

# NEWSLETTER

*March 2024*



**FONDACIJA**  
HASTOR

*Nejla Dedić*



# Signed scholarship contracts with candidates who have achieved the right to a scholarship under the Competition for gifted/talented students

In January 2024, with the aim of providing support to as many young people as possible for whom education is imperative, in addition to regular education, the Hastor Foundation announced for the first time a Competition for gifted/talented students of primary and secondary schools in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Marking the coming of age of existence, this time a step forward was made in many segments, and one of the most significant is certainly the publication of the aforementioned competition, which received close to 2,500 applications.

At the end of the competition procedure, the most successful students, with whom a meeting was held on March 30 of the current year, and the first scholarship contracts were signed, achieved the right to a scholarship. At the meeting, the director of the Hastor Foundation, Lejla Đonlagić, presented the past activities, mission and goals of the Hastor Foundation, as well as its long-term positive influence on Bosnian society. Director Đonlagić introduced the new scholarship recipients to the volunteering program and their future volunteer engagement within the Hastor Foundation and presented its benefits both for themselves and for the communities in which they live. The scholarship program

was explained in detail to the new scholars and they were carefully informed about the future rights and obligations they will have as scholars of the Hastor Foundation.

Many of them expressed satisfaction and pride at the fact that they became scholarship recipients, and positive impressions were also found among parents who expressed their gratitude considering that the Hastor Foundation provided gifted and talented students with the opportunity to continue working hard, learning and being better at what they do:

*I want to thank the Hastor Foundation for the scholarship. Since Jovan became a scholarship holder of this Foundation, I, as a parent, feel proud and happy that he will have the opportunity to grow, mature and build friendships with other successful and valuable scholarship holders. The Hastor Foundation thinks of our children, rewards them for their efforts, so far those who are in a more difficult financial situation, and now, here, also those who are good athletes, students and artists. The future is in our children and we need more foundations like this in BiH, said Radosna Sladoje, the mother of our scholar Jovan.*





It is important to emphasize that by announcing the Competition for gifted/talented students, we did not neglect students from families with a more difficult socio-economic situation. For many years, the Hastor Foundation has been providing support to students from families with a more difficult socio-economic situation. In this school year alone, according to our regular competition, we received close to 400 elementary and high school students from all over Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the competition procedure is currently underway to select the students who will receive scholarships in the next year, 2025/26. school year.

According to our Competition for gifted/talented students, a total of 93 students from all over Bosnia and Herzegovina were entitled to a scholarship, and we are pleased to emphasize that through the new support program of the Hastor Foundation, attention is also focused on gifted and talented students who achieve outstanding results in various fields of both curricular and extracurricular activities. In this way, the Hastor Foundation once again successfully achieved its goal of providing opportunities to students who work hard on their education in order to build a better and more promising future, as well as a positive environment for all of us.

Our new scholarship recipient Haris Halilović told us what it means for him to become part of the Hastor Foundation and how he sees its role in his future:

*I am very happy to become one of the many winners of your valuable scholarship. I believe that I will have the opportunity to meet your many volunteers, scholarship holders, and that through active joint volunteer work, I will improve my organizational skills and become a valuable member of the Hastor Foundation, and contribute to the work of the local community by personal example.*

Even our new scholarship recipient Iman Škrebo did not hide her enthusiasm and gratitude for the fact that she has the opportunity to develop within the Hastor Foundation:

*For me, being a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation means an opportunity for academic and personal development, better access to knowledge and mentoring that will help me achieve my professional goals. I see my role within the Foundation as an active member of the community, ready to contribute my ideas and work to the realization of the Foundation's mission in supporting the education and development of young talents. This scholarship represents not only recognition for my work so far, but also the responsibility to continuously improve and contribute to the society in which I live.*



We are extremely proud of the fact that the community of the Hastor Foundation is expanding every day, as well as the results and successes achieved by our scholarship holders. Our mission is becoming a reality day by day, and our scholarship recipients have been growing up with us for years and become mature, responsible and educated people.

We wish all our new scholars a warm welcome with the desire to continue to achieve even greater and more significant successes that we will be happy to support.

