

MREŽA HRVATSKIH ŽENA

# Croatian Women of Influence & Future Leaders Awards Gala

---

March 8, 2018  
Zagreb, Republic of Croatia

@CWNLeaders // #CWN2018

*“There is no limit to what we,  
as women, can accomplish.”*

*— Michelle Obama*

The winners of the prestigious Croatian Women of Influence Awards and Future Leader Awards extend our congratulations to the 2018 award winners.

We're thrilled to welcome you to the club.





CWN/MHŽ  
WELCOME

---

@CWNLeaders // #CWN2018





## WELCOME MESSAGE FROM CAROLINE SPIVAK

Welcome to the third annual Croatian Women's Network/Mreža hrvatskih žena awards gala in celebration of the 2018 Croatian Women of Influence Award and Future Leader Award winners.

This year's honorees come from as far away as Australia, Canada and the United States and more closely from Austria, Bosna & Hercegovina, Croatia, Italy and Germany. Their diverse and world-leading accomplishments are drawn from academia, arts and culture, business, leadership and innovation, philanthropy, sports and science and technology. Congratulations to our 24 accomplished winners who join our more than 70 world-wide winners!

We know that advocating for the advancement of women has and will continue to drive positive change in all facets of life. We also know that change is not easy. It takes courage. It takes perseverance. It requires purpose and bold actions initiated by the brave. During this momentous year and beyond, let's continue do all we can to remove any barriers to women's success and to unlock their full potential. We can start by ensuring that women champion women and that men also champion women. Let's invest in each other and be each other's best advocates by upholding the principles of equality, transparency and being the positive change we'd like to see. After all, we're here to celebrate, champion and connect our way to collective success.

Thank you for sharing your time and joining us for this remarkable occasion.

Caroline Spivak  
Founder,  
Croatian Women's Network/Mreža hrvatskih žena



REPUBLIKA HRVATSKA  
PREDSJEDNICA

KLASA: 053-02/18-03/137  
URBROJ: 71-03-04/4-18-02  
Zagreb, 2. ožujka 2017.

Croatian Women's Network/  
Mreža hrvatskih žena  
gospoda Caroline Spivak

Poštovana gospodo Spivak,

S velikim sam zadovoljstvom primila Vaše pismo i zamolbu za pokroviteljstvom nad konferencijom „Napredak žena. Napredak ekonomije. Ostvari potencijal!“ i svečanom dodjelom nagrada „Utjecajne hrvatske žene“ i „Buduće liderice“ koje će biti održane 8. ožujka 2018. u Zagrebu.

Zahvaljujem na pismu i koristim prigodu izvijestiti da sam prihvatila pokroviteljstvo, želeći time dati potporu Vašem višegodišnjem zalaganju za jačanje društvenog i poslovnog položaja žena.

Uz srdačne pozdrave, želim Vam uspjeh u pripremi i održavanju najavljenog skupa, kao i budućih projekata i edukacija Mreže hrvatskih žena.

S poštovanjem,



Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović



REPUBLIKA HRVATSKA  
SREDIŠNJI DRŽAVNI URED ZA HRVATE IZVAN REPUBLIKE HRVATSKE  
DRŽAVNI TAJNIK

Poštovane dame,  
Cijenjeni uzvanici i organizatori,

S osobitim zadovoljstvom čestitam ovogodišnjim dobitnicama nagrade „Ujecajne hrvatske žene“ i „Budućie liderice“, kao i organizatorima na održavanju još jedne, već tradicionalne konferencije.

Ujedno koristim priliku ovog osmoga ožujka zahvaliti ženama na nezamjenjivom doprinosu društvu i budućnosti.

Uspješnost same konferencije, kojoj svjedočimo, plod je njezine svrhovitosti i aktualnosti. U vrijeme kada su mnogi izazovi pred Hrvatskom, organizacija događaja koja će na poseban način umrežiti i aktivirati uspješne hrvatske žene u Domovini i izvan nje, svakako je potreban korak prema našoj boljoj sutrašnjici. Od mnoštva poruka, prigodnih povodom ovog događaja, istaknuo bi nezamjenjivost žena - na mikro i makro razini, žena ostaje temelj društva, neovisno o tome kako će društvo vrednovati taj temelj. Prešućenost i nedovoljna artikulacija pojedine istine, ne oduzima joj tu univerzalnu kvalitetu. Stoga smatram ovu konferenciju izvršnim načinom da se podigne svijest o tom temelju i da mu se omogući pravedno priznanje.

