



TPO

TRANSKULTURNA PSIHOSOCIJALNA
OBRAZOVNA FONDACIJA - TPO

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INTRODUCTION

In 2013 TPO Foundation continued the implementation of three projects that started earlier trying to meet demands we put in front of us but also challenges we met in the field that required adequate responds. The new project “Strengthening of Women Returnees” was initiated where UNSCR 1325 has been promoted both through peace initiatives and economic strengthening of women.

When it comes to the project “Contribution to Constitutional Reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina – Equal Possibilities for Men and Women in Politics” the terrain activities were intensified particularly in rural communities where we worked with women on their political strengthening. It was important to make it possible for women to meet with councillors in the municipal councils of their municipalities and ask questions that are important for their communities. Meanwhile, it was important to show women in rural areas of B&H that women politicians are ready to visit them and strengthen the dialogue of women voters and women politicians and show that politicians were chosen to serve people. Thanks to that cooperation local partners managed to prepare gender action plans (GAP) for their municipalities that have to be a constituent part of municipal developing strategies. Beside political strengthening women were educated about development of business plans and were granted donations to make them come true.

The themes of “Political Academy for Youth” that was initiated in 2012 in cooperation with Perpetuum Mobile from Banja Luka were elaborated with numerous lecturers who tried to bring closer constitutional-legal themes, concepts of civil and political rights and gender equality to young activists. The first extensive document with the analysis of constitutional-legal framework of B&H and proposal of gender sensitive amendments was prepared and the initiative “Women Citizens for Constitution Changes” was formed.

TPO team continued to work on research and collecting of life stories of women peace makers from B&H within the project “Women, Peace and Reconciliation” where we have for the first time documented stories of local women-activists who were recognised by their communities due to their peace work.

In cooperation with four (4) municipalities and partner organisations the work on the project “Gender Inclusive Communities” was continued in order to sensitize young people of gender themes and recognition of values of gender equality in their own community progress.

This was the year in which we did lots of work and initiated numerous processes for which we hope will give positive results.

I thank TPO Foundation team, partner organisations and all co-operators.

Programme director

Zilka Spahić Šiljak



ABOUT US

TPO Foundation's mission is to contribute to the development of a democratic civil society, increased awareness on gender equality, establishment of partnership ethics and promotion of accountability and responsibility in family, society and political life in B&H, via implementation of educational, research, psychosocial and intercultural program activities.

TPO Foundation was developed from HNI TPO organisation network with headquarters in Amsterdam, present in B&H from 1998, implementing projects in the field of psychosocial care, education, reconciliation and dialogue among returnees population. Since 2004, by HNI TPO Amsterdam decision, local team in B&H works as an independent nongovernmental organisation under the name of TPO Foundation, however, formal registration was completed in 2006.

During 2004, TPO Foundation as a local organisation, directed its activities toward educational and research projects in cooperation with B&H, European and USA universities.

Mission realization

Education - Cooperation with universities and other organisations in implementing B&H education reform. Establishment of education centres in cooperation with educational and cultural institutions offering programs for intercultural, multi-religious and civic education, predominantly for women and youth. Preparation of curricula, syllabi, and training materials in cooperation with state institutions and other organisations.

Research - Assessments in the field of education, human rights, gender equality, dialogue, and peace building with the purpose of preparing adequate policies and specific project activities, always taking into consideration gender perspective and specificities of the cultural context.

Gender Equality - Promotion and implementation of local and international standards on gender equality through various types of education and raising awareness about these issues in local communities. Special focus is on development of local gender-inclusive communities that respond to the needs of both women and men.

Public Advocacy - Advocacy for changes in action policies and adoption of new policies with the aim of developing democratic civil society and gender equality, but also raising awareness of the society about the importance of active involvement and participation of citizens in decision making processes. Advocating for gender sensitisation of B&H legislation.

Capacity Building - Empowering individual capacities of women and youth, as well as organizational capacities of local organizations, in areas of gender equality, human rights, economic empowerment, dialogue, and peace building. Support to education reform, health care, and social rehabilitation by training professionals and promoting user's initiatives, and providing psychosocial support to women, children, and youth.

