



*N*EWLETTER
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THE POWER OF WORDS IN PRESERVING HERITAGE: HASTOR FOUNDATION FORMS A WIKIPEDIA TEAM

In an era of hyperproduction, accessibility, and the virality of online content, one of the greatest challenges is preserving one's own identity, tradition, and ultimately, mother tongue.

The vision of the Hastor Foundation is based on building a more stable and promising society founded on the right values. As we follow societal developments, we strive in our own way to do everything we can to preserve the foundations of our community. We recognize that the viral nature of the digital world facilitates the creation of various types of information, which is why we want to contribute to ensuring that an increasing amount of content related to Bosnia and Herzegovina is written in Bosnian. Additionally, we aim for a growing number of significant local, regional, and global topics to be available in Bosnian as well.

Guided by this idea and need, we have formed a team of volunteers within the Hastor Foundation's volunteer activities, dedicated to creating content in Bosnian on Wikipedia. This initiative aims to enhance scientific research, increase the number of articles, and improve both the quality and quantity of content, enriching the digital space with reliable and well-researched information accessible to everyone—both present and future generations.

Our selected volunteers have undergone training conducted by the expert team of the World Bosnian-Bosniak Congress, ensuring that all activities comply with the necessary regulations and technical requirements of Wikipedia.



AIDA GAVRANOVIC, MD, MSC: THE MENTORSHIP PROGRAM “FIRST STEP INTO THE BUSINESS WORLD” IS A FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG COLLEAGUES

The job market today is highly competitive and demands specific knowledge and skills, regardless of whether it is a first-time employment opportunity. Theoretical knowledge is essential and invaluable, but practical knowledge is the key to success, opening the doors to the professional world more efficiently. The Hastor Foundation recognizes this and strives to create opportunities for students to prepare them for their transition into the job market. One of the outcomes of this effort is the introduction of the mentorship program “First Step into the Business World,” which equips students with the necessary skills to face real-world professional challenges, provides mentorship, and fosters strong networking opportunities.

We spoke with one of the mentors, Dr. Aida Gavranović, Head of the Emergency Care Department at ASA Hospital, about the results and significance of the first cycle of this program.



Dr. Gavranović, what impressions can you share with us about the mentorship program “First Step into the Business World”?

The mentorship program “First Step into the Business World” is a fantastic opportunity for young colleagues to gain insightful information about the work and the challenges they will face in the future. Throughout the program, the mentor shares their experience and potential difficulties with the mentee, guiding them on ways to overcome them. Thus, the most important aspect of this program is that it helps young colleagues, who already possess theoretical knowledge, acquire new practical skills as well.

How much practical knowledge do students actually have upon completing their studies?

During their education, students acquire not only theoretical, but also a certain level of practical knowledge. However, upon graduation, they enter a new realm of practical work, which is often quite different from what they encountered at university. Acquired theoretical knowledge must then be applied in real-life situations. At that point, they continue learning—but in a more focused way, or rather, they learn for themselves. For doctors, the learning process truly lasts their whole life.

Could you compare your period of education with the current one? Are there now more opportunities for practical work and experience for students?

There should definitely be more practical training during the course of study. I believe all colleagues remember their own beginnings and the challenges they faced during that time. Both past and present generations graduate with fairly limited practical knowledge and skills, especially those who studied during the pandemic. Various programs and projects certainly help young colleagues gain as much hands-on experience as possible. However, a key factor in all of this is the motivation of the students themselves.

What prior knowledge, abilities, or skills were most important for you when selecting a student for the mentorship program?

Certainly, a solid foundation of theoretical knowledge was crucial, but above all, the willingness and eagerness to learn, engage in discussions, explore new concepts, and adopt them.



The emergency center is a challenging work environment. How did the program participant manage in this setting?

Dr. Nejra Hindija, with whom I had the privilege of working during the mentorship program, is a wonderful young colleague who has already begun her career as a medical doctor. Through both theoretical

and practical training in various areas of emergency medicine, as well as hands-on examples and real-life cases, she has enriched her knowledge and critical thinking. During the program, we also addressed other essential aspects, such as effective communication and legal regulations in the medical field.

How do you handle stressful situations, and how do you motivate your team during highpressure moments?

Working in this field of medicine naturally comes with a lot of stress. Continuous learning and emergency situation training are essential to ensure that every team member can effectively manage challenging situations and be as prepared as possible. Additionally, knowing your team well and being able to anticipate their reactions is of great importance. It is crucial to discuss each case with the team—whether there is room for improvement and how they personally experienced the situation. I must also emphasize the importance of good communication, not only within the team and with colleagues, but also with patients and their families. Managing pressure is something that requires daily effort and learning. The goal is to control stress rather than allowing stress to control you.

