



APRIL 2023 NEWSLETTER

American Councils BIH
Kolodvorska 5, Sarajevo



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Global Youth Service Day



Global Youth Service Day

Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) is the longest-running annual youth participation event in the world and the only one that asks all youth ages 5-25 to find meaning and purpose by working together for the common good. Each year, **YES alumni and YES Abroad** program participants in Bosnia and Herzegovina organize community service projects in honor of GYSD, as was the case this year too.



On **April 23**, YES Alumni city representative **Silma Jahić ('22)**, organized a workshop teaching young children in her neighborhood how to **flower press**. Silma taught children first what ecology is and how to help keep our environment clean, afterwards they picked dandelions and other flowers together and learned to press them.



Meanwhile, on **April 29**, YES Alumni Coordinator, **Amina Merić ('20)**, together with **YES Abroad** program participants **Anneliese, John, and Syarra** delivered **food donations to a local soup kitchen** in the Old Town of Bašćaršija (Narodna kuhinja “Hasene”) that serves over 250 individuals daily. Amina helped collect donations throughout the month of April that called for canned goods and other nonperishable food items and delivered **close to 20 kilograms of food** to the kitchen staff that day.



Global Youth Service Day



On **April 29th**, **Kai Li**, a YES Abroad participant, demonstrated great leadership and community spirit by organizing a **clean-up activity** with his friends at **the Fortress Kastel in Banja Luka's city center**. As the oldest landmark in the city, this fortress is a popular destination for tourists and a beloved gathering spot for local children and youth. Thanks to Kai and his two friends' efforts, this cherished location was made even more beautiful and welcoming for everyone to enjoy!

On Sunday, **April 30**, YES Alumni city representative, **Mia Krčum ('22)** together with YES Abroad student **John Getzie**, organized a **clean-up of "Vilsonovo šetalište,"** which is a popular promenade in the city of Sarajevo. Mia and John helped clean up debris and trash in Vilsonovo **with the help of around 20 volunteers who are students aged 5-18 from English language school "Helen Doron" in Novo Sarajevo**. These wonderful youths braved the rainy spring day and helped keep the green areas clean in their hometown.



And finally, on **April 30th**, **Natalia Rilling**, a YES Abroad student, delivered two compelling **presentations** on the subject of **school safety in both the United States and Europe**. Natalia's first presentation was given in person to her Bosnian schoolmates, while the second was conducted online for her classmates and friends back in the US. Natalia's insightful and engaging talks were a testament to her outstanding communication skills and her commitment to promoting greater awareness of this critical issue.



Events and Celebrations

Iftar Potluck in Sarajevo

On April 7th, **YES Alumni, YES Abroad and AC staff** had an **Iftar Potluck in Sarajevo** which is a **tradition** for the office for a few years! It was great time for everyone to share joy and spend evening together!



