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THE MARYLAND-BOSNIA AND  
HERZEGOVINA EXCHANGE COUNCIL

*Inaugural  
International Gala*

EVENT PROGRAM

DATE: FEBRUARY 12, 2026

TIME: 6 P.M. - 9:30 P.M

LOCATION: THE WESTIN ANNAPOLIS,  
MARYLAND

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The Maryland Bosnia and Herzegovina Exchange Council is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization with approved federal tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

Our EIN number is: 39-5060022

Maryland State Charity SOS ID: 54110

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# WORDS OF WELCOME

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Dear guests,

Welcome to the 2026 MBHEC Inaugural International Gala! Tonight, in Annapolis, we come together to celebrate a partnership that has grown over more than two decades and to mark a new chapter in civilian, cultural, educational, and economic collaboration between Maryland and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Two years ago, the Maryland–Bosnia and Herzegovina Exchange Council (MBHEC) was established to help translate long-standing institutional ties into practical, people-to-people exchange, grounded in community priorities and strengthened through collaboration across universities, local governments, the private sector, and diaspora networks. Our work complements the Maryland–Bosnia and Herzegovina State Partnership Program by expanding the civilian dimension of this relationship and building durable frameworks for cooperation that deliver tangible outcomes for both communities.

Looking ahead, our focus is on deepening what we have started: strengthening cultural and sister-city collaboration, expanding higher-education and youth exchange pathways, advancing dialogue and knowledge exchange, and creating new opportunities for economic and innovation cooperation. Just as importantly, we are committed to building the institutional strength needed to sustain this work over time, with clear coordination, thoughtful partnerships, and a shared commitment to impact.

Thank you for being part of this evening and for helping shape the next era of partnership between Maryland and Bosnia and Herzegovina. We are grateful for your support, and we look forward to what we will build together.

Sincerely,

Azra Kačapor Nurkić, PhD   Emir Nurkić Kačapor, PhD   Adnan Hadrović, M.Sc.  
*MBHEC Co-Founders and Board Members*

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# ABOUT THE GALA

The Maryland–Bosnia and Herzegovina Exchange Council (MBHEC) is proud to host its Inaugural International Gala, celebrating over two decades of partnership between Maryland and Bosnia and Herzegovina and marking an exciting new chapter in civilian, cultural, educational, and economic cooperation.

## *Building Bridges, Honoring Legacy, Investing in the Future*

This Gala celebrates more than 22 years of partnership rooted in the Maryland–Bosnia and Herzegovina State Partnership Program and strengthened through MBHEC’s growing civilian mission. The evening brings together leaders from government, diplomacy, academia, business, and the Bosnian American community to honor shared accomplishments and forge new pathways for collaboration.

## OUR SPONSORS AND PARTNERS

We thank our partners and sponsors for their support in making the 2026 MBHEC Inaugural International Gala possible.



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BEJTOVIC  
COMMUNICATIONS

Communications Partner

# AGENDA

## RECEPTION

5:45–6:45 PM VIP Reception

6:00–6:50 PM Guest Arrival & Registration

6:50–7:00 PM Ballroom Seating & Dinner Begins

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## GALA EVENING OFFICIAL PROGRAM

### OPENING AND WELCOME REMARKS

7:00–7:10 PM Opening & National Anthems of the United States of America and of Bosnia and Herzegovina

7:10–7:20 PM Remarks by Deputy Secretary Michael Lore, Esq.

7:20–7:30 PM Remarks by H.E. Željko Komšić

7:30–7:45 PM Dinner – First Course

7:45–8:00 PM Musical Program Tribute to Jagoda Flory

8:00–8:15 PM Dinner – Main Course

### AWARD AND RECOGNITION CEREMONY

8:15–8:20 PM Flower of Srebrenica Recognition

8:20–8:35 PM Lifetime Achievement Award – Congressman  
Steny H. Hoyer

8:35–8:50 PM Lifetime Achievement Award – Senator Ben Cardin

8:50–9:00 PM Closing Musical Segment

9:00–9:10 PM Dessert

9:10–9:25 PM Closing Remarks & Program Close

## END OF PROGRAM

# OUR HISTORY

The Maryland-Bosnia and Herzegovina Exchange Council (MBHEC) was established in November 2023 to formalize and expand civilian cooperation between the State of Maryland and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Its creation marked the twentieth anniversary of the Maryland-Bosnia and Herzegovina State Partnership Program, which since 2003 has linked the Maryland National Guard with Bosnian counterparts through defense and civil-military collaboration.

