiting for the moment when I would be ready to convey to others what I saw in them and learned from them all these years. That time passed quickly, faster than I expected. And now, when I look back, I see how quickly time passed from the moment I received my first volunteer badge to the day I proudly became a superhero mentor. Then I sat down with my companion again, this time in the center of the world of volunteering, and he started the story. He handed me a mentor's badge and said that now I have the magical power to help some children and to teach them under his banner what I have learned all these years. It would be completely flawed and uncharacteristic of great stories not to acknowledge the specialness of this moment. Then I realized that it was completely wrong to believe that my life changed only at the moment when my great companion entered my path and when I started living my fairy tale. Later, I realized that my life changed for the better every moment I was a volunteer and learned the power of that word - that, in fact, is my biggest miracle. I am growing and I feel that the time is approaching when my companion will let go of my hand. He will let go of my hand knowing that he has taught me the art of helping and that my hand will be ready to firmly hold some new little hands on their paths. This is where my fairy tale will end, but I know that new and even more beautiful ones will begin and I will have other roles in them. The little girl flew bravely and boldly from her district village school to bigger and bigger schools, holding on tightly to one hand that taught her to never forget those birds that sometimes need her wind to fly. Her flight then got its final meaning and purpose.

I already told you that this story started from the beginning, where the friendship was born, but I don't know the end of this story because the little girl is still holding her companion's hand, even though she is not so little anymore. My story about friendship will end here, without an end and without big and special words. Let it live in spite of all the stories that remained unwritten because I could not find great words for them, let it live and remind that the greatness of the story lies only in itself. Carefully, while writing this story, I chose only one single word – extraordinary. It doesn't happen that often, you'll admit, that someone comes along and fulfills your childhood wishes and teaches you how to fulfill them for others, and thus changes your life forever. This is the greatness of my story - my companion opened his world of wonders in me and taught me the art of helping.

Isn't that the most extraordinary story in the world?

Almina Šabanović-Kokot



GLOBAL GOOD DEEDS DAY AT THE HASTOR FOUNDATION

The special feature of marking the seventeenth anniversary of the activity of the Hastor Foundation is also reflected in the socially useful projects that our scholarship holders, primary and secondary school students under the mentorship of scholarship students, realized on the occasion of the celebration. On the World Day of Doing Good Deeds, and motivated precisely by the desire to selflessly contribute to their local communities, presenting bright examples of Bosnian society.

On this occasion, in April, more than 2,000 scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation implemented 125 different socially useful projects in their local communities. The spirit of the Hastor Foundation was felt throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, from Krajina, through central Bosnia to sun-drenched Herzegovina, showing the true strength of a large family of young people, ready to use their example to change the consciousness of our society.

The goal of all these actions was to build a sense of nurturing humanity, empathy and kindness in our scholars and to show that unity, selfless commitment and providing equal opportunities are all key elements of building a better future.

You can read about some of the inspiring works done by our scholarship holders below and think for a moment about how much we as individuals can influence to make this country a nicer place for all of us to live.

Through the implementation of projects, our scholarship holders implemented actions of a different nature, from actions to help the population in a state of social need, through projects for the inclusion of children with developmental difficulties and children without parental care, to environmental actions, and they did not forget about abandoned animals either.

One of the volunteer groups from Sarajevo, which was foreseen by the mentors Ajka, Tarik and Enis from Sarajevo, volunteered in the "Hand to the Heart" Association. They divided into teams and while some went to get food for families in need, others packed packages of clothes and food that were already in this association. When packing the packages, they took into account the number of family members, their condition and



packages, they took into account the number of family members, their condition and needs. During the preparation and distribution of the package, the mentors proudly presented through volunteer activities the adopted values that the Hastor Foundation teaches them, continuing the series of transmission of the mission of doing good.

Ali Imran, Amina, Nermina and Jasmina from Konjic, together with their volunteer group, decided to make this spring even brighter by cleaning and arranging Vrtaljica - a special botanical reserve for tourists, but also to please the hosts who decide to spend spring days in nature.

A similar action was joined by Ibrahim, Merjema and Adan, who cleaned parts of Ilidža and recycled bottles on a recycling machine, and donated the money earned to the Association "Pomozi.ba". This group showed us how one activity can help a larger group of people, but also make other people think about becoming even more actively involved in volunteering in our communities.