Do you have any advice for medical students?

I would advise young colleagues to: approach their future profession with great love and responsibility; to be empathetic and sensitive towards patients, because we have chosen our patients, not the other way around; to always remember that every person is an individual with their own personality, and each patient should be treated as such; to frequently return to the basics and understand that it is not shameful to not know something—everything can be learned; to know how to accept praise, but also take constructive criticism in a positive way; to always continue learning and searching for new knowledge, and to respect and value their colleagues.

GOLDEN BADGES OF THE HASTOR FOUNDATION—MEET THE STUDENTS WHO PUSH BOUNDARIES

The title Golden Badge of the University of Sarajevo, awarded each academic year to the most successful students, is a testament to the effort, dedication, and courage of young individuals. These students are ready to conquer the world with their knowledge and become an inspiration to our entire society. Read below about our outstanding scholarship recipients who have earned this prestigious recognition.

Amina Bašić

Amina comes from Hadžići and is a first-year master’s student at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Sarajevo. She is enrolled in the Department of Bosnian, Croatian, and Serbian Language as well as the Department of Literatures of the Peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina. She received the Golden Badge of the University of Sarajevo for her exceptional academic success, with the GPA of 9.52 and thirty grades of ten (10) during her undergraduate studies. She is actively engaged in research in the fields of philology, linguistics, political sciences, and law and has authored several academic papers published in print and online journals.



The Hastor Foundation has significantly influenced my academic success. Without their support, it would have been much harder to focus on studying and maintaining a high GPA. I am truly grateful to the Hastor Foundation for accompanying me on this journey.

Anesa Resić

Anesa Resić from Sarajevo was awarded the Golden Badge of the University of Sarajevo with the GPA of 9.53 in the first cycle of studies at the Faculty of Health Studies, majoring in Radiologic Technology. She was one of the top students in her undergraduate studies and the best student in her program.



Grades are merely a reflection of effort and work, but they are just the beginning of the journey. The real value lies in the knowledge we acquire, the perseverance with which we face challenges, and the humanity we nurture through every step of our development. On my path, the Hastor Foundation played a crucial role. By recognizing my potential, they provided me with support and motivation to strive even harder, set more ambitious goals, and contribute to my community through volunteer work.

Aleksandar Josipović

Aleksandar completed his studies at the Academy of Arts, University of Banja Luka, with the GPA of 9.93, earning him the Golden Badge of the University of Banja Luka as the best student at the Academy of Arts. He continued his studies at the master's level in Banja Luka, specializing in Music Theory.



Every moment spent with books, an instrument, or in the faculty space pays off with some kind of award, but when it comes to the Golden Badge of the University, we all know how valuable the effort and success we have achieved truly are. Beyond all these awards, I want to thank the Hastor Foundation, which has had a tremendous impact on my studies—not only financially, but also emotionally, through gatherings with peers and elementary and high school students during volunteer meetings.

Amina Džinalić

Amina proudly holds the Golden Badge of the University of Sarajevo as one of the top students of the first cycle of studies at the Faculty of Law, University of Sarajevo, for the year 2024, with the GPA of 9.72. She is currently an assistant and a master's student at the same faculty. She has also been a violinist for 15 years.



Golden Badge is not just a result of academic success but also a symbol of dedication, effort, and sacrifice. This award is not mine alone—it belongs to everyone who believed in me, to those who supported me in difficult moments, and to the time I had to sacrifice, which ultimately taught me the value of perseverance. The Hastor Foundation has laid the foundations of my career. Through volunteer activities that involved working with elementary and high school students, as well as administrative work within the Foundation, I learned the value of teamwork, responsibility, and empathy.

Ivona Kenjić

Ivona, coming from East Sarajevo, graduated from the Faculty of Science and Mathematics in Sarajevo with a degree in Biology, majoring in Genetics. Her GPA during the first and second cycles is 9.5, which is why she was granted the Golden Badge of the University of Sarajevo.



During my studies, I learned that success doesn't come overnight, but as a result from daily effort and study. You should never underestimate the power of daily self-growth because every step, however small, leads to great achievements.

Iva Lazić

Iva, coming from Tuzla, completed her first cycle of studies at the Music Academy, University of Sarajevo, majoring in Piano. She is currently a student in the second cycle of the Music Academy of the University of Sarajevo, and as a part of the ERASMUS+ program, she is attending the Prins Claus Conservatorium in Groningen. She was granted the Golden Badge for the first cycle of studies based on the GPA of 9.86.



