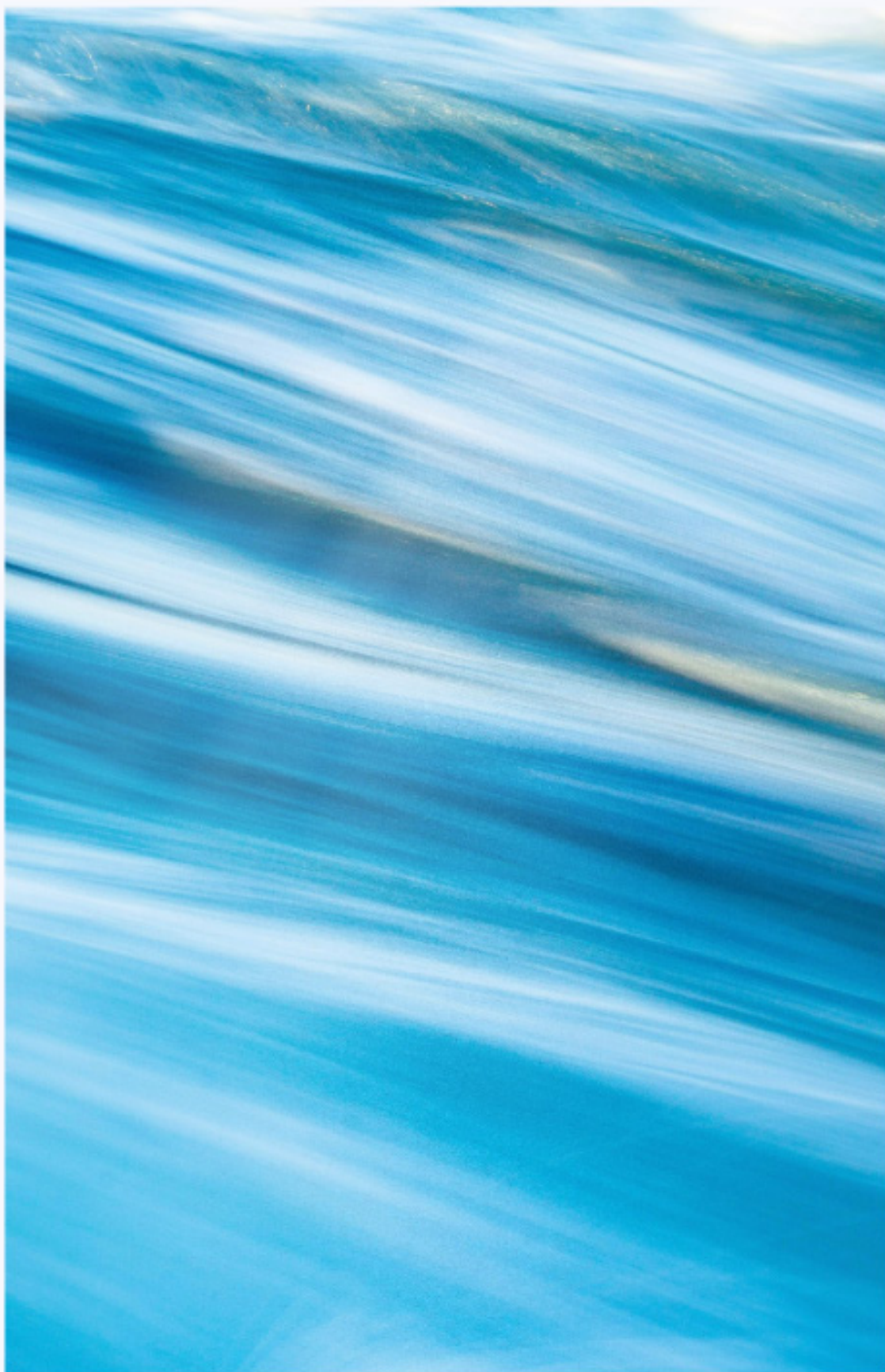


NEWSLETTER



JUNE

2025

“With Proud Steps through Bosnia and Herzegovina”—a new YouTube series by Hastor Foundation



Bosnia and Herzegovina—a country of exceptional nature, rich history, and human potential

Through the Hastor Foundation’s new series **“With Proud Steps through Bosnia and Herzegovina,”** we bring you inspiring stories from every corner of our homeland. Together with our successful alumni, we visit their hometowns and municipalities—places that hold priceless beauty and stories that prove young people in Bosnia and Herzegovina can achieve success, stay, and invest in themselves and their country. Through conversations about natural resources, history, tourism potential, education, and community development, you will discover a face of Bosnia and Herzegovina that inspires: a face where the past, present, and future meet in the steps of young people who believe in this country.

