

NEWSLETTER

Oktober 2024



FONDACIJA
HASTOR

Marla Dedid

The Hastor Foundation officially launches mentorship program “First step into the business world”

The Hastor Foundation has officially launched its mentorship program “First Step into the Business World.” This type of support for scholarship recipients is a new initiative at the Hastor Foundation, giving scholarship recipients a unique opportunity to receive mentorship from professionals in fields related to their studies or future career aspirations. The program offers new knowledge, training, experiences, advice, opportunities, motivation, networking, skill-building, personal development, and, above all, moral support. Alongside skill development, students will enhance competencies essential for the labor market, including analytical thinking, active learning, creativity, critical thinking, and more.



This opportunity to participate in the program's first cycle was granted to the Hastor Foundation scholarship recipients who stand out for their academic achievements, dedication to volunteer engagement at the Foundation, and eagerness to learn and gain valuable new experiences.

The mentorship program is supported by ASA Group and its member, ASA Hospital, whose employees outstanding professionals in their fields will take on the role of mentors, generously sharing their knowledge, skills, and experience with our scholarship recipients. We extend our gratitude to ASA Group and ASA Hospital for their support and wish all participants success in the activities within the mentorship program.

Scholarship contracts signed for the 2024/2025 academic year



October was marked by the signing of scholarship contracts with our students. This included both long-term scholarship recipients from the Hastor Foundation: senior students and freshmen who, for the first time after completing their previous level of education and scholarship, signed their scholarship contracts themselves.

Our dedicated scholarship recipients studied diligently, passed their exams, and volunteered with the Hastor Foundation throughout the previous academic year, thus meeting the conditions to renew their contracts and continue their scholarships. At the signing ceremony, Hastor Foundation Director Lejla Đonlagić congratulated the students on their achievements and scholarship renewals, wished them success in the new academic year, and announced a series of new opportunities that the Hastor Foundation is preparing for them. In addition to the mentorship program "First Step into the Business World," which has already entered its pilot phase for graduating students, and

the standard benefits the Hastor Foundation has actively provided over the years, a range of new opportunities and possibilities for students is in preparation.

We take this opportunity to congratulate all our students and wish them that this scholarship contract becomes just one of many successes they achieve this academic year. May they continue to contribute to a brighter future in our homeland with their knowledge, proactivity, innovation, and philanthropy.



Through education and togetherness towards a brighter future - Dženita Dedić

Dženita Dedić has been a scholarship recipient of the Hastor Foundation for 11 years and proudly points out how much her connection with the Foundation has shaped her life. Throughout her upbringing within the Foundation, Dženita went through different stages, from a student who felt the community's support for the first time to a mentor who imparted her knowledge to younger scholarship recipients. The role of mentor, which she assumed with great responsibility, enabled her to share knowledge and experiences. She also emphasized the importance of sharing knowledge with students, and it was through this mentor work that she built even stronger relationships with scholarship recipients and mentors.

For me, the Hastor Foundation is not only a source of financial support, it is the place where I learned the importance of teamwork, leadership and solidarity with others.

Today, as a mentor coordinator, she leads a team of young mentors, helping them organize monthly meetings, plan activities and face challenges, and it was precisely this volunteer assignment that earned Dženita the title of the scholarship recipient of the month. Dženita is fully committed to her volunteering and always performs volunteer tasks regularly and thoroughly and emphasizes how extremely important her role as a leader in the team of mentors and coordinators is to her. She points out that her goal has always been to provide support and give advice that will help the younger ones to build their own path, but also to be flexible and adaptable to the needs of their students.



Through this role, Dženita not only improved her leadership skills but also developed her emotional intelligence. Every interaction with scholarship recipients and mentors of the Hastor Foundation is an opportunity for Dženita to learn:

We learned from each other, exchanging ideas and advice, which motivated me to always try to do my best.

She emphasized that the Foundation is not only an organization that provides financial assistance but is a place where a sense of belonging develops, where young people can learn about teamwork, leadership skills and solidarity with others. Dženita also recalled her beginnings at the Foundation when, as a young student, she first came into contact with scholarship recipients from different parts of the country, and she especially emphasized their mutual connection imbued by a common goal - education and humanity.



