



IROMAG

Incomings Edition



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8th of March - An International Women's Day

The 8th of March is an International Women's Day. It's a global day to recognize and celebrate women's social, economic, cultural, and political achievements. It's also a time to raise awareness of the progress made towards achieving gender equality and the work remaining to be done.

The beginnings of International Women's Day can be traced back to the early twentieth century. It emerged from the activities of labour movements in North America and Europe and reflected a growing call for women's equal participation in society. Marking of the International Women's Day first took place on March 19, 1911, in Austria, Denmark, Germany, and Switzerland

Erasmus experience: Samir Imamovic

By IROUNMO



My name is Samir Imamović, I come from Jablanica. I am a second-year student at the Faculty of Economics at the Dzemal Bijedic University of Mostar. I arrived in Krakow on my birthday, on 18.02. It was my first day, and as a foreigner, in a new, big city I had a lot of difficulties. When I got out at the main station, Krakow looked like some kind of a concrete jungle with lots of street lights and the sound of car sirens. I got lost that day because I confused the streets - they had similar names (Rakowicka and Raclawicka) so I spent more money, only to find out later that the taxi driver cheated on me and charged me for driving more than he should. The same thing happened in the bank where I opened my bank account. My card was sent to the wrong address. The only thing worth mentioning that day was a music quartet playing in a nearby block. It was already late when I arrived home. I was exhausted. I thought to myself, " Did I really need this? I could have just stayed in Mostar." However, the next morning, I was already feeling a little better. I also met some new friends, while my colleagues from Bosnia and Herzegovina were a few days late. Already that day I went on a city tour with my new friends. Although I have to admit that all the places looked similar to me and I was not fascinated, Krakow was quite cruel to me those first few days. And so the first week somehow passed. In the meantime, my friends from Bosnia and Herzegovina arrived. By then, I got used to life in Krakow. And the music quartet from the nearby block has somewhat changed my feelings about the city I was still in conflict with. I thought that if I replaced the sound of sirens and all that noise with a piece performed by musicians - that the city would become more beautiful. Especially the old castle. After a few days of disguised hatred on my part as well as on the part of Krakow, it can say that the street musicians helped me have a truce with the city. I was able to see the 'beauty' that lives in the concrete and all these buildings and castles, as it does in rivers and mountains in my homeland, my Bosnia and Herzegovina.

BEST Mostar: HackAtHome

By IROUNMO



The world is witnessing massive changes in the world due to the pandemic: adapting to work from home, remote workplaces, online lectures, meetings... BEST Mostar was no exception, we tried to adapt the entire work to the situation as much as we could. We had to break with our tradition of organizing live events in our sunny city and switch to "online mode". But how to organize an online event, keep the motivation of the organizing team, the interest of companies to sponsor and attract the attention of future participants? After numerous brainstorming sessions, the idea was to organize an event that will be both educational and competitive.

Edu weekend is the first part of HackAtHome, and it lasted 3 days - Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. The special content was prepared for all participants, for each day of the HackAtHome.

During the organization of all events, the BEST Mostar organizing team did so-called "worst and best-case scenarios". Since it was the first time BEST Mostar was organizing, there were no high expectations in terms of both the response from the sponsors and of the interest of students. It is enough to say, that the final results exceeded the best case scenario and raised the quality of the event to an extremely high level.

For years, BEST Mostar has been providing support to young people in the form of additional education, non-formal education, creating opportunities for partnerships, cooperation, projects, etc. As a student organization BEST Mostar is aware of how difficult it is to have the talent and the potential recognized. For years, BEST Mostar creates opportunities and BEST MOSTAR is proud that the students' talents and potentials are recognized by the sponsors who are now their employees.

Elma Orucevic - Make your university days count

By IROUNMO

My name is Elma Orucevic and as a former student and associate of the Dzemal Bijedic University, of Mostar, I was asked to share some lines with current and prospective students. And former ones, in case they are - as I am, (MO)stalgic.

In a world full of opportunities, it is easy to lose oversight or to navigate through what you would like and recognize what is beneficial for you. What chances to take, and how to take seemingly life-changing decisions.

If you were born in the Balkans as I was, you carry an additional burden of self-doubts and the feeling of never being enough.



Clearly, when you look at the childhood of someone from Western Europe, you were disadvantaged and your stories of landmine education and sitting in classrooms with broken windows without heating for westerners will seem exotic and something that only belonged to the previous war generations. But the challenging childhood you had has given you persistence and a “can do” attitude you should cherish. That is why your achievements, later on, will count for so much more as your starting point in life was below zero, for many others it was much more advanced from the start.

Above all this, I would say the worst is to not take decisions and to later have regrets - for untaken trips, unspoken ideas, missed opportunities, and perfect moments that slipped our attention. Leaving a place, your family, your favorite lunch spots and bars, relationships you were building for years, your safe environment and place for which you know how it functions and breathes is not easy, but the world is so much more than what we see.

At the age of 30, I lived in six countries and speak seven languages.