Intercultural Dialogue - Promotion of intercultural dialogue, peace building, and reconciliation in cooperation with relevant NGOs, both national and international. Organization of public debates, round tables, and workshops, as well as meetings of artists, academics, and NGO activists capable of providing respective solutions for common action and co-existence. Organisation of meetings in small local communities with the aim of gathering representatives of divided communities in B&H and opening a dialogue.



MAIN OUTCOMES

- More than 25 young activists and politicians for the discourse of constitutional changes and gender equality were empowered
- Analysis of constitutional – legal documents of B&H and Proposal of gender sensitive amendments of B&H Constitution were produced
- Parliamentarians of FB&H Parliament were sensitized to discuss proposed amendments
- More than 600 citizens in local communities were sensitized for understanding of constitutional changes in local context
- Media were sensitized about women contribution to constitutional changes
- More than 2000 citizens were sensitized about importance of supporting women at elections during 11 street actions in 11 cities of B&H
- More than 1000 women in rural communities were strengthened for civil and political rights through the cycle of workshops in 54 villages in B&H
- 11 GAPs designed in 11 municipalities
- 11 municipal councils in 11 municipalities were sensitized to make and adopt their GAPs and include them in developing strategies of their municipalities
- Manual “My Business Chance, My Idea” was published
- More than 200 women in 10 municipalities were empowered to design business plans
- 10 women and their families were economically empowered and more than 10 grants for 10 best business plans in 10 municipalities were granted
- More than 600 citizens were sensitized through 6 peace initiatives that were implemented in 6 municipalities
- 6 women and their families were economically empowered due to 6 grants they received in 6 municipalities
- “Leadership – Strengthening of Leadership Skills in Local Community” manual was published
- More than 120 young people in eight municipalities were empowered for leadership in local community and gender perspective in leadership
- Young people were sensitized for activism in local community through initiatives of young people for changes
- Book “Shining Humanity – Life Stories of Women Peace makers in B&H” was published in BCS



Cities/municipalities in which TPO Foundation implemented activities in 2013 are: Banja Luka, Zenica, Bijeljina, Bratunac, Tuzla, Sarajevo, Bosansko Grahovo, Bihać, Sanski Most, Mostar, Gradiška, Široki Brijeg, Konjic.

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I EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEN AND WOMEN IN POLITICS

The project “Contribution to Constitutional Reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina – Equal Opportunities for Women and Men in Politics”, which is supported by Swiss Embassy and Human Rights Centre at University of Sarajevo (HRC), began in July 2012, and was conducted in two phases. While the first period lasted from March 2012 to December 2012, the second one lasted from January 2013 to December 2013. The overall objective of this project was to empower young male and female politicians in the area of gender politics, and support young female leaders to be more competitive in politics, but also raising awareness of the female electorate in rural areas about importance of their active participation in public life through the use of basic human rights and freedoms. TPO Foundation implemented the project in cooperation with several organizations: Udružene žene Banja Luka, Medica Zenica, Lara Bijeljina, Forum žena Bratunac, Vive Žene Tuzla, Kult Sarajevo, Udruženje građanki Grahovo, Glas žene Bihać, Krajiška suza Sanski Most, Forma F Mostar and Perpetuum Mobile Banja Luka. After initial activities in 2012 that involved the organization of a press conference and PR training, the beginning of the campaign “Vote for Women”, multiple street actions in eleven cities within this campaign, the first module of Political Academy for young politicians, TPO team continued to work on the following activities:

Activity 1 Political Academy for young men and women in politics (module II)

Political Academy for young female politicians was held within the project “Equal Opportunities for Women and Men in Politics”, organized by TPO Foundation and Perpetuum Mobile. The first module entitled “Political Participation of Young People and their Role in Creation of Gender Sensitive Policies“ was organised from November 29 to December 02, 2012 in Banja Luka. After the first module, the second module of Political Academy, entitled “Developing Skills, Networking and Application of Theoretical Knowledge”, was organised from



