

**HUMANITY IN
ACTION**
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

**Encouraging Democratic Values and Active
Citizenship among Youth 2017/18**

**This project is generously supported by the National Endowment for Democracy 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 communications, 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 the promotion of 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 16 until November 5, 2017. Besides daily promotion on the [Humanity in Action Bosnia and Herzegovina](#) and [EDVACAY](#) Facebook pages, the news about the Call for Applications was published on several student and NGO web portals, such as [Studomat](#), [Hocu.ba](#), [Mreza Mira](#), and the [Civil Society Promotion Center](#), as well as on official university websites such as [University of Banja Luka Academy of Arts](#), [University of Mostar Faculty of Law](#), [University of Sarajevo Academy of Music](#), and [University of Sarajevo Faculty of Law](#). The program was extensively promoted at the Eighth University of Sarajevo Scholarship Fair, held at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering on October 19, 2017. The program was also promoted through Humanity in Action Senior Fellow Network, EDVACAY Alumni Network, and other guest promotions at various NGOs in Sarajevo and Banja Luka.

After careful review of the 56 applications received, our selection committee invited 15 students to participate in this year's program. The participants came from 9 cities and all parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and were studying at 13 different faculties/departments, enrolled in 5 public and 3 private universities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Name	Hometown	University and Faculty
Tamara Bakula	Kiseljak	University of Sarajevo Faculty of Pedagogy (Education and Rehabilitation)
Mirnes Ćerimović	Velika Kladuša	University of Tuzla Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation (Speech Therapy and Audiology)
Melisa Hadžimehmedović	Bijeljina	International Burch University (International Relations and European Studies)
Emir Hasović	Sarajevo	American University in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Information Technology)
Filip Ignjatić	Banja Luka	University of Banja Luka Faculty of Law
Iva Ivanković	Široki Brijeg	University of Mostar Faculty of Philosophy (Social Work)
Adna Kurtović	Sarajevo	University of Sarajevo School of Economics and Business
Emina Latić	Lukavac	University of Tuzla Faculty of Law
Hana Macić	Sarajevo	University of Sarajevo Faculty of Transport and Communication (Communications Technology)
Edina Osmić	Lukavac	University of Tuzla Faculty of Law
Adnan Rudan	Sarajevo	University of Sarajevo Faculty of Sports and Physical Education
Džemajla Smlatić	Velika Kladuša	University of Bihać Faculty of Pedagogy (Bosnian Language and Literature, History)
Din Šačić	Sarajevo	University of Sarajevo Faculty of Political Science (International Relations and Diplomacy)

Ivona Tolić	Zenica	Sarajevo School of Science and Technology (Political Science and International Relations)
Tarik Velić	Sarajevo	International Burch University (International Relations and European Studies)

After the preparatory activities, such as promotion and preparation for the implementation of the program and selection of the participants which took place in October and November 2017, the educational program started in December 2017, 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 2018, the entire group met again for the project and financial management training held in Neum (BiH), 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 2018, and continued the media promotion of their results throughout the summer. The group met in Sarajevo in September 2018 for the closing ceremony of the program and a final debate tournament.

>> **Nine- day Education and Skills Development Training Concept**

The program hosted 22 lecturers, 3 participants in a panel discussion, and 2 debate trainers. Over the course of nine days, they explored topics related to human rights and democracy, identities, nationalism, dialogue, activism and helped participants develop their communication and research skills. The program agenda was created as a balance between lectures and workshops, putting particular emphasis on practical assignments that the participants successfully completed.

>> **Short Description of Lectures in the First Program Phase¹**

The Process of Reconciliation among Youth in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Dr. Sabina Čehajić-Clancy, Professor at Sarajevo School of Science and Technology

Dr. Čehajić-Clancy described the process of affirmation of individual and collective identities, in relation to recognition, emotional fears, proximity to “the other”, and forgiveness. She also spoke about contact interventions, concluding the lecture with emphasizing that, although we are a society with great challenges, we are much closer to reconciliation than other nations due to specific circumstances that simply need to be used to our advantage.

Civic Activism and Socially Engaged Art

Ivana Kešić, Program Manager at CIVITAS BiH

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 change. At the end of the session, the participants had the opportunity to create three separate scenarios and performances reflecting current issues that affect youth in their communities.

Student Activism in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Armela Ramić, Attorney-at-Law

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. She also conducted a workshop, during which the participants worked in three groups and presented a mock written submission to an institution or an association.

¹ The complete program agenda in English is included as Annex 1 to this report.

