



**ENCOURAGING DEMOCRATIC VALUES
AND ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP AMONG YOUTH**

2015/16

**Jasmin Hasić, National Director
Maida Omerćehajić, Project Coordinator**

**This project is generously supported by the National Endowment for Democracy
and University of Sarajevo School of Economics and Business.**

>> PROJECT SUMMARY >>

The nine-month long project seeks to train 15 aspiring young activists, introducing them to democracy and human rights issues, encouraging them to employ critical thinking on sensitive topics, and building their communications, presentation, and research skills. The program includes a nine-day education and skills development training with a debate workshop, individual research projects on democracy-related issues, a group project resulting in four civic campaigns, and a final debate tournament.

>> PARTICIPANTS >>

The call for this year's applications was open from October 6 until October 25, 2015. HIA BiH received a total of 56 applications, a 51% increase compared to last year's total of 37.

The program was promoted through the following platforms:

- Humanity in Action Bosnia and Herzegovina Facebook page;
- Encouraging Democratic Values and Active Citizenship among Youth Facebook page;
- various NGO and student web portals and mailing lists;
- 6th University of Sarajevo Scholarship Fair;
- lectures and other promotional activities at the University of Sarajevo Faculty of Law, Faculty of Political Science, School of Business and Economics ,and Faculty of Education.

Along with submitting a current CV, the applicants were asked to identify and elaborate a current issue in their local community that is less present in mainstream conversation and debate, as well as to write a short description of a mock project for improvement of their local community with a fictive budget of approximately \$3,000.



*EDVACAY 2015/16 participants with HIA BiH Staff
during the project and financial management training in Neum, March 2016*

Name	Hometown	University
Nevena Brkić	Zenica	University of Banja Luka Faculty of Business and Economics
Samira Čirić	Bihać	University of Sarajevo Faculty of Political Science
Haris Drljević	Sarajevo	University of Sarajevo Faculty of Political Science
Emela Fazlić	Sarajevo	University of Sarajevo Faculty of Business and Economics
Lamija Jamak	Sarajevo	International University of Sarajevo
Meliha Kovačević	Bužim	University of Sarajevo Faculty of Natural Science (Geography)
Muhamed Kozlica	Bihać	University of Bihać Faculty of Business and Economics
Iman Krnjić	Travnik	University of Sarajevo Faculty of Law
Naila Malkić	Bužim	University of Sarajevo Faculty of Political Science
Amra Mešić	Bihać	University of Bihać Islamic Faculty of Pedagogy
Barbara Mijatović	Kiseljak	University of Mostar Faculty of Law
Siniša Pećanac	Drvar	University of Banja Luka Faculty of Business and Economics
Amina Pirić	Tuzla	University of Sarajevo Faculty of Business and Economics
Tamara Tešnjak	Zenica	University of Sarajevo Faculty of Political Science
Nikola Xaviereff	Belgrade, Serbia	University of Sarajevo Faculty of Political Science

>> ACTIVITIES >>

After the preparatory activities and selection process which took place in October and November 2015, the educational program started in December 2015 with a nine-day education and skills development training taking place in Sarajevo. Throughout the following three months, the participants worked on the completion of their individual research assignments with assigned mentors. In March 2016, the entire group met again for the project and financial management training held in Neum, where they also had the opportunity to present the results of their research and discuss the analyzed topics with their colleagues. After splitting into four groups and developing civic campaign ideas at the training, the participants implemented their own projects from April until June 2016, when the group met again for the closing ceremony and a final debate tournament. After the successful completion of the educational component of the project, HIA BiH Staff conducted extensive interviews with former participants until September, creating an impact study which was presented at a public event in Sarajevo.

1. Nine-day Education and Skills Development Training

The nine-day training took place at and was generously supported by the E-net Center of the University of Sarajevo School of Business and Economics for the third year in a row.

Each day of the program started with an introductory session where we talked about the theme and the speakers of the day. The day would end with a wrap-up session which was used for a group discussion about what the participants learned from the lectures, as well as for feedback about the course of the program so far.

