

## Five initiative groups are working towards becoming new community foundations in Bosnia and Herzegovina



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The Call for the program ***Our Local Foundation-Community has a say!*** in Bosnia and Herzegovina was launched in December 2020 and, after two months of intense promotion of the Call, communication with potential applicants and two online events, Trag Foundation received 60 applications from 41 communities across the country.

Once the primary scoping of the applications was completed, Trag selected nine groups for further interviews, providing groups with an opportunity to present their ideas regarding the establishment of community foundations in geographical areas that they come from.

Based on these conversations, Trag selected five informal groups to be included in the program implementation, coming from the following communities: **Sarajevo, Bijeljina, Zenica, the region of Birač and the municipalities surrounding the mountain of Borja.**

The group from **Sarajevo** consists of several people of different professional backgrounds, but with the common goal of contributing to the development of their city by providing financial and other types of support to citizens' initiatives, addressing various important issues in their surroundings. Harris, Amra, Vedad, Adna, Adi, Irma, Adnan, Elida, Azra, Samra, Andrea, Lejla, Maja and Kenan are members of an informal group who will try to connect people who have resources with those who have ideas on how these resources can be put to use, to ensure the advancement of the community in which they live.

Bojana, Maja and Vladimir are the people who want to make **Bijeljina** a better place by using the community foundation as a catalyst for citizens' engagement. With their credibility, the knowledge and the experience that they have in various fields, the three of them plan to expand their group and engage their fellow citizens in community foundation building through intense promotion of local philanthropy.

The idea behind establishing a community foundation in **Zenica** comes from Amra, Zerina, Berina, Azra, Lejla, Alma and Jenita, who want to connect people from different



walks of life and inspire their solidarity and cooperation, as well as joint action to achieve a lasting change. The diverse experiences that they gained so far will serve as a basis for achieving their long-term goal - a community foundation in their city.

Stana, Valentina and Željana come from two municipalities in the **Birač region** (Srebrenica and Bratunac) and they are motivated to build a lasting structure that would keep on having a positive impact on their community. They plan to further expand their group and work together with people from the neighboring municipalities of Milići, Vlasenica, Šekovici and Osmaci. Like all others, the three of them will aim to develop the community foundation in the long run, enhancing its greater resilience to various internal and external challenges, and for the benefit of the communities to which they belong.

Mount **Borja** stretches towards Čelinac, Kotor Varoš, Kneževo and Teslić, and each of these four places is represented in the initiative group. Stefan, Marko, Dijana and Djordje came together with the intention of building a community foundation in the region between Doboj and Banja Luka, that will simultaneously connect people and inspire them to solidarity and cooperation, as well as joint action to achieve long-term changes in their surroundings.

These five communities will have the opportunity to build their community foundations in the coming period, by enabling the informal groups **to raise €15,000** from individuals and companies that the **Trag Foundation will double**, thus establishing their first grantmaking budget. After this amount is raised, informal groups will formally register the **community foundation**, aiming to use it to contribute to social changes in the long run. Throughout the process, Trag will support the groups on their journeys towards independent functioning.

The program ***Our Local Foundation-Community has a say!*** was launched in 2019, with the support of the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation. This program intends to support the establishment, full functioning and networking of community foundations in the Western Balkans region over the next 10 years. After Serbia, this program was opened in Bosnia and Herzegovina with the support of the Porticus Foundation. For more information, please visit [www.lokalnefondacije.ba](http://www.lokalnefondacije.ba) or contact [lokalnefondacije@tragfondacija.org](mailto:lokalnefondacije@tragfondacija.org).