



FONDACIJA
HASTOR

NEWSLETTER

February, 2026.

Successfully completed the second cycle of the mentoring program "First Step into the Business World"

In the period from September to December 2025, the second cycle of the mentoring program "First Step into the Business World" was successfully completed. The program resulted in 13 young people who are ready for the job market and their first business challenges. During the previous four months, our scholarship holders had the opportunity to work directly with experts from different fields through mentoring that was not designed as a usual student internship. The participants had the chance to develop skills necessary for the job market through work in a real business environment, with special focus on critical thinking and creativity, two components of success that are often left out of the formal education system

The exceptional dedication of our scholarship holders and their mentors is best shown by the fact that in this cycle, more than 740

hours of mentoring work were achieved, which greatly exceeded the initial plan of 312 hours. These numbers show the incredible desire of our scholarship holders for learning and professional growth, but also the strong will and commitment of mentors to selflessly share their knowledge and skills with younger generations.



The participants gained valuable practical experience and insight into business processes through engagement in some of the most successful companies in their sectors, operating within the ASA Group, such as ASA Hospital, ASA Bank, ASA Energy, ASA Holding, ASA Finance, as well as Prevent Group companies such as Prevent Holding and Prevent Travnik. Additional value to the program was given by alumni of the Hastor Foundation who supported the organisation of activities, enabling some of the students to have mentorship within the education sector.

The right to participate in this program was given to scholarship holders in the final years of undergraduate and master's studies who stand out for their academic success, dedication to volunteer engagement within the Hastor Foundation, and desire to gain new valuable experiences. After successfully completing the program, participants received certificates of completion, while mentors received letters of appreciation for their dedicated mentorship. The Hastor Foundation firmly stands behind continuous support of all its members, with a clear goal to expand this project in the coming years and include an even larger number of graduates and master students.



*Prepared by: Lorens Stranjak
Translated by: Amila Bajric*

Farah and Dalal Feriz performed at the prestigious WKF tournament in Venice

From December 7 to 10, 2025, Venice hosted the elite of world karate. The prestigious international competition Karate 1 - Youth League Venice 2025, organised by the World Karate Federation (WKF), gathered an impressive 3,378 young competitors from all over the world. It is one of the most important tournaments for young karate athletes, where sportsmen and sportswomen with notable results and continuous work compete. The colours of Bosnia and Herzegovina at this great sports event were proudly represented by Farah and Dalal Feriz, scholarship holders of the Hastor Foundation and long-time members of the BiH national team.



They have been training in karate for eleven years, and behind them are many successes at domestic and international competitions, which led them to perform on the world stage. Their placement at such a prestigious competition is the result of many years of hard work, discipline, talent, and dedication to sport. The preparations for Venice were intense and demanding, with continuous work with coaches and a focus on improving technique, tactical maturity, and mental strength.

The competition in their categories was extremely strong, with many quality and experienced opponents, which further confirmed the level and importance of the tournament. In a sport like karate, every extra second on the tatami in such a competition is worth dozens of regular training sessions. Although they did not win a medal this time, the participation itself at Karate 1 - Youth League represents a great success. Representing Bosnia and Herzegovina at one of the most important world competitions for young athletes confirms their quality and previous results, but also but also represents an important step in their further sports development.



Such opportunities to show and improve talent are confirmation of the tireless effort and discipline of our athletes. For the Hastor Foundation, Farah and Dalal Feriz are not only scholarship holders, but they are also a symbol of persistence and young ambassadors of sport. By giving them strong support, the Foundation gives them the most valuable thing: freedom to dream and the strength to turn those dreams into top results. While they are still collecting impressions from Venice, they are already looking towards new horizons, ready to reach the very top of the world karate scene with the support of the Foundation.