For the first time in the implementation of the project, we introduced practical assignments as part of the training. The participants had three assignments during the nine-day program:

1. Creating a petition in groups about an important issue, either in their local community, or at the state level;
2. Writing a formal request for access to information, addressed to a government institution (individual assignment), and
3. a complaint letter to a TV station, a newspaper or a web portal about the lack of objectivity in their reporting (individual assignment).

>> Short Description of Lectures and Workshops

DAY 1: INTRODUCTION (December 5, 2015)

Professor Lamija Tanović, Ph.D. – *Democratic Culture and Democratic Political Education*

Professor Tanović talked about her own experience as a human rights activist. She discussed democracy, minority rights, transparency and responsibility, critical thinking and the true meaning of activism. She also engaged in discussion with the participants about the perception and importance of history, and how it is perceived in different parts of BiH and the world. The participants shared their views on their role as young activists and the risks they encounter while trying to make a change in today's society.

Darko Brkan – *Civil Disobedience and Mobilization of Youth in the Community*



Mr. Brkan talked about the meaning of civil activism, what strategies can be used, how to actually be active and is there in fact a need to be active at all. Through this practice-oriented lecture about individual situations from his own experience, he also discussed important social movements and civil activists (both historical and contemporary).

Lamija Landžo – *Identity – Concepts and Influence of Social Factors*

Ms. Landžo started her lecture with an interactive exercise for the participants in which they were asked to present five traits that describe them as individuals. She then continued with an analysis of individual and collective/group identity, and the factors that influence their development. Finally, Ms. Landžo analyzed the role of prejudice, stereotypes and discrimination in forming and understanding identity.

Professor Sabina Čehajić-Clancy, Ph.D. – *The Process of Reconciliation of Youth in Bosnia and Herzegovina*

For the final session of the day, Professor Čehajić-Clancy shared the results of her vast field research about the process of youth reconciliation in BiH from an aspect of a social psychologist and the reactions to her questionnaires conducted among high school students. She talked about the importance of acknowledgement and admission of guilt,

forgiveness and apology. The last part of the lecture were dedicated to an engaging discussion with the participants about their views on the role of reconciliation and the importance of respecting differences.

DAY 2: ACTIVISM (December 6, 2015)



Sarah Freeman-Woolpert – *A Foreigner's Perspective on Identity in Bosnia and Herzegovina*

Ms. Freeman-Woolpert, an HIA Fellow from the USA currently conducting research and living in Sarajevo, talked about her perception of diversity, inequality and divisions in BiH versus diversity in the US. She shared the results of her research which is focused on youth engagement in Bosnia and Herzegovina and discussed the various perspectives she has encountered. The participants also learned about differences in approaching your representatives, volunteer work and racism in the two aforementioned communities.

Armela Ramić – *Student Activism in BiH – Experience and Practices*

Ms. Ramić shared her experiences acquired during her BA studies at the University of Sarajevo Faculty of Law, where she was one of the founders of a student association, and how it made an impact on her current career. The final 30 minutes of the lecture were dedicated to a practical exercise where the participants worked in three groups and presented a mock written submission to an institution or an association.

Marijana Markotić – *Activism and Career in BiH?*

Ms. Markotić provided the participants with an interactive lecture about the true meaning of activism. The emphasis was once again on team work, where three groups worked on mini-project ideas and presented and discussed their outcome with the group.



Kenan Salihbegović – *From Idea to Realization – Practical Examples*

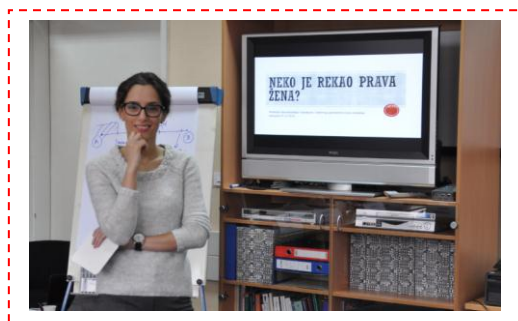
The final lecture of the day was conducted by Mr. Salihbegović, who shared his experiences of working as head of community in a successful global start-up company, and lead the participants through all phases of a project, from its conception to its full realization. The lecture ended with a conversation between Mr. Salihbegović and the participants, in which they got practical tips they will be able to use when implementing their own mini-projects in the fourth phase of the project.