**Article prepared by: Adelisa Begić**  
**Translated by: Fadil Merdić**





## Presenting new scholarship recipients of the Hastor Foundation

This month, we continue to showcase the positive stories of our new scholarship recipients who, through their work and dedication, prove why they have become part of our big family. Additionally, we aim to emphasize how with each passing day the Hastor Foundation is growing and becoming richer with young and active individuals who strive to make their future, as well as the environment in which we live, a better place for all of us. We proudly highlight how the Foundation invests daily in the success of its scholarship recipients, and they recognize the opportunities it offers and utilize them in the best possible way.



**Emina Šaćirbegović** comes from Zenica. She is a second-year student at the Faculty of Economics, University of Zenica. Emina has been dedicated to karate for fourteen years and now holds the title of licensed karate coach and examiner. Emina is not only focused on sports activities but is also active in the academic environment. She works with a group of students from her faculty to actively implement various projects aimed at improving the student community.

*This year, I also became a scholarship recipient of the Hastor Foundation. I was attracted to the principle of giving students the opportunity to learn something new, get to know each other, and develop their communication skills through volunteer work in elementary and high schools. I am looking forward to future volunteer opportunities within the Foundation and my personal growth. I hope to positively impact the students with whom I will volunteer.*



**Nerma Konjić** is from Tuzla. She is a second-year student at the Faculty of Law, University of Tuzla. She chose to enroll in the Faculty of Law because she believes it aligns with her desires and ambitions, considering it a way to contribute to the overall order in society through her work and dedication. Nerma emphasizes that throughout her upbringing, she has always been recognized for her exceptional commitment to volunteer work.

*I found out about the Hastor Foundation when a friend forwarded me the link to the scholarship contest. Immediately, I recognized it as a fantastic opportunity for me, aligning perfectly with my desires and interests. Being selected as a scholarship recipient of the Hastor Foundation meant a lot to me and I believe that during my involvement I will learn and achieve many new things. I have a strong desire to progress and I believe that I will achieve that within such an environment.*





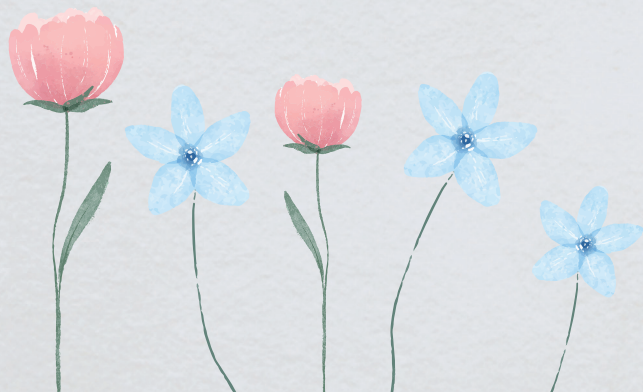
**Aldijana Makalić** is a scholarship recipient from Gojčin, municipality of Kalesija. She is a diligent second-year student at the Faculty of Law, University of Tuzla. During her high school education, she became acquainted with the concept of volunteer work, and she plans to continue developing it through her experience with the Hastor Foundation:

*I want to express my sincere gratitude to the Hastor Foundation for the opportunity provided. I am proud to have become a part of the family of its scholarship recipients. The support from the Hastor Foundation has not been just financial; it has also been motivational. By becoming a scholarship recipient, I feel that I have strong support on the path to achieving academic and personal goals. The vision of the Hastor Foundation in education and the development of young people like myself motivates me to continue achieving success.*

**Ismar Šindrić** comes from Tuzla and is a third-year student at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Tuzla, majoring in General Medicine. His outstanding academic achievements, including the Dean's Award, testify to his dedication and love for medicine. He learned about the Hastor Foundation through information provided by a colleague who is also a scholarship recipient. Ismar's goal is to contribute to the improvement of the healthcare and educational systems in Bosnia and Herzegovina through his work and dedication after completing his studies:

*I have always wanted to contribute to the society I live in. For me, volunteer work is salvation for society and the environment we are in, and it was actually mainly because of that reason that I applied for the contest announced by the Hastor Foundation in October 2023.*

**Article prepared by: Semina Sadiković**  
**Translated by: Edna Đuliman**





## Dženeta Halilović

Hastor Foundation has been developing its activities for years by affirming the volunteer engagement of young people and thus strengthening the connection between young individuals and the communities in which they live. Our Scholarship Recipient of the Month column this month brings the story of a young and ambitious scholar who has been making great strides for years within the Hastor Foundation, building her personality on the foundations of altruism and commitment to volunteer engagement. Due to her sincere commitment to volunteering and her efforts to invest her free time in useful things, this month, **Dženeta Halilović** deservedly holds the title of Hastor Foundation Scholarship Recipient of the Month.