Media Activism and Social Networks

Boris Čović, Center for Educational Initiatives “Step by Step”

Mr Čović, a journalist by vocation, talked about using social media networks as activism tools. He presented examples of how to address current social and political issues in social media, and how to use social media as tools of promoting campaigns. He also spoke about the possibility of modifying current viral trends in order to convey your own message.

Managing the Project Cycle

Marijana Markotić, HIA Senior Fellow

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

Protecting Human Rights at the State Level

Aiša Telalović, Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH

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 advice on communicating with public administration as means of civic activism.

Civil Disobedience and Mobilization of Youth in a Community

Darko Brkan, Association “Why Not?”

After analyzing different definitions of activism, Mr Brkan talked about mobilization within local communities and grass root activism in particular. He provided the participants with an overview of history of activism, speaking about historical figures such as Rosa Parks, Mahatma Gandhi, Harvey Milk, etc. He also warned about the dangers of “debatable” activism, e.g. exploiting children in campaigns.

Structural Economic Challenges in Post-Conflict Bosnia and Herzegovina

Damir Šaljić, British Embassy in Bosnia and Herzegovina

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.

Psychodrama Workshop: Identities and Perceptions

Zvezdana Jakić and Slaviša Savić, Association for Integrative Psychotherapy “Psychodrama”

Ms Jakić and Mr Savić led a series of group exercises focused on defining identities and whether they can change. They emphasized the importance of being aware of one's identities, their role and defining the one we are most comfortable with, as well as ones that we have issues with.

Democratic Political Culture and Political Education

Dr. Lamija Tanović, HIA BiH Board Chair

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.

The Role and Influence of Media in Social Life in BiH

Marija Milić, Journalist and Media Advisor to Member of the Presidency of BiH Dr. Mladen Ivanić

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.

(Ethno)nationalism in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Dr. Asim Mujkić, Professor at University of Sarajevo Faculty of Political Science

The participants learned about nationalism in the European context, and discussed the role of nationalism in the current BiH system and in the former socialist state. Professor Mujkić also reflected on his latest research on the *subjectification of ethnonationalism*, as well as the concept of “host nations” and their relation to minorities.

Panel Discussion: Youth Political Participation

Amra Haračić, Jelena Kunić and Lamija Tiro

During the panel discussion, Ms Haračić, Ms Kunić and Ms Tiro, members of different political parties, and actively engaged in political life in Bosnia and Herzegovina (either as elected representatives or advisors to key political decision-makers) spoke about the ways young people can become involved in the decision-making processes, the mechanisms at their disposal, as well as the perception of young people by politicians. Before opening the floor to participants' questions, the panelists also reflected on their position as young women in politics, and the particular challenges they face.

The Art of Communicating with the Media

Marko Matović, Journalist and HIA Senior Fellow

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 key elements of a press release. After the lecture, the participants were divided into groups, where they worked on different scenarios of a fictive project, with one student from each group presenting the project at a mock press conference in front of a camera.

Dialogue and Tolerance

Dr. Dino Abazović, Professor at University of Sarajevo Faculty of Political Science

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 ideologies. 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.

Democratic Representation in Multiethnic States

Dr. Damir Kapidžić, Assistant Professor at University of Sarajevo Faculty of Political Science

Dr. Kapidžić focused on exploring why democracy is, in its essence, the rule of the majorities, and the role of majorities in protecting minorities. He explained the difference between substantive representation, which advocates minority rights, and descriptive representation, where citizens are represented by ones most alike to themselves, as well the role of positive discrimination. He also elaborated on the division of ethnic, multi-ethnic and non-ethnic parties, touching upon the differences between national and ethnic identities.

Communication Skills Workshop
Dijana Duvnjak, Foundation 787

Ms Duvnjak led a highly interactive workshop on developing communication skills, focusing on the difference between passive and aggressive communication, as well as the benefits of assertive communication. She also screened several educational videos, which she later used as basis for a series of exercises aimed at developing mock scenarios in which the participants could express their thoughts verbally, as well as through pantomime.

Current Challenges of Democracy in Bosnia and Herzegovina
Dr. Midhat Izmirlija, Assistant Professor at University of Sarajevo Faculty of Law

During his lecture about the challenges the democratic system faces in today's society, Dr. 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.

What is Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities?
Ira Adilagić, Activist

After an interactive workshop on understanding disability, Ms Adilagić's lecture focused on the concept of "special needs" vs. disabilities, particularly focusing on the use of appropriate language. She explained how disabilities are created by environment, at the moment when you face an obstacle. The main part of her lecture was focused on exploring the concepts of inclusion and integration, and equality and equity.

