

NEWSLETTER

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FONDACIJA
HASTOR

Scholarship contracts signed with elementary and high school students: 227 new Hastor Foundation scholarship recipients!



This August, the Hastor Foundation welcomed with joy new scholarship recipients-elementary and high school students. We visited all regions of our country, signed scholarship contracts, and supported 227 students. With this step, they have been given access not only to financial support, but also to opportunities to grow, learn, and work together in building a better Bosnian society.

The Hastor Foundation's scholarship program is unique precisely because it combines financial support with the values of volunteer work. Our scholarship recipients do not simply receive a monthly stipend. Instead, they dedicate their knowledge, time, and energy selflessly to the community, helping others and spreading the spirit of altruism.

This year, too, we continue our mission: to believe in young people, to support their education, and to inspire them to become drivers of positive change through their actions.

Welcome to the Hastor Foundation!



*Prepared by: Lamija Sejdić
Translated by: Sara Kuduzović*



With proud steps through Bosnia and Herzegovina: Livno wild horses, fascinating nature, and promising potential



In July, the Hastor Foundation visited one of Bosnia and Herzegovina's lesser-known tourist attractions-Livno. Nestled deep within the karst fields of the country's western region, the town rarely appears on the usual tourist routes. However, our team set out to showcase some of its natural and historical treasures. Our gracious hosts were our alumni, Mirza Muraga and Semir Čolić, who warmly welcomed the reporting team.

The team first visited Firdus Bridge, a stone arch structure from the late 17th to early 18th century that spans the Bistrica River. They then headed upstream to the source of the Duman River, a refreshing oasis in the summer months. Along the way, they spoke about staying in our homeland. Mirza, for instance, had the opportunity to work in his field within the European Union, but out of patriotism and a desire to contribute to the development of his hometown, he chose to stay and open his own dental practice.



With Semir as their guide, the team climbed up to the Krug plateau near Livno, where they had the chance to encounter dozens of Livno's wild horses. Their host explained that the wild horses are a phenomenon that emerged in the Tropolje region in the mid-20th century. With the rise of the Second Yugoslavia came greater social mobility for the average person, and many locals left for guest-worker jobs in Central and Western Europe. Farms gradually shrank, and the horse, once the most important working animal, lost its role—leading some to be released into the wild. The exact number of horses is unknown, but estimates put the population at around 800.

The journey concluded on the slopes of Bašajkovac Hill, a popular excursion site on the northern edge of the town, offering wide views of the surrounding landscape. Mirza guided the team through the history of Livno's development and the Ottoman defensive system of watchtowers encircling its northern side.

In the end, it became clear that Livno, situated at the crossroads of Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Dalmatia, represents a unique cultural-historical and natural region well worth visiting. The interweaving of civilizations in its quiet streets, along with the free gallop of wild horses across its mountains, together embody the Bosnian spirit in miniature. The edition from Livno is available on our YouTube channel – Fondacija Hastor.

*Prepared by: Lorens Stranjak
Translated by: Sara Kuduzović*

Young minds don't wait for an opportunity—they create one!



International Greenwich Olympiad (IGO) is a prestigious international competition that brings together young innovators from over 50 countries. This year, our scholarship recipient Amar Bišćić also had the opportunity to showcase his knowledge and skills. Born in Dobož and currently residing in Tuzla, Amar is a student at Richmond Park International Secondary School, where he will begin his senior year this September.

After winning a gold medal at the BOSEPO Olympiad in Sarajevo, IGO was the natural first choice for further developing his work. He is particularly drawn to the Environmental Science category, as it combines environmental awareness, the protection of the natural world, and his love of chemistry. Amar believes that this is precisely the field in which he can make his greatest contribution. This year's edition brought together hundreds of contestants, and the competition in the aforementioned category was exceptionally strong. The projects were presented before a panel of distinguished judges and visitors at Queen Mary University of London.

Amar's project, titled "MFC Revolution in Biofuel Production: Harnessing the Potential of Algae," explores the possibilities of generating clean energy and biofuel using algae in microbial fuel cells (MFCs). Owing to their photosynthetic ability, algae simultaneously produce electrical energy and biomass, offering a dual benefit: renewable power and a sustainable alternative to fossil fuels.



"I hope my research will contribute to the development of this type of technology, and it is my sincere wish that the idea of photobioreactor micro power plants comes to life in Bosnia and Herzegovina as well," emphasizes our dedicated scholarship recipient.



The project work began in October 2024. From then until February 2025, when the BOSEPO Olympiad was held, the work involved intensive study of relevant literature, experimental research, as well as the procurement and cultivation of algae. According to Amar, this process not only deepened his understanding of biochemistry and renewable energy sources but also opened up new questions and possibilities for further research. In carrying out the project, he expresses immense gratitude to his friend and collaborator Damir Smajić, his mentor Sara Hodžić, the school, and the staff of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and the Faculty of Technology in Tuzla, who provided equipment, expert guidance, and their invaluable experience.