This realization encouraged her to progress not only as a scholarship recipient, but also as someone who can be a role model for others. Her leadership and empathy came to the fore through her mentor work with students, where she learned how important it is to adapt the approach to each individual and how to convey knowledge in a way that is understandable and inspiring. Dženita is deeply aware that her goal is not only to finish college, but to continue investing in herself and others:

Each of our small steps towards learning and development can lead us to big changes. We must be always open to new experiences because together we can create a better future.

Dženita is an example of how all dreams can come true through the commitment and support of the community. Her story is not just a story of success on the volunteer front; this is a story of strength that comes from togetherness, teamwork and solidarity. Through the Hastor Foundation, Dženita learned that true strength comes from the desire to help others and that leadership means being a role model and supporter.

Our young and ambitious student Dženita Dedić is successfully walking her academic path towards the realization of her big dreams. She is currently studying at the IPI Academy in Tuzla, majoring in Banking, Insurance and Finance, with the clear goal of gaining knowledge through education that will benefit not only her, but also the community she lives in:

Through my studies, I want to understand how we can better manage resources and help the community to develop and prosper.

This wish of hers is a mission that follows her through every step of her academic and personal development. Although finance and banking are often seen as a dry and technical world of numbers, for Dženita, they represent much more - an opportunity for change, connection with people and creation of the foundation for a better future.

Her journey is far from over - Dženita is ready for new challenges and new opportunities to learn and grow, but most importantly, she is ready to continue sharing her knowledge and experience with others, thus building a better future for everyone.

Ad astra ... with ambition and support

Napoleon Bonaparte noted out how high ambition is a passion of a great character. People gifted with ambition can do either very good or very bad things, depending on the principles guiding them. When we talk about Hastor Foundation scholarship recipients, we can surely say that their foundations are based on the right principles, thus their ambitions are great and achievements even greater. Something that needs to be especially emphasized is that they strive to remain altruistic besides all the achievements and, to them, true values never lose importance. They are still exemplary people, friends, children, brothers, sisters, but also students. It is exactly that kind of scholarship recipients that we endeavor to introduce in the Rubric of Active Youth, and this month we will introduce the ambitious and hard-working scholarship recipient **Asmiru Kunić**.

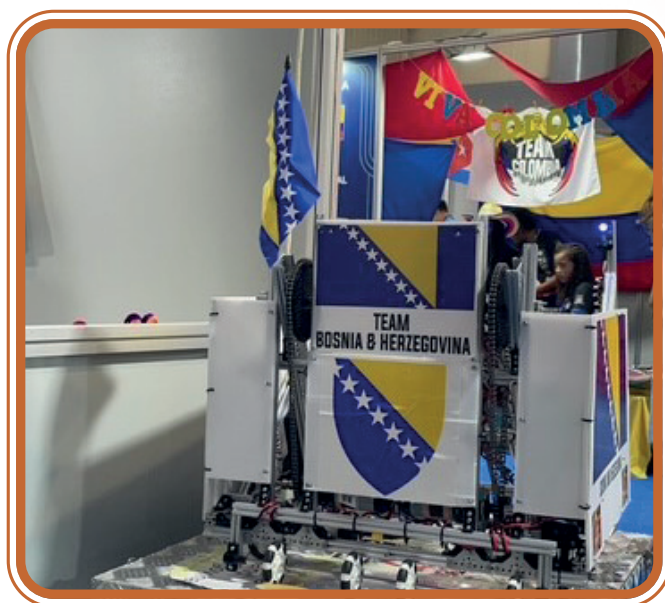
Asmira comes from the city of Zvornik, she is 17 years old and a third-grader of the high school "Maarif Schools of Sarajevo." Even though her ambitions in education are high, she took the risk to go even further, striving to apply the theoretical knowledge she had. Namely, as Asmira's mentors at the Hastor Foundation are always teaching her that ambitions make us more courageous and successful, she has decided to show not only Europe, but the entire world that she is an A+ student. Asmira has got the opportunity to represent Bosnia and Herzegovina at the International Robotics Competition in Athens in the organization of First Global Challenge. The competition took place from September 26-29, 2024, and 190 countries worldwide participated. The Bosnia and Herzegovina team, that had Asmira Kunić as one of its representatives, won three awards: one Social Media Award and two Video Storytelling Awards. Asmira was chosen representative based on her skills and

knowledge that she had showcased at the previous school competition - a scientific fair that saw her project in robotics. It was a special honor that her team, on their return from Athens, was greeted with Federal Minister of Education and Science Prof. Dr. Jasna Duraković.