*Prepared by: Lamija Sejdic
Translated by: Amila Bajric*

Young chess player from Bijeljina - path to the top through passion and dedication

At only 16 years old, scholarship holder Vuk Solakovic from Bijeljina is already building a serious sports story in chess and showing maturity, discipline, and dedication that are rarely seen at his age. He is a second-grade student at the Technical School "Mihajlo Pupin", where he successfully balances school obligations with sports ambitions. The support of the Hastor Foundation, his family, and close friends represents an important support in his daily work and progress.

"It all started with my father and a small wooden chess set. He taught me the first moves, and my love for the game grew day by day."

The recent tournament held in Dvorovi, from December 12 to 14, 2025, was another important step in his development and competitive experience. He competed as part of a team with David Peric, David Lazarevic, and Todor Milovanovic. Team spirit and mutual trust were one of the key factors of their good performance, which resulted in winning second place at the entity competition.



During the tournament, the matches against city rivals Chess Club "Svetozar Gligoric" and Chess Club "Gambit" stood out in particular. Such matches always carry additional weight, pressure, and motivation, because, besides results, they also bring the prestige of local competition. Despite that, Vuk showed stability and competitive maturity, accepting the challenge as an opportunity to prove himself and improve.

"For me, every game is a new adventure. Chess is unpredictable, and that is exactly what makes it so exciting."

Besides the game itself, tournaments are valuable for him because of meeting friends whom he rarely sees due to distance. However, the greatest charm remains in the nature of chess itself, the unpredictability of the game and the constant change of situations on the board, which requires mental strength and creativity from the player.



Vuk's plans for the future are clear: continuous work, improvement of his game, and new sports successes. He believes that results come when good preparation meets the right opportunity. In every new challenge, he tries to justify the trust of his coach, team, and everyone who supports him. Determined to continue growing, he moves forward with a clear goal, which is to become an inspiration within the chess family to which he proudly belongs. An important role on this path is played by the Hastor Foundation, whose vision and support allow him to improve with even greater enthusiasm and leave a lasting mark on the chess map of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the future.

*Prepared by: Sanita Fuško
Translated by: Amila Bajric*

Nela Bošnjakovic - Participation at the WDSF World Championship in Modern and Jazz Dance

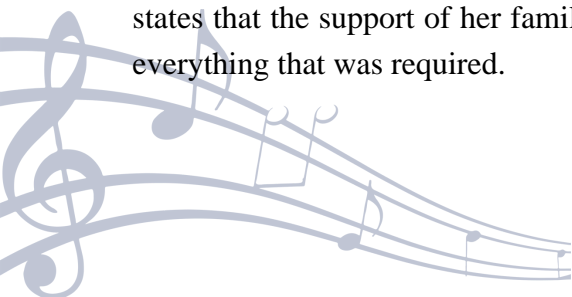
The heart of the Hastor Foundation has always been young people who push boundaries through their efforts, and we turn their success into shared inspiration.

It is our pleasure to present the story of our scholarship recipient Nela Bošnjakovic. Nela is a ninth-grade student at Catholic School Centre “Saint Francis” in Tuzla, and her dedication to what she loves is inspiring. She has been dancing since she was five years old, and she tried various styles, finding herself most in modern styles such as jazz, showdance and contemporary. As she states, modern dance gives her the opportunity to express emotions through different choreographies, and each choreography has its own story.

Nela’s love for dance is also reflected in the fact that since birth, she has had certain deformities due to which she cannot do everything she wishes and is considerably limited in some aspects; however, this does not prevent her from continuing to strive to reach her maximum. Aware that, due to her health circumstances, she will not be able to engage in dance forever, Nela uses every moment at trainings and competitions in the highest-quality way. Although she herself will not be able to pursue dance in the future, she would like to teach younger generations. In addition to dance, Nela has a great love for reading and is also engaged in writing, often responding to literary competitions where her successes testify to her talent.