The Hastor Foundation played a significant role in my success. While studying and completing the first cycle of my studies, they supported and helped me to always do my best. I hope that with this acquired recognition, I can show my gratitude to the Hastor Foundation, which is largely responsible for my success.

Maja Ibričić

Maja, coming from Tuzla, studied at the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Tuzla, Department of Political Science, majoring in International Relations and Diplomacy. She graduated with the GPA of 9.96. She is currently attending the European Regional Master Democracy and Human Rights in Southeast Europe, an interdisciplinary master's program coordinated by the University of Sarajevo (UNSA) and the University of Bologna (UNIBO).



During my studies at the University of Tuzla, my dedication to learning and research enabled me to achieve exceptional academic success, which resulted in the Golden Plaque award and the title of Student of the Generation, as well as awards from the City of Tuzla, the Ministry of Education and Science of the Tuzla Canton, and the Federal Ministry of Education and Science. During my studies, I also became a scholarship recipient of the Hastor Foundation, which recognized my efforts, connected me with wonderful young people across Bosnia and Herzegovina, and enabled additional personal development.

Nedim Džajić

Nedim is 22 years old and comes from Konjic. He completed his first cycle of studies at the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, University of Sarajevo, Department of Computer Science and Informatics, with the GPA of 9.66, for which he was awarded the Golden Badge of the University of Sarajevo. He is currently in the second cycle of studies at the same faculty.



Work and discipline are the foundation of every success. It is a special feeling when you do something with your heart and enjoy it. This recognition is a great confirmation of the effort and dedication during your studies and is certainly a motivation for further work and new success. I will always feel grateful to the Hastor Foundation, which was a wonderful boost throughout my education, and which contributed to my personal development through volunteer activities.

POSITIVE VIBES FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM OF THE HASTOR FOUNDATION

The administrative team of the Hastor Foundation represents the heart of the Foundation, as it daily dedicates its energy to supporting scholarship recipients, managing communication, and organizing all the necessary administrative processes. The role of this team is not only to ensure the smooth operation of the Hastor Foundation, but also to serve as a bridge between us and all those who wish to become part of our community. The team consists of 50 members, all scholarship recipients who, in addition to providing exceptional support, gain valuable experience that will help them in their future professional challenges.

Prepared by: Lamija Sejdić
Translated by: Ivan Rajić

Our mission is clear—communication with scholarship recipients and responding to their needs, says Mahira Amidžić, the leader of the administrative team, who has also been a scholarship recipient of the Hastor Foundation for nine years. Mahira emphasizes that her goal is to maintain impeccable work and to ensure that every task is carried out with attention to detail while keeping the team motivated and energetic.

A positive spirit within the team is the key to success. The unity we share drives us to continuously improve our work and contribute to a better future for scholarship recipients, she adds.



Rewda Cvrčak, deputy team leader, and Selma Krivokapa, one of the team members, also bring their expertise and dedication to daily tasks. Rewda enjoys the challenges she encounters and is especially motivated by the progress of the scholarship recipients. Selma highlights that working in the administrative team is an opportunity for personal growth and development but, above all, a place where a pleasant atmosphere and positive vibes prevail.

The atmosphere within the team is incredibly pleasant and supportive—from the staff who provide us with guidance and tasks to every student we collaborate with. Every day, I feel like I am part of something bigger, something meaningful. The responsibility is, of course, greater than before, but that is precisely what motivates me to be more attentive and dedicated to my work.



Working in the administrative team of the Hastor Foundation offers more than just experience—it provides an opportunity to develop key skills essential for success in the professional world. In this team, everyone supports and motivates each other, creating a positive atmosphere that makes a difference. Thanks to the dedication and unity of all its members, the administrative team of the Hastor Foundation contributes daily to the organization’s success, ensuring that scholarship recipients receive uninterrupted support on their journey toward their goals.



STORY OF HASTOR FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS, GUARDIANS OF THEIR MOTHER TONGUE AND TRADITION

On the occasion of International Mother Language Day, celebrated on February 21, a group of scholarship recipients organized a volunteer initiative to promote the importance of their mother tongue and cultural heritage. Amina Ibračić, Lejla Joldić, and Muharem Ibračić, Hastor Foundation scholarship recipients, stood out as the organizers of this initiative, driven by a desire to raise awareness about the importance of the mother tongue. Their passion for language and culture was reflected through various activities they organized. Each of them made a unique contribution—Lejla through educational discussions, Amina with creative ideas and content development, and Muharem through direct engagement with participants. Their shared mission remained the same: to preserve and promote the richness of the mother tongue for future generations. Amina emphasized that the mother tongue is the foundation of every person’s identity and that it is essential to nurture it and pass on its values to future generations. The scholarship recipients organized the creation of posters displayed at the City Library in Kalesija, the distribution of informational leaflets to citizens, and educational discussions on the importance of language.