Žene nisu samo ravnopravne, one su nezamjenjive: u znanosti, u kulturi, u gospodarstvu. Ne postoji niti jedna ozbiljnija društvena organizacija, niti jedna djelatnost kojoj žena nije dala diferencijacijsku kvalitetu i učinila ju boljom, smislenijom, humanijom i - uspješnijom. O vama sve ovisi. Velik broj uspješnih žena, okupljen ovdje dokaz je da ste probile sve granice, vidljive, nevidljive, geografske i nametnute. Dokaz je to da je društvo svjesno da upravo vas treba. Dokaz je to da talent i uloženi rad neće biti samo prepoznat, već i cijenjen. Dokaz je to i toga da ste nezamjenjivi dio vizije bolje Hrvatske, pri čemu je raznolikost područja u kojima ste postigli sve navedene uspjehe ujedno i raznolikost prilika koju vi stvarate Hrvatskoj, ne ograničavajući te prilike na samo područje Republike Hrvatske.

Sama konferencija predstavlja platformu za promicanje izvrsnosti hrvatskih žena u poslovnim i društvenim odnosima u domovini i izvan njenih granica, stoga sam dužan posebnu čestitku i zahvalu uputiti gospođi Caroline Spivak, pokretačici i organizatorici ovog događaja.



Zvonko Milas

Trg hrvatskih velikana 6, 10000 Zagreb, Republika Hrvatska

Gradonačelnik Grada Zagreb  
**MILAN BANDIĆ**



Uvažene dame,

drage dobitnice nagrada "Utjecajne hrvatske žene" i "Buduće liderice" od srca vam čestitam na ostvarenome uspjehu!

Hvala vam što predanim radom, odvažnošću i snagom duha svoje ideje provodite u djelo!

Vi ste liderice danas, svakako i sutra! Budite uzor i podrška mladim ženama diljem svijeta! Nastavite i nadalje kroz Mrežu hrvatskih žena raditi na podizanju svijesti o važnosti ženskoga poduzetničkog duha i stvaralaštva!

Svim pripadnicama ljepšeg spola te svim nagrađenim i utjecajnim hrvatskim ženama i svim budućim lidericama sretan Međunarodni dan žena!

Gradonačelnik Grada Zagreba,  
Milan Bandić



# CWN/MHŽ AWARD

---

@CWNLeaders // #CWN2018





# BAŠĆANSKA PLOČA

## KRALJA ZVONIMIRA

Baška tablet is one of the first monuments containing an inscription in the Croatian recension of the Church Slavonic language, dating from c. 1100.




Honoring the Past.  
Celebrating the Present.  
Advancing into the Future.



Throughout Croatia's history, courageous and strong women have played an integral role in inspiring action, preserving culture, religion and heritage and even bravely protecting our borders – just as they do today. In creating the award, our goal was to honor the heritage that binds us and to recognize the strength and tenacity of our Croatian Women of Influence.

The Croatian word for woman is žena. The symbol for the first letter "ž" in the ancient and original Croatian Glagolitic alphabet that played an important role in Croatian history is in fact the symbol that shapes the form of the award. It was made in Canada of aluminium and stone.

 The Glagolitic alphabet (known as Glagolitsa) is the oldest known Slavic alphabet. It was created in the 9th century by Saint Cyril, a Byzantine monk from Thessaloniki. He and his brother, Saint Methodius, were sent by the Byzantine Emperor Michael III in 863 to Great Moravia to spread Christianity among the Slavs in the area. The brothers decided to translate liturgical books into the Old Slavic language that was understandable to the general population, but as the words of that language could not be easily written by using either the Greek or Latin alphabets, Cyril decided to invent a new script, Glagolitic, which he based on the language of the Macedonian Slavs from the Thessaloniki region.

After the deaths of Cyril and Methodius, the Glagolitic alphabet ceased to be used in Moravia, but their students continued to propagate it in the west and south. The Glagolitic alphabet was preserved only by the Croats, using it from the 12th to the 20th century, mostly in liturgy.

The name was not coined until many centuries after its creation, and comes from the Old Church Slavonic glagol "utterance" (also the origin of the Slavic name for the letter G). The verb glagoliti means "to speak". It has been conjectured that the name glagolitsa developed in Croatia around the 14th century and was derived from the word glagolity, applied to adherents of the liturgy in Slavonic.

Croats using the Glagolitic alphabet were the only nation in Europe who was given a special permission by Pope Innocent IV (in 1248) to use their own language and this script in liturgy. More precisely, this permission had formally been given to the bishop Philip of Senj. However, special care accorded by the Vatican to the Glagolitic liturgy in subsequent centuries (even by publishing several Glagolitic missals in Rome), shows that this privilege applied to all Croatian lands using the Glagolitic liturgy, mostly along the coast. As is well known, the Latin had been the privileged language in religious ceremonies in the Catholic Church until the 2nd Vatican Synod held in 1962-1965, when it was decided to allow vernacular national languages to be used in the Catholic liturgy instead of Latin. It is interesting that even today the Glagolitic liturgy is used in some Croatian churches.



