



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

**2016/17**

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Maida Omerćehajić, Project Coordinator**

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and the University of Sarajevo School of Economics and Business.**

## >> PROJECT SUMMARY >>

The year-long program 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 communication, presentation, and research skills. The program includes a nine-day education and skills development training with a debate workshop, individual research assignments on democracy-related issues, a group project resulting in four civic campaigns, a three-month period for promoting the results of the implemented civic campaigns, and a closing ceremony with a final debate tournament.

## >> PARTICIPANTS >>

The call for applications was open from October 6 until November 6, 2016, with a total of 46 received applications.

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, Facebook pages and mailing lists;
- Student Fair organized by Erasmus Student Network (ESN) in Sarajevo;
- a public event organized to present the [study](#) and [promotional video](#) about the first four years of the program.

After careful review of the applications, Humanity in Action Bosnia and Herzegovina selected 15 participants coming from 7 different cities and enrolled in 10 different faculties/departments at 4 universities in the country.



*EDVACAY 2016/17 participants with HIA BiH Staff during the project and financial management training in Neum in March 2017*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Hometown</b>	<b>University</b>
Majda Alagić	Bihać	University of Bihać Faculty of Pedagogy (Department of English Language and Literature)
Lejla Bašić	Bihać	University of Sarajevo Faculty of Philosophy (Department of Psychology)
Azra Beriša	Sarajevo	University of Sarajevo School of Economics and Business
Berina Ćatić	Sarajevo	University of Sarajevo School of Economics and Business
Ismar Fazlić	Sarajevo	University of Sarajevo Faculty of Traffic and Communications
Nizama Hubljar	Donji Vakuf	University of Sarajevo Faculty of Political Science (International Relations and Diplomacy)
Ema Jukić	Zagreb, Croatia	University of Sarajevo Faculty of Political Science (International Relations and Diplomacy)
Šejla Kulenović	Bihać	University of Bihać Faculty of Law
Dino Majstorović	Bihać	University of Sarajevo Faculty of Political Science (International Relations and Diplomacy)
Emina Mušija	Kakanj	University of Sarajevo Faculty of Political Science (International Relations and Diplomacy)
Tijana Nikić	Modriča	University of Banja Luka Faculty of Law
Amir Pečenković	Bihać	International Burch University (Department of English Language and Literature)
Dženeta Pitić	Sarajevo	University of Sarajevo School of Economics and Business
Almir Saračević	Bihać	University of Sarajevo Faculty of Philosophy (Department of Sociology)
Mirza Srna	Sarajevo	University of Sarajevo Faculty of Political Science (Social Work)

## **>> ACTIVITIES >>**

After the preparatory activities and selection process which took place in October and November 2016, the educational program started in December 2016 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 assignment with three research mentors. In March 2017, 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 2017, and continued the media promotion of their results throughout the summer. The group met in Sarajevo in September 2017 for the closing ceremony of the program and a final debate tournament.

## 1. Nine-day Education and Skills Development Training in Sarajevo

### DAY 1: INTRODUCTION TO DEMOCRACY

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

Professor Tanović shared her vast experience in working with youth, both in BiH and abroad, and talked about challenges young people face today when trying to communicate with university staff in order to achieve their goals and create changes. At the end of the lecture, Professor Tanović engaged in a discussion with the participants, where they shared their views on the current situation in the high education system in BiH.

*Identity: Basic Concepts and the Impact of Social Factors* - Lamija Landžo

Ms Landžo conducted a workshop on identity, starting with a discussion on different perceptions of identity and an interactive game where participants expressed their opinion about how different aspects and kinds of identity define themselves. They proceeded to discuss the importance of individual identity within a group, and concluded the session with an exercise where they were assigned different labels and had to step into a specific role based on the reactions of others, without knowing what their label says.

