



December 2023 NEWSLETTER

American Councils BiH
Kolodvorska 5, Sarajevo

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YES Abroad

Celebrating Holidays in Sarajevo

December proved to be a bustling month for the YES Abroad cohort in Sarajevo, filled with volunteering, language lessons, and the conclusion of the first semester of school. Despite their busy schedules, students had the chance to partake in the festive spirit and celebrate Christmas and the New Year with their host families and friends.

Valeria, a YES Abroad student, joined her host parents and one of her host sisters for the Midnight Mass at the Sarajevo Cathedral.



YES Abroad

Celebrating Holidays in Sarajevo

Benji opted for a different experience, exploring the town of Gorazde in eastern Bosnia alongside his host family.

Benji also had a surprise visit from the mom of a YES student, Asija, whom his natural family is currently hosting in the USA.



YES Abroad

Celebrating Holidays in Sarajevo

Delaney, another YES Abroad student, cherished moments spent with her host sisters and host nephews and nieces. Some of these family members had traveled from Germany to visit Sarajevo, where they currently reside.



It appears that the holiday season brought joy and warmth to our YES Abroad students as they created lasting memories with their host families and immersed themselves in the cultural festivities of Sarajevo.

YES Alumni

Journal Through Our Feelings

In December, YES alumni Silma Jahic and Mia Krcum ('22) continued their workshop series "Journal Through Our Feelings." They used this workshop to talk about mental health and art therapy creatively

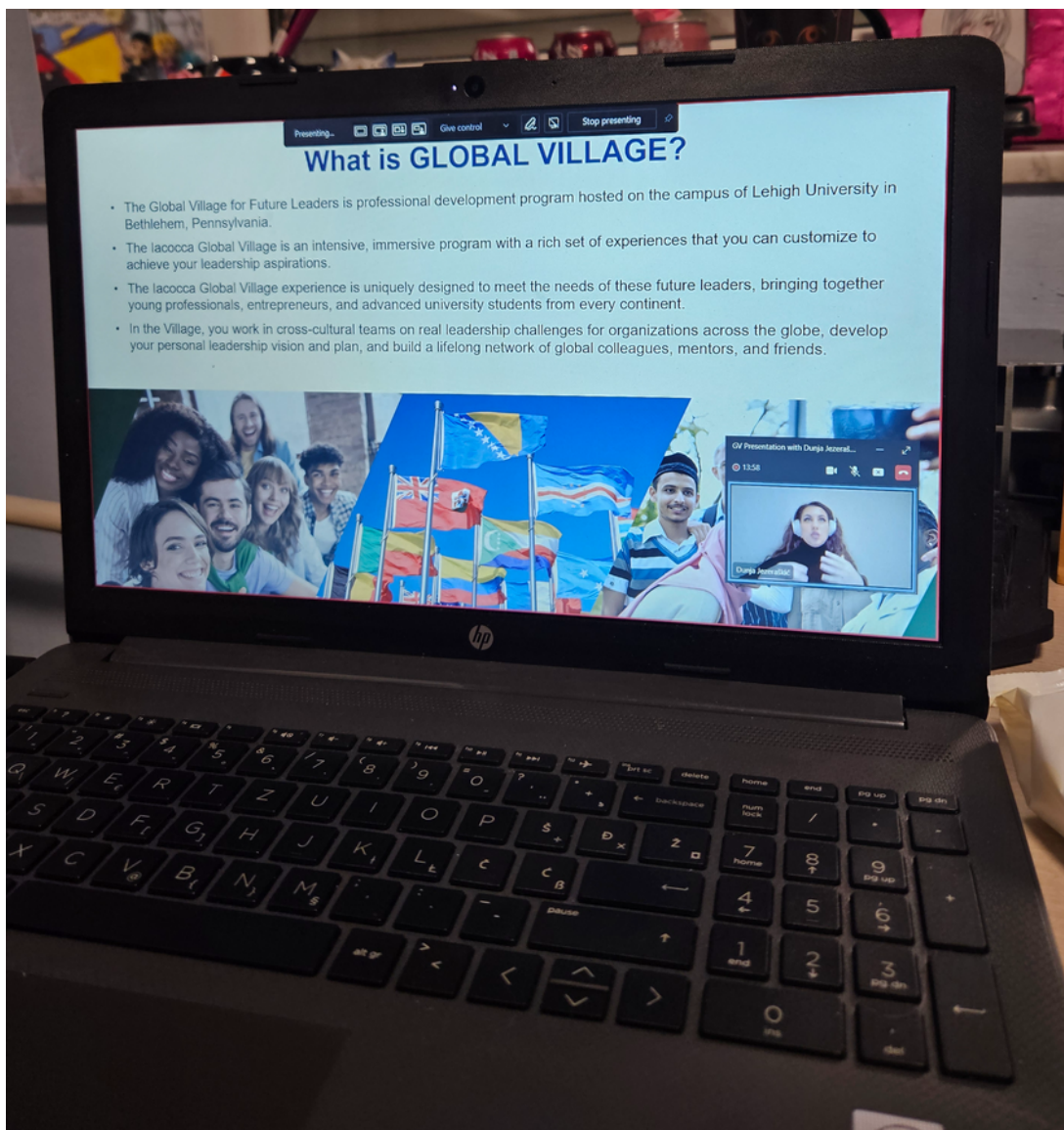
As part of the workshop, they included creative writing and expression and adequate use of the Canva program for various creative campaigns.