January 31 to February 03, 2013 in Sarajevo. 25 best young female and male politicians who participated in one-day workshops on gender sensitive policies which took place in 10 cities of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2012, namely in Banja Luka, Sarajevo, Bosansko Grahovo, Bihać, Sanski Most, Mostar, Zenica, Tuzla, Bratunac and Bijeljina attended the academy. The academy was designed as a participatory model of learning about diverse activities and to enable young people to apply theory in practice within their local communities. The aim of the second module was the introduction and understanding of the basic concepts of gender terminology and analysis of gender relations in the B&H context and the context of masculine power and control. Particular emphasis was put on achievements of the women's movement in B&H. The training encouraged the participants to strive for amendments of existing local gender action plans and their integration in the official local development strategy. During the second module, participants had the opportunity to learn more about skill-development, networking, and the application of theoretical knowledge.

Activity 2 Meeting between women politicians and women voters

In addition to the education of young male and female politicians in the Academy, educational workshops for women were held, targeting 54 rural areas in order to ensure their active participation in public and political life, particularly in the context of the forthcoming elections. The partner organizations held a cycle of three educational one-day workshops in every rural area. The goal of educational workshops and campaigns in rural areas was to improve the capacity of women in making decisions, as they have been socially excluded groups from political life in Bosnia and Herzegovina and expanding civil participation in elections as well as in the pre-electoral period.



Women were not only brought in touch with female politicians of their municipality, they also got the opportunity to discuss various topics related to women's participation in the political process, budget issues and public life in their municipality.

The meetings were organized by the following organisations and were held in the places listed below:

- CA Grahovo in Bosansko Grahovo
- Udružene žene Banja Luka in Banja Luka
- WA Krajiška suza in Sanski Most
- KULT Ilidža in Ilidža



Activity 3 Visits of female voters to the local councils

Partner organizations organized visits of the female voters in rural areas and local councils. Voters visited the following local councils: Municipal Council Gradiška, Municipal Council Široki Brijeg, Municipal Council Bratunac, Municipal Council Bihać, Municipal Council Sanski Most, Municipal Council Centre Ilidža, Municipal Council Zenica, Municipal Council Tuzla, Municipal Council Bosansko Grahovo and Municipal Council Bijeljina.

Activity 4 Five public meetings between female voters and politicians in rural areas

Within the project “Equal opportunities for Men and Women in Politics” TPO’s partner organizations organized visits of local politicians to female voters in rural areas. In this way, a direct dialogue was established between elected female and male politicians with female voters in order to understand their needs better. 48 public debates were held. The guidelines for communication and



interaction between female politicians and female voters were prepared on the basis of the debate that was held. The participants discussed local community problems and how to adopt a local Gender Action Plan. For instance, WA Lara Bijeljina organized five public debates on this theme in Nova Janja, Stara Janja, Velika Obarska, Amajlije and Koranj. CA Grahovo

organized five public debates between women voters from rural areas and politicians from Bosansko Grahovo in meeting in Maleševci, Peć/Resanovci, Lug, Obljaj and Novo Naselje.

Association KULT Sarajevo organized another five public debates between politicians and young people in Sarajevo.

Activity 5 Educating women in business plan preparation



Within the project “Contribution to Constitutional Reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina – Equal Opportunities for Women and Men in Politics in B&H” TPO Foundation Sarajevo prepared a manual “My Business Idea, My Chance” in order to strengthen the education of women in rural areas and other communities and to empower them to start their own businesses, but also for active socio-political engagement. The manual is the result of authors Nadira Duraković, Danka Zelić and Emina Abrahamsdotter. This is one of the ways to encourage and assist women entrepreneurship in B&H, because women possess only 1% of world assets. The document is available on TPO Foundation website: <http://tpo.ba/bos/dokument/poduzetnice-web-1dio.pdf>

Within this activity ten two-day workshops were held entitled “Educating women in Writing Business Plans”. Workshop participants were women from rural areas who participated in three-day workshops and the best ones were chosen to participate in an additional two-day business workshop. The two-day workshop was aimed to familiarizing participants with the concept of entrepreneurship and its importance for improvement of the position of women in society and to enable them to identify business opportunities as well as shaping their business idea into a business plan.