The **wrap-up session** of the day was used for a practical exercise: the participants wrote letters and requests for access to information to various public institutions.

DAY 3: DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS (December 7, 2015)

Damir Banović – Introduction to the Human Rights System

The day started with a lecture from Mr. Banović from the University of Sarajevo Faculty of Law. Before talking about the basics of the system and protection of human rights, he analyzed the basics of theory of state and law. He talked about different declarations and conventions, and the interpretation of specific human rights. Finally, Mr. Banović discussed the future of human rights in the time of the current human rights crisis in Europe.



Dajana Džindo – Women's Rights – Do They Matter?

After starting her lecture with an interactive opinion game, Ms. Džindo, who was also the coordinator of the EDVACAY 2012/13 program, talked about the concept of women's rights, various feminist movements, and related equality and stereotype issues in today's society.

Assistant Professor Midhat Izmirlija, Ph.D. – The Current Challenges of Democracy in BiH

Mr. Izmirlija discussed the current challenges of democracy and building a democratic system in BiH. He analyzed the role of coalitions, veto, proportional representation, and territorial and cultural autonomy within consociational democracies. He also explained all these factors through the prism of pluralistic societies in Belgium and Malaysia. The highly interactive lecture was also focused on comparisons between consociational democracies and nation states.

Aiša Telalović, MA – Human Rights Protection at the State Level

Mrs. Telalović talked about civil activism and the importance of being informed about the rights of citizens in BiH. She then discussed various mechanisms that are at the citizens' disposal and methods of addressing various governmental bodies.

In the **wrap-up session**, the participants were given a task to come up with a petition about a current social issue in groups and either publish it online, or collect signatures and send it to a relevant government institution.

DAY 4: MEDIA (December 8, 2015)

Professor Asim Mujkić, Ph.D. – (Ethno)nationalism in BiH – Current Challenges

Professor Mujkić from the University of Sarajevo Faculty of Political Science talked about ethnicity and nationalism through the prism of economy, programs of political parties and last year's protests in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The participants also learned about nationalism in a European context, and finally discussed the role of nationalism in the current BiH system and in the former socialist state.



Professor Enes Osmančević, Ph.D. – *The Role of Media in the Democratization of BiH Society*

Talking from a perspective of a former journalist and current professor of Journalism at University of Tuzla, Professor Osmančević held an interactive lecture about the role of the media in the process of democratization of Bosnian society. He analyzed the role of radio, television and the Internet, and talked about different types of communication and methods of its interpretation.

Samir Beharić – *Social Networks and Online Civil Activism – Practical Tips*

Mr. Beharić, an HIA Fellow and journalism student, instructed the participants on using social media as a tool of civil activism in the most effective way, based on his own successful experiences. The last 30 minutes of the lecture were reserved for an exercise in groups of five: the participants developed promotional social media strategies for three mock-projects.

Marko Matović – *The Art of Communicating with the Media*

The day was concluded with a workshop about the art of communicating with the media, conducted by HIA Senior Fellow Marko Matović, an employee of N1 Television, CNN's Exclusive Affiliate Partner for the Balkans. The first part of the workshop was a lecture focused on practical tips about communicating with and presenting projects to the media. After the theoretical introduction, the participants were divided into pairs and asked to present a mock-project in front of a camera.



DAY 5: COMMUNICATION AND DIALOGUE (December 9, 2015)



Dijana Duvnjak – *Communication Skills*

Ms Duvnjak held an interactive workshop about communication skills. The participants engaged in exercises in active listening, and assertive and non-verbal communication. They also discussed aggressive communication and the importance of body language.

Professor Dino Abazović, Ph.D. – *Dialogue and Tolerance*

In an interactive lecture, Professor Abazović from the Faculty of Political Science discussed the definitions and limits of tolerance, religious identities and their outside perception, as well as the relationship of traditionalism and tradition. He also talked about anti-intellectualism, pre-formed attitudes, and the role of ruling cliques.