YES Alumni

Global Village Promotion

In December, YES Alumni Coordinator Mia Krcum organized an online event to promote the Global Village Program. YES alumna Dunja Jezeraskic ('15) who participated in Global Village was there as a guest speaker and she and Mia shared application information with other alumni about this unique opportunity.



YES Alumni

Our Environment! What We Can Do?



On December 26, City Representative Katarina Pasic '23 held a presentation on the environment and recycling in her high school to eight participants. Since the weather was unfavorable, Katarina held a presentation for her peers instead of her planned clean-up.

Diplomatic Winter Bazaar

This December, our office had the incredible opportunity to partake in the annual Diplomatic Winter Bazaar in Sarajevo.

One of the highlights of our visit was exploring the humanitarian bazaar, where various embassies came together to sell goods for charitable purposes. Witnessing the collaborative efforts of diplomats and volunteers, all driven by the noble cause of supporting those in need, was truly inspiring. From handcrafted treasures to delectable treats, every purchase made at the humanitarian bazaar contributed to making a difference in the lives of others.

Participating in events like the Diplomatic Winter Bazaar is significant for us and our YES alumni and YES Abroad participants. It allows us to immerse ourselves in the vibrant cultural tapestry of Sarajevo but also reinforces the values of empathy, generosity, and global citizenship within our community.

Besides this, one of our YES Abroad students, Benji, and his classmates from his host school Druga gimnazija, volunteered at the bazaar and helped contribute to this noble cause.



Secret Santa Event

What a magical time at our office Secret Santa event on December 21.

Bringing together our incredible YES Alumni, YES Abroad participants, and our dedicated staff to celebrate the holiday season was an absolute joy!

From heartfelt exchanges of gifts to indulging in scrumptious holiday snacks and sweets, the festive spirit was truly alive!

But the fun didn't stop there! We also had a blast playing quizzes and trivia games in teams, laughter filling the room as we put our knowledge to the test!

Moments like these remind us of the beautiful bonds we share as a community, united in spreading warmth and cheer during this special time of year.



Holiday Staff Get-Together

Our December holiday get-together was a blast! We gathered as a team for a cozy dinner filled with laughter, delicious food, and great company. It was the perfect way to celebrate the season and create lasting memories together.

We gathered the staff from the Sarajevo office and some colleagues from the DC office: Country Representative Selma Čampara, Zerina Omanović, Slobodanka Antonić, Mia Krćum, Aziz Hreljić, Merima Krivokapa, Anastasia Moore and Raisa Wells.

Amid the festivities, let's not forget to extend our heartfelt gratitude to every team member. Your dedication, creativity, and passion have been the driving force behind our success, and we are truly thankful for that.



**Thank You for Reading Our
Monthly Newsletter!**