Journalism and PR: Experiences and Practices
Jovana Kljajić, PR Coordinator at Coalition "Under the Lens" and EDVACAY 2012/13 alumna

Ms Kljajić, an alumna of the first EDVACAY generation, joined us as a lecturer for the third time after she completed her program. She 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. After sharing her experiences in PR and the lessons she has learned over the years, she led an interactive workshop with the participants, where they had the opportunity to develop their own PR skills and present their own ideas in the form of a group assignment.

Human Rights and the State
Maida Omerćehajić, HIA BiH Project Coordinator

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.

Developing the Research Synopsys
Jasmin Hasić, HIA BiH Executive Director and Maida Omerćehajić, HIA BiH Project Coordinator

The workshop started with a detailed explanation of the required policy brief format for the individual research assignments, which the participants will work on during the second phase of the program with the support of assigned research mentors. After presenting several examples of conducted research from the previous years of implementation, the staff worked with all participants individually on their suggestions for research topics, which they further developed in cooperation with their mentors.

Debate Workshop

Marija Simić and Mladen Šuleić, debate trainers

For the fourth year in a row, we were joined by Marija Simić and Mladen Šuleić, experienced debate trainers and international debate champions from Belgrade, Serbia. They conducted a three-day long workshop with sessions focused on explaining the basics of the British Parliamentary debate format, followed by debates, as well as several exercises focused on recognizing logical fallacies, improving the speaking style, and developing argumentation. Over the three days of the highly intensive workshop, the students participated in four full British Parliamentary debates, exploring topics related to human rights and democracy which were analyzed over the first six days of the program, and learning how to approach these topics from different standpoints.

>> Second Phase of the Program: Individual Research Assignments

After the successful completion of the first program phase, the participants were assigned research mentors who helped them with researching and developing the selected topics. The participants were assigned three research mentors: Amra Karčić, joined last year's mentors HIA Senior Fellow Marijana Markotić, and EDVACAY 2013/14 alumnus Mahir Sijamija. They were working with groups of five participants each until March 2018.

The mentors provided hands-on support throughout the research process, and organized meetings with the participants before the final submission deadline. The students analyzed a variety of democracy and human rights related topics, focusing on both the state and local levels. While conducting their research, the participants were also asked to send a request for access to public information to relevant institutions, and to include the information from the received reply in their policy brief as an additional illustration of the problem at hand.

During the previous two years of the program, the policy brief format has proven very successful among the participants. The format was used in 2017/18 program as well, with the students describing a democracy-related issue in their community or the country, analyzing three comparative examples of possible solutions from elsewhere, and elaborating how said solutions could be implemented in order to resolve the analyzed issue. As part of their research assignment, the participants were also asked to send a request for access to public information to the competent authorities, in order to acquire relevant information and include them in their completed research assignment.

The analyzed topics in the policy briefs are as follows:

Mentor: Amra Karčić

Tamara Bakula - Providing Support for Parents with Disabilities

Mirnes Ćerimović - Introducing a Youth Strategy in Municipality of Velika Kladuša

Iva Ivanković - Creating a Tourist Route for Persons with Disabilities in the City of Mostar

Adnan Rudan - Employment Challenges for Persons with Disabilities

Tarik Velić - Career Advising and Education in Elementary and High Schools in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mentor: Marijana Markotić

Melisa Hadžimehmedović - Informing Pregnant Women and Mothers about their Worker's Rights as a Tool of Preventing Discriminatory Practices

Adna Kurtović - Support Clubs for Young Parents in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Emina Latić - New Technologies in the Election Process: Electronic Voting

Edina Osmić - Inclusion of Children with Disabilities in Local Schools

Din Šaćić - Increasing Transparency in Media Ownership in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mentor: Mahir Sijamija

Emir Hasović - Problems of Managing Water Sources and the Low Degree of Protecting Natural Sources

Hana Macić - Creating Adequate Availability of Public Transport for Persons with Disabilities

Džemajla Smlatić - The Representation of Culture in Curricula in the Una-Sana Canton Ivona Tolić - Availability of Internet as an Educational Tool in the Zenica-Doboj Canton

>> Project and Financial Management Training

The third module of the program took place in Neum, March 22-25, 2018. Upon arrival, the participants spent the rest of the first day at an interactive session dedicated to the presentation of the results of the research they conducted throughout the second module with their assigned mentors. The participants had the opportunity not only to share their discoveries, but also to get feedback from HIA Staff and their colleagues. The session developed into a highly productive discussion, generating ideas that later became the basis for two civic campaigns to be implemented in the fourth program module.