Dženeta Halilović is originally from Sarajevo and has been a scholarship holder of the Hastor Foundation for ten years. Her educational path at the Secondary Medical School "Jezero" is the basis for her further training in the medical profession. She is currently in the third year of the first cycle of studies at the Faculty of Health Studies – Department of Midwifery.

Teamwork is one of the most important skills that scholarship recipients of the Hastor Foundation can develop through volunteering. In addition, volunteering creates a sense of community, solidarity, and responsibility towards others. As for many scholarship recipients, the Hastor Foundation has opened many doors for Dženeta and broadened horizons toward different spheres of life. She points out that her attachment to the Hastor Foundation has often been a guide to the direction she wants to take in life, and she has been building her personality year after year by weaving threads of the Hastor Foundation into her and thus making it an indispensable part of herself.

***As I have been a scholarship recipient of the Hastor Foundation for ten years now, I have made significant acquaintances that are still lasting and expanding. Through working in a team, scholarship recipients of Hastor Foundation eventually became my friends with whom I have excellent communication.***





Considering that she has been a scholarship recipient for almost ten years, Dženeta first volunteered through Hastor Foundation as a student in her mentoring group after which she experienced the uniqueness of mentoring by volunteering with her group of scholarship recipients. Today, Dženeta volunteers in the administrative team, which, as she points out, teaches her new skills every day, and at the same time she feels useful knowing that numerous applications for scholarships pass through her hands and that in this way she has the opportunity to do something truly good for the community.

*I believe that with my hard work, I contribute a lot to teamwork, however, my communicativeness and social awareness lead the main role. Throughout all these years, the Hastor Foundation has provided me with an opportunity to direct my energy and desire for the improvement of our society on the right path.*



Dženeta is an ambitious person who strives for success in everything she does. Her ambitions motivate her to acquire new knowledge and skills and to progress in the field of her future profession. When asked what attracted her to enrol in this course, Dženeta replied:

*Realizing the importance of preserving women's reproductive health and the fact that too little is said about this topic, I concluded that it is necessary to raise awareness and point out the importance of intimate health on the overall psychophysical state of women.*

She continuously follows and participates in various forms of education and congresses that are relevant to her vocation. She appreciates the opportunity to connect and exchange experiences with other experts in this field. Finally, once again she emphasized the importance of the Hastor Foundation's role in her life:

*The Hastor Foundation helps me in my efforts to make changes in the society I live in and guides me in raising my educational and social activity to a higher level through which I adorn my biography with another valuable life experience.*

**Article prepared by: Semina Sadiković  
Translated by: Maida Avdić**



## Venesa Karić



The Rubric of Active Youth is a rubric of our Newsletter where we present stories of our most accomplished scholarship recipients. We are faced with a challenge because every accomplishment of our scholarship recipients are a source of endless motivation not only for their fellow scholarship recipients, but the readers of Newsletter, too. In this month's Newsletter we are given the honor of introducing **Venesa Karić**, our scholarship recipient who comes from Zenica where she had completed her primary and high school education. She is currently a fourth-year-student majoring in Digital Communications and Public Relations at the Faculty of Education and Humanities, the International Burch University. Keep reading to discover Venesa's journey of success and the role the Hastor Foundation played in it.

We realized through our interview with Venesa that young people like her truly value their time and use it in the best way possible. Free time and productivity for Venesa represent the time spent in quality aspects of her life that will inspire, fulfil and take her to the next level. She strives to help her community with her knowledge and positive change, and she views the Hastor Foundation as a space that aids her on that mission in various ways. Venesa currently volunteers as the social media team leader, and points out how she has developed her communication and leadership skills through this type of volunteer work; not only this, but as a student she also has had the opportunity to practically apply her knowledge. Volunteer work has significantly influenced Venesa's life and she says all the best about it:

*I gained my first volunteer experience in the senior year of high school when I had become a member of the international non-governmental organization AIESEC. After that I began to search for more opportunities in my community; I was part of various non-governmental organizations such as PRONI – Center for Youth Development, the Rotaract Club where I was president, and the Erasmus Student Network. I have to specially mention my volunteer work at the Hastor Foundation, where I had the opportunity to acquire countless new skills and apply the knowledge gained at the faculty.*