Croatian  
Women  
of Influence  
AWARD JUDGES PANEL

---

@CWNLeaders // #CWN2018





## **MR. SC. SNJEŽANA JURIŠIĆ, PROF.**

**Head of the Department of Culture  
Croatian Heritage Foundation**

Snježana Jurišić is Head of the Department of Culture at the Croatian Heritage Foundation. Her key priorities include supporting, organizing and promoting culture and cultural creativity development together with related educational, publishing, ecological, sporting and tourism programs designed to strengthen linkages with the Croatian diaspora, Croatian minority communities and Croats in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The goal of this portfolio is the preservation of Croatia's cultural identity throughout the diaspora while connecting Croats around the world with their homeland.

Through her work Snježana supports the Croatian Heritage Foundation in achieving its mission to preserve Croatia's cultural identity, native language and traditions among Croats living outside of the Republic of Croatia.



## **KAJA PAVLINIĆ**

**Student**

**Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing, University of Zagreb  
2017 CWoI Future Leaders Award Winner**

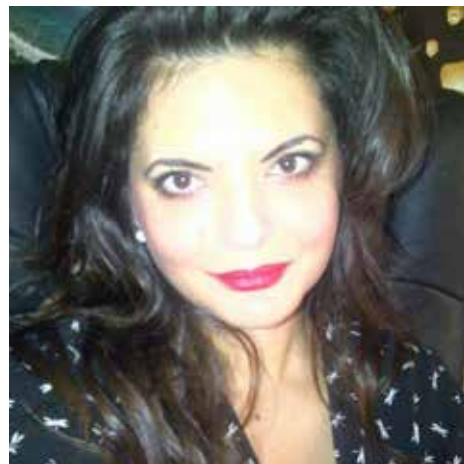
Kaja is pursuing her Computer Science BA at the University of Zagreb, but her interests extend to community-oriented activities and international affairs. She has won first, second and third place at American Computer Science League. In 2014, she was selected for Benjamin Franklin Transatlantic Fellowship program in the US, becoming an US Department of State alumni. Since then, she participated at various youth conferences, some of them being YLTE 2015 in Bratislava and Global-In Fellowship 2016 in Berlin.

She has won a Future Leader award by Croatian Women's Network in 2016 and an award by Cosmopolitan Croatia. She is a founder of a renewable energy startup Tinja and is currently also managing an anti-corruption project Integritas, funded by the US Embassy Zagreb. In 2017, she was a speaker at several conferences, a mentor at Global-In Fellowship 2017 and became a member of the Youth Council of the President of the Republic of Croatia.

## IVANA PERKUŠIĆ

Deputy Secretary of State Government Office for Croatian Diaspora,  
Office of the Government Council for Croatians Living in the Diaspora

A lawyer by profession, Ms. Perkušić has played a significant role in the establishment and development of the work of the Office of the Government Council for Croatians Living in the Diaspora. Previously she held senior positions in the Ministries of Infrastructure and Justice and Public Administration. She was a Consul at the General Consulate of the Republic of Croatia in Sydney, Australia. She holds a law degree from the University of Zagreb.



## DR. ŽELJKO TANJIĆ

Rektor, Croatian Catholic University

Prof Željko Tanjić, PhD, has served as Rector of the Catholic University of Croatia since October 2011. From 2009 until 2011 he was the CEO of Kršćanska Sadašnjost, the publishing house of the Archdiocese of Zagreb. Previously he was Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Fundamental Theology at the Catholic Faculty of Theology of the University of Zagreb. Dr. Tanjić is a member of the International Theological Commission. He is the author of one book, editor of four and has published several scientific and professional papers in theology and philosophy and has participated in numerous national and international scientific and professional conferences.



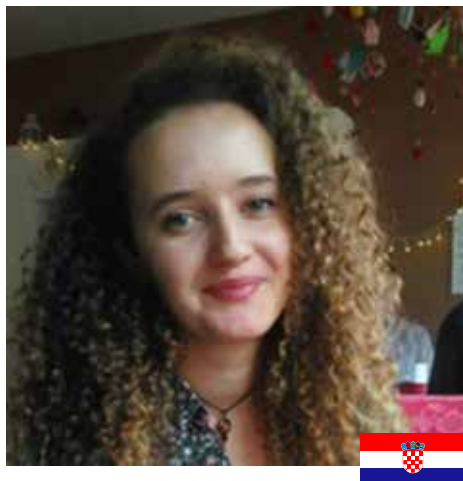


# FUTURE LEADER AWARD WINNERS

---

@CWNLeaders // #CWN2018





**IVA BULJAN**  
Republic of Croatia

Iva Buljan is a student of molecular biology at the University of Zagreb's Faculty of Science with a specialization in bioinformatics. An award-winning student, having found success in junior level biology and chemistry competitions, Iva has lead numerous scientific educational workshops. Currently she is conducting research in the field of entomology. She has participated in numerous conferences and exchange programs. Apart from science, Iva is interested in work that benefits society having organized humanitarian relief action to help refugees during the recent European migrant crisis. Additionally, she has been actively engaged in a youth-led anti-corruption project.