Activity 6 Awards for three best business plans

After ten two-day workshops on educating women in writing business plans, seminar participants were given the task to develop their own business plan at home. After the collection of business ideas and business plans, TPO’s partner organizations chose and awarded three best business plans. Top ten business plans were awarded 2000 KM to start their own businesses. TPO’s partner organizations continued to monitor the implementation of the awarded business ideas. Through this activity, 180 young women were taught to prepare a business plan and strengthened their capacities for further economic empowerment through the implementation of their business plans.



Activity 7 Designing local gender action plan (GAP)

Within two years of implementation of the project “Contribution to Constitutional Reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina – Equal Opportunities for Women and Men in Politics” TPO’s partner organizations carried out a variety of activities, and since April 2013 they have been actively working on the development of local gender action plans.

In cooperation with Medica Zenica and Udružene žene Banja Luka, TPO Foundation conducted a two-day workshop that was held in Vlačić with the title “Equal Opportunities for Women and Men in Politics” on April 25-26, 2013. Trainers at the workshop were Ms. Besima Borić, Ms. Minja Damjanović and Mr. Nenad Galić.



The second two-day workshop was organized for partner organizations, representatives of youth who attended Political Academy and representatives of the Gender Commission or the municipality on June 24-25, 2013 in order to present the activities undertaken so far on the development of Local Gender Action Plan and planning further activities. 31 people attended two-day training and the participants agreed on upcoming commitments and to create a media campaign.

Partner organizations in collaboration with local authorities initiated activities to prepare local gender action plans in the municipalities where they existed as revision of existing action plans. The creation of local gender action plans was initiated in the following municipalities of Bosnia and Herzegovina:

- Bihać Municipality
- Bijeljina
- Bosansko Grahovo Municipality
- Ilidža Municipality
- Laktaši Municipality
- Široki Brijeg Municipality
- Tuzla Municipality
- Zenica Municipality



The revision of local gender action plans was initiated in the following municipalities of Bosnia and Herzegovina:

- Bratunac Municipality
- Sanski Most Municipality

By the end of 2013 three local gender action plans were adopted by the relevant Municipal Councils:

- Gender Action Plan of Bihać Municipality 2014-2016
- Gender Action Plan of Tuzla Municipality 2014-2016
- Gender Action Plan of Bosansko Grahovo Municipality 2014-2016.



Activity 8 Promotion of the local gender action plans

One of the activities was the joint campaign "With GAP in My Municipality toward Equal Opportunities for Women and Men" of NGO partners and municipalities whose aim was promotion of gender action plans, raising public awareness of the importance of the adoption and implementation of gender action plans in local communities, and motivating citizens and municipal councilors to support the adoption.



A joint campaign began on November 20, 2013 as well as the street actions, distribution of promotional materials and media presentation of gender action plans in ten municipalities (Bihać, Bijeljina, Bosansko Grahovo, Bratunac, Ilidža, Laktaši, Sanski Most, Široki Brijeg, Tuzla and Zenica) were initiated. The street actions were attended by representatives of partner organizations, volunteers and representatives of the individual municipality and the media. The aim was to familiarize citizens with the activities regarding the preparation of local gender action plans and to support their adoption. As part of the media campaign, 12 partner organizations were followed in 29 different media in the period from November 19 to November 21, 2013 with 135 minutes of broadcasted video and audio content and 7 ¼ pages of article related to this issue.



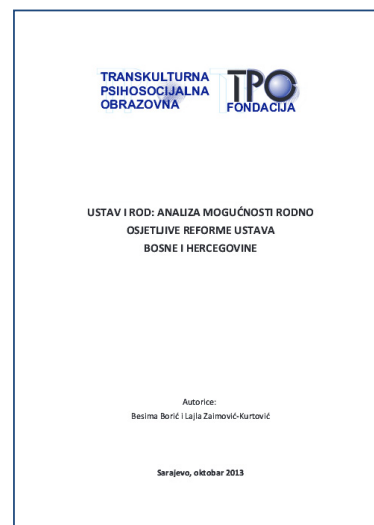
Activity 9 Constitution and Gender: Analysis of the Possibility of Gender Sensitive Reform of the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Within the project “Contribution of Constitutional Reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina – Equal Opportunities for Women and Men in Politics” a study “The Constitution and Gender Analysis of the Possibilities of Gender Sensitive Reform of the Constitution” was created and prepared by Besima Borić and Lajla Zaimović- Kurtović.