Join us on our YouTube channel (Fondacija Hastor) and let us embark together on an adventure—with proud steps through Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has the potential, and we have the reason to stay!



Through Joint Support towards Equal Opportunities for Youth

The Hastor Foundation is proud to have maintained strong partnerships for nearly 20 years with numerous municipalities and cities across Bosnia and Herzegovina—the very places our scholarship recipients, both high school and university students, come from. These include both larger urban areas and smaller communities, which, as our years of work have shown, have produced many successful young individuals who have been or are still part of the Hastor Foundation. That is why being a friend to communities across all parts of our country is especially meaningful to us. Two such friendships have recently been formalized through the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation.

The City of Konjic and the municipalities of Travnik, Bugojno, and Bratunac have recognized the work of the Hastor Foundation, which has been continuously supporting primary school, high school, and university students from their areas for years. The Hastor Foundation provides scholarships to a large number of students from these cities, but beyond that, through volunteer work, our scholarship recipients make a direct contribution to the development of their local communities.

The collaboration of the Hastor Foundation with municipalities and cities represents a path of collective growth, strengthening education, and empowering the young generations in these cities. We are glad that the local authorities have recognized this as well.

We look forward to future collaborations with other cities and municipalities that will be formalized in the coming period.



FONDACIJA
HASTOR

INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH

Networking is everything—people realize their greatest potential through interaction with others.

In this month's edition of the Newsletter, we bring you an interview with [Azra Zahirović](#), HR Manager at "Storsen Digital" and an inspiring alumna of the Hastor Foundation.

1.

What does networking mean to you, why is it important in professional life, and what are the ways to build professional contacts at the beginning of your career?

Networking is everything—people realize their greatest potential through interaction with others. That is why I always encourage young people to actively network, whether through events, exchanges, educational programs, or trainings. I believe that at the beginning, the most important thing is to be truly open—open to different topics and perspectives. Of course, if you have a particular sector or field you are interested in, related to your studies or career, focus on that. Follow people in that industry, read, attend relevant events, and do not be afraid to approach and introduce yourself.

Use online platforms like LinkedIn: comment, share your opinions, and build your network every day. I have been in a similar situation myself; sometimes you reach out to a company or a person for advice or collaboration and some will say no, but you will be surprised how many people are willing to help.

2.

How do social media, like LinkedIn, impact your career and networking?

Social media, especially LinkedIn, are essential tools today for connecting with professionals from various fields, as well as for tracking market trends and discovering new opportunities. I use LinkedIn daily to listen to employers' needs and recognize talent.



LinkedIn is not just a platform for finding a job—there are often opportunities for internships and junior positions, which are a great entry into a career. Through this media, I have had the chance to meet people with whom I have developed successful collaborations and received valuable advice. For me, LinkedIn is an indispensable daily tool that keeps me connected to the industry and helps me grow continuously.

3. What do you think about virtual events and online networking? Do they have the same impact as in-person meetings?

When it comes to in-person and online events, I think both are equally important. At onsite events, you have the chance to stand out in ways that include nonverbal communication—appearance, gestures, energy—which helps people remember you better. On the other hand, online events break down geographic and financial barriers, allowing you to attend and network in places you might not otherwise have access to. That is why I believe it is important to be active in both fields.

If you want to advance, you cannot avoid continuous learning, staying updated with trends, and being ready for change.

4. What are the key qualities you look for in potential candidates, especially in the tech sector?

The key qualities that all healthy companies seek today are flexibility and a willingness to learn, nicely summarized in the phrase: be teachable. Technologically-wise, a lot is required: different stacks, and increasingly, roles related to AI. With technological advancement, there is almost no tool or skill you cannot learn, but the question is how ready and persistent you are. I have seen that candidates with an open mind and flexible attitude approach are often the best workers.