**MAJA GRUJIĆ**  
Republic of Croatia

Maja Grujić was born as a 3rd child on December 17th 1999 in Osijek and is currently a senior in high school. Maja began volunteering and actively participating in projects at a young age. In 2016 she was chosen by the U.S. Embassy in Zagreb to represent Croatia at the 'Benjamin Franklin Transatlantic Fellowship summer institute, where she participated with peers drawn from Europe and the United States of America. As a U.S. State Department Alumni, Maja is currently leading the organization of the 'Croatian Youth Movement Conference which will be held in Osijek, in 2018. The main topics featured are diplomacy and international relations. In 2017, Maja was a part of Croatian delegation in Berlin for the Global In Fellowship conference.



**TATJANA MUSTAĆ**  
United States of America

Tatjana Mustać is an undergraduate student and researcher at Queens College, CUNY in Queens, New York, where she is majoring in neuroscience with a triple minor in psychology, chemistry, and cities and social medicine, while on a pre medical study track. Since high school, Tatjana has developed her love for scientific research. She currently enjoys working on campus in her neuroscience laboratory, where she studies decision-making using electroencephalography (EEG). Outside of her stellar academic work, Tatjana enjoys cultivating her Croatian heritage roots as an active member of the Croatian American community focusing on folklore. Tatjana also loves helping others at Dancing Dreams, a dance program for children who are physically challenged. At nearly twenty years of age, Tatjana is an inspiration to other young Croatians in her local community.





# Croatian Women of Influence

AWARD WINNERS

---

@CWNLeaders // #CWN2018



## KSENIJA ABRAMOVIĆ

Republic of Croatia  
Philanthropy

Ksenija is founder of Laudato Television, the first domestic family programming rooted in Christian values which began broadcasting in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina during Christmas 2015 and is the editor of [laudato.hr](http://laudato.hr). She founded the In the Name of Goodness Association whose basic mission is the dissemination of truthful information that promotes the wellbeing of the Croatian people and deepening of faith. As a member of the organizing committee of the civic initiative On Behalf of the Family Ksenija actively participated in the coordination of the referendum that resulted in the implementation of Article 62 para. 2 of the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia stipulating that marriage is a life community between a woman and man. She is the owner of the Laudato Gallery of Croatian Sacral Art founded in 2003. A winner of numerous awards and accolades, in 2014 Ksenija won the eGlobal Leadership Award awarded jointly by the Leadership Institute, the Bow Group, the World Congress of Families, and Institut de Formation Politique. The 2015 Trsat Festival awarded her special recognition for audio-visual creative production and is the winner of the 2017 Croatian Catholic Journalists' Society award.



## ZRINKA BAČIĆ

Italy  
Arts & Culture

Zrinka is from the island of Pašman, and has been living in Rome for 27 years where she works in the Croatian Embassy. Her selfless engagement in support of Croatia begins at the time of the Homeland War through her proactive participation and organization of relief activities and by assisting Croatian refugees in finding accommodation and employment. For a number of years she has been intensively devoted to numerous activities aimed at promoting the Republic of Croatia in Italy. In 2012, she founded the Croatian football team "Croazia" in Rome, and was then the creator of the "Football Friendship Tournament" project, in which numerous foreign Embassies in Rome participated. She is one of the founders and vice-presidents of the cultural association of the Croatian-Italian mosaic Rome. Founded in 2015, the Association hosts an outstanding number of successful events focused on the preservation of Croatian language and culture, connecting Croats in the diaspora with their homeland and the promotion of Croatia in Italy. The Association, was awarded a Večernjakova domovnica in 2017. Zrinka is also active in the promotion of Croats in the Molise region, and vice-president of the Jedna Musika association.



## CAROLINA BOROJEVIĆ

Chile

Leadership & Innovation

Carolina Nevenka Goić Borojević is a second generation Croatian. A lawyer by profession, she is leader of the Chilean Christian Democratic Party. She was first elected in 2005 and was re-elected in 2009. Goić was the Christian Democratic Party candidate for the most recent Presidential elections in fall 2017. Croatians first settled in Chile in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, when Croatia as a whole, and its southern region of Dalmatia were under the Austrian crown. Upwards of ninety per cent, hailed from the island of Brač. Chilean Croatians have made a name for themselves in Chile by their skills and industriousness. Second and third generation Croatian settlers are largely very well educated, are fully integrated into Chilean society, and work in all of the country's major institutions, making a significant impact on the overall development of the country, a fact reaffirmed by Carolina's most recent presidential candidacy.