I am very thankful and happy that I got the opportunity to represent my country at such a prestigious competition and, of course, show my knowledge and learn something new. Everything that I have learned at the Hastor Foundation has surely been with me throughout the entire competition: be and remain a good person and friend, no matter where I am. In the far Athens I took pride in being a member of such a big family and my mentors having playing a huge role in all of this. Thanks to the meetings with them I have slowly started to realize that there is no giving up, only a lack of ambitions. Ambitions are actually what makes me a good person.

To achieve the desired result, Asmira had been preparing for the competition during her summer vacations - the time of the year students look most forward to. While her peers were resting and spending their time with their loved ones, Asmira dedicated herself to robotics, together with her team. That is a sign that it is not enough to wish for something, but that we have to do everything in our power to achieve it, too. We often have to sacrifice even that most valuable to us, which was spending time with our loved ones in this case, in order to achieve what we strive for. Everything is worthwhile in the end, though. Asmira believes that no effort is wasted and that it is only important to move forward.



Everyone's effort and work will be recognized. Every effort invested in something will return with even a greater reward. Nothing is wasted.

At the end of our interview, Asmira pointed out how the meetings-workshops, that she had carried out with other scholarship recipients at the Hastor Foundation, have helped her perfect her communication skills, which made a great difference at the competition. Thanks to those skills, on her return from Athens Asmira was interviewed by various TV stations. By the same token, Asmira's skills contributed to her meeting new people. That is how she, at only 17 years old, has managed to make friendships from all around the world - something that the Hastor Foundation is especially proud of.

**Prepared by: Aldina Šaljić
Translated by: Sara Kuduzović**

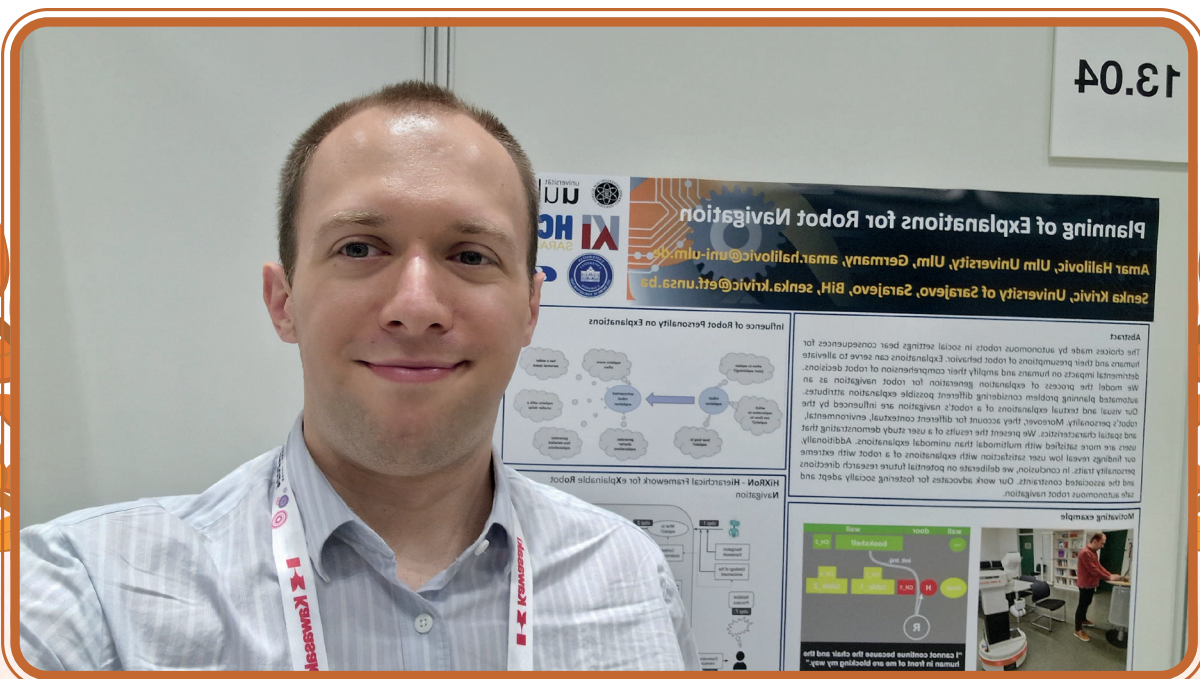
From student desk to researcher at the Institute for Artificial Intelligence - Amar Halilović

