Croatian Women of Influence & Future Leaders

2026 Awards Gala

Sunday, March 8

CONGRATULATIONS & WELCOME TO THE CLUB

The winners of the prestigious Croatian Women of Influence Awards and Future Leader Awards extend our congratulations to the *2026 award winners.*

We're thrilled to welcome you to the club.

A WORD FROM THE FOUNDER

Caroline Spivak

Welcome to the 2026 Croatian Women of Influence and Future Leader Awards gala!

Welcome to the 10th anniversary Croatian Women of Influence Awards Gala, where we gather to celebrate leadership, innovation, and impact across borders and generations.

This evening, we are proud to honour 26 remarkable women – one Future Leader and 25 Croatian Women of Influence Award winners, from 11 countries around the world, chosen from 145 nominations received from 32 countries, bringing the total number of CWoI laureates to 207 selected from more than 950 global nominations.

With each award, we celebrate the legacy of excellence forged by the women who paved the way, the extraordinary trailblazers we recognize tonight and the barrier-breaking leaders we know the future holds. Together, they represent a powerful continuum of achievement — our legacy in motion.

Our honourees embody innovation, ingenuity, resilience and purpose. Through their contributions in arts, business, culture, entrepreneurship, public service, science, technology, the military and community leadership, they strengthen economies, enrich societies, transform communities and inspire generations to come.

Tonight, we recognize individual accomplishments and the collective impact of all CWoI laureates worldwide — women whose vision and determination continue to shape a more equitable and dynamic future for us all.

On behalf of CWN/MHŽ, an organization of women supporting women, I look forward to continuing to work together in this next decade and beyond to provide opportunities for Croatian women to connect, champion and celebrate our way to collective success.

Congratulations to all our 2026 Croatian Women of Influence Award winners. We're proud of each of you and we celebrate you.

Caroline Spivak
Founder,
Croatian Women's Network™
Mreža Hrvatskih Žena/La Red de Mujeres Croatas
Inspiration for CroActiva® Red Mujer Croata de Latinoamérica
Founding Circle Organization, Croatian Women's Alliance

Dobrodošli na svečanu dodjelu nagrada utjecajne hrvatske žene i buduće lidere za 2026. godinu!

Dobrodošli na svečanu dodjelu nagrada Utjecajne Hrvatske Žene i Buduće Liderice povodom naše 10. obljetnice, gdje se okupljamo kako bismo proslavili vodstvo, inovacije i utjecaj kroz granice i generacije. Večeras s ponosom odajemo priznanje 26 iznimnim ženama – jednoj Budućoj Liderici i 25 dobitnicama nagrade Utjecajne Hrvatske Žene iz 11 zemalja svijeta, odabranih među 145 nominacija pristiglih iz 32 zemlje, čime se ukupan broj laureatkinja koje su primile ovu nagradu povećava na 207, izabranih među više od 950 nominacija iz cijeloga svijeta.

Sa svakom nagradom slavimo nasljeđe izvrsnosti koje su izgradile žene koje su nam pokazale put, iznimne pionirke koje večeras prepoznajemo te liderice koje ruše prepreke i za koje znamo da ih budućnost tek donosi. Zajedno, one predstavljaju snažan kontinuitet postignuća — naše naslijeđe u pokretu.

Naše dobitnice prestavljaju inovativnost, kreativnost, otpornost i odlučnost. Svojim doprinosima u umjetnosti, gospodarstvu, kulturi, poduzetništvu, javnoj službi, znanosti, tehnologiji, vojsci i društvenom vodstvu, one jačaju gospodarstva, obogaćuju društva, mijenjaju zajednice i nadahnjuju generacije koje dolaze.

Večeras slavimo ne samo pojedinačna postignuća, već i zajednički utjecaj svih naših laureatkinja diljem svijeta — žena čija vizija i odlučnost nastavljaju oblikovati pravedniju i dinamičniju budućnost za sve nas.

U ime CWN/MHŽ, organizacije žena koje podržavaju žene, veselim se nastavku zajedničkog rada u ovom sljedećem desetljeću i dalje, kako bismo hrvatskim ženama omogućile povezivanje, međusobnu podršku i slavljenje na putu prema zajedničkom uspjehu.

Čestitamo svim dobitnicama nagrade Utjecajne Hrvatske Žene 2026. Ponosni smo na svaku od vas i večeras slavimo vaše uspjehe.

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¡Bienvenidos a la gala de los Premios a las Mujeres Influyentes y Futuras Líderes Croatas 2026!

Bienvenidos a la gala del 10° aniversario del Premio Mujeres Croatas Influyentes, donde nos reunimos para celebrar el liderazgo, la innovación y el impacto a través de fronteras y generaciones. Esta noche nos enorgullece rendir homenaje a 26 mujeres extraordinarias: una Futura Líder y 25 galardonadas con el premio Premio Mujeres Croatas Influyentes, procedentes de 11 países del mundo, seleccionadas entre 145 nominaciones recibidas de 32 países, lo que eleva el número total de laureadas con este premio a 207, elegidas entre más de 950 nominaciones globales.

Con cada premio celebramos el legado de excelencia forjado por las mujeres que abrieron camino, a las extraordinarias pioneras que reconocemos esta noche y a las líderes que rompen barreras y que sabemos que el futuro nos brindará. Juntas representan una poderosa cadena de logros: nuestro legado en movimiento.