The stay in London was a combination of research competition and cultural experience. Amar emphasizes that the moment of the award announcement was a special moment of pride, not only because of his personal achievement but also because he proudly represented the flag of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

“Courage is the first spark of every flame of success. Don’t wait for perfect circumstances, because they will never come. Start with what you have, for every step, no matter how small, can lead you to moments you will proudly talk about for years to come.” This is the message from this young scientist to all those who are just beginning their journey. Let his story remind us that boundaries exist only until we push them ourselves.



*Prepared by: Aida Suljić
Translated by: Ivan Rajić*



Young enthusiasts bring stories of the city of Konjic to life: a project of Hastor Foundation scholarship recipients



A group of young volunteers, brought together through the Hastor Foundation, has launched an inspiring project called “Konjic through People and Stories”, aimed at preserving the history, legends, and identity of the town. The team includes Kerim Beha, Hana Hrnjica, Nejla Lepara, and Vedad Žiko. Although they are students at different universities, they share a deep love for their hometown.

✦ *“Love for our town and a desire to know it better were our main motivations,”* the team explains. “We walk the same streets every day, yet often don’t know the stories they hold.” This realization sparked their curiosity and research spirit

The research process took several days and involved conversations with older residents, archival searches, visits to museum collections, and collaboration with local cultural institutions. Through their investigations, they uncovered many fascinating legends, including the story of the construction of the Old Bridge and tales of Konjic’s master woodcarvers.

✦ *“We were fascinated by the fact that many traditions and crafts have survived for centuries, even as the world around them completely changed.”*



They drew particular inspiration from the figure of the renowned Konjic native and Bosnia and Herzegovina’s most prominent travel writer, Zuko Džumhur, whom they describe as “a bridge between cultures”—a man of open-mindedness, creativity, and boundless curiosity.

The Hastor Foundation, through which they met, provided support, guidance, and a space for their development:

✦ *“On a personal level, we learned to listen more patiently to others and value their stories, while professionally, we developed skills in teamwork, research, and writing.”*

Their collaboration does not end here. They plan new projects, including the idea of video interviews with older residents of Konjic to preserve their memories for the future.

In closing, they share this message:

✦ *“Preserving culture is not just the work of institutions, it’s the responsibility of all of us.”* Konjic, they say, is more than a town; it’s a feeling, and their goal is to ensure that feeling never fades.

*Prepared by: Sanita Fuško
Translated by: Sara Kuduzović*

Adelisa Begić
Literature that captivates readers' hearts



Adelisa Begić, a young writer and artist whose work skillfully combines the power of emotion with the beauty of words, is a Hastor Foundation alumnus. She is the author of two books that have captured readers' hearts and has extended her artistic expression to the theater stage, directing the play "Esma Sultanija." Her works, imbued with sincerity and deep reflection, testify to a talent without boundaries.

When did your love for writing begin, and what did that beginning look like?

My love for writing appeared early, during elementary school. I always loved reading. I remember a lady at the city library who would always give me more books than the usual limit because I would read them and return them in no time. That is when the desire to put my emotions on paper and write something of my own—whatever it might be—awakened.

What does your creative writing process involve? Do you follow a certain routine, or is it purely inspired?

As for routine, I think it is impossible to establish one. We cannot always write something inspiring at a set time each day. There are times when I do not write anything for a month, but there are also periods when I write every day. For me, the essential condition is peace and solitude so that I can hear my deepest emotions in that silence and transfer them onto paper.





What is your greatest challenge in writing, and how present are personal experiences and emotions in your works? Where do you draw the line between the personal and fiction?

My biggest challenge has always been when someone asks me to write a greeting or a message for another person, because it is difficult for me to put emotions into words for someone I do not know at all. For me, a text is never just a few scattered sentences; I always try to convey the depth of meaning even with few words. As for the works I have published, emotions are, of course, present, but they are added to events that never actually happened and have no connection to my own life. What you read in my books is not really me. In addition to the published works, I have always kept my personal diaries, where I truly am myself—exposed with all my deepest emotions. There is no fiction there, no pretending, no holding back from joy or pain, and, naturally, no one else reads that.

Your books and the play “Esma Sultanija” are full of strong emotions. How do you manage to translate your feelings into words that reach readers and audiences?

I am someone who approaches everything in life first with the heart, then with the mind, and my emotions have always prevailed over everything else. I am a person who cannot hide emotions, neither in verbal communication nor on paper. The honesty and intensity of those emotions naturally transfer to the page, and that is how they reach the readers in the most genuine way.

What advice would you give to young writers who want to develop their literary expression and distinctive style?

It is important to be yourself, but also, at the beginning, to try everything and then find what truly belongs to you. Remember that everything you write does not have to be perfect, but you should see the meaning in what you have expressed, and not be afraid to show your deepest emotions and have unlimited imagination. When all of that comes together, it creates extraordinary poetic



We invite you
*to join our mission and help
fulfill the dreams of talented
students and young people
who need our support.*



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