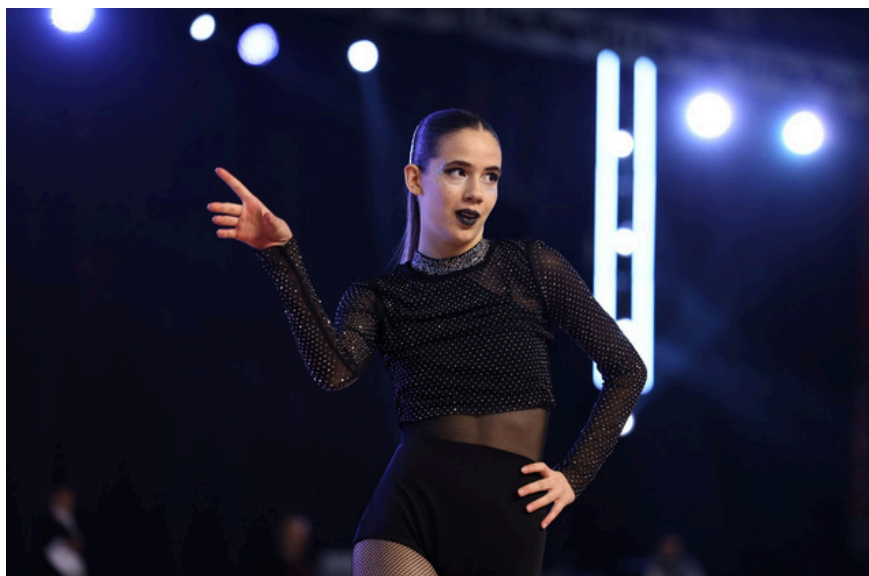


She is currently a member of the Sport Dance Club Throne from Sarajevo, and travelling to another city for training, although tiring, is for her only a small price to pay for her love of dance. Nela is also licenced member of the World Dance Sport Federation (WDSF) and a representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina, representing our country at European and world championships. She has participated twice so far at the WDSF World Championship. In December 2025, the championship held in Hungary was a beautiful experience for her, even though she encountered many obstacles. Namely, she became ill on the way and performed with a high fever. She had the option to withdraw, but she did not want to. She decided to prepare as best as she could and to withdraw only if she truly would not be able to perform. Nela succeeded in performing and once again overcame the obstacles she encountered. She states that the support of her family, friends, coaches, and teachers was crucial in enabling her to give everything that was required.



In the Hastor Foundation, which has been her support for two years, she found a community that values her effort and encourages her toward continuous improvement.

“It represents great support, motivation, and a sense of belonging for me. Through the Foundation, I learned how important discipline, working on oneself, and mutual support are.”



To her peers, whether they are already in the world of dance or just considering their first steps, Nela advises not to fear challenges and to be patient:

“Every training session, even the one that does not go perfectly, is part of progress.”

To other young people, she offers the advice to always invest in themselves: in their health, education, and self-confidence:

“Everything you learn and every skill you acquire will accompany you through life, regardless of the path you choose.”



*Prepared by: Lamija Karadžuz
Translated by: Maida Avdic*

INTERVIEW OF THE MONTH: Nadira Sofovic

- The NOSIVA Application - Sustainable Fashion at a Click

While fast fashion imposes the pace of seasonal shopping, it is necessary to direct focus towards sustainable alternatives. It is precisely from such reflection that the NOSIVA application emerged – a digital platform that gives clothing a new opportunity and sustainable fashion a concrete space for growth. This month, we spoke with Nadira Sofovic, scholarship recipient of the Hastor Foundation and one of the initiators of this inspiring story.

1. How did the idea for the NOSIVA application arise – as a moment of inspiration or a process that developed over time? Could you also reflect on how your professional path shaped the vision for launching this project?

The idea for the NOSIVA application arose from a very simple, everyday situation: my partner Džejlja Omerhodžić and I noticed how much quality clothing stands unused while people simultaneously keep buying new items. Through our conversations, the idea was born to create a local platform where clothing can find a new owner instead of remaining forgotten in the closet. It was not one “eureka” moment, but a process – from idea, testing, all the way to building the first version of the platform. I come from a technical-digital background, and Džejlja from the business-organisational field, and precisely that combination of knowledge and approach enabled the project to come to life truly. From the beginning, we built this together as a partnership project.