While that partnership has long served as a foundation for mutual trust, its focus remained primarily on security cooperation. The establishment of MBHEC responded to a shared recognition by leaders in both governments that the partnership's next stage required a sustained civilian dimension. The Council was therefore designed as a coordinating platform to connect Maryland and Bosnia and Herzegovina through education, culture, commerce, public administration, and community engagement.

MBHEC operates as a bridge between institutions and communities. It facilitates exchanges among universities, local governments, private sector actors, and diaspora networks, translating strategic cooperation into practical initiatives that can benefit citizens on both sides of the Atlantic.



*MBHEC at the Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Maryland-Bosnia and Herzegovina State Partnership Program (SPP) with MD Secretary of State Susan C. Lee and the SPP Leadership*

# EVENING HOST



**UNA BEJTOVIĆ**  
AWARD-WINNING  
COMMUNICATIONS EXPERT

Una Bejtović is an award-winning Communication Expert, International Public Presentation Skills Trainer, and Master of Ceremonies with over 30 years of experience in public relations, media, and strategic communication. Since 2014, she has led her own full-service public relations agency, Bejtovic Communications, which has successfully implemented hundreds of complex communication projects for private sector clients, non-governmental organizations, government institutions, and international organizations.

Una is a guest lecturer at several universities, where she combines academic insight with extensive professional practice. Through her public appearances, lectures, and media engagement, she consistently advocates for the advancement of women in society, promoting human rights, civil courage, and universal human values. In recognition of her outstanding contribution to the communication industry in Bosnia and Herzegovina, she received the Woman.Comm of the Year – Special Star Award in 2023.

Her international professional experience includes work on a Breaking News story at CNN International Desk in Atlanta, USA (March 2006), marking a significant milestone in her career. In international settings, in addition to extensive engagement across the Western Balkans, recently she has worked as a Master of Ceremonies and Public Speaking Trainer in Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Vienna, and Munich, collaborating with diverse institutional, corporate, and international partners.

Una Bejtović is currently a PhD candidate in Global Studies at the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Sarajevo. She previously earned a Master's degree in Democracy and Human Rights and a Bachelor's degree in Bosnian Literature and Language at the same university

# SPEAKERS



**MICHAEL LORE**  
DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE  
MARYLAND

## Accepting the Flower of Srebrenica on behalf of Governor Moore

Michael Lore, Esq. serves as the Deputy Secretary of State under Secretary Susan C. Lee. He has served as her Chief of Staff her entire tenure as state Senator and previously worked under two other Senators in the Judicial Proceedings Committee, including Jamie Raskin as his legal intern, and the longest serving member of the General Assembly ever to serve Maryland, Senator Norman Stone from Dundalk. He helped secure passage of over 100 laws including Equal Pay for Equal Work, many laws protecting survivors of crime, as well as several important consumer protection measures. Michael also served as an interim speechwriter and researcher for Congressman Raskin during the 116th Congress.

Deputy Secretary Lore has a license to practice law in Maryland and is a proud graduate of American University's Washington College. While earning his Juris Doctorate, Michael was very involved with the International Trade and Investment Law Society and notably added "investment" to their title as their President. Upon graduation he worked as a junior Legal Affairs Officer at the World Trade Organization's Legal Affairs Division where he served as a clerk on complex international disputes between member states. Michael interned at the Organization of American States as an undergraduate, and at the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe during law school. His career took a dramatic shift after the US Supreme Court's decision in Citizens United, which drove him to volunteer and work for Common Cause Maryland and Virginia as an advocate and volunteer coordinator. He earned his undergraduate B.A. in Economics and International Affairs from the University of Colorado with a Business minor.

Michael's hobbies include skiing, camping and fishing. He has already traveled a good portion of the globe because his parents instilled the importance of understanding other cultures from a young age. Notably, he spent six months in South America before starting law school where he backpacked and volunteered his way around Patagonia, Bolivia and Peru.

# SPEAKERS

H.E. Željko Komšić is the Chairman of the presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina. He completed primary and secondary school and graduated from the University in Sarajevo Law School. He further attended Georgetown University - School of Foreign Service in Washington DC. He was also educated at the University of Georgetown in Washington - School of Foreign Service.