*Structural Economic Challenges in Post-Conflict BiH* - Damir Šaljić

Mr Šaljić talked about the basics of the economic system in BiH, describing the difficulties caused by the division of the decision making process between the different levels of government. He analyzed new economic trends and the monetary system of BiH, as well as several other issues such as unemployment (especially among youth), inflation, taxes and potential economic reforms in the country.

*Current Challenges of Democracy in BiH* - Assistant Professor Midhat Izmirlija, Ph.D.

During his lecture about the challenges the democratic system faces in today's society, Professor Izmirlija discussed the very definition of democracy with the participants, philosophical concepts which form the basis of democracy, as well as the human rights protection mechanisms expressed in constitutions and laws. Finally, he defined the four main elements of consociational democracy (coalitions, veto power, proportional and parity representation, and group autonomy) through their materialization in the BiH constitution, and discussed the pros and cons of this system.

### DAY 2: ACTIVISM!

*Student Activism: Experience and Practices* - Armela Ramić

At the beginning of the session, Ms Ramić spoke about her experience as a member of the University of Sarajevo Association of Law Students, and later a co-founder of the Sarajevo branch of the European Law Students' Association. She discussed several challenges faced by today's students and divided the students into three groups who worked on separate practical written assignments: starting a debate club at their faculty, request for an internship position, and request for financial support of an initiative.

### *Activism in Bosnia and Herzegovina - Marijana Markotić*

Ms Markotić led the fellows through the process of managing a project cycle, with emphasis on creating the logframe matrix, team management and hierarchy, defining project objectives and the importance of youth activism in smaller local communities. The participants formed five groups, all of which worked on their separate mock-project ideas, which they later presented to the rest of the group.

### *Youth, Social Movements and Socially Engaged Art - Ivana Kešić*

Through a highly interactive three-hour workshop, Ms Kešić introduced the participants to the history and types of social movements since the 60's until today. The workshop was dedicated to *artivism* - socially engaged art as a form of public action and advocating for a change. The participants took an active citizenship quiz and worked on recognizing the types and structure of social movements through a case study. At the end of the session, the participants had the opportunity to create their own art - photographs and short videos illustrating the social movement from the analyzed case study.

## **DAY 3: KNOW YOUR RIGHTS**

### *Civil Disobedience and Mobilization of Youth in a Community - Darko Brkan*

Mr Brkan analyzed the history of civil activism and talked about some of the most important figures of social movements. He shared his own experiences and emphasized the importance of civil activism and gave advice on strategies that can be used as tools of activism.

### *Human Rights and the State - Maida Omerćehajić*

The workshop started with screening a short movie about the history of human rights, followed by a discussion about elements of a state and how different types of states and political systems approach human rights. After the interactive lecture, the participants were divided into four groups, where they created a set of eight rules for each of their own imaginary countries based on what they have learned.

### *Media Activism and Social Networks - Boris Čović*

Mr Čović, a radio journalist and activist, talked about using social media networks as activism tools. He also screened several videos from eFM production, which served as examples of addressing current social and political issues in social media by modifying current viral trends (e.g. a video of children at a ruined local playground after the 2014 floods in BiH dancing to Pharrell Williams' "Happy", used to start an initiative to renew it and was later supported by UNICEF).

### *Protecting Human Rights at the State Level - Aiša Telalović*

After Ms Telalović shared several stories from her work experience, she engaged in discussion with the students about how democratic values and human rights are incorporated into different legislative texts, focusing especially on the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the applicable international legal instruments. Ms Telalović

described the mechanisms that are at the citizens' disposal when it comes to reporting human rights violations in the country, as well as the jurisdiction of the Joint Committee for Human Rights at the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The lecture ended with practical tips on communicating with public administration as means of civic activism.

#### DAY 4: MEDIA DAY

##### *The Role and Influence of Media in Social Life in BiH - Marija Milić*

After a discussion about the perception of the media in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Ms Milić talked about several important concepts, such as the relationship between journalists and politicians from both perspectives, buying space for advertising on different media platforms, media performance, and the possible influence that can be achieved through blogs and social networks.