Ivana Kešić – *Culture of Dialogue in the Function of Democratic Development of BiH Society*

Ms. Kešić conducted an interactive workshop about dialogue and its role in the democratic process. The participants took part in a mock press conference and various exercises where they took the roles of people in socially confrontational situations.

Eli Tauber, Ph.D. – *Interfaith Dialogue*

In a lecture about interfaith dialogue, Dr Tauber, Advisor for Culture and Religion to the Jewish Community in BiH, talked about the role of the traditional Bosnian neighborhood communities. At the end of the lecture, he showed a short film made about him and his Muslim neighbor and their daily rituals.



DAY 6: INTERACTION AND RESEARCH (December 10, 2015)

The day started with human rights games and simulation workshops conducted by **Semra Forić**, HIA BiH Development Coordinator. The participants worked in groups to create their own fictional countries with their own sets of rules, and later took over roles in a simulation game based on the “two schools under one roof” system.

Throughout the rest of the day, the students worked with **Maida Omerćehajić**, HIA BiH Project Coordinator, and **Jasmin Hasić**, HIA BiH National Director, on research skills development, which will help them prepare for the next phase of the project. The participants received instructions on presenting their research in the form of a short policy paper: they will analyze a current human rights, discrimination or other social issue, provide a comparative perspective through up to three examples of possible solutions of the same or similar problem in other countries, and finally give their own recommendations on how this problem could be resolved in BiH. The day ended with an interactive workshop where the participants presented their ideas to Ms. Omerćehajić and Mr. Hasić, who gave feedback and then moderated a group discussion about the presented research proposal. The participants were very interested in each other's ideas and gave constructive feedback to help their colleagues further develop their ideas.

DEBATE WORKSHOPS (December 11-13, 2015)



The last three days of the program were reserved for debate workshops with **Marija Simić** and **Mladen Šuleić** from Open Communication Belgrade, successful debaters with vast international experience and long-time debate trainers at their university. After an introduction to the British Parliamentary format, the participants engaged in debates about various human rights issues and exercises focused on improving their communication and public speaking skills.

2. Individual Research

In the period following the training in Sarajevo, the participants worked with assigned research mentors – Jasmin Hasić (HIA BiH National Director), Maida Omerćehajić (HIA BiH Project Coordinator), and Marijana Markotić (HIA Senior Fellow) – on the development of their policy briefs. They analyzed a number of democracy, human rights and discrimination-related issues, offering comparative examples of successful solutions in other communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and abroad.

The participants wrote about the following topics:

The Lack of Obligatory Sport Activities in Higher Education, Nevena Brkić

Supporting the Youth Theatre in Bihać, Samira Čirić

(Non)Activism of High School Students in Sarajevo, Haris Drljević

Towards a “Green” Way of Life: The Potential of an Integrated Waste Management System, Emela Fazlić

Finding a Solution to Reducing Lines for Public Transport Coupons in Sarajevo, Lamija Jamak

Introducing Lockers as an Educational Tool in Elementary Schools in Una-Sana Canton, Meliha Kovačević

Disabled Persons’ Access to Public Institutions, Muhamed Kozlica

Building a Playground in the Bjelave Neighborhood in Sarajevo, Iman Krnjić

Cruelty Free: Marking Cosmetic Products not Tested on Animals, Naila Malkić

Introducing a Course on Academic Writing to First Year of Studies on Faculties of Social Science in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Amra Mešić

Banning the Use of Pyrotechnics in Hercegovačko-Neretvanski Canton, Barbara Mijatović

Equal Education for All!, Siniša Pećanac

The Issue of Waste Disposal in the Sarajevo Neighborhood of Alipašino Polje, Amina Pirić

Granting Free Access to Published Legislative Texts in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Tamara Tešnjak

Introducing the Subject “Ethics and Moral” to Elementary Schools in Sarajevo Canton, Nikola Xaviereff

3. Project and Financial Management Training



The third phase of the program – the project and financial management training – was held in Neum, March 24-27, 2016. During the first day of the training, the participants presented their policy briefs to the entire group and HIA BiH Staff. Each presentation was followed by additional feedback from HIA Staff and a discussion with the other participants, who all gave their input on their colleagues' assignments.