Our alumni are the best example of the reflection of the mission and vision of the Hastor Foundation on its scholarship recipients, as they demonstrate through their actions, both privately and socially, that hard work, learning, and effort can lead to great results. Amar Halilović is one of our alumni whom we speak of with special pride because the traces of his knowledge and valuable dedication through volunteer work are still noticeable today, even though he is no longer a scholarship recipient of the Hastor Foundation. Therefore, we are pleased to present his story and volunteer journey in this edition of our newsletter.

Amar Halilović originally from Sarajevo, completed his bachelor's and master's studies at the Department of Automation and Electronics, the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, University of Sarajevo. He continued his education with a master's degree at the Department of Intelligent

Embedded Systems, Mälardalen University in Västerås, Sweden. Currently working as a researcher and teaching assistant at the Institute for Artificial Intelligence at Ulm University in Ulm, Germany, Amar emphasizes that his career is progressing in the direction he has always dreamed of.

I chose this profession because I want to work in the field of robotics and artificial intelligence, as robotics was probably the most interesting topic I studied during my education, and my goal is to obtain a PhD in this area. The challenges of my job include the constant need for learning and improvement while working on something that will eventually become my doctoral dissertation. My current job is truly interesting and challenging at the same time, offering opportunities in terms of travel and participation in international conferences, where I have the chance to meet various researchers and experts and deepen my knowledge.



Amar became a scholarship recipient of the Hastor Foundation in his second year of university, and even then, he showed a strong inclination towards volunteer work, primarily mentoring a group of children from the Vogošća and Ilijaš areas. He particularly emphasizes that this volunteer time helped him socialize more and empathize with students facing different life challenges, allowing him to assist them as much as possible through monthly meetings. Amar also volunteered within the IT team, where he had the opportunity to apply the knowledge he gained at university, which, as he himself points out, significantly contributed to his personal growth and education.

Volunteering in the IT team allowed me to directly apply my knowledge by organizing the website and the system for processing new scholarship applications. I can confidently say that I see this, in a way, as one of my first professional experiences where I gained not only new knowledge and experience, but also became a link in the chain of helping scholarship recipients apply for their scholarships and change their futures.



As we pointed out at the beginning, Amar embodied the positive values promoted by the Hastor Foundation even as a scholarship recipient, and he has continued to do so as an alumnus, as he still occasionally dedicates his very limited free time to volunteer and socially beneficial work. We believe that many successes await Amar, and we look forward to speaking of them with pride, just as we have in this article.

In our good tradition, Amar sent a message to our scholarship recipients at the end:

Dear scholarship recipients, every step in your education brings challenges, but also unique opportunities for progress. Although it may often seem like you are facing impossible tasks, trust the process and your knowledge that you build on every day. A scholarship is a recognition of your effort and potential, but also an opportunity to improve your professional and social skills. Stay open to new ideas, learn from mentors and peers, and don't forget to enjoy the small successes on your journey. Always remember that your contribution is important and valuable.



Prepared by:

Translated by: Ivan Rajić

Small steps towards a big change - students' participating in celebration of Pink October



Through their volunteering, our scholarship recipients always strive to mark all that is significant: helping others and reminding them of human values that must not be forgotten. In this regard, **Elma Karić** and **Džeraldina Buljurina** decided with their volunteer groups to mark Pink October with a series of various activities. Pink October, also known as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, is celebrated every year around the world, and the group of scholarship recipients whose story we present in this month's Small Stories of Great Volunteers' section decided to dedicate their October volunteering to this very topic.