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

During the lecture, Professor Osmančević explained how means of communication influence and determine the parameters of society's functionality. He talked about how the media influence the electoral process, since a well-informed public is one of the cornerstones of democracy. Professor Osmančević described the role of different types of media in today's society, and finished the lecture with a comparison between traditional and digital media.

##### *Democratic Representation in Multiethnic States - Professor Damir Kapidžić, Ph.D.*

Professor Kapidžić talked about the specifics of representing group interests in multiethnic societies. He particularly focused on the role of political parties in such systems, and the presence of political mobilization and ethnical (self-)determination in ethnical parties. He also spoke of their negative sides, and potential restrictive measures, such as managing the process of founding and registration through laws.

##### *The Art of Communicating with the Media - Marko Matović*

The session started with a short lecture about communicating with the media, focusing on the elements of a news story, creating a PR plan for a project or activity, and the elements of a press release. After the lecture, the participants were divided into groups which worked on different scenarios of a fictive project they were to present, with one student from each group presenting the project at a mock press conference in front of a camera.

#### DAY 5: HUMAN RIGHTS AND DIALOGUE

##### *The Reconciliation Process among Youth in BiH - Professor Sabina Čehajić-Clancy, Ph.D.*

Professor Čehajić-Clancy shared the results of her research conducted among youth from different sides in conflicts in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but also in Cyprus and Israel. She emphasized the role of self-affirmation of one's identity, as well as identified the importance of the idea of perception of homogeneity of "the others". She spoke about



breaking such stereotypes through documenting stories about ordinary people from different places and their acts of heroism, where they helped someone from a different group. At the end of the lecture, the participants shared many personal stories and encounters, and discussed their experiences with Professor Čehajić-Clancy.

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

Professor Abazović started the lecture by discussing the concept and definition of mentality as a pattern of established thoughts, beliefs and behavior, and its relationship with traditionalism. He talked about anti-intellectualism, and described the concepts of collective identity and mass ideology. Professor Abazović emphasized the importance of eliminating prejudice in ethnically and religiously diverse communities, and the necessity of tolerance in these communities as a tool of breaking misconceptions.

*Just People: movie screening followed by a discussion*

“Just People” (2011) is Humanity in Action’s first film, created in partnership with the acclaimed Dutch filmmaker Annegriet Wietsma. It focuses on several issues of discrimination and helps viewers understand human rights violations from both the past and the present. After the movie, the participants engaged in a discussion moderated by Ms Maida Omerćehajić, HIA BiH Project Coordinator, where they analyzed the issues portrayed in the movie and the importance of not being a bystander to injustice. The discussion ended with trying to find the answer to the film’s central question: do you want to be just a person, or a just person?

*An Introduction to the System of Human Rights* - Sabina Ćudić

The lecture by Ms Ćudić was largely focused on understanding what rights a person has and how to exercise them. She emphasized the role of education when it comes to human rights, since today’s youth often encounters practical information about human rights quite late in their education. Ms Ćudić also analyzed the discriminatory provisions present in the current legal system.

## DAY 6: FACING CHALLENGES

*Investigative Journalism: Experiences from Practice* - Jovana Kljajić

Ms Kljajić opened the lecture by describing her career path, beginning with a position at the Center for Investigative Journalism (CIN) in Sarajevo, where she worked on an award-winning story about foster families which misuse the system at the expense of the children they are supposed to be taking care of. She also spoke about her work on a documentary movie about war crimes in Bosnia and Herzegovina. At the end of the lecture, Ms Kljajić also shared her experiences as an EDVACAY alumna, particularly emphasizing the role and importance of the second (individual research) phase of the program.

*Managing the Career Path* - Professor Dženana Husremović, Ph.D.

Professor Husremović started the lecture with a conversation about what participants expect from the program, which she connected with making choices that influence one’s career. She spoke about the concept of a psychological contract, expectations and their

fulfilment, the relationship of inner self-control and its relationship to external factors, building self-efficacy through own experiences, as well as explained the difference between traditional and protean careers.