2. NOSIVA is described as a place where clothing “continues its journey”. Can you explain how that philosophy influences the design and functions of the application?

That sentence is actually the foundation of the entire NOSIVA concept. From the beginning, we did not want to create just another listing platform, but a place with a clear message – that clothing does not have to end its life cycle after one owner. Many pieces are still quality, preserved, and wearable; they simply need a new person. That philosophy directly influenced the way we designed the platform: the focus is on simplicity of posting clear photographs, realistic condition of the item, and direct communication between users. Additionally, brand communication is positioned so that it does not speak about “old clothing”, but about extending the story of a garment. In that way, we also change the way people perceive exchange – not as a compromise, but as a smart and responsible choice.



3. How do you currently see the sustainable fashion market in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region?

The sustainable fashion market in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region is in a phase of awakening. There is interest and awareness, but infrastructure and specialised digital platforms are still developing. We notice that young people increasingly think about smarter shopping, price, quality, and environmental impact, but they need a simple platform to truly practice it. Second-hand shopping is no longer a stigma as before; especially in urban environments, it is becoming a trend and a lifestyle choice. However, a large part of exchange still takes place in an unorganised way, through messages, groups, and informal channels. NOSIVA enters here as a structured, local solution. We believe that the region has great potential for the growth of circular fashion, but it is necessary to combine technology, education, and a good user-experience story – not only an idea, but a practical application.

4. What is the biggest obstacle in popularising sustainable consumption among young people?



The biggest obstacle is a combination of habit and perception. Fast fashion has for years built a culture of fast and impulsive shopping – always new, always cheap, always available. In such an environment, sustainable consumption is sometimes wrongly perceived as a more complicated or less attractive option. That is why I believe the approach must be different – not through pressure and moralising, but through value. When you show young people that through exchange, they can obtain quality and unique pieces, save money, and at the same time make a more responsible choice, acceptance comes much more easily. Through NOSIVA communication, we try precisely that – that sustainable fashion does not appear as renunciation, but as a smart, modern, and practical lifestyle.

5. What are the biggest plans for NOSIVA this year?

In the coming period, our focus is on technical and functional improvement of the platform. We plan to introduce safer payment models within the system, additional mechanisms of trust between users, as well as cooperation with delivery services so that the exchange and purchase process becomes safer and simpler. We are also working on further development of the mobile version of the application and expanding the user base through partnerships and media collaborations. Our goal is for NOSIVA to grow from a platform into the standard place for clothing exchange in the region – not only as a trend, but as a habit.

*Pripremila: Adina Jusufspahić
Translated by: Maida Avdic*

Fragments of Volunteer Stories

In a time in which engagement is often measured by visibility and care for others reduced to a short post or symbolic comment, some choose a different path – a path of encounter, work and quiet responsibility. The activities of the scholarship recipients of the Hastor Foundation during February show that volunteering is not an isolated act, but a process of learning, maturing, and connecting with the people and the space in which we live. Behind every workshop, meeting, or action stand real stories: of children speaking publicly for the first time, of young people acquiring new skills, of communities gathering around shared values. The overview of February activities reveals a diversity of themes, but also one common thread: genuine involvement in the community.

In Zvornik, Rare Disease Day was marked on February 28th. Through conversation with students, the topic of the challenges faced by people living with rare diseases and their families was opened. Instead of dry data, students learned about empathy, understanding, and the importance of support. The creative part of the activity turned the classroom into a small studio of solidarity: educational leaflets filled with information, symbolic illustrations, and messages of support were created. By distributing the leaflets in the city centre, young people became carriers of awareness in their community. That walk through the city was more than the distribution of paper; it was a lesson in the courage to speak about those who often remain invisible.

