

# **FEBRUARY 2023**

## **NEWSLETTER**



American Councils BiH  
Kolodvorska 5, Sarajevo



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## Field Trip to Krupa na Vrbasu and Ljubačevo Ethno Village

In early February, YES Abroad participants Kai and Natalia, had the pleasure of visiting two beautiful locations near Banja Luka.

The first stop was Krupa na Vrbasu, where the participants were treated to a spectacular view of Krupa Monastery and its impressive waterfalls.

Next, the group headed to Ljubačevo Ethno Village, which boasts over 6,000 artifacts. The village showcases the traditional way of life and has everything that was necessary for a functional village. The participants had the opportunity to see the old church, pharmacy, bakery, and more!

Despite the snowy weather and cold wind, the trip was truly unforgettable.





## YES Abroad Celebrate Black History Month

Every year, YES Abroad participants organize activities to commemorate Black History Month, and this year was no exception. In early February, John, Syarra, and Anneliese, with the help of YES Alumni, organized a Black History Month Trivia Presentation at the American Corner in Sarajevo.



Over 40 students attended the presentation and had the opportunity to learn about the significance of Black History Month and its impacts on U.S. history. After the presentation, a trivia game was organized, and the three most active participants received prizes!

The event was a great success and provided a valuable opportunity for Sarajevo high schoolers to learn about the importance of Black History Month.



The commemoration of Black History Month continued in Banja Luka, with YES Abroad participants Kai and Natalia giving presentations and organizing trivia quizzes at the American Corner in Banja Luka and the Philological Faculty at the University of Banja Luka.

The presentation aimed to provide the audience with knowledge on stereotypes, microaggressions, AAVE, black people in Latin America, black culture, the purpose of Black History Month, and to speak about notable African-Americans. With this educational presentation, Kai offered the audience some food for thought, which was visible in the vivid discussion that followed the presentation.

Kai left the audience with a meaningful quote:

"Although Black History Month is celebrated in February, Black is beautiful all 365 days a year."

Kai and Natalia also visited the American Corner in Doboaj to present for Black History Month there too.





## A Train Ride to Doboj

YES Abroad participants Kai and Natalia went on a cultural excursion visit to Doboj at the end of February. The trip was unique as the participants got to experience riding trains in Bosnia. Doboj is known for being the region's primary railroad junction.



Participants even got to see the popular steam railroad engine Ćiro! They also enjoyed touring Doboj with cheerful American Corner Doboj staff and volunteers from various organizations! The participants did not just meet new friends but got to experience this town from a local perspective!



On their tour, the participants saw the famous Doboj fortress, the impressive Doboj Museum, and a city full of beautiful murals! The last stop was the Black History Month presentation and hanging out at the American Corner.



## Eating Disorder Awareness Day

On February 20, YES Abroad student in Sarajevo, John Getzie, organized an informative presentation on the topic of eating disorder awareness for teens with the help of Šejla Hadžikadić-Kadrić, a local psychologist. The event was held at the American Corner in Sarajevo, and close to twenty local high school students attended. The students came from the Food Technology High School in Sarajevo and found this presentation highly beneficial as it covered topics that are relevant to their own studies at school.

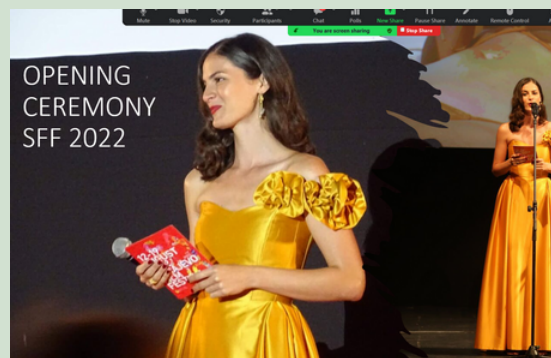
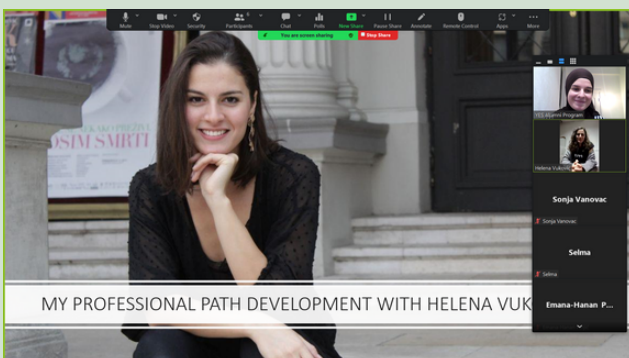


## My Professional Path Development

During the month of February, YES Alumni Coordinator Amina Meric '20 organized a second webinar for "My Professional Path Development" hosted by alumna Helena Vukovic, '13. Helena finished her bachelor's and master's studies at the Academy of Fine Arts in Sarajevo. Currently, she is working at the Academy as an assistant. Besides that, she is an active member of the theater scene in Sarajevo and can be seen in many performances and films. Some of the popular theater performances that Helena acted in are: "Kralj Tvrtko," "To nikad nigdje nije bilo" i "Gazi Husrev-beže." She is an active actress and acted in many Bosnian movies and TV Shows such as: "Deset u pola," "Sevap i Mitzvah," "Burek sa sirom," and many more.

One of Helen's biggest achievements was to open the Sarajevo Film Festival. The Sarajevo Film Festival (SFF) is the premier and largest film festival in Southeast Europe and is one of the largest film festivals in Europe. SFF is more than a film festival, it is a very important educational and informative event since it gathers a lot of people from the region as well as from all over the world.

During the webinar with YES alumni, Helena talked about her acting career in movies, and theater, and what it is like to be an actress in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Many alumni joined and it was a great experience for all of us to get together and hear about such an inspiring and unique story from our Helena. Thank you, Helena!





## Escape Room Project

On February 16, Silma Jahic '22, City Representative for Sarajevo organized an English language workshop as part of her Escape Room Project series. Students from Osma osnovna skola "Amer Cenanovic" in Butmir (middle school), a suburb of Sarajevo, attended the activity. All of them were given a puzzle to solve in English. Silma combined the English language in puzzles, which made participants strengthen their language skills as well as strengthen their critical thinking skills.

This type of project is the third one in a row that Silma organized since she started her position as a City Representative, which is impressive.



**Thanks for reading American Councils February Newsletter, see you next month!**