*Panel Discussion: Human Rights in the Constitutional System of BiH*

Professor Goran Marković, Ph.D., and Senior Teaching Assistant Damir Banović

The session started with short remarks by the speakers on the structure of the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Professor Marković emphasized that the current Constitution is not as detailed and precise as the one in former Yugoslavia. Mr Banović talked in detail about the position of the European Convention on Human Rights and its position in the constitutional system, and explained that the Dayton Constitution lists only civil and political rights. After the opening remarks, the participants engaged in discussion with the speakers about different current issues, such as the politicization of the Constitutional Court and mechanisms of protecting human rights in labor law.

*The Challenges of Memorialization in BiH - Hikmet Karčić*

Senior Associate at the Institute for the Islamic Tradition of Bosniaks

Mr Karčić spoke about the definition and function of monuments, with examples from the country and the region. He conducted an interactive workshop with the participants, dividing them into three groups and giving them a task to create a monument for different local contested sites that would

## DAY 7: PREPARATIONS FOR THE NEXT PHASE

*Developing a Research Synopsis*

Jasmin Hasić and Maida Omerćehajić

In the final lecture of the program before the debate workshops, Mr Hasić and Ms Omerćehajić worked with the participants on choosing and developing their individual research assignments. They presented the form and concept of the policy briefs the participants will be working on in the second phase of the program during the following months with assigned research mentors. After a brief lecture about the structure and composition of the required policy briefs, the students presented ideas for their research, and defined the topics they will be writing about.

## DEBATE WORKSHOPS (DAY 7 - 9)

For the third year in a row, we were joined by Marija Simić and Mladen Šuleić, experienced debate trainers and international debate champions from Belgrade. They conducted a three day-long workshop with sessions focused on the basics of the British Parliamentary debate format, followed by four full debates by the participants, as well as several exercises focused on logical fallacies, speaking style, and argumentation.

## 2. Individual Research

After the first phase of the program ended, three research mentors were assigned to groups of five participants to help guide them through the research process. This year's mentors were Marijana Markotić (HIA Senior Fellow), Nevena Medić (HIA Senior Fellow) and



Mahir Sijamija (EDVACAY 2013/14 Participant).

During the period from December 12, 2016 to March 10, 2017, the participants worked on policy briefs which consisted of the following parts: an introduction followed by the description and focus of their research, three comparative examples from other communities or countries that have implemented a successful solution of the analyzed problem, and finally a conclusion with recommendations for solving the problem.

The participants wrote about various topics in many fields such as education, economy, entrepreneurship, education, and waste management. Most participants focused on analyzing issues that affect students directly, such as the low student standard at their universities and in the country, and the lack of extracurricular activities and student practice programs. As reported by the research mentors, the policy briefs, as well as the conducted research itself, were of a very high quality.

### **3. Project and Financial Management Training in Neum**

The training took place in Neum, March 23-26, 2017, and was held by Jasmin Hasić (HIA BiH Executive Director) and Maida Omerćehajić (HIA BiH Project Coordinator). During the **first day of the training**, the participants had the opportunity to present the results of their individual research, and receive feedback from HIA BiH Staff, as well as discuss the topic with their colleagues from the program.

The **second day of the training** started with a short presentation of previously implemented civic campaigns, in order to inspire the participants to start working on their own ideas. After the presentation, they were given individual assignments to identify three main issues: what field or area they would like to implement their campaign in, what kind of activity it would be, and what is the final product of the campaign. The focus was on creating sustainable results and outcomes for the civic campaigns (e.g. video material, educational tools, brochures etc.) which the participants themselves could later use to continue working on their ideas and apply for additional funding with other potential funders even after EDVACAY ends.

The participants formed four teams and started developing the concept of their project ideas. Every team member was assigned a specific role: Team Leader, Financial Manager, PR Officer and Project Officer in charge of writing the narrative report about the implementation of the project.