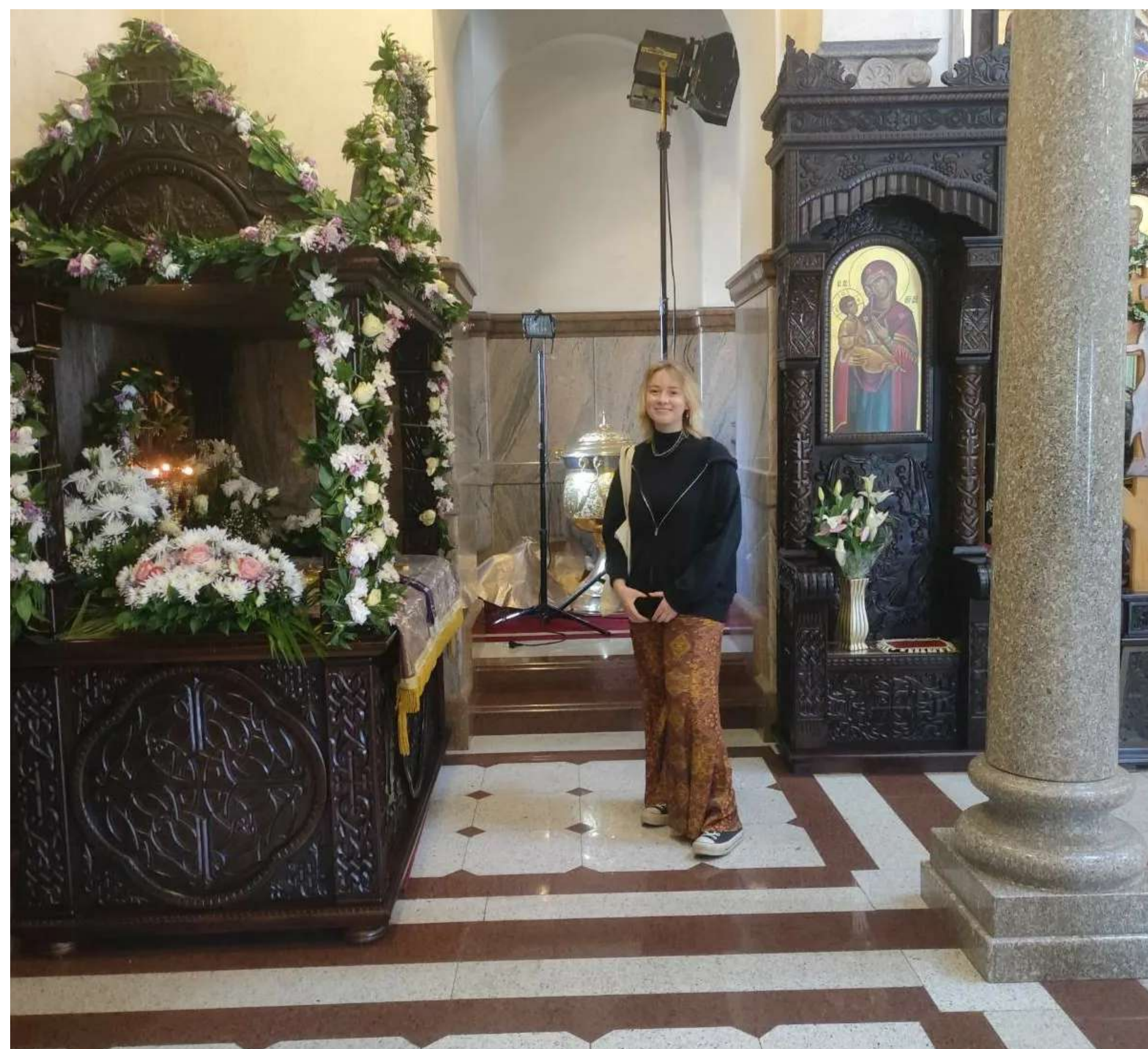
Thank you Asmira

On Saturday, April 29, YES Abroad students **Anneliese, John and Syarra, together with American Councils office staff** in Sarajevo organized a **surprise farewell gathering** for our longtime **Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian language teacher Asmira**, who is departing Bosnia and Herzegovina for Germany in early May. The students enjoyed their language lessons and appreciated, as does the office staff, Asmira's hard work and commitment with our office on YES Abroad and outbound programs. Over the past **ten years**, Asmira not only helped dozens of American program participants better their **BCS language skills**, but she also helped them learn and understand Bosnian **culture** and way of life through language immersion activities. **Thank you Asmira and wishing you all the best in your future endeavors!**



Celebrating Orthodox Easter in Banja Luka

Yes Abroad participated in celebrating **Orthodox Easter** over the weekend by coloring eggs, visiting the **Easter Picnic**, going to church, and having **Easter meals** with their host families.