Besides the mentioned volunteer work, Venesa has completed non-formal education programs such as SHL – Academy for Young Leaders in Civil Society, AFW – Academy of Political Literacy for Youth in Bosnia and Herzegovina and proposal writing training for BOLD projects. Thanks to the BOLD grant – Venesa being one of its recipients – she will participate in the project “CareerLeap Summit” that will be held in May this year. Venesa dances in her free time, and she has tried out numerous dance styles, some of them being classical, modern, Latina and social dances and character ballet. She was also part of the ballet ensemble at ArsCenter, Zenica.

Venesa didn't stop there. She used the opportunities that the Erasmus scheme offers to visit the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary and other European countries. She is currently one of the two representatives for Bosnia and Herzegovina on the training for leaders of intercultural exchanges. This program is realized by OFAJ and VCV; the last stage of the program will be held in May this year in Serbia.

Due to all the mentioned positive experiences, Venesa highlights the fact that she has, over time, become more approachable, open-minded and very self-confident, and how her volunteer work at the Hastor Foundation has played a significant part in it because she faced various challenges and learned how to overcome them. She has learned to cherish differences, not fear new adventures and not give up when faced with challenges and obstacles.

Venesa's message to her fellow scholarship recipients and other young people is to use the benefits of volunteer work, which is an ideal opportunity for them – she herself is an example of it. Thanks to the accumulated volunteer experience, Venesa got the opportunity to enroll in the faculty of her choice, which she is soon graduating from. Venesa has travelled a lot, met other cultures, and gained invaluable friendships and acquaintanceships which, for her, is the greatest treasure in life.

**Article prepared by: Hana Kolasević**  
**Translated by: Sara Kuduzović**





## Esma Husika Fazlić

The Hastor Foundation plays a great role in the life of all its scholarship recipients, both current and former. It motivates them to never give up on their goals and to always move forward, striving to be better. The Foundation is often the greatest, and sometimes the only support in the life of its scholarship recipients. Former scholarship recipients often, full of memories, remember different moments in life when they needed someone who would unconditionally believe in them. They proudly point out that in those very moments of their lives, The Hastor Foundation provided with a helping hand. It was our former scholarship recipient, **Esma Husika Fazlić**, that the Hastor Foundation was a helping hand in a crucial period of her life when she needed someone who would believe in her, support her and help her get closer to realizing her dreams.

Esma Husika Fazlić comes from Kakanj, where she completed primary and secondary school. She studied in the Faculty of Philosophy–Sarajevo, Anglistics department. Her volunteering engagement in The Hastor Foundation was ongoing for four years, when she could participate in training for interns, organized by the Hastor Foundation, which took her a step further and she got the chance to volunteer at Al Jazeera Balkans in 2012. After a year of volunteer engagement, she was hired at Al Jazeera, where she still works as an English translator for more than a decade. That job requires vigilance, and readiness to always research for new topics. That presented no challenge to Esma because she always looked up to her older student recipients in The Hastor foundation, who were always focused and ready for new challenges. Besides that, Esma volunteered as a mentor for a primary school student recipients.





As the Hastor Foundation is based on altruism and strives to transfer this to the scholarship holders, Ema, through her mentorship, selflessly transferred knowledge of the English language and other teaching subjects to the younger scholarship recipients. Further on, The Hastor Foundation recognised her potential, and she had a chance to volunteer in the administrative and editorial team, where she could show her skills and where she could work on further development of those skills. Because of a rich volunteer involvement most beautiful memories tie her only to The Hastor Foundation, and as a special memory she singles out a trip to the Netherlands, where she traveled as a guide for students who spent three weeks in the Netherlands.

Since those are younger children, to the many of them this was the first longer trip without parents. Guides were at the same time the translators and the replacement for the parents. In Netherlands Ema gained new acquaintances, and some of them grew into friendships that last to this day, so she also met her best friend at The Hastor Foundation. Her friendship bound is strong even today, and they hope their children will continue that friendship. Ema proudly tells her son now about The Hastor Foundation, with the desire to awaken in him the gratitude she feels because it was the Hastor Foundation that opened the door to the business world for Ema, and because of that she can provide a lot for him today, but also teach him altruism and pass on positive values to him from an early age.

