



# October 2023 NEWSLETTER

American Councils BiH  
Kolodvorska 5, Sarajevo



- Race For the Cure 2023
- YES Alumni Activities
- YES Program Promotion
- YES Appreciation Day
- YES Abroad
- End of the Short-Term Russian Language Program for Fall 2023

# Race for the Cure

On October 1, staff members from the American Council's office in BiH joined the YES Alumni and YES Abroad students in the Race for the Cure event in Sarajevo.

Race for the Cure is Europe's biggest sporting event for women's health. It helps breast cancer organizations and hospitals collect funds and raise awareness.

Participating in the Race for the Cure event with students is crucial as it fosters global solidarity, cultural exchange, and collaborative efforts in the collective fight against breast cancer, promoting awareness and unity across diverse backgrounds.





# YES Alumni

## Workshop in Sign Language

On October 7, two of this year's YES alumni City Representatives, Sadija Masic and Nika Banovic ('23), held a presentation on their experiences on the YES program as well as a workshop in sign language in a youth center in the town of Bugojno.

# RADIONICA: UVOD U ZNAKOVNI JEZIK

+ YES Program i što omogućuje

 **SUBOTA**  
7.10.2023

 **VRIJEME**  
17:00 - 19:00

17:00 - 17:10 INTRO  
17:10 - 17:45 YES  
PROGRAM ISKUSTVA  
17:45 - 18:00 PAUZA  
18:00 - 19:00 RADIONICA

**GOST:**  
**IBRAHIM ĆORIĆ-BAJA**  
TUMAČ ZNAKOVNOG JEZIKA

**ŠADIJA MAŠIĆ I  
NIKA BANOVIĆ**  
YES '23 ALUMNE I CITY  
REPRESENTATIVES



**PROSTORIJE OMLADINSKOG  
CENTRA BUGOJNO**



# YES Alumni

## Instagram Takeover

In October, we had another Instagram takeover - by YES Alumna Julija Zuza, '23, from Bijeljna. Julija took the opportunity to share her experiences with the program and to answer all the questions from interested applicants about YES. This was an excellent opportunity to communicate, share information about the program, and include former participants!





## Halloween Workshop

On October 25, City Representative Ines Hasanagic, '23, organized a Halloween workshop with "Radosti Druzenja"- an association for socializing individuals with mental disabilities in Bihac.

Ines' project included a group of 14 members, ages 17 to 60, with the help of three staff members and one face painter. The activities included the "Monster Mash" song and mash dance, pumpkin carving and painting, making candle holders from jars, making Halloween decorations, spiders made out of pipe cleaners and googly eyes, and face painting.

During the event, they listened to American Halloween songs for children. They celebrated by enjoying snacks and refreshments at the end while talking about their likes, dislikes, lives, daily struggles, and Ines' exchange experience.

Ines came up with the idea for the project after she came across the association's Facebook page and saw a lack of activities with adult members who are rarely talked about and often left out of society and other groups, even their own family, as she later heard from the center's staff members.





# YES Alumni

## Art Therapy and Bonding Activities

In October, YES Alumni Coordinator Mia Krcum, '22, organized a fantastic event that included American Councils staff members and YES Abroad students. We had a great day in the Stojcevac park in Ilidza. The event started with everyone walking through nature and bonding during the art therapy session.





# YES PY 24-25 Promotion

During October, we held a series of presentations about the YES program online and in person. As in September, in October we continued program promotion in different cities. In October, the American Councils office in Sarajevo organized promotions and presentations at:

- American Corner Sarajevo (multiple presentations)
- American Corner Bihac
- American Corner Tuzla
- Druga Gimnazija Sarajevo High School
- Treca Gimnazija Sarajevo High School (multiple presentations)
- Cetvrta Gimnazija Ilidza High School



# YES PY 24-25 Promotion

Hundreds of high school students attended presentations about the YES program in September and October, which resulted in many applications and interested future participants. Special thanks to YES Alumna, who was our YES intern Silma, who joined us at most of the presentations!





# YES PY 24-25 Promotion

Except for the in-person presentation about the program, we held an Instagram Q&A with Country Representative Selma, who answered all the questions with many details and information about the application process and program in general.

Thank you, Selma!

## Q&A with YES Program Staff *in BiH*

PONEDJELJAK  
23.10.2023.  
13-15H



# YES Appreciation Day

On Friday, October 27, with the help of YES Alumni Coordinator Mia Krcum, at the American Councils office, YES Appreciation Day was held with YES Abroad and YES alumni students, as well as the BiH staff members and a guest from the US Embassy, Ms. Laura Haugen, Public Diplomacy Associate.