**H.E. ŽELJKO KOMŠIĆ**  
CHAIRMAN OF THE PRESIDENCY  
OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

He started his professional career at the Republic Pension and Disability Fund of Bosnia and Herzegovina. At the beginning

of the war, he joined the Army of the Republic of BiH, where, in 1995, he was awarded the highest military decoration of the Army of the RBiH – the Golden Lily for military bearing and bravery. After the war, he actively joined the political life of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In the period from 1996 to 1998, H.E. Komšić worked at the Federal Ministry for Displaced Persons and Refugees, and in the period from 1998 to 2000, he served as the President of the City Council of the City of Sarajevo. From 2000 to 2001 he served as the mayor of the Municipality of Novo Sarajevo. In 2001, Željko Komšić became the first ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. As a matter of principle, and due to disagreement with the mainstream policy in 2003, he resigned from the ambassador's office.

In the 2004 local elections, he was elected for a mayor of the Municipality of Novo Sarajevo, by a direct vote, for the second time. In that position, H.E. Komšić remained until the October 2006 elections when he was elected as the Croat member of the Presidency of BiH, as the candidate of the Social Democratic Party of BiH. In the October 2010 General Election, he was re-elected as the Croat member of the Presidency of BiH, and was in office until 2014.

He is the Founder and has been the President of the Democratic Front party since 2013. He was elected representative in the House of Representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH in the October 2014 General Election to a four-year term. In the 2022 General Elections, he was elected for the fourth time as the Croat member of the Presidency of BiH.

# AWARD CEREMONY

A central purpose of this evening is to honor leadership that has helped shape and sustain the relationship between Maryland and Bosnia and Herzegovina, and to recognize those who have stood for human rights and the dignity of survivors.

During the program, MBHEC will present **Lifetime Achievement Awards** to **Senator Ben Cardin (Ret.)** and **Congressman Steny H. Hoyer**, in recognition of their decades-long public service and unwavering support for Bosnia and Herzegovina, particularly during the years of aggression and in international efforts to halt genocide and uphold human rights.

In addition, MBHEC will present the **Cvijet Srebrenice (Flower of Srebrenica)**, an honor given by the **Mothers of Srebrenica**, to **Maryland Deputy Secretary Michael Lore**, who will receive it on behalf of **Governor Wes Moore**, in recognition of the Governor's leadership in honoring the victims of the Srebrenica genocide, including his signing of two proclamations designating July 11 as Srebrenica Genocide Remembrance Day in the State of Maryland.



These recognitions reflect MBHEC's commitment to remembrance, accountability, and the principle that atrocities must never be met with silence and our gratitude to leaders who have helped ensure that the experiences of survivors were neither ignored nor forgotten.

# LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Congressman Steny H. Hoyer has represented Maryland's Fifth Congressional District for more than four decades and is the most senior member of the House Democratic Caucus. During that time, he has held top leadership roles, including House Majority Leader and House Democratic Whip. He currently serves as Chair of the Regional Leadership Council and as Ranking Member on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government.



**CONGRESSMAN STENY H. HOYER**  
UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE  
MARYLAND'S 5TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

In Maryland, Congressman Hoyer is known for his focus on economic development and job creation, including support for major federal facilities such as NASA Goddard Space Flight Center and Patuxent River Naval Air Station. He has also emphasized Chesapeake Bay protection, including legislation to support the Bay, oyster restoration, and river restoration efforts, and is recognized for constituent services through offices in Washington, D.C., Greenbelt, and Waldorf.

Nationally, Congressman Hoyer has earned a reputation as an effective legislator and consensus-builder. His record includes shepherding the Americans with Disabilities Act to House passage in 1990 and leading the effort to pass the ADA Amendments Act in 2008. He guided the Help America Vote Act through House passage and helped produce the House-Senate conference report that became law in 2002, and he drafted and helped secure passage of the Federal Employee Pay Comparability Act, signed into law in 1990.

On foreign policy and international affairs, Congressman Hoyer has been a prominent voice for human rights and democratic values, including through his work as former Chair and Ranking Democrat on the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (the Helsinki Commission). He called for decisive U.S. and NATO action to stop the violence in the former Yugoslavia, advocated for international action to address genocide in Sudan, and led a congressional delegation to Darfur in 2007. In 2009, Denmark honored him by making him a Knight of the Order of the Dannebrog.

# LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



**THE HONORABLE  
BENJAMIN CARDIN**  
U.S. SENATOR (RET.)

A third-generation Marylander, Senator Ben Cardin built a distinguished career defined by public service, principled leadership, and bipartisan problem-solving. He served 20 years in the Maryland House of Delegates, including eight as Speaker, followed by two decades in the U.S. House of Representatives, and concluded three terms in the United States Senate. He has been widely recognized for his civility, integrity, and commitment to effective governance.