*I can say that the Hastor Foundation meant two things to me: support and a springboard to success. They supported me financially in the moments when it was needed the most, and it was the path to my own finances and professional experience of enormous importance. I point out proudly that I was a scholarship recipient of The Hastor foundation and I inform people about it, from which many of them didn't hear about it. People are moving in some kind of their own micro circles, unaware of the great good that the army of young, hardworking and clever people is doing for this country. I am proud that I myself was in one period of my life a part of that hardworking army.*



Another important segment in her volunteer work was the monthly meetings, which turned into dynamic discussions and agreements regarding various matters and problems she faced in her work. That meant a lot to her, because thanks to the meetings she felt a big support of the older scholarship recipients, but she also provided support to the younger scholarship recipients. She points out that through volunteer work she developed empathy, but also gained an important business skills that were of a great importance for her later work. Therefore, she sends a message to young people: to be persistent, persevering and to always do their best. Only then they can make their dreams come true.

*Don't give up on your dreams, don't give up on your obligations as well. Everything that you learn today will make your life easier tomorrow and open the way to new opportunities that you may only dream about now, and they are right there, just a step away from you. That step is called healthy work habits. I don't believe that work made a human, but I believe that it shapes a human into a person who contributes and is worth something. Virtues such as responsibility, diligence, persistence, which the Hastor Foundation ultimately teaches us, are a universal language that will turn your dreams into reality*

**Article prepared by: Semina Sadiković**  
**Translated by: Edna Đuliman**



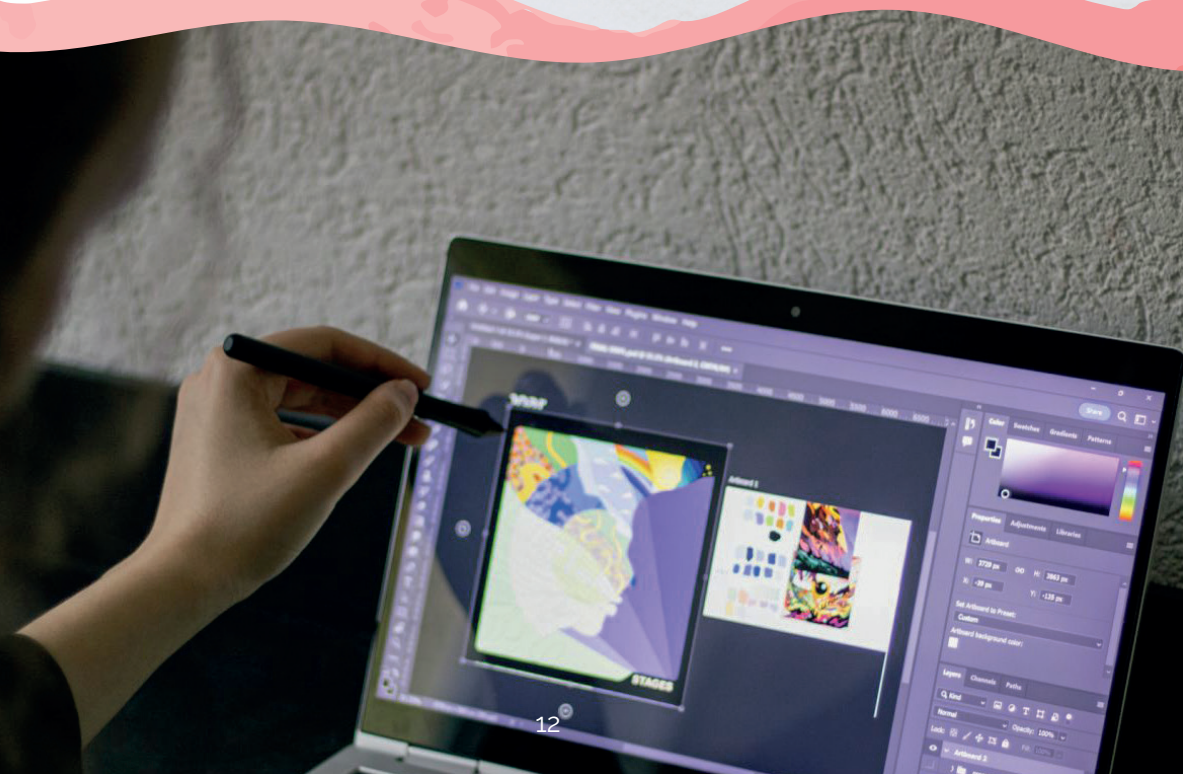
# A Creative Course on the Application of Adobe Photoshop by Lejla Fejzić

When you step into the magical world of volunteering, you will notice that something keeps drawing you back to it time and time again. Some desire will lead you to forge new friendships, create new memories, and engage in many new activities. However, when we combine volunteering with what we truly love, it becomes our own little special world. **Lejla Fejzić**, a student and one of our scholarship recipients, had the opportunity to base her volunteer hours on what truly fulfills her, attracting our attention and undoubtedly earning her place in this column.