Cultural Trips and Activities

Srpska Open Tennis Tournament in Banja Luka

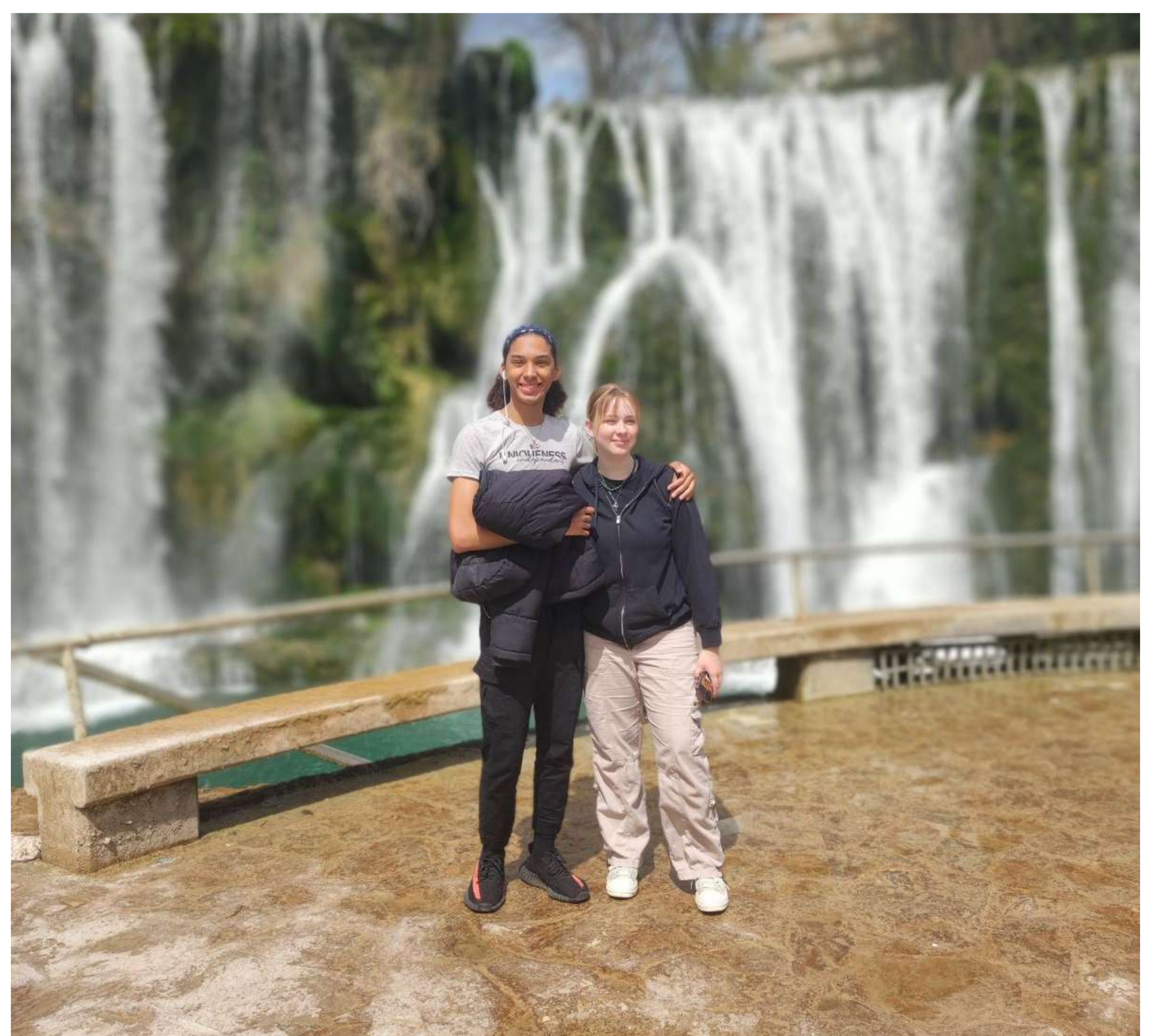
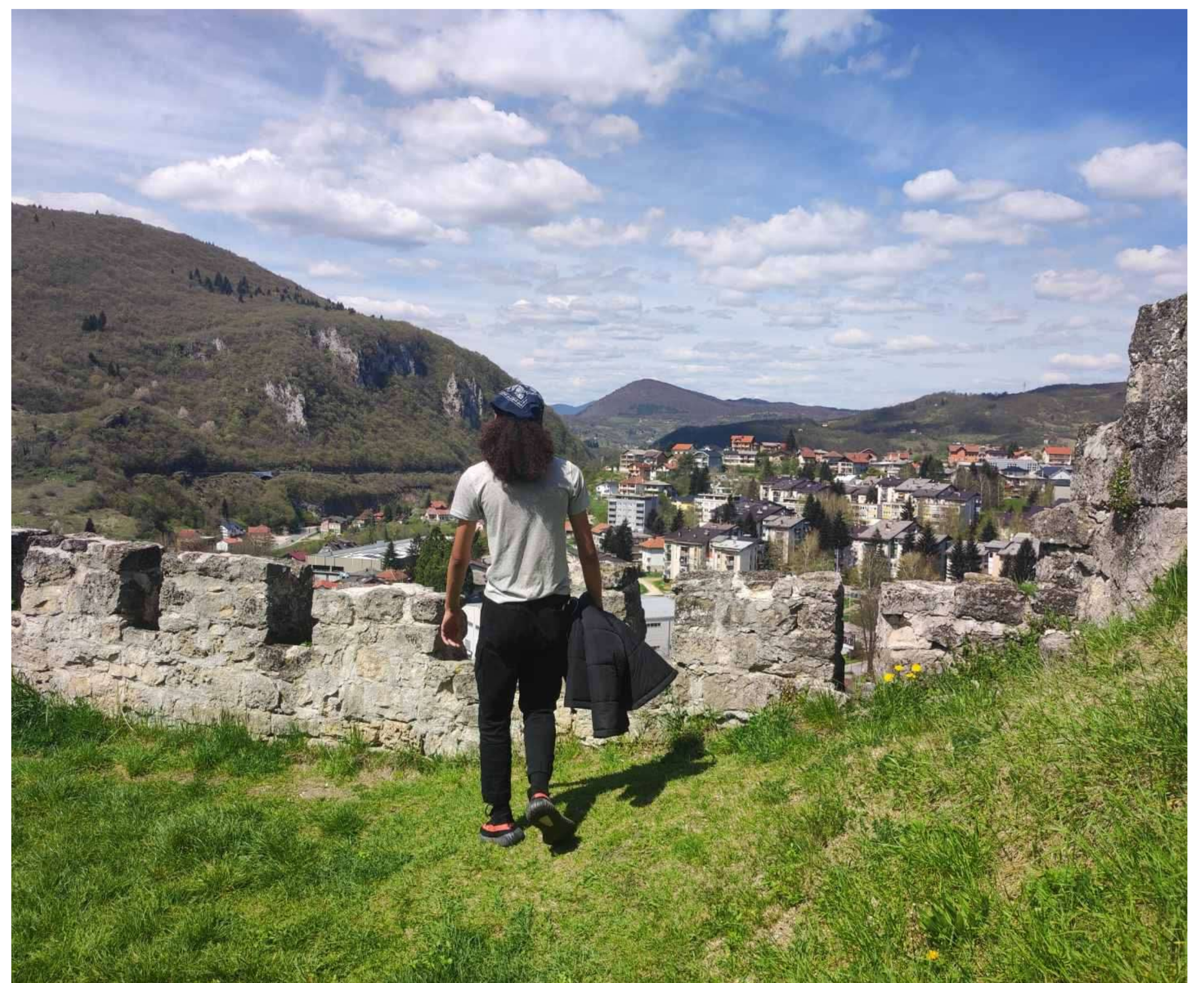


On 18 April, YES Abroad participants **Kai Li and Natalia Rilling** went to the **Srpska Open Tennis Tournament**. Tennis has been very popular in the region in the past decade. But this was the first time a bigger tennis tournament was organized in Banja Luka.



Banja Luka Cohort Visits Jajce

On 23 April, YES Abroad participants **Kai Li and Natalia Rilling** visited the Walled City of **Jajce**. During their visit, they had to see the old town, the famous **Jajce Fortress, Jajce Waterfall, and the mysterious catacombs**. Participants were amazed by this old and beautiful sunny city.



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