His dedication to democratic engagement is reflected in his role as Co-Founder of the Ben and Myrna Cardin Center for Civic Engagement and Civil Discourse at Towson University.

Senator Cardin served as Chair of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, helping shape American engagement abroad with an emphasis on values-based foreign policy, democracy, anti-corruption, and human rights. He strengthened oversight of international human rights abuses, promoted good governance initiatives, and advanced global anti-corruption frameworks, underscoring the importance of human dignity and the rule of law.

He is internationally known as the principal architect of the Global Magnitsky Human Rights and Accountability Act, landmark legislation enabling targeted U.S. sanctions against individuals responsible for gross human rights violations and significant corruption worldwide, and inspiring similar laws among U.S. allies. During his Senate tenure, he also advanced civil rights and equity initiatives through his work on the Judiciary Committee, including efforts to prohibit racial and religious profiling, restore voting rights, and support gender equality. As a senior member of the Finance Committee and former chair of the Small Business Committee, he helped drive bipartisan legislation on retirement security reforms, expanding affordable health coverage, and the Paycheck Protection Program supporting small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. Across all levels of government, Senator Cardin has remained committed to strengthening communities, defending democratic values, and promoting justice at home and abroad.

# DINNER MENU

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*Artisanal Rolls and Sweet Butter*

## FIRST COURSE

### **Arugula Watercress Salad**

Feta Cheese, Roasted Corn, Roma Tomatoes,  
Pickled Red Onion, Herb Vinaigrette

### **Tomato Bisque (V)**

Crème Fraiche, Basil Infused Extra Virgin Olive Oil

## MAIN COURSE

### **Braised Short Rib**

Garlic Mashed Yukon Potatoes, Natural Jus

## VEGETARIAN ENTRÉE SELECTION

### **Roasted Cauliflower Steak (VE, DF, GF)**

Golden Raisin Quinoa Salad, Pistachio Gremolata

*Includes Chef's Choice of Seasonal Vegetables*

## DESSERT

### **Flourless Chocolate Torte**

Fresh Seasonal Berries (GF)

*Freshly Brewed Regular and Decaffeinated Coffee, and  
a Selection of Specialty Teas*

V=Vegetarian, DF=Dairy Free, VE=Vegan,  
GF=Gluten Free, N=Contains Nuts

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# MUSICAL PROGRAM



**UMA ČIZMIĆ**

## PERFORMING

National Anthems of the

- United States of America
- Bosnia and Herzegovina

Uma Čizmić is a high-school junior at Wakefield High School in the United States. She has studied violin and has attended schools in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the United Kingdom, and the U.S. She has received multiple awards in creative writing as well as music theory and solfege at county, state, Federation, and international levels. Her volunteer experience includes leading a chapter of STEMsters, participating in Cardz for Kidz, and volunteering at Sarajevo's annual Researcher's Night. She has also performed violin at events hosted by the Embassy of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the U.S. Senate, and the United Nations.



**IVAN MEDIĆ**

## PERFORMING

Sevdalinke and a tribute to Jagoda Flory

- *Kad ja pođoh na Bembašu*
- *Bolujem ja, boluješ ti*

Ivan Medić lives and works in Split. He has been a children's theater actor for over 25 years, combining acting, music, and singing in numerous productions. From an early age, he showed a strong interest in music; after studying classical guitar, he performed with the Split Mandolin Orchestra. Singing plays a central role in his acting work and is an essential part of his performances. Accompanying himself on the guitar, he enjoys performing a wide range of songs, with a special fondness for traditional sevdalinka songs. Since discovering music sung in Ladino, these songs have become a particularly meaningful and inspiring part of his repertoire. He is deeply passionate about music and singing, which he considers an inseparable part of his artistic expression.

# MUSICAL PROGRAM



ALDEN ČIZMIĆ

## PERFORMING

Sevdalinke and a tribute to Jagoda Flory

- *Kad ja počoh na Bembašu*
- *Bolujem ja, boluješ ti*

Alden Čizmić works as a Geospatial Technician out of Northern Virginia. Born and raised in the DC area, he enjoys expressing his familial and cultural roots as a guitarist for the “Old Primitives”, an Ex-Yugoslav cover band, with bandmates Asim, Nikša and Darko. He also plays guitar for the alternative rock band “The Dead Queens” who perform around the DMV.