The following two days of the training were focused on developing project proposals. Based on their interests and previous experience, the participants were split into four groups which will work on developing and implementing their civic campaigns by the end of May 2016.

Each member of the group was assigned a specific role: Team Leader (the project manager responsible for all aspects implementation), Communication Officer (responsible for preparing the narrative report after the completion of the civic campaign), Financial Manager (responsible for preparing the financial report) and PR (in charge of all promotional activities).



The participants worked with Jasmin Hasić and Maida Omerćehajić from HIA BiH on the individual elements of their projects, starting with project justification and background, detailed description of activities and expected results, and planning the evaluation process. Special sessions were dedicated to constructing a detailed budget for the campaigns and instructions on how to prepare narrative and financial reports. Each group was given a budget of 700 BAM (400 USD) for their activities, and representatives of each group signed a detailed contract with HIA BiH about the management of the grants.

4. Civic Campaigns

>> [Group A] Student Cookbook

Recognizing the low student standard in Bosnia and Herzegovina and lack of adequate and affordable student-friendly restaurants in Sarajevo, participants Lamija Jamak, Iman Krnjić, Amina Pirić and Nikola Xaviereff started a campaign which resulted in the creation of a student cookbook.

The publication they created is in fact a collection of recipes for improvised and inexpensive dishes, as well as personal testimonies shared by University of Sarajevo students, aiming to illustrate the aforementioned issues. The target group comprised around twenty students living away from their families and/or outside their hometowns, both in the public student dorms in Sarajevo, as well as private apartments. After collecting information through interviews, the group then recreated the described dishes themselves and took photographs for the booklet, which also features the price of necessary

ingredients and the time required to prepare each dish.

Additionally, the group conducted research through an [online questionnaire](#), and after collecting over 200 responses, analyzed the data on the number and quality of meals students have per day, the amount of money they spend on food, as well as their opinion on the necessity of establishing a student restaurant in Sarajevo.

The group also started an [online petition](#) addressed to the competent local authorities, with the final goal of opening a student restaurant/cafeteria in Sarajevo. By end of June 2016, 286 signatures were gathered.

On May 27, 2016, the Student Cookbook was presented at a public event in the Networks Center in Sarajevo. The participants talked about the preparations and execution of the



project, the results of the conducted questionnaire, and their efforts in making a change to the current situation. They also invited young activists Samir Beharić (HIA Fellow), Aldin Bukvić (EDVACAY 2014/15 participant) and Enisa Škandro, who talked about the challenges students face while trying to eat healthy on a limited budget. Ms Škandro, a former resident of a student dorm in Sarajevo herself, also provided a nutritionist's perspective on the issue.

A number of booklets was distributed to libraries of different University of Sarajevo faculties.

>> [Group B] Cruelty Free: Marking Cosmetics Not Tested on Animals

The awareness-raising civic campaign implemented by Emela Fazlić, Naila Malkić and Barbara Mijatović aimed to emphasize the importance of selling and using cosmetics not tested on animals. The idea for this particular civic campaign originated from Naila Malkić's policy brief which she worked on in the second phase of the project. While conducting research for her policy brief, Ms Malkić found different comparative examples of raising awareness of animal testing through marking cruelty free cosmetics with special stickers, which inspired her to address this cause in a local context.

The campaign was implemented in three parts:

1. A makeup session at At Mejdan park in Sarajevo held on May 29, 2016, with makeup artists who volunteered their time and skills to use cruelty-free cosmetics in order to promote the campaign, as well as raise awareness about the importance of using beauty products that were not tested on animals.