The second day of the training started with an “idea fair” - over the course of one hour, all participants pitched their campaign ideas to their colleagues, in order to gain support and form the groups that would implement them in the next phase of the program. Each group selected a Team Leader, Financial Officer and PR Manager.

After the groups were formed, HIA Staff held a training on the structure and contents of a project proposal. The participants spent the rest of the day writing about the background information about their campaigns, the justification for their implementation, and developing the project objectives, the project activities in the form of a detailed timetable plan, as well creating an evaluation plan. They also created basic plans for the media promotion of their campaigns, which they will later work on in greater detail with the assigned media mentor.

The third day of the training was dedicated to working on the development of the project budgets. Finally, HIA Staff shared the relevant information on the reporting requirements and deadlines. In order to ensure the efficient implementation of the civic campaigns, the Staff also determined four deadlines for check-ins by the groups' Team Leaders (April 15, May 6, May 27, and June 17, 2018). The final deadline for the campaign implementation and submitting the full narrative and financial reports about the campaigns was set for June 30, 2018.

The four groups were the following:

Group A: Mirnes Ćerimović, Adna Kurtović and Tarik Velić

Recognizing the fact that many BH citizens in the diaspora do not have regular access to relevant and detailed information about bureaucratic processes and access to documents in the country's institutions, the group seeks to create an “administrative handbook” which would comprise all relevant information for these procedures in one place, and serve as an additional mechanism and resource for the increased participation of this category of citizens in the BH society. The group aims to increase democratic practices, transparency and accountability of local institutions, and to provide equal access to citizens residing abroad.

Group B: Melisa Hadžimehmedović, Džemajla Smlatić and Din Šaćić

The group's civic campaign will address the issue of reintegration of people who decided to return to live and work in BH society after living abroad, particularly focusing on persons who left the country due to the “brain drain” issue. Through the form of a short documentary video, the participants will show and draw attention to the challenges these persons face in the reintegration process, and their efforts to contribute to and actively participate in the community.

Group C: Tamara Bakula, Iva Ivanković, Hana Macić and Edina Osmić

Inspired by a common interest expressed during the individual research phase by all members of this group, as well as by the potential solutions submitted by Iva Ivanković in her policy brief, the participants decided to create a comprehensive guide in the form of a website that would provide a list of hotels, hostels, and public transport in the cities of Mostar, Sarajevo and Tuzla, with information on how friendly they are towards persons with disabilities. The group plans to cooperate with several local associations, as well as to make the website as user-friendly as possible, with audio recordings and different letter sizes available to make the website easy to use for people with visual impairment. By implementing this project, the group seeks to promote inclusion and equality within a democratic society.

Group D: Emir Hasović, Emina Latić, Adnan Rudan and Ivona Tolić

Motivated by the task of sending a request for access to public information to institutions competent for deciding in matters related to the completed policy briefs and the low response for the entire EDVACAY group, this group of participants decided to conduct thorough research about the actual response rate to said requests with 37 selected institutions at all levels of governance in the country. Upon completion of this task, the group plans to create a study with an analysis of the received replies and present it at a public event. The group also plans to create a website where citizens can share their own experiences with this mode of interaction with public institutions, as well as to interview government clerks, and use the results of their research in an effort to create a website for tracking the application of the Law on Free Access to Information in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

>> EDVACAY Civic Campaigns

After successfully completing the project and financial management training held in March 2018 in Neum and developing four campaign ideas, EDVACAY participants successfully implemented four group civic campaigns in the form of informative and interactive websites, a short film, and a research study during the period from April until July 2018.

Group A: Administrative Handbook for BH Diaspora

Mirnes Ćerimović, Adna Kurtović and Tarik Velić

Recognizing the fact that many BH citizens in the diaspora do not vote regularly and do not have regular access to relevant and detailed information on how to increase their participation and engage in local democratic processes, as well as the bureaucratic processes and access to documents in the country's institutions, the group has created an "administrative handbook" to serve as an additional mechanism and resource for the increased participation of this category of citizens in the BH society.