During this month, organizations implement various campaigns to raise awareness about breast cancer, the importance of early detection and the availability of diagnostic examinations. The Small Stories of Great Volunteers section is in charge this month of introducing the inspiring works of the previously mentioned mentors and, perhaps, encouraging someone to do something similar.

Elma and Džeraldina come from Busovača. Their volunteer hours take place in Busovača or Kačun, depending on the availability of premises. They volunteer with two groups of students – elementary and high school students. However, due to the big age difference, it is not one group, but volunteering for both takes place separately. This month's activities were decided to be adapted to the celebration of Pink October, as was pointed out in the introduction itself.

They complemented their volunteering with high school students by making ribbons and, in addition, organized a peaceful walk as a symbol of support for women suffering from breast cancer. This walk provided an opportunity for them to come together, show solidarity and reinforce the message about the importance of early detection and prevention of the disease. These two hard-working girls point out that the activities are organized with the aim of raising awareness about this serious topic, but also to make the students feel part of the global fight against the disease that affects many women in the world.

Our scholarship recipient Eldin Ramić emphasized the importance of raising awareness about this topic:

I never knew before how these ribbons are made and what kind of symbolism they carry. Now I have learned that, too, and realized how important even small gestures can be in raising awareness.

Unfortunately, we are aware of people's current perception and lack of knowledge in the activities related to this month, and it is precisely for this reason that the mentors state that the elementary school students approached the task with great enthusiasm. The first part of the activity, as with the high school students, was dedicated to making recognizable pink ribbons, a symbol of the fight against breast cancer. Using simple materials, the students showed creativity and precision, and each ribbon was made with special care. Mentor Elma Karić told us:

Our activity is not only an educational workshop - it is also a call to action. Through creative projects and a peaceful walk, we try to inspire everyone to take care of their health and support women fighting breast cancer.

In addition, they also worked on creating and designing posters that would decorate the school corridors. The posters carried strong messages of support and emphasized the



Pink October

*Tvoje zdravlje.
tvoj prioritet!*



importance of regular examinations and compassion for the sick. Amila Brkić, one of the younger scholarship recipients, shared her experience:

We have never had the opportunity to work on projects like this before, and this is an opportunity to understand how important these topics are actually for the whole society, and not just for women who are facing this illness.

During the activity, students expressed how grateful they were to have the opportunity to participate in this form of volunteering, emphasizing the importance of this topic. Anida Srebrenica, a first-year student at Busovača High School, highlighted the significance of this topic for society as a whole.

We have never had the opportunity to work on projects like this before, and this is an opportunity to understand how important these topics are actually for the whole society, and not just for women who are facing this illness.

Unfortunately, there have been no similar projects dedicated to this topic in their school so far, and they happily accepted the opportunity to contribute to its celebration. When the volunteering was over, the peaceful walk and all the other activities were still on their minds. Our mentors were also proud of their, as they say, golden students because they noticed that working on such a project left a deep mark on everyone. The students showed incredible interest and creativity, and their commitment to this topic only added to the beauty of the entire volunteer experience.

Prepared by: Aida Suljić
Translated by: Maida Avdić

The Dance of the End of Indian Summer

Sunday quietness
Through an ajar door
Enters a shadow of the passing day.
Photons of light.
An undrunk coffee cup
A stain on the newspaper,
A Sunday not reaching the eyes.
At the table apple peels whispering,
A bittersweet scent filling the air.
Each step creaking through an empty home,
Passing through cold windows,
Between cracked mirrors
And dried dahlias in an old vase.

The doors locked,
But the key waits in a coat,
The objects whispering their words,
As if each of them within
Carries a bit of sun.

Semina Sadiković

Translated by: Sara Kuduzović

How to become a donor?

If you would like to support the work of the Hastor Foundation, you can make a donation to one of the following bank accounts:

ASA Banka d.d. Sarajevo:

1346101000825159

Raiffeisen Bank BH d.d. Sarajevo:

1610000055230065

Unicredit Bank d.d. Sarajevo:

3389002201775656



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