I worked for the California state senate and the European parliament.

I could not say this if ten years ago I listened to my environment, self-doubts, voices from around screaming that I will never be as happy and successful if I leave the stability I have built.

Knocking on dozens of doors, leaving jobs, going through the never-ending tiring humiliating visa procedures seemed to give more credits to the doubters and “told you so” people. By the fiftieth rejection letter, you really believe that you just cause yourself the trouble and should have stayed in your peace instead of challenging your destiny.



Once you leave, you feel everything from euphoria to depression, to loss of yourself and finding yourself new all over again. It is scary as you feel at times like an abandoned, scared child in a new big city where everyone seems to know the way, except for you.

Even taking the right public transport is a challenge and when you miss another appointment because you left at the wrong station and found yourself in the rain, without an umbrella and realize you forgot the homework for your after-work language class, you just want to sit in the rain and cry. Not to mention the people behind the counter yelling in a strange language at you and you cannot even answer.

These moments come back in different forms but in the aftermath, you look back at them with a smile and you wish you would hug yourself and tell yourself that it will all be worth it, eventually.

If I had listened to the fears and self-doubts, I would have probably stayed at my 9-5 job at home and never had the dining experiences, the cries in the rain, the panic of being lost in the metro in NYC, the trembling in my body when I took high-level politicians through corridors of the European parliament as a 23-year-old Bosnian girl who barely knew where the room was.

This article is not a professional journalistic story, as I am a journalist by training, and political advisor by choice, but rather the advice of someone who has been where you are today.

It is ok to be lost and to crave security and safety. But there is more to life than that.

You will find yourself and learn to reinvent your life. The way there is never easy, and nobody will tell you, as you will just see the smiling faces from fancy dinners and receptions with “important people”.

INTERVIEW:

Sadzida Džiho

By IROUNMO

1. Can you introduce yourself?

My name is Sadžida Džiho, I come from Mostar, and I am a first-year student at the Faculty of Information Technology, Džemal Bijedic University of Mostar.

2. Why did you choose the Faculty of Information Technology?

Throughout my elementary and secondary education, mathematics, and physics were my greatest interest. In time, I started researching the IT sector, and I started liking it a lot. In addition, many other professions impressed me, and it was very difficult for me to decide what to study.

After giving it a lot of thought, I realized that IT will provide me with the best opportunities and that it is a choice that will help me improve. Through IT, I would be able to give back to my community. Once I made up my mind, it was very easy to choose the Faculty. My first choice was the Faculty of Information Technology, and in my opinion, it offers the best opportunities to its students. To put it short, I liked the entire plan and program at first sight.



3. When was the love for chess born? What has chess brought to your life?

When it comes to chess, it has brought so much joy into my life, more than I could ever describe. However, I will try to be as short as possible. Chess, like any other sport, helps develop many important qualities. I am very grateful to chess for it has taught me to accept failures and forget about the fear of failure. It has also helped me to build my self-confidence which is important for all segments of life. In addition to chess, I learned how to think critically, to carefully observe my next steps and their possible consequences, I learned to take

responsibility for my actions as I learned from my mistakes.

However, the thing I am most grateful for in terms of chess is that already at an early age, it allowed me to travel and break various prejudices. I visited a large number of cities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and made great friendships. Through all these people, I broke some of my prejudices and got to know different ways of life, which helped me a lot in expanding my horizons in all aspects of life.



4. Do you remember your first chess tournament?

At the age of 9, I started to attract attention with my game on some smaller tournaments, playing for my school in Mostar. However, my first major tournament was the cadet championship of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2012 in the category of girls under 10. Although I already won first place in the first tournament, I qualified for the national championship. I also fondly remember that first tournament in Neum, which further contributed to the whole atmosphere.

5. When we talk about chess, which, in your opinion, is your greatest success?

For every athlete, the greatest success is to represent their homeland in an International Competition. For me, the greatest success was to represent my country at the European Cadet and Junior Championships in 2016 in the category for girls under 16. I won first place at the national championship. It was the first of two times when I won the national championship, the second time was in 2021 when I was a junior. In addition, twice I was third at the cadet state championships (2015 and 2018), and once I was a vice-champion of the state and so I qualified for the world championships (2014).



6. How would you encourage young people to start with extracurricular activities?

Most young people do not want to do something outside of school/faculty. They consider it a waste of time. I want to say not only that time is not wasted, but the additional hobbies make it much easier for us to deal with the potential stress caused by learning. It also protects us from all that is negative in our environment by not allowing the negative to keep us from reaching our goals.

In the end, I would like to thank my parents for their efforts and support, my coach, Almir Mataradžić, as well as the Chess Club Mostar for their help, as well as to all those close to me that are always there for me.

BOSNIAN DICTIONARY

- TURNIR, TAKMIČENJE- TOURNAMENT
- ŠAH- CHESS
- TROFEJ- TROPHY
- POBJEDA - VICTORY
- ŠAMPION- CHAMPION

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