In addition, personal competencies and emotional intelligence are important. In today's globalized and internationalized world, it is crucial to know how to communicate with people, ask for help, and contribute to a team. I find this especially important for junior candidates, as these skills lay the foundation for future growth.

To put it simply—if you work in the private sector, you have to let go of a passive mindset, promotions based on years of service alone, or doing the same thing the same way for years. Everything changes too quickly, and that kind of comfort zone no longer exists. So, if you want to advance, you cannot avoid continuous learning, staying updated with trends, and being ready for change. Technology should not scare us; we should learn how to use it, but we must never forget that we are the ones putting the puzzle together and thinking critically.

**Interviewed by: Sanita Fuško
Translated by: Zerina Kosovac**

“Living without leaving”

At a time when many young people are faced with the dilemma of staying or leaving, art becomes a powerful means of expression and connection. This was precisely the idea behind the competition “Living without leaving,” which opened its doors to young creatives from the Adriatic-Ionian region. Over 60 works were submitted, and among the 15 selected and exhibited in Greece, Belgium, Albania, and North Macedonia was a photograph by Hastor Foundation scholarship recipient **Hana Kazić**, a fourth-year student of Graphic Design and Multimedia at the International Burch University.

Through the competition’s theme, the artists were tasked with highlighting the unique experiences of those who cross borders—whether by staying in Europe and maintaining their Adriatic-Ionian identity or returning to their homeland after living abroad. Artists could submit their works in the following forms: painting and drawing, photography, mixed media and digital art, textile art as well as sculpture and ceramics.

At this competition, our Hana presented herself with her photograph “The Tram Girl.”



“It is an honor to be one of only two people from Bosnia and Herzegovina whose works visualize, in different ways, the emotional complexity of leaving and staying. My photograph ‘The Tram Girl’ speaks about the feeling of uncertainty and nostalgia, depicting a girl observing the city streets through a fogged-up tram window.”

Hana emphasizes that the tram represents a space between the known and the unknown, and the window becomes a metaphor for a future that is unclear and shaped by circumstances. Hana’s work, like those of the other participants, reminds us that migration is more than just statistics—it consists of personal stories, memories, longings, and decisions that shape the identity of an entire generation.







Prepared by: Aida Suljić
Translated by: Sara Kuduzović

Small budget, big ideas: How can young people manage money?

In a time when prices are rising faster than students' dreams, many young people face the challenge of meeting their daily needs and achieving their goals on a limited budget (such as a scholarship or pocket money). Managing that money is not easy, yet it presents an opportunity—a chance for young people to learn, build habits, and discover what it truly means to be financially literate. Individuals with a higher level of financial literacy manage their money more effectively, controlling expenses, saving, and investing.

For effective money management, consider implementing some of the following tips:

 <p>Create a monthly budget — you can access your income and expenses on your mobile phone at any time. Visualizing expenses helps us understand where our money is going.</p>	<p>Set aside money immediately — this is particularly relevant to a monthly scholarship. As soon as you receive your scholarship, aim to save at least 10% immediately, even if it is just 10 BAM.</p> 	 <p>Challenge yourself — try to go a week without purchasing anything but the essentials; to make it easier, you can always involve friends.</p>
 <p>Shop smart — take advantage of seasonal discounts and group orders with friends; these are excellent ways to get more for less money.</p>	 <p>Earn extra — if you possess a skill such as drawing, writing, or photography, explore opportunities to turn it into a small additional income. Many successful businesses have originated from student dormitories, certainly requiring a great deal of will and desire.</p>	

We should recognize that managing money is not a negative phenomenon and does not entail giving up everything we cherish. However, a lack of financial literacy can lead to poor life decisions, a careless attitude towards money, and ultimately, a weakening of the entire economy. Learning to manage small amounts of money at a young age means you will be better prepared to handle larger projects in the future and will manage your income responsibly. Essentially, it is not about the quantity of money, but about how it is managed, as a small budget can serve not as an obstacle, but as a springboard for significant ideas, responsibility, and growth.



We invite you
*to join our mission and help
fulfill the dreams of talented
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 through one of the following bank accounts:

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