2. Setting up a stand on Fra Grga Martić square in front of the Sarajevo Cathedral on June 1, 2016. The members of the group were joined by six other animal rights activists, and the main activity of the day was distributing over 500 flyers and informing the citizens about the dangers of animal testing and the importance of using cruelty-free products, as well as ways to check whether the products they use were tested on animals.
3. Sending out letters to local retail chains whose main activity is selling cosmetic products, as well as cosmetics manufacturers, referencing the results of the completed campaign. The letters especially emphasized the need to mark products not tested on animals with noticeable stickers, in order to both inform the buyers that they are using safely tested products, as well as to raise awareness of the problem of animal testing.

Aside from activists from Foundation CURE Sarajevo and the Association of Vegans in BiH who showed their support to the campaign by attending the main event organized in front of the Sarajevo Cathedral, the campaign was also supported by Banja Luka-based NGO Oštra Nula and the Mostar branch of ELSA (European Law Students' Association). Additionally, the campaign activities were promoted on the web portal Mreža za izgradnju mira.



The group launched an online questionnaire, collecting around 150 responses. The results of the questionnaire were used as part of the event which took place on June 1. Finally, the group created a Facebook page with 168 likes, which also served as a platform for establishing cooperation with activists and organizations that supported the cause. While promoting the campaign, the group used the hashtag #BezOkrutnosti (#CrueltyFree).

>> [Group C] Down the Memory Lane of the Sarajevo Jewish Community

Samira Čirić, Haris Drljević, Meliha Kovačević and Tamara Tešnjak chose to create a movie about the Sarajevo Jewish Community. After providing the viewers with a short historical introduction, the movie features interviews with Mrs Laura Papo Ostojić, a Holocaust survivor, and Dr Eli Tauber, Advisor for Culture and Religion to the Jewish Community in BiH and HIA BiH Board Member. Mrs Ostojić shared the personal story of her family's experiences during World War II, and Dr Tauber focused on retelling the history of Jews in Sarajevo.



Besides the original roles assigned in the project team, some group members also took the roles of Production Assistant (Haris Drljević) and Writer (Samira Čirić) in the movie itself. The group also collaborated with students from the University of Sarajevo Academy of Dramatic Arts.

[The movie](#) was screened to this year's EDVACAY participants during the final program event on June 11, 2016. The group also created a [Facebook page](#) for the movie, which reached 183 likes.

>> [Group D] Learning How to Study

Nevena Brkić, Muhamed Kozlica, Amra Mešić and Siniša Pećanac chose university students as the target group of their civic campaign. Inspired by issues analyzed in Ms Mesic's policy brief during the second phase of the project, which focused on the lack of courses for academic writing in universities all across Bosnia and Herzegovina, the participants conducted research on how to address the issues of studying for exams and writing essays in an original and creative way. After noticing a lack of informative video material about the topic of their campaign, the group decided to create an online video project in order to provide students with much needed advice on how to better prepare for exams and essays.

The main result of the civic campaign is a [YouTube channel](#) with a total of 12 videos in which the members of the group presented different learning methods and techniques. The video topics cover not only different learning styles, principles and methods, but also the physiology of memory, and even tips on finding motivation to study and preparing for study sessions.

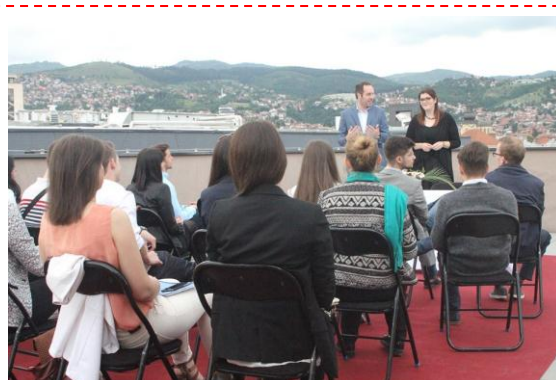
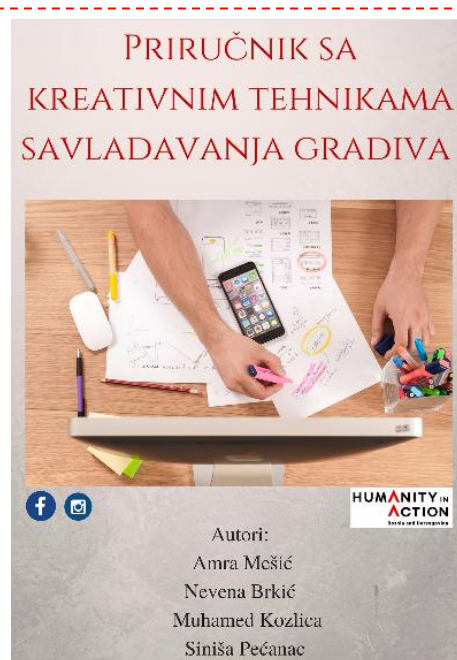
The group maintains an active [Facebook page](#) with over 450 likes, as well as an [Instagram account](#) with 155 followers. The group also created [a handbook](#) to accompany the video material.