The rest of the day was dedicated to analyzing the structure of the written project proposals. By the end of the day, the groups produced their proposals, each consisting of the following segments: Introduction, Project Background and Justification, Project Activities, and Evaluation and Sustainability.

The **last day of the training** started with a lecture on how to create and manage the campaign budget, which would later be attached to the narrative part of the final project proposal. The participants received grants in the amount of BAM 730 (approximately USD 400) per group. The day ended with instructions on writing the narrative and financial report, which the participants will be due to submit upon the successful implementation of their civic campaigns, as well as the report on the impact and promotion of the campaign results, which will be conducted upon their successful implementation.

## 4. Group Civic Campaigns

### Group A: Freedom Corner

[Berina Ćatić, Dino Majstorović, Amir Pečenković and Dženeta Pitić]

In times when majority of young people look for more presence of the «state» in resolving their existential issues, 4 young individuals participating in this years EDVACAY program sought quite the opposite. Their civic campaign aimed at creating an interactive web-platform called "[Kutak slobode](#)" ("Freedom Corner", available only in local languages). The main focus of this campaign is raising awareness about and promoting economic rights, freedoms, liberal market, and their role within the post-conflict democratic society of BiH. The website is divided into three main categories:

- Knowledge Bank (a collection of introductory texts and videos describing the basics of economic liberties and their connection to democratic states);
- Neoptimism (positive examples of economic development and entrepreneurship ideas, as well as the positive impact on minority groups in various different countries);
- and Perspectives Bank (written and video interviews with relevant experts from the field, focusing on current challenges, and analyzing topics such as the relationship between political and economic freedoms, entrepreneurship, democracy, and the role of the state in it).

During the implementation period, the group met with several professors and teaching assistants from University of Sarajevo School of Economics, University of Tuzla Faculty of Economy, University of Sarajevo Faculty of Political Science, and Business and International Burch University in Sarajevo, to conduct interviews and seek advice on making the topic more approachable to youth in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The group also manages an active [Facebook page](#) for the civic campaign with over 300 followers, where they regularly promote the web page entries. Many renowned professors and experts in the field of economics and business supported this campaign.

### Group B: A Wealth of Diversity in Bosnia and Herzegovina

[Lejla Bašić, Nizama Hubljar, Emina Mušija and Mirza Srna]

The participants of second group decided to make a [documentary film](#) aimed at presenting stories and perspectives about breaking stereotypes and prejudice in the society. The goal of the campaign is to contribute to the acceptance of differences among youth, whether they are based on belonging to an ethnic group, a religious group, a minority, various rural-urban divides, sexual orientation and other aspects, as well as to emphasize the importance of providing equal opportunities to every member of the society. The focus of the videos is on young people sharing the stories of their experiences and accepting differences, or rather being accepted as different.

Throughout the making of the video, the participants worked with Arnes and Andrej Hamzić, students of the University of Sarajevo Academy of Performing Arts, who have worked with other EDVACAY civic campaign groups in the past, as well as authored the promotional video for the program created during the 2015/16 implementation.

### **Group C: Now I Know What I Want!**

[Azra Beriša, Ismar Fazlić, Ema Jukić and Almir Saračević]

The third group's project was focused on creating [a series of short videos](#) about various manual crafts and professions that are not present in mainstream discourse, in order to provide elementary school students with new perspectives and possibilities of potential career choices. They have conducted video interviews with persons working in the field of traditional trades and less known professions, in order to present a new view on educational opportunities in the country. They filmed 8 short films about traditional craft skills at risk of dying out in Sarajevo, to raise awareness of raising trends of brain drain and brain waste in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Their wish is to persuade younger generations to consider all available options for finding employment before they actively pursue opportunities abroad and decide to permanently leave BiH.

The group continues to work on their campaign, with the next step being acquiring the permission of the competent Ministries of Education at cantonal or entity levels, in order to present the created materials in many elementary schools, to ensure the sustainability of their campaign.