In order to create a comprehensive and useful handbook, the group also organized online consultations through social media channels, as well as created a questionnaire distributed to different online groups and diaspora associations abroad. During the creation of the campaign, the group also got in touch with Aiša Telalović, a lecturer from the first phase of the program, who was happy to share her experience working with the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the Restart association, which focuses on creating connections between investors from the diaspora and local entrepreneurs. Besides visiting the relevant official websites, the group reached out to several government institutions both in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska as part of their research, in order to establish any differences in the process of acquiring documents and communicating with the authorities that might be helpful to future users of the handbook.

Besides the possibility to download the handbook in .pdf format, the website offers navigation through relevant information on voting from abroad, the most frequently required documents (such as the process of acquiring an ID card, driver's licence, passport or a birth or wedding certificate), an overview of contacts of several government institutions (e.g. the Ministry of Internal Affairs, municipal courts, as well as diplomatic and consular representations abroad), and the instructions for several proceedings before government institutions.

[The website and the handbook are available in local languages on the *Administrativni priručnik \(Administrative Handbook\)* website.](#)

Group B: Back to the Roots

Melisa Hadžimehmedović, Džemajla Smlatić and Din Šaćić

The group's civic campaign addressed the issue of reintegration of people who decided to return to live and work in BH society after living abroad and who are motivated to contribute to the development of democracy in their home communities, particularly focusing on persons who left the country due to the "brain drain" issue.

As a result, the group has created, directed and produced an 18-minute long film, featuring four interviews with successful young people from Bosnia and Herzegovina (Mr. Armin Alijagić, Dr. Dženeta Karabegović, Dr. Adis Maksić, and HIA Senior Fellow Dr. Anida Sokol), who have returned to the country after completing their education and working abroad. The film focuses on discussing the initial reasons for departing the country, but more importantly the moment of return, as well as potential challenges and obstacles faced upon coming back to Bosnia and Herzegovina. The film aims to break the stereotype that there is no room for young people to build their careers in the country, and to serve as a positive example and inspiration for a brighter future.

On July 2, 2018, the group organized a very successful promotion and screening of the film at the University of Sarajevo Faculty of Political Science, attended by over 50 students, professors, and friends of the organization, as well as other EDVACAY participants.

The film is uploaded on the [group's YouTube channel](#), and has been viewed 430 times at the time of the submission of this report. The group also maintains a [Facebook page for the movie](#), with almost 200 likes.

Group C: Accessible for Me Too

Tamara Bakula, Iva Ivanković, Hana Macić and Edina Osmić

Inspired by a lecture on inclusion featured during the first program phase held by activist Ira Adilagić, co-founder of the "Znak za riječ" sign language promotion initiative, the participants aimed to create a comprehensive interactive website which would serve as a platform for information about accommodation and public transportation in Mostar, Sarajevo, and Tuzla which is accessible to persons with both sensory and motoric disabilities.

The initiative was supported by the "Ponosni na sebe" (Proud of Ourselves) campaign, the Information Center for Persons with Disabilities "Lotos" Tuzla and the Associations of Persons with Cerebral Palsy of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The staff of the "Lotos" Information Center helped the participants by sharing the "Measure for an Accessible Bosnia and Herzegovina" (Mjeri za pristupačnu BiH) questionnaire form, which served as the basis for the groups' research.

The website contains information about the available means of transportation, including accessible bus lines, and the type and level of accessibility in hotel accommodation. Besides being equipped with the UserWay Accessibility plugin which enables navigating through font sizes, cursor sizes, keyboard and contrast settings and an automated reading of the page, group member Tamara Bakula also made an audio recording of all information related to the accessible accommodation and transportation in the three cities.

The website for the campaign is available on [this link](#), and the accompanying Facebook page with 269 likes is available [here](#).

Group D: Free Access to Information

Emir Hasović, Emina Latić, Adnan Rudan and Ivona Tolić

Motivated by the fact that, during the individual research phase of the program, almost none of the EDVACAY participants received replies to their requests for free access to information sent to different institutions in the country, the group members recognized the importance of effective communication with government institutions as means of being an active member of the democratic process.

As part of their research campaign, the students contacted 33 institutions at different levels of government in the country, with questions designed to compliment matters within their jurisdiction, with written requests created in accordance with the relevant Laws on Free Access to Information. The website contains defeating statistics, with only 10 out of the 33 institutions providing any kind of response. The group aims to continue developing and working on their campaign, and to use the results of their research in an effort to create a website for tracking the application of the Laws on Free Access to Information in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the next stage being testing the effectiveness and accountability of institutions in lower levels of government.

In order to promote the campaign, the group organized an event on June 15, 2018 in cooperation with the Network of Student Councils of Bosnia and Herzegovina (mreSVUBiH), where they presented the results of the conducted research and talked about the importance of their campaign.