DR. ASIM HARAČIĆ

## PERFORMING

Final musical segment

- *Ružo moja*
- *Od Plive do Mora*

Dr. Asim Haračić has been living in the USA since 1996. Back in Bosnia he worked as a surgeon dealing with physical and war traumas, now works in Washington DC as a psychiatrist helping people with their psychological and emotional traumas. In his free time with Alden, Darko and Nikša he plays music in “Old Primitives band” in Alexandria and Washington DC.

# TRIBUTE TO JAGODA FLORY



**FLORY JAGODA**  
GUITARIST, COMPOSER  
AND SINGER-SONGWRITER  
*1923 - 2021*

Our tribute to Flory Jagoda honors a woman who carried Sarajevo in her soul and helped preserve the Sephardic tradition and heritage that has long been part of the city's identity.

Born in Sarajevo in 1923 as Flora Papo (née Altarac), Flory grew up shaped by the Sephardic tradition and the everyday multiethnic fabric of the city and wider region. During the Second World War she was forced to flee, surviving through a chain of unlikely moments, including traveling with false papers and the

accordion she carried with her. After crossing to Bari, she met her future husband, American soldier Harry Jagoda, and later made a new home in the United States. Even from far away, Sarajevo remained at the center of her identity and her music.

In 2002, Jagoda received a National Heritage Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts for her efforts in passing on the tradition of Sephardic songs sung in Ladino.

Through the Sephardic romances she performed and recorded, she preserved a heritage rooted in Bosnia and Herzegovina and kept alive the memory of the Sarajevo she carried with her, the mahalas, the neighbors, and the sense of shared life across difference. She also used music to respond to tragedy and to the violence of the 20th century, insisting on remembrance and on the basic principles that make communities possible: peace, justice, and dignity for all.

This tribute is a small way to recognize that legacy, and to honor the Sarajevo and Bosnia and Herzegovina she loved and represented: plural, rooted, and human.

# MBHEC TEAM

Azra Kačapor Nurkić is one of the Co-founders of MBHEC. She is also a Co-Founder and CEO of I4DI. As a senior expert in program quality and impact, Dr. Nurkić provides leadership to I4DI associates and technical assistance to clients and partners in results-based management, design, monitoring, and evaluation of international development programs.

With close to 25 years of international experience, Dr. Nurkić is a social development professional with intensive expertise in strategic program design, program effectiveness, and staff capacity development in a range of operational and regional contexts.

Prior to founding I4DI, she worked at American Council on Education as the Director of Program Quality and Impact of its Higher Education in Development program and The World Bank, as a Social Development Scientist where she led the development of monitoring and evaluation systems for projects in Europe and Central Asia. Her work history also includes more than a decade of experience in senior leadership and management roles in major internal NGOs, including World Learning and World Vision. Dr. Nurkić has worked and traveled in more than 100 countries and has a vast professional experience in working with government donors, private sector organizations, and NGOs.

She holds two Bachelor's degrees, one in Theory of Education and another in Primary Education, an M.S. in Primary Education, and a Ph.D. in Sociology of Education.



**AZRA K. NURKIĆ, PHD**  
MBHEC CO-FOUNDER AND  
BOARD CHAIRMAN

# MBHEC TEAM



**ADNAN HADROVIĆ, M.SC.**  
MBHEC CO-FOUNDER AND  
BOARD MEMBER

Adnan Hadrović is a seasoned expert in global security, diplomacy, and international affairs, with more than three decades of distinguished experience in diplomatic service, international relations, and senior management. Throughout his career, he has been deeply engaged in strategy and policy development, contributing to institutional strengthening and process improvements across foreign affairs, defense, and international cooperation domains. He is also widely recognized as a dedicated community

leader, actively advancing civic initiatives, cross-cultural dialogue, and public advocacy. He currently serves as Senior Advisor for Diplomacy, International Relations, and Global Security at the Institute for Development Impact (I4DI).

He is a co-founder and Board Member of MBHEC and previously served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Advisory Council for Bosnia and Herzegovina, at the time the leading Bosnia and Herzegovina advocacy organization in the United States, based in Washington, D.C. Mr. Hadrović also serves on the International Advisory Board of the Marshall Legacy Institute and co-founded the Center for International Politics and Post-Conflict Research at the Faculty of Political Science, University of Sarajevo.

Mr. Hadrović is widely respected for his leadership and mentorship in cross-functional and multinational environments, where he excels in negotiation, consensus-building, and the cultivation of durable, trust-based relationships with international counterparts. He is a frequent commentator and analyst, providing interviews and expert commentary for U.S., international, and Bosnia and Herzegovina print, digital, and broadcast media on issues related to global security, diplomacy, and international relations.