The basic idea of this study was to review the current initiatives for the constitutional reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the definition of gender aspects of constitutional reform and proposing recommendations for a gender sensitive constitution. As a result of the research, a set of suggested amendments to B&H Constitution was prepared that would allow the aforementioned gender sensitive reform.

The study provides a detailed overview of constitutional regulations related to gender issue, since the Constitution does not directly treat sex and gender as the basis for the elimination of discrimination, and it also provides an overview of B&H legislative framework and non-constitutional mechanisms that strengthen the gender aspect and its practical implementation in Bosnia and analyzes the potential existence of past initiatives to reform the Constitution based on gender. The document is available on TPO Foundation website:

<http://tpo.ba/inicijativa/dokumenti/TPO%20Ustav%20i%20rod%20%20Analiza%20mogucnosti%20rodno%20osjetljive%20reform%20Ustava%20BiH,%20oktobar%202013.pdf>



Activity 10 Seminar “Constitutional Reforms and Gender Perspective in B&H and European Practice”

Three-day seminar on constitutional reform and gender perspective in B&H and European Practice was organised in Konjic in the period from August 12 to August 15, 2013. The seminar goal was to familiarize participants with the constitutional reform through the prism of gender equality in the regional and European countries as well as the preparation of the partner organisations for the dialogue in the process of constitutional reform in B&H as well as the platform for the Women Network members. The seminar was organised for 11 partner NGOs that participated in project implementation. Lectures and workshops on the seminar were held by the experts in the field of constitutional and international law, politics and non-governmental sector as well as women who participated in the reform process in their countries.

Activity 11 Initiative “Citizens for Constitutional Amendments”



TPO Foundation, Helsinki Citizens' Assembly Banja Luka and United Women Banja Luka in cooperation with other partner organizations launched the initiative “Female Citizens for Constitutional Amendments” and the suggested amendments to the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina from a gender perspective and women's platform priorities are presented together in one document entitled “Platform of Women's Priorities for Constitutional Changes with the Amendments to the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina from a Gender Perspective”.

The joint initiative was part of three different projects:

- “Contribution to Constitutional Reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina – Equal Opportunities for Women and Men in Politics” (Embassy of Switzerland)
- “Woman and Law Today” (“Kvinna till Kvinna” Sweden)
- “Constitutional reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina: The Inclusion of Civil Society”(USAID).

The document containing the suggested amendments is available on TPO Foundation website:

<http://tpo.ba/inicijativa/dokumenti/P%20Ust%20proCol%20Final%20Web%20.pdf>



Within the initiative “Female Citizens for Constitutional Amendments” a joint campaign was organized with the aim to present priorities and specific proposals to the Constitution in public. In order to improve the visibility of the campaign and provide a message that numerous organizations are involved in all activities with the same

goal, TPO Foundation prepared proposals for a logo of the initiative which organizations accepted and it is now applied on a number of promotional materials. TPO Foundation designed and printed 900 leaflets and 3 banners for the project which TPO used and distributed during the different activities within the campaign.



Activity 12 Press conference in Sarajevo

On October 08, 2013 TPO Foundation organized a press conference in Sarajevo at which the members of the initiative “Female Citizens for Constitutional Amendments” presented a joint document “Platform of Women's Priorities for Constitutional Amendments to the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina from a Gender Perspective”. Attendees were addressed by members of the initiative Svetlana Marković, Besima Borić, Lajla Zaimović-Kurtović and Gordana Vidović and presented five priorities for the reform of the Constitution and gender-responsive proposal for amendments to the Constitution.