This year, an interesting celebration included activities like photobooth, headshots, YES trivia competition, and Spirit Week, as well as sharing experiences and project results from last year's IDEAL workshop.

We had a lot of fun and are glad we gathered so many participants on this special day!





# YES Appreciation Day





## National Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration

In October, the YES Abroad cohort, YES alumni and office staff had a lovely evening learning about the National Hispanic Heritage Month from our YES Abroad student Valeria!

Gracias Valeria, for sharing your family's customs, favorite dishes and traditions from Mexico and teaching us about the contributions of the Hispanic and Latin communities to the USA, and the world!





# YES Abroad

## Education USA Volunteering Activities

In early October, YES Abroad cohort volunteered to help with the Education USA promotion activities at their annual EducationUSA College Fair. The students helped prepare the event, worked at the registration table and entrance, and took photos. The following day, Benji and Valeria assisted EducationUSA staff on a tour of Sarajevo with the U.S. college representatives.



# YES Abroad

## A Bosnian Halloween Extravaganza

For Halloween, the YES Abroad cohort, with YES alumni, and school friends, organized a Halloween event at the American Corner Sarajevo. Activities included watching a horror movie, playing games, pumpkin carvings, painting, and listening to music with local youth.





# YES Abroad

## A Bosnian Halloween Extravaganza Cont.

Before the Halloween celebration at the American Corner in Sarajevo on October 31, YES Abroad students Binisha, Delaney, and Valeria held a presentation about Halloween in their host school, Cetvrta gimnazija. Presentations included the history and customs of this U.S. holiday.



# YES Abroad

## Cultural Excursion to Travnik

On October 28, our YES Abroad cohort visited the town of Travnik as part of their cultural enrichment activities!

The students had the chance to try Travnik's *cevapi*, drink traditional Bosnian coffee at "Lutvina kahva," a coffeehouse that dates back to the early 19th century, see Travnik's fortress, and visit the birth house of Bosnia's Nobel prize winner for literature, Ivo Andric!

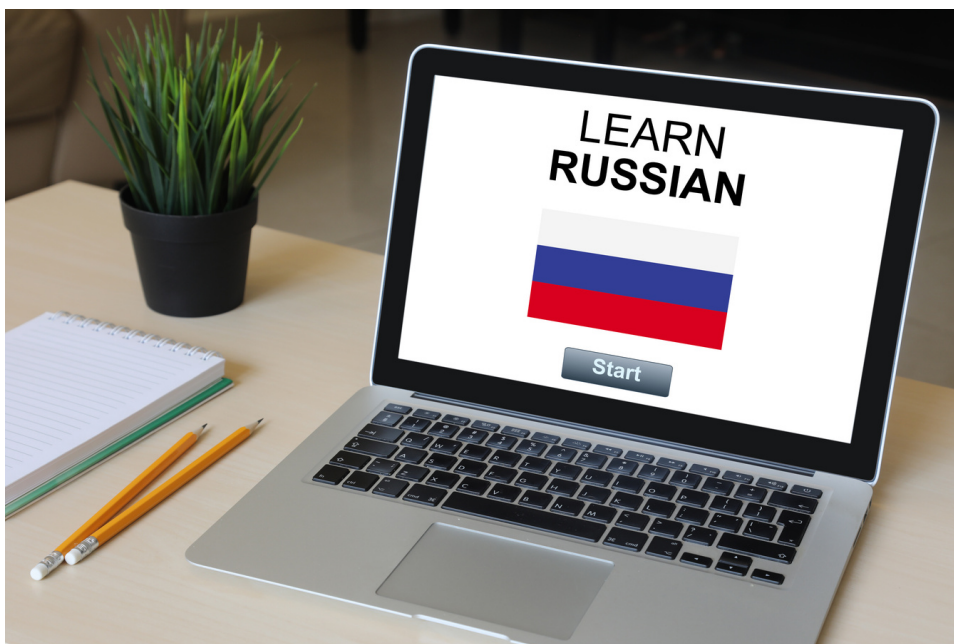




## Conclusion of the Russian Language Program

For the second time this year, the American Councils office in Sarajevo implemented a short-term intensive Russian Language program. The program concluded in October. For two months, the program participant enjoyed his stay in Sarajevo while learning the Russian language and learning about the Bosnian culture. The program included a number of cultural activities regarding Russian and Bosnian culture.

The program participant noted that he had an amazing time in Sarajevo and that he improved his knowledge of Russian. We hope to see more program participants here in the future.



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