### **Group D: Simulation Games as a Tool of Raising Democratic Awareness and Culture of Dialogue among Youth in the Bosanska Krajina Region**

[Majda Alagić, Šejla Kulenović and Tijana Nikić]

The civic campaign is based on conducting simulation games on relevant democracy-related topics in elementary and high schools in the Una-Sana Canton. The participants started the implementation of their campaign by developing role cards for five separate simulation games, analyzing the topics of introducing uniforms in schools, introducing a culture of religions class in school curriculums, the effects of Internet on youth, and the pros and cons of traditional upbringing. Separate roles were developed for each of the simulation games – persons arguing for and against the topic, the competent authorities, for instance Ministry of Education or school management, parents, and teachers. The goal of the simulations was to inspire students to share their opinions on the analyzed topics, but also to challenge them to enter different assigned roles they do not necessarily agree with personally.

After acquiring the needed permission from the Ministry of Education of the Una-Sana Canton, the group visited five classes, with approximately 25 students in each, in four different schools: Harmani I and Harmani II Elementary Schools in Bihać, Mahala Elementary School in Sanski Most, and the Gymnasium in Bihać. Each simulation was held over a 45-minute long time slot. The EDVACAY participants implementing the campaign took into consideration the age of the students participating in the game, choosing the most approachable topic for them, in order to ensure the quality of the discussion.

After the game was completed, the group interviewed some of the participants and handed out questionnaires to collect feedback. They used the information to improve their facilitation performance and to potentially modify some of the role cards they prepared. The initial response was excellent, and the students who participated in the simulation games, as well as their teachers, thought that this might be a great addition to their curricula. The group will continue promoting the project in the local media in Krajina, and

try to expand it to Republika Srpska schools and other neighboring regions.

## 5. Promotion of Civic Campaigns in the Media

There was a total of 20 media appearances, most of them on television and the Internet. Most participants have opted to address the audience at the local levels, as they believed it would be the most beneficial for their target audience (e.g. the group working on the simulation games in schools in the Bosanska Krajina region focused on reaching students from the region, and the group working on the “Now I Know What I Want!” campaign worked on reaching elementary school students who are about to make the next step in their career path). The appearances varied from local media (e.g. Bugojno Danas and KA web portals, Radio Donji Vakuf), regional media (Una-Sana Canton Television, ABC Portal), to widely popular portals among university students and NGO activists across the country (Hocu.ba and Mreža mira), and televisions with nationwide broadcasts (Television of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hayat Television).

Some of the groups were represented by only one of the members responsible for PR (e.g. Almir Saračević and Amir Pečenković appeared in the media presenting the “Now I Know What I Want!” and “Freedom Corner” civic campaigns, respectively), while other groups opted for diverse appearances (e.g. all members of the “A Wealth of Diversity in BiH” group gave statements for the media, with three of them appearing on television).

### >> Television Appearances

Emina Mušija, a participant working on the “A Wealth of Diversity in Bosnia and Herzegovina” campaign spoke about the group’s activities on FACE TV’s [“Uzbuđenje” Morning Show](#) on August 13, 2017. Almir Saračević of the “Now I Know What I Want!” group civic campaign appeared on the same show on July 29, 2017. Almir additionally appeared on Una-Sana Canton Television, where he spoke about the “Now I Know What I Want!” campaign on the television’s [“Za dobro jutro” morning show](#) on July 5, 2017.

Amir Pečenković (“Freedom Corner” campaign) appeared in a news segment on Hayat Television ([A Good Story about Young People: This is How they Want to Change Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), July 5, 2017).

We were happy to hear that some of the participants working on different civic campaigns within this year’s program decided to approach the media seeking to talk about their projects together. This was the case with Almir Saračević (“Now I Know What I Want!” campaign) and Amir Pečenković (“Freedom Corner” campaign) also appeared together on July 25, 2017 on the Television of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina ([Federacija Danas/The Federation Today](#), starting at the 19:50 time mark). Lejla Bašić (“A Wealth of Diversity in Bosnia and Herzegovina” campaign) and Šejla Kulenović (“Simulation Games as a Tool of Raising Democratic Awareness and Culture of Dialogue among Youth in the Bosanska Krajina Region”), also spoke about their projects together on the Una-Sana Canton Television’s [morning show](#) on August 31, 2017.