Mentors Melissa and Adela noticed that it is not only people who need help, but that animals also have the right to a normal life and our help. In the month of April, Sanski Most certainly became a nicer place for stray dogs to live because our volunteer group fed and cared for the city's stray dogs.

The stories above are only a small part of the recounted volunteer actions of our scholarship holders, but all those whose stories we have not told and transferred to these pages testify that Bosnia and Herzegovina has solid foundations built on charity, because our scholarship holders are truly recognizable young people who help others, do good and convey the mission and values of the Hastor Foundation.

The month of April at the Hastor Foundation was really productive and inspiring for all its scholarship holders, and with all our activities we managed to write perhaps the most beautiful pages of our books of good deeds so far. At the end of each report of our volunteer groups, the reactions and conclusions of the scholars were almost the same, namely that the world is a much nicer place when we lend a helping hand to someone who really needs it. Be it man, nature or animal.

Prepared by: *Adelisa Begić*



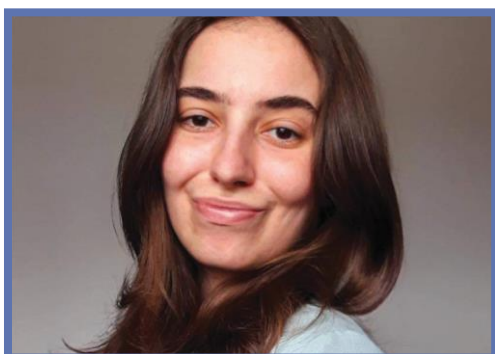
PRESENTATION OF NEW SCHOLARS

The Hastor Foundation always enthusiastically presents new scholarship holders, thus expanding its circle of support for young people who want to work on their own, but also the improvement of their community. We believe that the ambitious young people who became scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation this year will make a significant contribution to helping and spreading good, and that as such they will become positive examples in their environments. We are proud that the Hastor Foundation is able to support talented and motivated individuals by supporting them on their academic and life journey. In the rest of the text, we introduce you to two more new scholars of the Hastor Foundation, and in the next issue of the newsletter you will have the opportunity to meet all the other scholars who have joined us.



Adan Zukančić Zukančić was born in 2002 in Bosanski Petrovac. Adan is a student at the Department of Graphic Design and Multimedia at the International Burch University. From a young age, he was interested in technology and art, which eventually turned into a love for graphic design and multimedia, which Adan sees as a way to solve certain problems using creativity, photography,

video, and music. *I decided to apply for the Hastor Foundation scholarship because I believe it is an excellent opportunity for all students who want to realize their full potential, demonstrate their skills, build long-lasting friendships and contribute to the local community. I appreciate that the Hastor Foundation emphasizes the importance of volunteering in the local community as well, and in this way together we help make our environment a better place for everyone to live.*



Amina Berbić comes from Kakanj and is 21 years old. Amina knew what she would do in the future from an early age. In addition to the design that allows her to live her dream, our new fellow likes to research ecology and sustainability. She learned about the Hastor Foundation from a professor, and when asked what attracted her to apply for the

competition, Amina answered: *What I liked about the Hastor Foundation is that it has a strong mission and vision for the improvement of education in BiH and that it is a great support for young people in realizing their dreams. Now that I have become a part of the Foundation, I can say that I am proud that, together with my colleagues and the Foundation, I will contribute to the creation of a world where young people can realize their full potential.*

Prepared by: *Sevleta Halilović*
Dženana Zulum

SCHOLARSHIP HOLDER OF THE MONTH

Ajla Kožljak



The Hastor Foundation can boast of hard-working, ambitious and successful scholarship holders who achieve notable results in the field of education and science. The Foundation's team consists of young volunteers who contribute to its work by improving it with their knowledge and skills. It is precisely such values and commitment to volunteering engagement within the Hastor Foundation that earn our scholarship holders the title of Scholarship holder of the Month. Read below about Ajla Kožljak, the scholarship holder who took home the title this month.

That selfless and noble actions are the most beautiful words to fill the pages of our biography is shown daily by the Hastor Foundation scholarship holders who actively work as volunteers and whose primary task is to help and make others happy. Another in a series of great examples that adorn the Hastor Foundation is our scholar of the month, **Ajla Kožljak**.