## MR.SC. VESNA BOSANAC DR. MED.

Republic of Croatia

Philanthropy

Vesna is a pediatrician and Director of the General County Hospital and Croatian Veterans Hospital in Vukovar where she has lived since 1950 and has worked since 1973. As hospital chief during the War Aggression Vesna ran the hospital until the occupation of Vukovar on November 20, 1991 when she was imprisoned and remained in captivity in Sremska Mitrovica and Belgrade until December 13, 1991 when she was released as an exchanged prisoner of war. From 1992 she works in the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Croatia as a humanitarian advisor and the director of Vukovar Medical Center in exile. From 1993 to 1996 she works as a consultant for cooperation with UNICEF and the World Health Organization, on programs for helping children, displaced persons and refugees. In 1997 she began to oversee the peaceful reintegration of the Croatian Danube Region. Since 2008 she has been the president of the Association of Croatian doctor volunteers 1990-1991. In 1992 she was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.





## ANTONELLA D'ANTUONO

Italy

Arts & Culture

Since she was a child Antonella wanted to travel the world and proudly advocated for her Croatian heritage. Having worked with numerous associations for more than 20 years, she has had the privilege of accompanying many children at the Novi Vinodolski summer school, at the Croatian World Games while promoting Croatia as a place of warmth and love to everyone she meets. A true custodian of the preservation of Croatian traditions, language and has organized many conferences and gatherings as foundations for her tireless work. Antonella puts heart and passion in her philanthropic work and is particularly focused on projects that focus on children and women's issues. With her ever-present smile and open heart while she's not working as a policewoman, she spends her free time committed to building bridges between Croatia and the communities of Croatian minorities in Molise.



## SUZANA FLANZ

Germany

Business

Suzana is founder and Chief Executive Officer of EKOMA d.o.o., a company specializing in industrial assembly, installation and construction on a variety of energetic and industrial plants in Croatia, Germany among other countries. She is a true trailblazer tearing down all preconceptions about the "delicate" gender giving much needed inspiration to all women who dream of doing the seemingly impossible; building a successful company in a male dominated working field while balancing personal and professional success. In addition to her professional work, Suzana has a natural inclination towards advancing human rights and is deeply committed to maintaining her Croatian heritage rendering her a continuous and tireless contributor to many human rights organizations and organizations which help to preserve our Croatian cultural heritage and customs.

## GLORIA JUREŠIĆ

Australia  
Arts & Culture

Born and raised in Melbourne, Australia, Gloria truly is an asset to her community. In addition to working in the field of export logistics for one of the largest wine companies in the world, Gloria volunteers her time with numerous Croatian organisations across Melbourne. Gloria currently holds the position of President of the Croatian Catholic Centre "Holy Spirit", is a language instructor at the Croatian Ethnic School "Bartol Kašić", has played integral roles in committees at Folklore Ensembles "Hrvatska Zora" and "Zvonimir" and assisted in major events on behalf of the Melbourne Knights Football Club. Selfless, tireless and relentless is her commitment and focus in promoting and upholding Croatian language and cultural traditions in faraway Australia.



## DR. ANDREA ZORKA KINDA-BERLAKOVIĆ

Austria  
Arts & Culture

Prof. Dr. phil. Andrea Zorka Kinda-Berlakovich is a Burgenland Croat. She studied South-Slavic languages and literature at the Universities of Vienna, Zagreb and Zadar, as well as Pedagogy, Philosophy and Psychology at the University of Vienna. In 2002, she was awarded a PhD in South-Slavic Languages (U. of Vienna) with a thesis on bilingual education of Burgenland Croats. Since 1997, she has been employed at the Dept. of Slavonic Studies at the U. of Vienna. In 2016 she was appointed Professor of Croatian Language and Linguistics at the University College of Teacher Education Burgenland. Her research interests lie in bilingual education and development and the position of the Croatian language in Austria. She has authored or co-authored 10 books and some 100 scientific papers and publications and has contributed to Croatian-German dictionaries and grammar books. She serves on the editorial boards of two internationally recognised academic journals. She is a member of the Language Commission of the Scientific Institute of Burgenland Croats and she is the Croatian scientific consultant for the nationally-organised school-leaving exam (A-levels). She is co-founder and vice-president of the Austrian Society for Croatistics.





## SARA KOLAK

Republic of Croatia  
Sport

Sara Kolak is a 22 year-old Croatian javelin record-holder from Ludbreg. She claimed her first bronze medal in the European Junior Championships in 2013 and winning her second bronze medal at the World Junior Championships in 2014. Two years later she began to compete at the senior levels. Incredibly, Sara became an olympic gold medalist at the 2016 Summer Olympic Games held in Rio de Janiero, her first Games following her recovery from a severe back injury and subsequent surgery. Commenting on her incredible feat of success then president of IAAF, Sebastian Coe, named Sara the greatest success story of those summer Olympic Games. Continuing to shatter records, Sara trumped her own personal-best record at the 2017 Diamond League Championships in Lausanne, Switzerland netting a world-record setting best distance throw. Sara's achievements are a clear demonstration that a strong committment, faith in oneself and sheer persistence can result in achieving the seemingly impossible.