The campaign website is available on [this link](#).

>> Promotion of Civic Campaigns in the Media

The four civic campaigns were extensively promoted in the media throughout the summer, particularly during the month of August. For the second year in a row, all groups collaborated with an assigned mentor for media promotion, Boris Čović, a journalist and lecturer in the first phase of the program.

The four campaigns have generated a total of 63 appearances in the media (a 215% increase compared to last year's 20 appearances), including news portals and other websites, as well as appearances on television and radio stations. The news about the campaigns has appeared both in local and national media, and news and NGO portals and mailing lists. One of the groups, Dostupno i za mene (Accessible for Me Too) was also featured on a website about disability rights from Montenegro. The group working on the Administrative Handbook for BH Diaspora campaign was featured on several websites aimed at promoting activities of Bosnian citizens living abroad, including both international websites and ones created for citizens in Austria and Canada, as well as top ranking online media in the country (e.g. Klix).

The full list of the media appearances with links is available below.

>> Closing Ceremony and Debate Tournament

The closing event of the program was held in the Residence Inn by Marriott Hotel in Sarajevo on September 22, 2018. As part of the event, the students participated as speakers and judges in a final debate in the British Parliamentary format, on the motion “This House believes that access to Internet is a human right”. The participants were thus able to use the knowledge they acquired during the first program phase, not only about constructive dialogue, communication and debating skills, but also about the importance and role of human rights.

At the end of the event, the participants were awarded certificates of successful completion of the nine-month long program, with a description of all program components.² They have become members of the EDVACAY alumni network, committed to continue actively working on promoting democratic values and sharing what they have learned throughout the program with their peers.

>> Humanity in Action Summer Fellowship in Sarajevo

The third Sarajevo Humanity in Action Summer Fellowship took place from June 8 - July 8, 2018. Sixteen Fellows, coming from seven different countries, had the opportunity to learn about human rights in a local context through a series of lectures, workshops, site visits, and study trips. The program ended with the Ninth Annual Humanity in Action International Conference hosted by the European Parliament in Strasbourg (July 5-8, 2018), gathering Fellows from all European programs. Besides the generous support of the National Endowment for Democracy, the program was also supported by the University of Sarajevo School of Economics and Business, which has been supporting both EDVACAY and the Summer Fellowship from their beginnings, the War Childhood Museum in Sarajevo, Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Sarajevo, Open Society Fund Bosnia and Herzegovina, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Atlantic grupa.

The participation of an additional two members of the EDVACAY alumni network at the 2018 Humanity in Action Summer Fellowship in Sarajevo was made possible with the support of NED, in order to strengthen the involvement of EDVACAY alumni within the global HIA network. The two Fellows were Mahir Sijamija (EDVACAY 2013/14, President of the EDVACAY Alumni Network, University of Sarajevo) and Amra Mešić (EDVACAY 2015/16, University of Bihać).

¹ The videos are available in local languages on the [HIA Bosnia YouTube channel](#), under the title “PDVIAGMM New Generation!”.

² An example of an awarded certificate is included as Annex 2 to this report.

>> NED Civic Campaign Week at the Humanity in Action Summer Fellowship in Sarajevo

2018 HIA Summer Fellowship program in Sarajevo contained a full week of creating and implementing three different civic campaigns by groups of Fellows, with the generous support of the National Endowment for Democracy, on the pre-selected general topics of activism, boosting young voters' turnout at the October 2018 elections in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and media literacy.

The educational component of the Fellowship contained three lectures³ aimed at providing background to the issues that were the subject of the implemented campaigns, especially having in mind the necessity to clarify the local context to the international Fellows.

Each of the groups was also assigned a mentor to help and guide them throughout the process of the creation and implementation of the three civic campaigns: journalist and activist Masha Durkalić (activism campaign), Mediacentar project manager Hatidža Gušić (media literacy campaign), and HIA Senior Fellow and journalist Marko Matović (elections campaign). After the initial meeting with the groups, the mentors provided hands-on support and regularly met with the groups during the implementation of the campaigns. Besides the mentors, the HIA BiH Staff also organized two meetings with all groups during the process.

Group 1: Tvoje Sarajevo / Your Sarajevo

Ceyda Keskindemir (The Netherlands), Matilda Ostow (USA), Amra Mešić (EDVACAY Alumna, BiH), Đorđe Prolić (BiH), and Romane Rozencajg (France)

The campaign utilized activism, a tool that merges art and activism. The activism component of this project addresses the politicized and charged borders of Bosnia and Herzegovina, more specifically Sarajevo. The Fellows addressed this concept artistically by conceiving of a map-making project that would be interactive, emotional, and subvert conventional map-making processes.