Activity 13 Presentation of the documents to the Gender Equality Board of the Parliamentary Assembly of B&H



On October 22, 2013 at the session of the Gender Equality Board of the B&H Parliamentary Assembly, the initiative “Female Citizens for Constitutional Amendments” presented a joint document “Platform of Women's Priorities for Constitutional Changes with the Amendments to the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina from a Gender Perspective”.

The Board's 13th session held on December 18, 2013 considered the document by the initiative “Female Citizens for the Constitutional Amendments” and gave its support to the amendments II-VI, VIII, and XII.

Activity 14 Round-table discussion in Modriča



On October 24, 2013, the initiative “Female Citizens of Constitutional Amendments” organized a round table in Modriča at which a joint document “Platform of Women's Priorities for Constitutional Amendments to the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina from a Gender Perspective” was presented.

Activity 15 Round-table discussion in Bratunac

In November 2013, within the initiative “Female Citizens for Constitutional Amendments”, a round table discussion was organized in Bratunac at which the joint document “Platform of Women's Priorities for Constitutional Amendments to the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina from a Gender Perspective” was presented. The round table was attended by a large number of participants, including representatives of NGOs, the members of Bratunac Municipal Assembly and Srebrenica Municipal Assembly. The initiative and documents received a positive feedback from the participants, who actively participated in the discussion.



Activity 16 Round-table discussion in Sarajevo

On December 23, 2013 the representatives of the initiative “Female Citizens for Constitutional Amendments” organized a round table discussion in Sarajevo in the premises of ACIPS. Representatives of academic communities, civil society organizations and students were present and the document “Platform of Women’s Priorities for Constitutional Amendments to the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina from a Gender Perspective” was presented.

The basic values and principles of this very document were emphasized at the promotion and those are constitutional amendments from a gender perspective that will guarantee better protection of human rights and freedoms that promise improvement of life standard and political stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



II EMPOWERING WOMEN RETURNEES IN B&H



The project supported by Royal Norwegian Embassy in Sarajevo, was aimed at the contribution to improvement of social inclusion of women returnees through concrete measures for employment and participation at decision-

making positions and peace initiatives. The majority of women returnees believe that unemployment is their biggest problem and emphasize a greater necessity for additional training and education that would empower them with additional qualifications or retraining. Most returnees, both men and women, feel neglected and ignored by the society in general, since the society seems unable to provide them with employment opportunities and skills. The main objectives of the projects are to improve the quality of the life of those women through education and training for employment/self-employment and to increase their participation in the decision-making process, to facilitate the dialogue and the networking between NGOs and public institutions in the decision-making process, and to implement UNSCR 1325 Gender Action Plan for B&H through raising awareness on importance of women rights in peace, security and reconciliation. Regarding these objectives, TPO Foundation cooperated with six following NGOs: CA Bosansko Grahovo, WA Li-Woman, Forma F Mostar, Krajiška suza Sanski Most, Forum žena Bratunac and Lara Bijeljina. Together they organized six job skill trainings, accompanied by small grants for the business plans, six seminars on UNSCR 1325 – Women, Peace and Security, accompanied by small grants for the best six peace initiatives. All activities were implemented from January to December 2013.

Activity 1 One-day seminars on UNSCR Resolution 1325 – Women, Peace and Security



Within the project “Empowerment of Women Returnees in B&H” six seminars on UNSCR 1325 – Women, Peace and Security were organized for women returnees. Seminars were held in Bratunac, Glamoč, Bosansko Grahovo, Sanski Most, Bijeljina and Blagaj. The first part of the seminar was dedicated to familiarize participants with UNSCR Resolution 1325, which was adopted on October 31, 2000 by the United Nations Security Council – the body responsible for

international peace and security – while the second part of the seminar dealt with the information of the participants about Gender Action Plans and the possibilities of their application in practice. The seminar discussed the general recommendations of the CEDAW Committee (25 recommendations) too, as well as the general principles of non-discrimination.



Activity 2 Awards and implementation of the best peace initiatives

After one-day seminars on UNSCR Resolution 1325, participants from each seminar had the opportunity to submit their proposals for local peace initiatives. Six best peace initiatives were selected and awarded with small grants in order to ensure implementation of these initiatives.