Lejla Fejzić is 22 years old and comes from Ilijaš, where she completed elementary and high school. She is currently a third-year student of graphic design and multimedia at the International Burch University. Although Lejla has been with us for only a year, when asked what being a Foundation Hastor scholar means to her, she didn't know where to start, stating that she has a lot to say.

*Being a Foundation scholar is much more than financial support; it is an opportunity for growth and learning and a great privilege that allows me to focus on my education and contribute to the community with my work and give back the support I received.*

Lejla's love for design and art dates back to her high school days, and as the Foundation Hastor strives to encourage its scholars to develop interests through volunteering activities, Lejla's entire volunteering is based on topics related to graphic design, about which she has much to say and teach others. The new volunteering model at the Foundation Hastor, implemented at the beginning of the current school year, provides the opportunity for scholarship students, among other things, to learn various skills by acquiring knowledge from various fields conveyed by our student scholars, thus expanding their horizons and ranges of knowledge. The workshops Lejla leads are envisioned as courses in Adobe Photoshop for our high school scholarship recipients, and our volunteer described to us what one of these workshops actually looks like.





At the very beginning, the students were tasked with installing the program necessary for the course, after which Lejla introduced them to all the options the program offers. One of the first challenges was to merge two photos into one and add some creative detail to the photo. Lejla emphasizes that in this way, she teaches younger scholarship recipients to be creative and to use the resources they have in the right way, and many of them already recognize the field of graphic design as their future profession.

*The workshops are structured through ten stages, providing students with a fundamental understanding of Adobe Photoshop. After going through these stages, students will be able to independently use tools and apply acquired knowledge in various aspects of their education. Each workshop is designed in two segments. The first segment includes a detailed explanation of the tools in Adobe Photoshop and their application. In the second segment of the workshop, students, with my assistance, implement the acquired knowledge through practical work and tasks,* Lejla states, thus explaining the steps of the workshop in more detail.



We can see how much support and positive feedback mean to us, even from Lejla's example. After just the first workshop held, one of the students thanked Lejla for her selfless dedication and all the useful things she taught them. The message was full of praise, and Lejla also shared with us the impressions of student Arnela Mujić, which she took away from her workshops:

*A workshop with Lejla is a beautiful experience. Through an inspiring presentation, she allowed me and all attendees to learn so much, and her way of presenting was outstanding. With her approach and immense love for what she does, she encouraged me to delve deeper into the area she presented and continue my journey with new inspiration she inspired me with,* says Arnela.

Lejla summed up her rich volunteer story to end our interview with a single message:

*I would encourage all current and future Foundation Hastor scholars to appreciate all the opportunities the Foundation provides them. I encourage you to seize every opportunity offered, participate in every activity with the aim of learning and developing your own skills because it will undoubtedly be invaluable to us in the future.*



**Article prepared by: Aida Suljić  
Translated by: Zerina Kosovac and Fadil Merdić**



## Monologue of silence

Listen to  
The silence.  
Just learn  
To listen.  
It hails  
The hidden  
Pieces  
Of your memories  
Perhaps  
Your subconscious  
Calls you  
Telling you  
It remains here  
In new role  
Something more  
Than memories  
Something in balance  
Of reality.

**Prepared by : Semina Sadiković**

**Translated by : Elmina Huseljić**



**Contact us!**

Bulevar Meše Selimovića 16,  
Sarajevo  
033 774 789  
033 774 823  
fondacija@hastor.ba



**Redaction**

Almina Šabanović-Kokot  
Adelisa Begić  
Amina Bašić  
Semina Sadiković  
Hana Kolasević  
Aldina Šaljić  
Aida Suljić



**Graphic design**

Sara Keserović



**Front cover**

Nejla Dedić