Reports on the campaign have been featured on various web portals, including [Studomat](#), [Zenica Blog](#), [ABC.ba](#), [BL Portal](#) from Banja Luka, as well as [Moj Faks](#) and [Edukacija.hr](#) from Croatia.

5. Debate Tournament and Closing Ceremony

The final educational component of the program took place on June 11, 2016 in Sarajevo.

The participants debated about the pros and cons of introducing free high education in the country, followed by a discussion about the presented arguments. After completing the debate, the closing ceremony was held at Hotel Fesitval. This was also an opportunity to share the results of the implemented civic campaigns not only with other campaign groups, but also with several lecturers from the first phase of the program, as well as representatives of earlier generations of EDVACAY participants.



6. Promotional video

In collaboration with students from the University of Sarajevo Academy of Performing Arts, who have previously worked with this year's participants on creating a movie about the history of the Jewish community in Sarajevo, HIA BiH created [a short movie](#) with testimonials from former participants. Jovana Kljajić (2012/13), Mahir Sijamija (2013/14), Mahir Sijamija (2013/14) and Lamija Jamak (2015/16) all shared what they will remember the most from attending the program, and which acquired skills benefit them the most in their further education and work.



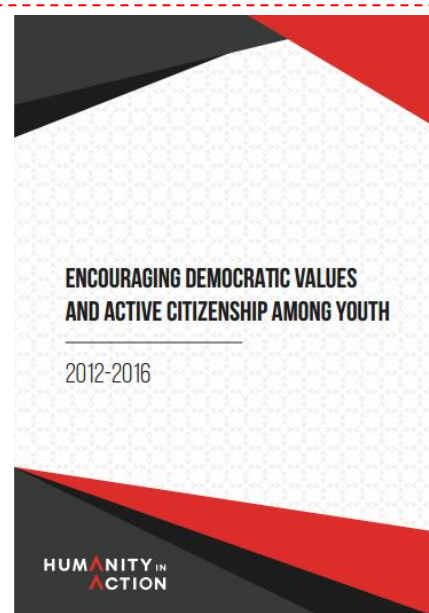
6. Impact Study

Throughout the period between July and September 2016, HIA BiH Staff started conducting research for a [study](#) about the previous four years of the program. The research was conducted through semi-structured interviews, with the questionnaire addressing five main focus areas:

- the participants' civic engagement before and after their participation in EDVACAY (including work in NGOs and independent projects);
- continued participation in non-formal education programs and seminars;
- the potential benefits of participation in EDVACAY to their further education, activism and work;
- interaction with members of the EDVACAY network and the HIA BiH Senior Fellow network – either through projects, education or in different non-formal settings, and
- further involvement with HIA BiH through different projects.

The interviews were conducted with fifteen participants from all four generations of the program, coming from all parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Additionally, the study includes reflections and impressions from all previous coordinators of the program, as well as some lecturers and research mentors, especially ones who have been involved with the program from its inception. Finally, the study also includes different statistics about the program: alumni, lecturers, research mentors, implemented civic campaigns, etc.