In Konjic, volunteering took on a ceremonial and symbolic dimension. On the occasion of the Independence Day of Bosnia and Herzegovina, students, through joint effort, decorated the corridors of the elementary school so that on Monday, the children would be welcomed by an environment filled with messages of unity and peace. The central poster, created in the colours of the flag, was placed in a visible location as a reminder of values that transcend a single holiday date. However, equally important was the process itself: teamwork, agreement, drawing, arranging the space, and the feeling that with their own hands they had left a mark in the school they attend every day.

During February, Maglaj became a space of digital empowerment. Through practical workshops, high school students acquired knowledge in the use of Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. Learning text formatting, creating tables and presentations was not only technical mastery of programs, but empowerment for the modern world. Short public presentations had particular value, during which students learned how to clearly and confidently convey an idea. These workshops showed that digital literacy is not a luxury, but a necessity, and that knowledge becomes power only when it is shared.



In Vogošća, students left the classroom to become acquainted with the cultural and historical heritage of their area. The visit to monuments began with a lecture about their symbolism, but true learning emerged in the field – through reading inscriptions, observing details, and joint discussion. Photographs and short notes helped students reflect on what they had learned, and the final conversation opened the question of how we understand the past today and how much responsibility we have toward its preservation.

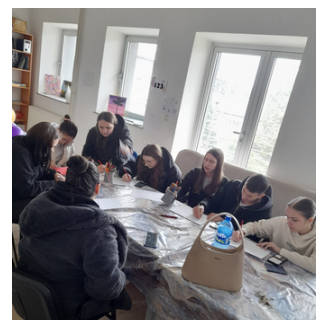
Through the workshop “Drawings as a Sign of Love,” Bugojno showed how simple messages are often the deepest. Children talked about what love means to them, and then, through drawings and short messages, expressed gratitude, care, and belonging. The presentation of the works was not only an artistic act but an exercise in courage and self-confidence. In that space of paper and colours, emotional intelligence was built, along with the awareness that small gestures can have great significance.



Sarajevo was also the place where young people, through the creation of an educational video, spoke about the prevention of harmful habits and healthy ways of coping with stress. Teamwork, scriptwriting, filming, and editing turned one idea into concrete material that will serve their peers. Instead of passively listening to advice, students became creators of the message, taking responsibility for influencing their generation. At the same time, in the office of the Hastor Foundation, that quieter but equally important part of volunteer engagement was taking place. Work desks were occupied with documentation of both our scholarship recipients and scholarship candidates, and volunteers carefully sorted the mail, aware that behind each name lie unique stories, dreams, and hopes. In parallel, they undertook the final steps for the successful completion of the regular scholarship competition for the 2026/2027 school year, thereby preparing solid foundations for the admission of future generations of scholarship recipients.



In Brcko, in the local community of Maoca, students learned basic skills of navigating in nature. Orientation without technology, working with a compass, learning knots, and a final team simulation connected knowledge and practice. However, equally important was the openness of the workshops to other young people from the community. By sharing knowledge, the idea spread that togetherness begins when we learn from one another.



Fojnica demonstrated how ecology and creativity can go hand in hand. Making toys from recycled materials was more than an art workshop; it was a message that waste can be transformed into joy. By giving the created toys to other students, volunteers combined care for the environment with care for people.



When all these activities are viewed together, it becomes clear that volunteering does not have one face. It is at the same time education, creativity, ecology, digital empowerment, culture of remembrance, and care for others. From Zvornik to Konjic, from Maglaj to Sarajevo, from Bugojno to Brcko, and then to Fojnica, each city brought a different theme, but the same message: a community is built through action.

For someone wondering what volunteering truly means, the answer lies precisely in these examples. It means stepping out of the comfort zone, taking responsibility, learning something new, and sharing it with others. It means understanding that change does not begin with grand gestures, but with small, consistent steps. Because a community is not built all at once, it arises from a series of individual decisions to be today a little more responsible, a little more attentive, and a little more humane than yesterday.

Prepared by: Ajna Šido
Translated by: Maida Avdic



We're inviting you
to join our mission and
contribute to making dreams
come true for prospective
students and young people who
need our help.



If you would like to support the work of the Hastor Foundation, you
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