Activity 3 Education of women returnees on how to make a business plan

Within the project “Empowerment of Women Returnees in B&H” six two-day trainings were held in order to teach the participants how to develop a business plan. The trainings were entitled “Women Returnees – How to Write a Business Plan“. The goal of the training was to familiarize participants with the concept of entrepreneurship and its significance for the improvement of women’s position in society and to enable them to identify business opportunities as well as shaping their business idea into a business plan.



Activity 4 Award for the best business plan

Following the two-day training themed “Women Returnees – How to Write a Business Plan“, participants were given the task to develop their own business plans. After the collection of business ideas and business plans, partner organizations chose and awarded the best business plans. Six best business plans were given funds in order to help the winners to start their own businesses. Partner organizations have continued to monitor the implementation of the awarded business ideas.

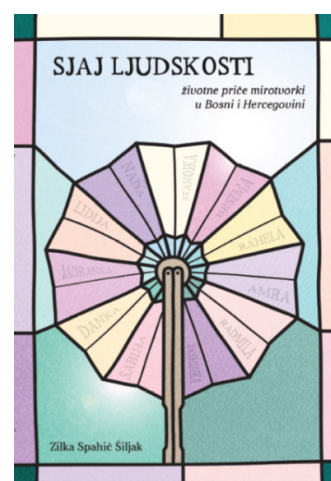
III WOMEN, PEACE AND RECONCILIATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

TPO Foundation implemented the project “Women, Peace and Reconciliation in B&H” with the aim of highlighting the role of Bosnian heroines who have been working on peacebuilding and reconciliation in the last 20 years, but the government and the public did not properly record and recognize their efforts and successes. The project “Women, Peace and Reconciliation in B&H” which began in April 2011 and was completed in September 2013, was financially supported by UN Women. Partner organizations in this project are: Medica (Zenica), Udružene žene (Banja Luka), Krajiška suza association (Sanski Most), CA Grahovo (Bosansko Grahovo), Lara (Bijeljina), WA Nahla (Sarajevo), and Forum žena (Bratunac).

Involvement of women and activities in the field of peacebuilding and reconciliation are an important part of history, but there were no relevant studies and publications on peace makers who advocated justice, peace, and who witnessed active citizenship.

Activity 1 Book “Shining Humanity – Life Stories of Women Peace Makers in Bosnia and Herzegovina” by Zilka Spahić-Šiljak

As a result of the project “Women, Peace and Reconciliation in B&H” the book “Shining Humanity – Life Stories of Peace Makers in Bosnia and Herzegovina” by Zilka Spahić-Šiljak was promoted. This research deals with the lives of eleven women, women leaders and peace makers who have different ethnic, religious, and non-religious identities and who were very active in the past two decades in peace building and reconciliation in B&H. All peacemakers in this book emphasize their roles in establishing and nurturing relationships among people that are the key to peace work. These women were tireless in rebuilding broken relationships and making new ones between silent, helpless and marginalized citizens. They recognized the key links between people; not only on mutual level, but also that peace can be built on social, institutional and global levels. Women who are selected for interviews in this book come from six B&H cities: Sarajevo (Rahela Džidić, Jadranka Miličević, Besima Borić and Amra Pandžo), Banja Luka (Nada Golubović and Lidija Živanović), Zenica (Sabiha Husić), Bosansko Grahovo (Danka Zelić), Bijeljina (Radmila Žigić), Bratunac (Stanojka Tešić) and Mostar (Jasminka Rebac). Most of them are active in women’s organizations and are prominent activists in the field of human rights.



Activity 2 Book promotion “Shining Humanity – Life Stories of Peace Makers in Bosnia and Herzegovina

On December 09, 2013 at the UN House in Sarajevo, the book “Shining Humanity –Life Stories of Peace Makers in Bosnia and Herzegovina” by Zilka Spahić-Šiljak was promoted. The speakers were Professor Emerita Svenka Savić from Novi Sad, Nejra Nuna Čengiđ, and instead of Professor Svetlana Slapsak Aida Spahić spoke on the basis of her review. The head of UN Women office in Sarajevo, Anne-Marie Esper Larsen addressed the present ones.