### >> Articles and Reports on the Internet

The news about the “A Wealth of Diversity in Bosnia and Herzegovina” short film screening was presented in articles on Patria BiH News Agency ([“A Wealth of Diversity” Movie](#)

[Screening: Our Differences Must Not Be our Stumbling Blocks](#), August 9, 2017), KA Portal ([Screening of the “A Wealth of Diversity” Short Film](#), August 9, 2017), ABC Portal ([Project: the Youth’s View on the Wealth of Diversity](#), August 10, 2017), Bugojno Danas (Bugojno Today) ([Screening of the “A Wealth of Diversity” Movie](#), August 25, 2017), Mreža za izgradnju mira (The Peacebuilding Network) ([A Wealth of Diversity](#), August 26, 2017), and Hocu.ba ([A Wealth of Diversity: A Film by Young and Creative People from Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), August 28, 2017). The movie was additionally promoted on the Radio Donji Vakuf website ([“A Wealth of Diversity” Movie Screening: Our Differences Must Not Be our Stumbling Blocks](#), August 14, 2017), following participant Nizama Hubljar’s guest spot on a show on the same radio station.

The “Freedom Corner” civic campaign was also present in online media, with articles published on International Burch University website ([Promotion of the Project - “Kutak slobode”](#), July 17, 2017), Hocu.ba ([Youth from BiH Starting the “Freedom Corner” Student Project](#), July 30, 2017), and ABC Portal ([Freedom Corner: Youth from Bihać and Sarajevo Working together on Economic Education](#), August 3, 2017).

The news about “Simulation Games as a Tool of Raising Democratic Awareness and Culture of Dialogue among Youth in the Bosanska Krajina Region” civic campaign was shared on ABC Portal ([Project: Acquiring Knowledge through Simulation Games](#), July 22, 2017).

#### >> Newspaper

The results of the “Simulation Games as a Tool of Raising Democratic Awareness and Culture of Dialogue among Youth in the Bosanska Krajina Region” civic campaign were published in the Una-Sana “Krajina” Newspaper ([Workshops Held in Elementary and High Schools: Acquiring Knowledge through Simulation Games](#), September 1, 2017). The same newspaper also ran a story about the short film created as the result of the “A Wealth of Diversity in Bosnia and Herzegovina” campaign ([Short Film Created with the Support of Foundation Humanity in Action BiH: A Wealth of Diversity](#), September 8, 2017).

#### >> Radio Shows

Nizama Hubljar, one of EDVACAY 2016/17 participants working on the “A Wealth of Diversity in Bosnia and Herzegovina” civic campaign, promoted the campaign and the short film created by the group at a show on [Radio Donji Vakuf](#).

#### >> Social Networks and YouTube

Two of the groups created Facebook pages for their civic campaigns: [Freedom Corner](#) and [Simulation Games](#) as a Tool of Raising Democratic Awareness and Culture of Dialogue among Youth in the Bosanska Krajina Region. The movies created by two of the groups are available on their YouTube channels: [A Wealth of Diversity](#) and [Now I Know What I Want!](#).

#### >> Public Events

Two of the implemented civic campaigns were promoted at public events. The “Freedom Corner” campaign was promoted at a public event during the earlier phase of the program, on July 5, 2017 in the space of Networks in Sarajevo. The group of participants working on

the “A Wealth of Diversity in Bosnia and Herzegovina” campaign organized a public screening of the short film they produced in Networks on August 8, 2017. The news about both events was published on several web portals and in television news segments, and the events were attended by several members of the EDVACAY alumni network.