## ĐURĐICA OREPIĆ

Republic of Croatia  
Sport

Đurđica was born on the Island of Rab. An entrepreneur of more than 27 years, she's the proud mom of three children - two daughters and one son. Her life took an unexpected turn in 2014 when, in her fifties with her guiding mantra 'to realize the impossible', she successfully completed her first Ironman race in Mallorca, Spain. Having swam in the open water for 3.8km, road her bike for 180km and then having run a full marathon of 42.2km, it was after her 226km that a new Đurđica was born. One that now moves boundaries. Her story proves that age is only a number and not a limitation of any kind. That you can always find time to make dreams come true and that you should always engage and appreciate support of your family and friends while ignoring the nay sayers who don't support your dreams. Over the course of two years, she's completed five full Ironman races and more than ten other triathlons. One of her proudest moments was her climb up the podium as she qualified for the World Cup in Hawaii - every triathlete's dream!



**ANITA MARTINAC**  
Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Arts & Culture

Anita is a lawyer and veteran of the Homeland War for which she was awarded the Croatian Homeland War Memorial Medal in addition to two medals for operations „Ljeto 95“ and „Storm“. She is a much lauded poet and novelist having published 11 literary works of mainly poetry and three historical novels. Since 1994 her literary works have been presented in numerous international and domestic publications. Anita is a frequent participant in literary events. She is a member of the Society of Croatian Writers of Herceg-Bosna, Matrix Croatica and Croatian Woman Association-“Hrvatska žena“, Napredak. She is also president of the Croatian-World Congress Headquarters for the investigation of impacts of totalitarianisms in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Anita is actively engaged in numerous humanitarian and volunteer projects through various cultural organizations and associations.



**DR. JOSIPA PETRUNIĆ**  
Canada  
Science & Technology

Josipa is Executive Director & CEO of the Canadian Urban Transit Research & Innovation Consortium (CUTRIC) ([www.cutric-crituc.org](http://www.cutric-crituc.org)). She leads the formulation of several national transportation technology trials related to zero-emissions transportation and “smart vehicles” innovation, including the Pan-Canadian Electric Bus Demonstration & Integration Trial, the Pan-Canadian Hydrogen Fuel Cell Demonstration & Integration Trial and the Canadian National Smart Vehicle Demonstration Project. Under her guidance CUTRIC’s consortium has grown to include more than 100 private and public sector companies and organizations across Canada. Previously, she served as the lead researcher in electric vehicle policy studies at McMaster University (CDA), and as a senior research fellow at University College London (UK) in Science and Technology Studies and the history of mathematics and engineering. In September 2017, Josipa was awarded a Canada Clean50 Award for her leadership in forging and launching the Pan-Canadian Electric Bus Demonstration & Integration Trial, which integrates 20 electric buses with seven overhead charging systems across three Canadian municipalities to demonstrate and promote the standardization of charging technologies.





**MARIJA PERIĆ**  
Republic of Croatia  
Entrepreneurship

Marija Perić is 32 years old and a mother of two. After graduating from university and getting a Public Relations Management degree, she began working in an accounting department. Just six years later, in 2013 she started LB Ltd manufacturing women's purses in her garage employing two women. Having grown exponentially, and with a larger production facility, the company today employs 23 women and sells its products in four countries. Her purses have won the hearts of women in the whole region with Croatia being its strongest market. Marija believes that an individual needs to pursue clear goals in life. She is driven by the conviction that a love of work combined with solid effort, persistence and sacrifice, we can achieve anything we want.



**DR. SC. MARIJA SELAK, DOC.**  
Republic of Croatia  
Science & Technology

Marija was born on March 14, 1982. Following her completion of Gymnasium Classicum Zagabiense, she studied Philosophy and Croatian language and literature at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Zagreb. She became a Doctor of Philosophy June 11, 2013. Currently she works as an Assistant Professor at the Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb. She was a visiting researcher at Ruhr-Universität Bochum and at the Institut für Wissenschaft und Ethik (Bonn). In 2014, she won an annual prize for the young scientists and artists of The Society of University Teachers, Scholars and Other Scientists (University of Zagreb, Croatia) for her book Human Nature and New Epoch. In addition to her academic work, she is also active in the public sphere. She writes articles for several journals and takes part in a weekly intellectual show "Peti dan" (The fifth day) on Croatian Public Television HRT.

## DR.MED. NIKOLINA SESAR

Republic of Croatia  
Science & Technology

At the age of 35, Nikolina, is Croatia's first female neurosurgeon. She currently works at the UHC Sisters of Mercy. Nikolina's brave dive into this male-dominated profession is a tremendous example to all women in Croatia and around the world, confirming that hard work and dedication know no boundaries. She attributes her success to her large family, especially to her supportive husband. Furthermore, she has proven that motherhood does not need to be sacrificed as she has a one year old son. She is fluent in five foreign languages (English, Italian, French, Portuguese and Spanish) and has studied and worked around the world. Throughout her life, Nikolina has always found a way to make her life exciting and different- by modeling, skydiving, scuba diving, sailing and painting. Nikolina's proudest accomplishment is raising awareness and confidence of girls and women - and young men, by giving speeches, lectures and charity work.



