



# November 2023 NEWSLETTER

American Councils BiH  
Kolodvorska 5, Sarajevo

- International Education Week 2023
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- RISE Program Promotion



## International Education Week 2023

International Education Week takes place in November of each year. As such, our YES Abroad students and alumni of the YES program shared many benefits of intercultural education, study abroad, and multiculturalism that month.

As one of the activities for International Education Week, YES Abroad students Binisha, Delaney and Valeria, visited Osnovna skola “Amer Cenanic” in Butmir, a suburb of Sarajevo and were guests at the school’s spelling bee competition! It was lovely to attend and meet all the wonderful students and staff.

Thanks to the school’s principal prof. Edisa Radoncic and her wonderful school staff for the invite and for providing their students an opportunity to improve their English language skills!



# International Education Week 2023

In honor of International Education Week 2023, YES Abroad students and Mia, YES Alumni Coordinator for BiH, and office staff, visited Mostar and Blagaj!

After a short tour of the Old Town, the group went to the American Corner Mostar, where they shared U.S. culture and way of life with local high school students from Srednja strojarska skola "Frausta Vrancica." It was a nice opportunity to learn about the US and Bosnian counterparts and their hobbies, future aspirations, and schools.

Afterwards, YES Abroad students visited the town of Blagaj, a protected heritage site where they saw the Buna river and visited the Blagaj tekija (Dervish monastery).



## International Education Week 2023

What a perfect way to end the day and after sharing about the USA, learn more about Bosnia and Herzegovina and its rich culture and history!



## Tihar: The Festival of Lights

In November, we were honored to learn about the Nepali Hindu holiday of Tihar, a five-day festival of lights, from our YES Abroad student, Binisha!

Besides providing information about the importance of this holiday in Nepal, Binisha prepared traditional foods for us, such as chicken tarkari, aloo kauli tarkari and pulao!



# YES Abroad

## Urban Hike & Cooking Class

We had the pleasure of having one of our YES Abroad students, Valeria, win an Urban Hike&Cooking class, courtesy of Language School Bosnian2Go, in late November, and have her share her impressions with us.

After a nice walk through the city, Valeria had the opportunity to prepare some traditional Bosnian dishes by testing her cooking skills.



# YES Abroad

## Visit to Zenica

In November, the YES Abroad cohort visited Zenica together with program staff. We visited the American Corner Zenica, where students presented about their cities and home states in the USA.

After the presentation, YES Abroad students socialized with students from high schools from Zenica and Travnik and made some new friendships!



Thank you American Corner Zenica for hosting us again for such a fun event in Zenica!

# YES Abroad

## Visit to Zenica

Students also got to tour the city with YES alumna Dajana Brnada ('20), a native of this lovely town!





## Volunteering at the English Club

YES Abroad students took another opportunity to volunteer in November. This time, Binisha, Delaney and Valeria volunteered at the English Club at the Butmir Middle School "Amer Cenanovic", where they spent their time helping students to decorate the classroom for the upcoming holidays and practice English.



# YES Alumni

## Journal Through Our Feelings

In November, YES alumna Silma Jahic and Mia Krcum ('22), organized a workshop called "Journal Through Our Feelings." They used this workshop to talk about mental health and art therapy in a creative way.

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



# YES Alumni

## American Holidays and English Classes

On November 15, YES Alumna Milica Vidovic ('23) organized an English class for 20 children aged 3 to 6 in a local kindergarten in her hometown of Banja Luka. The children learned basic English words. Milica read them stories about Thanksgiving and Halloween and gave them treats at the end of the class. While in the U.S., Milica volunteered in a church with young children, telling them about her country and culture. This inspired her to do the same in her community here in BiH.



# YES Alumni

## City Representative Of The Month

We are proud to share that our City Representative for Bihać, Ines Hasanagic '23, was selected as City Representative of the Month for November 2023!

Thank you, Ines, for working hard for our community and being a positive influence!! We appreciate your hard work and can't wait to see you do more amazing things!

### Volunteer Excellence Award



YES Alumni Program  
**City Representative of the Month**  
for November 2023 is  
**Ines Hasanagic '23**  
from Bosnia and Hercegovina

Ines Hasanagic '23 has been a City Representative for Bihać since September. In this short time, she organized three meaningful projects and participated in many Alumni activities in the hub city of Sarajevo.

In November Ines organized a special movie night and discussion in her high school 50 participants donated a symbolic amount to make Christmas gifts for children in foster care. In October Ines organized a Halloween workshop with 'Radosti Druženja' a nonprofit association intended for socializing individuals with disabilities. In September she organized an English learning workshop for 12 kindergartners from the local Kindergarten. It was organized to teach local children some basic English words through games and songs. She has also reached over 213 students through presented about the YES Program presentations.



# Thanksgiving Celebration

## Potluck Dinner

On November 22, American Councils BiH staff, YES Alumni, YES Abroad students, friends, and family gathered at the Tershouse Event space in Sarajevo to celebrate Thanksgiving. Our office celebrates the holiday each year with a potluck dinner, and this year was no exception; where everyone had much fun talking, laughing, and enjoying food from many diverse cultures.



# RISE Program Promotion

In November, we were at the American Corner Sarajevo presenting on the RISE for the World program to local high school students from the Srednja ugostiteljsko-turisticka skola Sarajevo.

Thanks to the American Corner Sarajevo staff for hosting us and the students who came to learn more about Rise for the World!



Besides this, RISE Program Coordinator, Silma Jahic, organized an Instagram Q&A, where she answered all the questions about the program and application process.

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