They implemented an interactive mapping campaign to make space for the citizens of Sarajevo to transcend location and ethnicity and define the emotional landscape of this city on their own terms. The Fellows spent four days collecting sites/stories on a physical map in different parts of the city, and then created [a digital map](#) and an [accompanying short video](#). The Fellows created this project with the goal to deconstruct the idea of a map as defined by geography and borders by incorporating emotion and subjective experience into the map-making process.

Group 2: (Ne) Glasam / I am (Not) Voting

Jamil Ahmed (USA), Kathleen Brown (USA), Lucy Chin (USA), Detmer Kremer (The Netherlands), and Mahir Sijamija (EDVACAY Alumnus, BiH)

The overarching goal of the civic campaign is to engage citizens with and educate them about democratic processes in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Through an educational board game, the group aimed to encourage voters to do more detailed research about their voting rights and political programs of the parties. The ultimate goal of the campaign is to encourage a higher voter turnout and a more engaged citizenry. Although hard to measure, this project aims to specifically target first-time and young voters to vote in an informed and intentional manner.

³The lectures were held by Dr. Anida Sokol and Sanela Hodžić from Mediacentar Sarajevo (media literacy), Dario Jovanović from Coalition for Free and Fair Elections "Under the Magnifier" (elections), and Ivana Kešić from CIVITAS BiH (activism).

The main outcome of the campaign is the creation of a civic engagement board game called (Ne) Glasam. (Ne) Glasam is a team game in which players (who are representing political parties or the “population”) compete to win the general elections. Players advance based on correctly answering trivia questions or dealing with “Wild Card” scenarios that have to do with the political system in BiH. The board game was promoted at a public event with over 50 guests held at the Faculty of Political Science, encouraging skill-building focused on understanding the complex electoral process as well as articulating questions to further individuals’ understanding of political processes and ability to hold politicians accountable. After the event, the group created [an accompanying video](#) to further promote their work.

Group 3: [Promoting Media Literacy](#)

Karen Lønne Christensen (Denmark), Lily Faust (USA), Gizem Gülcivan (Germany), Amra Karčić (BiH), Ana Keleman (BiH), and Daria Powichrowska (Poland)

The main goal of the campaign was to make people aware of the media bias. The Fellows aimed to confront people with different backgrounds with the media literacy reality and, moreover, to make them a part of the mechanism which rules within the media. The goal was to achieve people’s understanding of information subjectivity and of the importance of the critical spirit while being confronted with any kind of information, so that participants of the campaign would realize the existence of different subjective interpretations.

The main product of the campaign was [a short video](#), in which the Fellows interviewed local citizens asking them to share their opinion about a fictitious vague headline, illustrating the need to check your sources before trusting the news and have a critical approach to new information. The video was screened at the board game event at the Faculty of Political Science and additionally promoted with a media literacy guide created by the group, flyers and other promotional materials. Members of the group also had a meeting with Ms Željka Šulc, Chief of Press and Public Information Unit at the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, where they presented the work on their campaign.

>> EDVACAY 2017/18 CIVIC CAMPAIGN MEDIA APPEARANCES REPORT >>

>> GROUP A: Administrative Handbook for BH Diaspora

>> News Portals and other Websites (available in local languages)

“*Youth for Successful Reintegration of the Diaspora: Administrative Handbook for BH Diaspora*” is available on the following links:

[Kladuša Online](#) (August 19, 2018)
[Mreža za izgradnju mira](#) (August 19, 2018)
[VK Portal](#) (August 19, 2018)
[cazin.net](#) (August 20, 2018)
[hocu.ba](#) (August 20, 2018)
[Tuzlanski.ba](#) (August 20, 2018)
[BH Dijaspóra](#) (August 26, 2018)
[carsijski.com](#) (August 26, 2018)
[zamisli.ba](#) (August 27, 2018)
[Reprezent.ba](#)

The “*Creation of an Electronic Handbook for the Diaspora: How to Easily Access Documents*” report about the campaign was published on the following websites:

[ABC](#) (August 27, 2018)
[Banjalučani.com](#) (August 27, 2018)
[BHRaja.ca](#) - Bosnian Canadian Media (August 27, 2018)
[Bug.ba](#) (August 27, 2018)
[Klix](#) (August 27, 2018)
[Krupljani.ba](#) (August 27, 2018)
[Moj Teslić](#) (August 27, 2018)
[Centralna.ba](#) (August 28, 2018)
[dunav.at](#) (August 28, 2018)
[Glas Bosne](#) (August 28, 2018)
[Gračanički.ba](#) (August 29, 2018)
[MBosna.eu](#)

An article under the title “*An Administrative Handbook for BH Diaspora: Everything you Need to Know about Documents in the Country*” was published on the following news portals and websites:

[24h.ba](#) (August 17, 2018)
[Biscani.net](#) (August 17, 2018)
[Rubikon Times](#) (August 17, 2018)

“*Easier Access to Institutions in BiH: An Administrative Handbook for the Diaspora Created*” ([tuzlainfo.ba](#), August 27, 2018)

“*Creation of an Electronic Handbook for BH Diaspora: How to Easily Get Your ID Card, Passport, Birth Certificate...*” ([Večernji list](#), August 29, 2018)

“Administrative Handbook for BH Diaspora” ([Proljeće Foundation](#))

>> Television

[Evening News](#), Una-Sana Canton Television (August 29, 2018) - starting at the 20:01 mark

>> Radio

Representatives of the group appeared on a radio show at the Radio of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BHRT, August 22, 2018), and the “Good News” show on the Trend Radio station (August 28, 2018) in Velika Kladuša.

>> GROUP B: Back to the Roots

>> News Portals and other Websites

The “*Back to the Roots: Stories about Youth Returning to their Homeland with the Wish to Contribute to its Improvement*” report about the creation and screening of the movie is available in local languages on the following links:

[Mreža za izgradnju mira](#), August 8, 2018

[Hocu.ba](#) (August 9, 2018)

[Radio Sarajevo](#) (August 20, 2018)

[Bijeljina Danas](#) (August 20, 2018)

[bljesak.info - BH Internet Magazine](#) August 22, 2018)

[Source](#) (August 23, 2018)

[24h.ba](#) (August 24, 2018)

“*Burch Students and Professors as a Part of Humanity in Action*” (available in English on the [International Burch University website](#), August 15, 2018)

“*Stories of Young People Who have Returned to BiH: the Biggest issue of the BH Society is the Idea that Things Cannot Change*” ([index.ba](#), August 28, 2018)

>> Television

Two members of the group were guests of the Uzbuđenje morning show at FACE TV on August 24, 2018

>> GROUP C: Accessible for Me Too

>> News Portals and Other Websites (available in local languages)

The “*dostupno.eu - Interactive Website on Accommodation and Public Transportation Accessible to Persons with Disabilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina*” report about the group was published on the following websites:

[Mreža za izgradnju mira](#) (August 20, 2018)

[Hercegovina Info](#) (August 20, 2018)

[Portal o invalidnosti](#) (August 21, 2018)

[Hocu.ba](#) (August 21, 2018)

[Zona 047](#) (August 23, 2018)

[24h.ba](#) (August 27, 2018)

[Rubikon Times](#) (August 27, 2018)

[Zamisli.ba](#) (August 30, 2018)

[DisabilityInfo.me](#) (September 2, 2018)

“What is Accessible to Persons with Disabilities in Mostar?” ([Bljesak.info - BH Internet Magazine](#), August 21, 2018)

>> Television

Group member Hana Macić appeared on the “*Danas kod nas*” show on TV PINK on September 26, 2018 - appearance in local languages starting at the 20:22 mark

>> GROUP D: Free Access to Information

>> News Portals and other Websites (available in local languages)

“Creation of the Access to Public Institution’s Responses in BiH Website - Replies Ranking” (Mreža za izgradnju mira, August 28, 2018)

“Would You Like to Contact BH Institutions Directly? Now It’s Easier than Ever!” (24h.ba, August 27, 2018)

“Students Serving Truth and Democracy” (BHRT Youth Program, September 3, 2018)

The *“pristup.info: How Responsible are Our Institutions to the Citizens”* report about the campaign was published on the following websites:

hocu.ba (September 3, 2018)

cazin.net (September 3, 2018)

BH Dijaspورا (September 3, 2018)

VK Portal (September 3, 2018)

Rubikon Times (September 4, 2018)

Biscani.net (September 4, 2018)

Tuzlanski.ba (September 5, 2018)

Čaršijski portal (September 7, 2018)

>> Television

Group member Emir Hasović appeared on the *“Danas kod nas”* show on TV PINK on September 26, 2018 - appearance in local languages starting at the 20:22 mark