Through discussions on quotes and lessons, we wanted to encourage others to reflect and raise awareness about the importance of preserving language and culture, added Amina.

One of the key messages of this volunteer initiative was that change starts with us:

Our language is our weapon, a means of communication, and a bridge that connects generations and civilizations. We want to encourage young people to mark such dates, explore the history of their people, and read as much as possible, as this is the only way to enrich their vocabulary.

One way to preserve the language is through the daily use of the standard language, reading books, and passing on tradition through stories and songs. This initiative demonstrated that volunteer work and love for language can bring about significant changes in society. The scholarship recipients of the Hastor Foundation showed that words and actions are equally powerful when driven by a sincere desire for positive change. In the end, the scholarship recipients extend an invitation to everyone who wants to support such initiatives:

Let us be those who will be the guardians of the language, tradition, and heritage passed down to us by our ancestors. Let us be proud and aware of our identity.

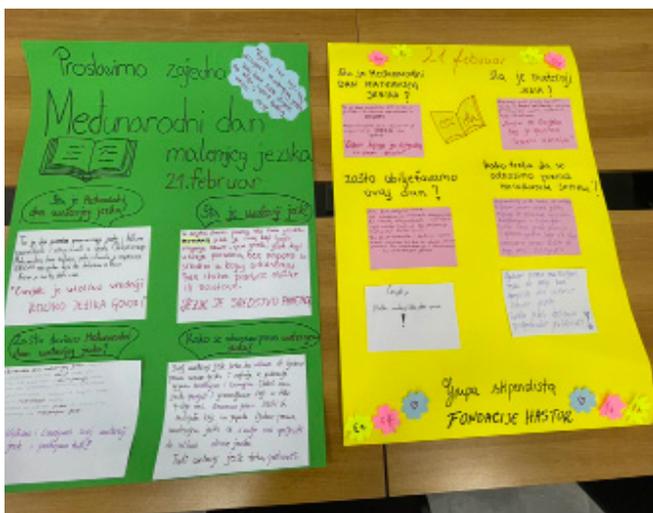
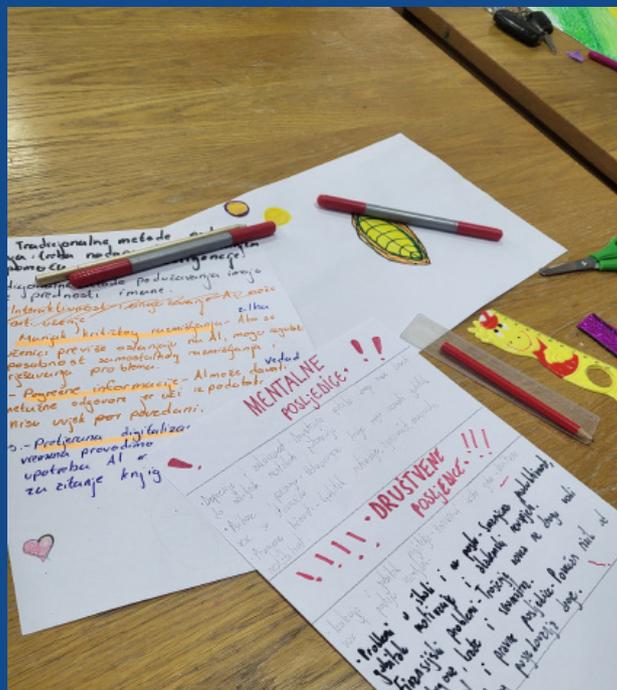


PHOTO GALLERY

FEBRUARY AT THE HASTOR FOUNDATION



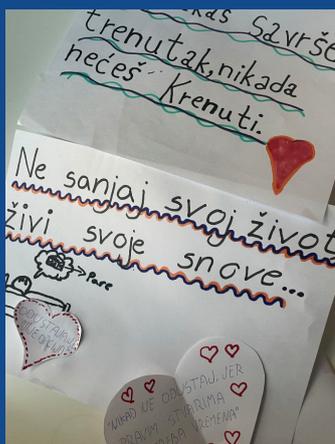
Čelić



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Gradačac



Tuzla



Donji Vakuf



Mostar



We invite you to join our mission and contribute to fulfilling the dreams of promising students and young people who need our support.



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

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FONDACIJA
HASTOR



Contact Us!

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



Redaction

Dženana Zulum
Lamija Sejdić
Aida Suljić
Sanita Fuško



Graphic Design

Adnan Kevrić
Sara Keserović