The results of the study were promoted at a public event followed by a reception in Networks (Sarajevo) on October 28, 2016, attended by many EDVACAY alumni, HIA BiH board members, HIA Senior Fellows, friends from partner organizations, former lecturers and research mentors. Besides presenting the results of the study and screening the short movie, there was a panel discussion with Aldin Bukvić (EDVACAY 2014/15), Ana Jovanović (2014/15) and Tamara Tešnjak (2015/16), who talked about their own experiences in the program. Other speakers at the event were Professor Lamija Tanović (HIA BiH Board Chair), Jasmin Hasić (HIA BiH Executive Director) and Maida Omerćehajić (HIA BiH Project Coordinator).



>> ASSESSMENT / EVALUATION >>

During the program, HIA BiH Staff conducted detailed evaluations of each of the program phases. Using a scale from 1 to 5, the average grade for the lectures in the first phase of the program was 4.55 and for the debate workshops 4.79. The project and financial management training was evaluated with an average grade of 4.94, and the implementation of group civic campaigns was graded 4.79. The HIA BiH Staff had the overall average grade of 4.85.

The program showed great cohesion between its phases. During the individual research phase, several participants wrote about an issue that was raised during the 9-day training in Sarajevo. For example, Tamara Tešnjak chose to write about free access to legislative texts in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which was also the topic of a petition which was one of the participants' group assignments. Haris Drljević's policy brief was inspired by what he had learned during the first phase and, in his own words, how he recognized that more activities similar to those in the EDVACAY project should be officially included in high school curriculums.

Furthermore, the number of implemented civic campaigns in the fourth phase of the program increased to four instead of the usual three. They have generated a lot of attention in the country and the region, with web portals from the neighboring Croatia even covering a story about one of the campaigns. Two out of four groups that implemented the civic campaigns chose to address issues analyzed in the policy briefs of their colleagues: Group B used the research conducted by Naila Malkić as the basis of their project, and Group D modified the idea behind Amra Mešić's policy brief on introducing courses on academic writing in universities into a project aimed at helping students with their studies. Group A (Student Cookbook) was in contact with Samir Beharić, HIA Fellow and lecturer from the first phase of the program, who provided the group with valuable input and contacts relevant for their campaign. Finally, Group C (Down the Memory Lane of the Sarajevo Jewish Community) worked with one of this year's lecturers and HIA BiH Board Member, Dr. Eli Tauber.

EDVACAY alumni have been greatly involved with HIA BiH. Daniel Lazarević and Sabahudin Mujkić, EDVACAY 2014/15 participants, joined this year's organization team as program interns. Since February 2015, Daniel has been working as HIA BiH project assistant. Three EDVACAY participants were selected as this year's Humanity in Action Fellows: Dženeta Begić (2014/15), Ana Jovanović (2014/15) and Berina Verlašević (2013/14) attended HIA Summer Fellowship Programs in Copenhagen, Atlanta and Sarajevo. Several EDVACAY alumni also attended the closing ceremony of this year's program in June, along with members of HIA BiH Senior Fellow network, which strengthened the connection between the two groups.

HIA BiH was one of the partners of CDMUN – a Model United Nations simulation organized at the University of Sarajevo Faculty of Political Science at the initiative of former EDVACAY participant Mahir Sijamija (2013/14). Former participants Lejla Mušanović (2014/15), Daniel Lazarević (2014/15), as well as this year's participants Haris Drljević, Emela Fazlić and Tamara Tešnjak also took part in the simulation.

Careful budgeting led to securing funds for an additional phase of this year's program, which consisted of creating a 58-page study about the social engagement of 15

participants from all generations of the program, as well as a promotional video about the past four years of the EDVACAY program. The main focus of the July-September period was on conducting research for the completion of the impact study. Besides talking about their past and current activities, participants were happy to once again share their general impressions about the project. The details of the individual evaluations are available in the study itself in the form of profiles of the interviewed participants. The results of the study have shown that many of the participants are still collaborating on different projects and working together in different organizations. Many of the participants have particularly emphasized the role of the network of not only their peers, but also the lecturers and mentors they had the opportunity to meet, and with whom they had the pleasure of working together after the program ended.

As we enter the fifth year of the program, many participants are now showing interest in further engagement with the program, as was the case with Jovana Kljajić (EDVACAY 2012/13), who held a lecture on investigative journalism and was a research mentor to five participants in the 2014/15 edition of the program.