## DR. SC. BRANKA SALOPEK SONDI

Republic of Croatia  
Science & Technology

An award-winning senior scientist and plant biologist, Branka is laboratory head for chemical biology at the Ruđer Bošković Institute where her research contributes to the advancement of the understanding of the role of bioactive plant molecules to plant development and survival under unpleasant climate-changed environment in addition to their importance and application in agronomy, biotechnology and pharmacy. As a supervisor of graduate and post-graduate students, Branka continues to pass on knowledge and scientific enthusiasm to future generations. She is Editor-In-Chief of Acta Botanica Croatica, an international botanical journal.





## KATHRYN TESIJA

United States of America

Business

Kathee is presently a Board Director for Woolworths Limited and Verizon Communications. Previously, Kathee was a successful executive who spent 30 years at Target Corporation, a retailer with \$73 billion in revenue. In her role as Chief Merchandising and Supply Chain Officer, she was the senior most operating executive responsible for leading Presidents and Executive Vice Presidents of Merchandising, Product Design & Development, Sourcing and Distribution for 1,800 stores and Target.com. In addition, Kathee does volunteer work with Minneapolis non-profit TreeHouse, a faith-based organization that works with teens to provide unconditional love, mentorship and support to help them successfully graduate high school. Kathee is passionate about traditional natural products of Croatia. She and her husband are currently restoring their olive grove in Croatia and distilling local plants for aromatherapy.



## IVANA TKALČIĆ

Republic of Croatia

Arts & Culture

Ivana is a visual artist trained at the Academy of fine arts in Zagreb and Munich. In 2017 she worked on projects at artist residencies in Austria, Belgium, Greece, Norway and Poland. She has held solo exhibitions at Jan Arnold gallery, Museums Quartier, Vienna, Austria; Showroom Karlplatz, Red Carpet Vienna, Austria; Y AMKE, Athens, Greece; Šira, Zagreb, Croatia; Gallery Centre Varaždin, Varaždin, Croatia. Among her many group exhibitions and biennales are Memories II, Gallery Huong Ngo, Hanoi, Vietnam, The Wrong New Digital Art Biennale, Homeostasis Lab, Sao Paulo, Brazil, 4th Biennial of Painting, HDLU, Zagreb, Croatia, 5th Odessa Biennial of Contemporary Art, Museum of Odessa Modern Art, Odessa, Ukraine, The Glitch Art is Dead, Gamut Gallery, Minneapolis, USA, 25th Slavonian Biennale, Gallery of fine arts, Osijek, Croatia; 2016, Transform 2016: Transformation of image, Museum of Contemporary Art, Zagreb, Young European Art, Red Carpet Art Award, Art Pavilion Juraj Sporer, Opatija, Erste fragments 12, gallery Kranjčar, Zagreb. She is the recipient of the Erste fragments 12 Award, Red Carpet Art Award, and the University of Zagreb Chancellor's Award.



## ANA TOMAŠKOVIĆ

Republic of Croatia  
Philanthropy

Ana Tomašković has been a journalist with Croatian Radio & Television (HRT) for 24 years, editing and anchoring TV and radio shows promoting human rights and family values. She focuses on individuals and groups that stand out for their activism in favour of the common good. The gospel, family, homeland, truth and responsibility and her belief in the good of mankind are what define her worldview both professionally and personally. Ana is a supporter of numerous institutions and community associations. She supports numerous organizations committed to the prevention of domestic violence. A frequent speaker, she hosts seminars at the Police Academy, professional congresses and seminars on the topics of health, human rights and education. Social work and journalism are her mission in life and she is driven by the belief that our greatest capital, lies in ourselves, and in greater humanity. Ana and her husband are the proud parents of three teenage children.



## DOC.DR.SC. ANA JURINJAK TUŠEK

Republic of Croatia  
Science & Technology

Ana, is an assistant professor at the Department for Process Engineering, Laboratory for Measurements, Automatization and Regulation at the Faculty of Food Technology and Biotechnology, University of Zagreb. She graduated in 2013 with a thesis titled "Development of the catechol biotransformation process in microreactor" under the mentorship of prof. Želimir Kurtanjek and prof. Bruno Zelić. Her scientific work is focused on the application of mathematical modelling in biotechnological process with a specialized focus on the processes in microreactors. She has presented her scientific work in 15 works of science journals, 13 scientific conferences and two contributed book chapters. In 2008 she was awarded the support of the Biotechnical foundation of PBF, in 2013 a "For Woman in Science" scholarship and in 2016 the silver medal for innovation at 14th international innovation exhibition ARCA. She is a married mother of two.