Ajla Kožljak is 21 years old and comes from Vogošće, where she successfully completed her primary and secondary education with outstanding results. Proof of that is the numerous mathematics and physics competitions in which Ajla participated. She followed her love for the economic field by choosing the Economic Technician course at the Vogošća High School Center and once again confirmed it by enrolling in the Faculty of Economics at the University of Sarajevo. He is currently in his second year of study at the Department of Management. Ajla points out that the desire to enroll in this Faculty arose in the second year of high school while attending the "Accounting" course. Ajla significantly deepens her knowledge through informal education in the form of attending numerous educations and volunteering in fields that are closely related to the economy. However, Ajla is also a big fan of reading books in the field of psychology, and she applies the knowledge gained in that way in her volunteer work within the Hastor Foundation. Since she has been a scholarship recipient of the Foundation since 2015, when she was still attending elementary school, Ajla particularly emphasizes the volunteering activities that were very useful to her during elementary school. Volunteering groups in which students have their own mentors are important and useful because of the mentor's wholehearted help with studying and material both in elementary and high school.



Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, Ajla could not realize her volunteering, where she was in the role of a mentor, in the way she had imagined. Despite the limitations she faced when planning and implementing online volunteer meetings, she tried to create meetings and experiences worth remembering and preserving from oblivion even in online settings. Together with mentors Adelisa

Sirćo and Kanita Hopovac, our Ajla tried to find useful topics and interesting ways that could be fun for children in the online environment. Our Ajla also gained volunteer experience in the administrative team of the Hastor Foundation. She states that on that occasion she had the opportunity to get to know the work of the Foundation itself better and realized that she really has the privilege of being a part of the Hastor Foundation. She also states that volunteering in the administrative team contributed to her being more confident in working with people, and significantly improved her organizational and group work skills. Every month, our scholarship holder also volunteers outside of the Hastor Foundation, which certainly further demonstrates her perseverance in her philanthropic mission. She was a volunteer during the fifteenth "Race for the Cure" event in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Through this volunteer work, she had the opportunity to meet women who are fighting the most serious disease and learn about the importance of prevention. These volunteer meetings made Ajla aware that the life given to us is truly short by its nature, and that the memory of a beautiful and fulfilling life is eternal. In addition, she volunteered at the Economic Forum that took place in 2022 and was organized by the Faculty of Economics of the University of Sarajevo. As pointed out at the beginning of the text, Ajla often attends informal educations that help her in various fields of her activity. In this regard, he particularly emphasizes participation in the panel entitled "Femicide in the media: Steps towards ethical reporting" and participation in the lecture "Freedom of speech does not equal hate speech". During these two educational meetings, she acquired numerous knowledge and skills that she then used in her work with her mentor group within the Hastor Foundation, which, she points out, were of great use to her. Finally, Ajla says that through volunteering and education, she saw that young people can initiate changes in society as long as they are active. Her message to all scholarship recipients of the Hastor Foundation, as well as young people throughout our homeland, is: ***Instead of walking on the surface of the screen, choose swimming in the depth of the book.*** The Hastor Foundation wishes from the bottom of its heart that Ajla and all young and hardworking people continue to strengthen and strengthen the fundamental ideas of the philanthropic mission and that the Foundation as a tree of life continues to branch out thanks to successful and active scholarship holders.

Prepared by: *Amina Abaspahić*



ALUMNI OF THE MONTH



Senada Podžić



After completing their studies, Hastor Foundation scholarship holders remain tied to the Foundation as a root to a tree. Such roots are difficult to break because of the connection that can be extremely strong, unbreakable, and full of positive emotions and wonderful memories to the period of schooling that remained behind them. This is how former scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation nurture connection with the Hastor Foundation, which was often their main pillar and support in life. Time passes and people face various changes and many memories fade when they are replaced with

new and more interesting events. Just one, in the life of every scholarship holder, no matter what age, remains the same – commitment to the Hastor Foundation. This month we bring you the story of former scholarship holder **Senade Podžić**. Senada Podžić tells her story from Žepa. She was born in 1997. After she finished Gazi Husrev Bey's madrasa, Senada enrolled in the Faculty of Science and Mathematics in Sarajevo, Department of Biology. Her story stands out because, as Senada says, she entered the university at 17 years old, and graduated at the age of 21. She received the title of the youngest master's degree a year later, getting her master's degree at the age of 22.