He holds a Master's Degree in Administrative Science, specializing in Diplomacy and International Relations, from Fairleigh Dickinson University, and pursued a post-master's specialization in Global Security and Terrorism Studies at the same institution.

# MBHEC TEAM

Emir Nurkić Kačapor, PhD is a co-founder and board member of the Maryland–Bosnia and Herzegovina Exchange Council (MBHEC), where he plays a central role in advancing the Council's mission to strengthen lasting ties between Maryland and Bosnia and Herzegovina through civic exchange, institutional partnership, and people-to-people connection. Drawing on a lifetime of engagement across the region and the diaspora, he brings deep experience in coalition building, cross-border cooperation, and community-driven development to MBHEC's work.



**EMIR N. KAČAPOR, PHD**  
MBHEC CO-FOUNDER AND  
BOARD MEMBER

Professionally, Dr. Nurkić Kačapor is Chief Operating Officer and Co-Founder of the Institute for Development Impact (I4DI), an international research and advisory firm supporting governments, foundations, and global organizations. In this role, he oversees global operations, organizational systems, and human resource management, helping build durable institutions that deliver results across complex environments.

Over a career spanning close to 30 years, he has held senior leadership roles across Bosnia and Herzegovina, the United States, Italy, France and other countries and regions around the world. He has founded and led four international NGOs that achieved operational sustainability within their first three years, and has worked extensively with international and United Nations agencies on issues including organizational effectiveness, migration, vulnerability prevention, and protection of victims of violence and organized crime.

Dr. Nurkić Kačapor holds a master's degree in human rights and a PhD in international law and international relations. His professional and civic work reflects a longstanding commitment to dialogue, institutional trust, and meaningful collaboration across borders, values that sit at the heart of MBHEC's mission.

# MBHEC TEAM



**ANDREA POZDERAC, M.A.**  
I4DI SENIOR PROGRAM ANALYST  
MBHEC EXECUTIVE MANAGER

Andrea Pozderac is a Senior Program Analyst at the Institute for Development Impact (I4DI), leading execution across key operational and programmatic workstreams, managing project teams and deliverables, contributing to marketing, conducting policy analysis, and supporting broader business development. In this role, she also serves as Executive Manager for the Maryland–Bosnia and Herzegovina Exchange Council (MBHEC), a non-profit organization founded under I4DI.

With almost seven years of rich experience, Andrea excels in project and knowledge management, event organization and facilitation, and communication responsibilities. Her expertise extends to analyzing energy and political security, climate and environmental policies, and public diplomacy with a particular focus on European affairs, the Western Balkans, and sustainable development.

In her prior roles, Andrea held various leadership positions in the European Youth Parliament and the Global-In Fellowship. She also demonstrated her subject-matter expertise through internships at the Atlantic Council's Europe Center and the Center for International Relations and Sustainable Development (CIRSD). Andrea earned an M.A. in German and European Studies and a Certificate in Diplomatic Studies from the Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. She also holds a B.A. in Political Science and International Relations with a minor in International Law and Diplomacy from the Sarajevo School of Science and Technology.

Beyond her professional endeavors, Andrea is an enthusiastic reader and enjoys sports and creative activities, including scuba diving, snowboarding, practicing aikido, and acting.

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# GALA ONLINE AUCTION

Take home a piece of the MBHEC Gala while supporting MBHEC's mission. Our **Gala Online Auction** features a curated selection of one-of-a-kind items, from cultural artifacts and art to sports memorabilia and collectibles.

Browse the online preview and place your bid anytime, but do not wait too long: **bidding will close at 9:30 p.m. on February 12**, at the conclusion of the Gala program.

From signed sports memorabilia and unique collectibles to locally crafted pieces and cultural keepsakes, each item has been thoughtfully selected to reflect the spirit of MBHEC. Whether you're looking for something meaningful, memorable, or simply fun, every bid helps strengthen our community and support MBHEC's work.



**MBHEC GALA ONLINE AUCTION**

# THANK YOU FOR JOINING US FOR THIS SPECIAL EVENING

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We appreciate your support and partnership in shaping the next era of the United States, Maryland, and Bosnia and Herzegovina relationship.

## Event Photos

Relive the evening — photos from the Gala will be featured on our website!

## Interested in our work?

Get in touch to explore ways you can contribute, collaborate, or support our mission. Follow us on social media for the latest updates, upcoming events, and recent activities.



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TABLE  
NUMBER