## **6. Final Debate Tournament and Closing Ceremony of the Program**

The closing ceremony of this year’s program was held at the Residence Inn by Marriott Hotel in Sarajevo on September 14, 2017. The ceremony started with the presentation of the implemented civic campaigns by the participants, followed by a debate tournament, with eight of the participants debating the topic “This House believes that access to the Internet is a human right” under the rules of British Parliamentary debating format, and the rest of the participants taking on the roles of judges in the debate. After the debate, all participants received a certificate of successful completion of the program, as well as a recommendation letter describing their performance during and commitment to the program. The event also gathered several members of the EDVACAY alumni network, lecturers and mentors from the program, as well as other friends and supporters of Humanity in Action BiH.

During the event, HIA BiH filmed two additional promotional movies for the program, with the help of Andrej and Arnes Hamzić. The new videos (available on the [EDVACAY YouTube Channel](#)) include statements by HIA BiH Staff, alumni and this year’s participants, as well as lecturers from the program, who have shared their impressions and experiences in the program. The videos will primarily be used in the promotion of the call for applications for participation in EDVACAY 2016/17.

## **7. Humanity in Action Summer Fellowship in Sarajevo**

From May 26 to June 20, 2017, Humanity in Action Bosnia and Herzegovina organized the second Humanity in Action Summer Fellowship program in Sarajevo. The Fellowship was a part of the annual HIA programs held simultaneously in five European cities, as well as two cities in the US in July 2017. Intensive and demanding, the Humanity in Action Fellowship brings together international groups of university students and recent graduates to explore national histories of discrimination and resistance, as well as examples of issues affecting different minority groups today.

The participation of one member of the EDVACAY alumni network in the Humanity in Action Summer Fellowship in Sarajevo was generously supported by the National Endowment for Democracy, in order to ensure an even stronger integration of former EDVACAY participants in the work of the local HIA office and its network of over 100 BH students and 1660 young professionals from all over the world who had attended different HIA Summer Fellowship programs since 1997.

2013/14 EDVACAY participant Aldin Vrškić was selected as one of the HIA Fellows in the Sarajevo program, becoming the fifth EDVACAY alumni to join the HIA BiH Senior Fellow network. The 2017 Sarajevo Fellowship gathered fifteen participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Denmark, Germany, The Netherlands, Poland and the United States. The month-long educational program was divided into three sections, each dedicated to exploring a certain aspect of human rights and democracy challenges within the country: Transitional Justice, Social, Legal and Economic Transformation, and Post-Conflict



Identities.<sup>1</sup> The program hosted over 50 lecturers (university professors, government officials, activists, and journalists), as well as included educational site visits to media and government institutions, and study trips to six other cities across Bosnia and Herzegovina (Banja Luka, Prijedor, Srebrenica, Zenica, Stolac, and Mostar).

Aldin Vrškić, the EDVACAY alumnus participating in the program, has stated: “*This was the best program I have ever participated in. The entire Humanity in Action Summer Fellowship program in Sarajevo was very intense, with a variety of topics analyzed throughout the month. I think it will be difficult to get another opportunity to talk to better and more important speakers from Bosnia and Herzegovina. Everything was well-balanced, especially the schedule of the study trips within the program. I expected great quality based on my experience in the EDVACAY program, and I am glad I continued my involvement with Humanity in Action and took this step further. I will definitely apply to other educational opportunities and internships that Humanity in Action offers.*”

Upon successful completion of the program in Sarajevo, the HIA Fellows joined over 200 Humanity in Action Fellows from other 2017 programs, taking place simultaneously in Amsterdam, Berlin, Copenhagen and Warsaw, at the Eighth Annual Humanity in Action International Conference in Berlin (June 22-25, 2017). The conference explored the rise in nationalist sentiment, xenophobic rhetoric and political extremism across Europe and the United States, and the resultant challenges to transatlantic relations and domestic policies on both sides of the Atlantic.

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1 The full program of the 2017 Sarajevo Fellowship can be found on [this link](#).