Senada has been a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation since the fifth grade of primary school. Near the end of the fifth grade, when teacher Ramo visited her place, together with other students from Žepa, Senada received a scholarship from the Hastor Foundation. They were also one of the first 200 scholarship holders of the Foundation. After the school in her town closed due to an insufficient number of students, Senada continued her education in Sarajevo.

During this period, when she was separated from her parents and continued her education in Sarajevo, she points out that it felt harder than all life changes that happened before. She was a total of thirteen years, in continuity, a scholarship recipients of the Hastor Foundation, and she points out that she often found her only solace in the Hastor Foundation.



She was, for five years, a mentor to students of different ages, and those are the meetings from which she keeps the most beautiful memories. *The foundation played a key role in my life. In addition to the financial and moral support that it provided, it made me more independent, stronger, persistent, and patient. I gained unforgettable experiences as well as practice through volunteering..*

In addition, she believes that volunteering with children gave her more than a good foundation for her future call, a professor's call.



Thanks to the scholarship, Senada financed her own education, but with volunteer hours she worked on herself and her self-confidence every day, created new goals, studied, and tried to make her dreams come true. Enrolling in university was a special challenge. Lots of expenses, a big family, and income is minimal

After entering university, the costs became higher. I was a tenant, I paid rent, bills, food, transport, and books. If it wasn't for the scholarship, I wouldn't have been able to do it, because my father's salary was a minimum of around 200 KM, and we had three children in the family. The Foundation had a really great role in that aspect as well.

Senada is currently working as a teaching assistant with children who have developmental difficulties in Elementary School "Alija Nametak", the school she herself attended, and she points out that it is a special honor for her to sit on the other side of the benches and reminisce with her current work about her days of education.

I am extremely honored to work in this school, with the teachers who taught me, considering that I was a student at this school.

At the end, Senada says: *I would tell all scholarship recipients of the Hastor Foundation to study and to strive to be part of this big-hearted family for as long as possible. Also, they need to make the Foundation even more successful with the dedicated work they make, because the Foundation deserves that, but during that journey they also need to develop their abilities.*

Prepared by: *Adelisa Begić*

GLOBAL GOOD DEEDS DAY AT THE HASTOR

ASSISTANCE TO THE POPULATION IN A STATE OF SOCIAL NEED



Sarajevo



Fojnica



Bosanska Krupa



Tuzla

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIONS



Čelić



Maglaj



Brčko



Sarajevo



Srebrenica



INCLUSION OF CHILDREN WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DIFFICULTIES AND CHILDREN WITHOUT PARENTAL CARE

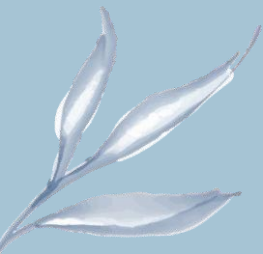


Mostar



Kalesija





EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOPS



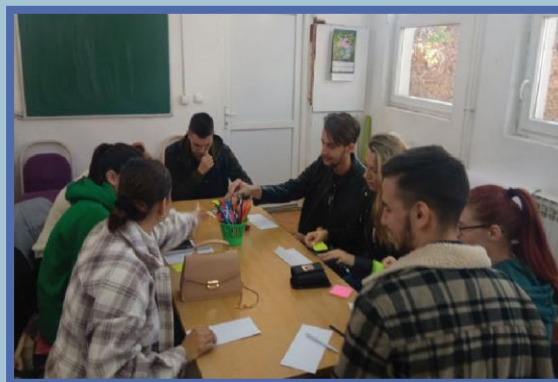
Brčko



Gornji Vakuf-Uskoplje



Žepče



Banovići



Contact Us!

Bulevar Meše Selimovića 16,
Sarajevo
033 774 789
033 774 823



Redaction

Džana Vrabac
Adelisa Begić
Sevleta Halilović
Dženana Zulum
Amina Abaspahić
Aleksandra Đukić
Adelisa Begić
Amina Šabanović-Kokot



Graphic design

Hana Kazić



Front page

Edna Porča