## TEA ŽAKULA

Republic of Croatia  
Science & Technology

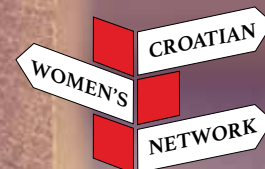
Tea is founder and Head of the Laboratory for Energy Efficiency at the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture, University of Zagreb. Here she collaborates with numerous research institutions and the industry sector on the topics of advanced control, building participation in smart grids, computer simulations and energy efficiency in building industry, and passive heating and cooling strategies. She holds a Master of Science (2010) and Doctor of Philosophy (2013) degrees obtained from the prestigious MIT (USA), with a major in energy and minor in business. During her postgraduate studies in the USA, she completed an internship at Harvard University, was a lecturer at Northeastern University and a member of the organization Engineers without Borders. Currently, she is a member of the Technical Committee for Smart Grids of ASHRAE, one of the largest international professional organizations, a reviewer for renowned scientific journals, and has served as a special adviser to the minister of energy in the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Energy. Tea is a motivational speaker and promotor of STEM and she takes an active part in the preservation of the Croatian national heritage.

# NOW IT'S YOUR TURN TO CELEBRATE AN EXTRAORDINARY WOMAN!

The Croatian Women of Influence Award recognizes successful women, and future leaders, from around the world, who share Croatian ancestry and heritage. This award celebrates achievement, inspires action and champions younger generations of women to realize their potential contribution to bettering the world around them

The call for nominations are now open.

<http://croatianwomensnetwork.org/nominate-2019>



MREŽA HRVATSKIH ŽENA



CWoI

## VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION ZAHVALA VOLONTERIMA

### A VERY SPECIAL THANKS...

Putting together an international awards ceremony and conference with finalists and speakers from every corner of the globe is no easy task, and a great many women and men deserve our gratitude for their efforts.

We extend a very special thanks to our fluently bilingual student volunteers who gave their time - and their incredible enthusiasm - to help make these events an honored experience for our guest.

Thanks for being an inspiration to women of Croatian heritage everywhere.

### OD SRCA HVALA...

Organizacija Međunarodne konferencije i svečane dodjele nagrada sa sudionicima iz gotovo cijeloga svijeta, nije lagan zadatak. Volonteri, Organizacijski odbor, svi u Hrvatskoj, Australiji, Kanadi i Sjedinjenim Američkim Državama, koji su odradili ogroman posao, zaslužuju našu zahvalnost za sav trud i brigu.

Posebno se zahvaljujemo našim studenticama koje su odvojile svoje vrijeme te iskustvom, znanjem i nevjerovatnim entuzijazmom pridonijele poticajnoj atmosferi i pomogle da se svaki gost naše Konferencije osjeća dobrodošlim.

Vi ste inspiracija ženama hrvatskoga podrijetla diljem svijeta.

# ZAHVALA SPONZORIMA THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Pod visokim pokroviteljstvom Under the high patronage



PREDSJEDNICA REPUBLIKE HRVATSKE  
KOLINDA GRABAR-KITAROVIĆ

LANCÔME  
PARIS

SILVER SPONSORS



VUKUSIC-LAVANDIN



WELCOME DINNER PARTNER

CROATIA2DAY

MEDIA PARTNER

## POKROVITELJI SPONSORS



Gradonačelnik Grada Zagreb  
MILAN BANDIĆ



Zagreb  
THE CAPITAL OF CROATIA



REPUBLIC OF CROATIA  
Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs

HRVATSKA  
Puna života



REPUBLIKA HRVATSKA  
MINISTARSTVO  
GOSPODARSTVA,  
PODUZETNIŠTVA  
I OBRTA



ČUVAR  
SJECANJA



Regus™



CELEBRATING  
10  
YEARS OF CLIENT SUCCESS  
PROFILE  
COMMUNICATIONS  
YOUR PROFILE. OUR PROFIT.

08-10-CREATIVE





MREŽA HRVATSKIH ŽENA



Nada Franka Čakar

Hrvatska matica iseljenika u povodu dodjele nagrada  
*Utjecajne hrvatske žene 2018.* i *Buduće liderice*  
ima čast predstaviti

# TRI UMJETNICE u mreži hrvatskih žena

- Iva Batistić
- Ivana Tkalčić (dobitnica Nagrade *Utjecajne hrvatske žene 2018.*)
- Nada Franka Čakar



Ivana Tkalčić

Svečano otvaranje multimedijalne izložbe  
**petak, 9. ožujka 2018.** s početkom u 13,00 sati  
Hrvatska matica iseljenika, Trg Stjepana Radića 3, Zagreb



Iva Batistić

Za izdavača:  
Mijo Marić

Hrvatska matica iseljenika Zagreb,  
Trg Stjepana Radića 3  
+385 01 6115 116  
hmi-info@matis.hr; www.matis.hr