Nuestras galardonadas encarnan la innovación, el ingenio, la resiliencia y la determinación. A través de sus contribuciones en las artes, los negocios, la cultura, el emprendimiento, el servicio público, la ciencia, la tecnología, las fuerzas armadas y el liderazgo comunitario, fortalecen las economías, enriquecen las sociedades, transforman comunidades e inspiran a las generaciones venideras.

Esta noche reconocemos no sólo los logros individuales, sino también el impactocolectivo de todas las galardonadas con este premio en todo el mundo: mujeres cuya visión y compromiso continúan dando forma a un futuro más equitativo y dinámico para todos nosotros.

En nombre de CWN/MHŽ -La Red de Mujeres Croatas-, organización de mujeres que apoyan a mujeres, espero que podamos continuar trabajando juntas durante esta próxima década y más allá, para brindar oportunidades a las mujeres croatas de conectarse, impulsarse mutuamente y celebrar el camino hacia el éxito colectivo. Felicitaciones a todas las ganadoras del Premio Mujeres Croatas Influyentes 2026. Estamos orgullosos de cada una de ustedes y hoy celebramos sus logros.

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OUR IMPACT
NAŠ UTJECAJ
NUESTRA IMPACTO

over the 10 years | u proteklih deset godina | en los últimos diez años

919	207	14	20	16	89
Nominations received	CWoI Winners	Future Leaders	CWoI Winners 1st time visitors to Croatia	Age of the Youngest Winner	Age of the Oldest Winner

€1.8 - €1.8 M
CWN/MHŽ Estimated Total direct and indirect spend economic impacto

€2.35 - €2.68 M
CWN/MHŽ Combined Economic & Promotional Impact Contribution for Croatia

119
Nomintions from 119 Countries

22
Winners selected from 22 Countries

10TH ANNIVERSARY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ODBOR ZA PLANIRANJE 10. OBLJETNICE

COMITÉ DE PLANIFICACIÓN DEL DÉCIMO ANIVERSARIO

Cathy Gorn
Committee Chair / Predsjednica odbora Presidente de la junta
CWoI 2023, USA

Biljana Abel
CWoI 2019, USA

Sara Dyson
CWoI 2023, USA

Kaja Pavlinić
Future Leader 2017, CRO

Adriana Smajić
CWoI 2025, ARG

Nevenka Komarica
CWoI 2025, USA

Lidija Kovarik
CWoI 2025, CZE

Judi Krizmanić Živić
CWoI 2025, USA

Antonija Trupinić
CWoI 2016, CRO

Dalia Alic
CWoI 2023, AUT
Program Committee

The process:

Selecting Croatian Women of Influence and Future Leader Award Winners

PHASE 01
Nominations

Nominations were opened inviting the global Croatian community to nominate deserving and accomplished Croatian women from any profession and young up-and-coming leaders aged 16-25 from around the world.

Nominations were open September 20, 2025 – October 21, 2025.

There was no fee to submit a nomination and only the completed online nomination form was accepted.

PHASE 02
Research & verification

All completed submissions were forwarded to the five-member judges panel comprised of esteemed leaders and current CWoI award holders. The panel assessed and voted for the selection of winners according to the established criteria.

Voting took place at an all-day meeting of the judges panel on Friday, November 7, 2025.

PHASE 03
CWoI 2026 Winners

CWoI Winners were announced on November 27, 2024 and are celebrated at the awards gala on March 8, 2025 in Zagreb, Croatia.

They are promoted online at www.croatianwomensnetwork.org, in the gala book, in all of our social media properties and in traditional media coverage.

2026

Judges Panel
Žiri
Jueces

ŽELJKA JOSIĆ

ENG Željka Josić, MD, serves as State Secretary at the Ministry of Demography and Immigration of the Republic of Croatia since 2024. She graduated from the University of Zagreb School of Medicine in 2004 and specialized in gynecology and obstetrics at Dr. Ivo Pedišić General Hospital in Sisak, where she also completed postgraduate studies in gynecological ultrasound. Throughout her professional career, she has worked as an emergency medicine physician, gynecologist, and subspecialist in human reproduction.

From 2016 to 2020, she served as a Member of the Croatian Parliament, actively participating in several parliamentary committees, including those on health and social policy, family, youth and sports, and gender equality. From 2020 to 2024, she held the position of State Secretary at the Central State Office for Demography and Youth, where, under her leadership, the Office implemented various support measures for families and young people – for example, housing subsidies for young individuals.

Women's health, youth in digital environments, and numerous humanitarian projects in the local community remain an important part of her professional and political work. She focuses on creating measures that support parenthood and improve the position of young people in society.

HR Željka Josić je državna tajnica u Ministarstvu demografije i useljeništva Republike Hrvatske. Diplomirala je na Medicinskom fakultetu Sveučilišta u Zagrebu 2004. godine, a specijalizirala ginekologiju i porodništvo u Općoj bolnici „Dr. Ivo Pedišić" u Sisku, gdje je završila i poslijediplomski studij ginekološkog ultrazvuka. Tijekom profesionalne karijere radila je kao liječnica hitne medicinske pomoći, ginekologinja te uža specijalistica humane reprodukcije.

Od 2016. do 2020. bila je zastupnica u Hrvatskom saboru, gdje je aktivno sudjelovala u radu više saborskih odbora, među ostalim za zdravstvo i socijalnu politiku, obitelj, mlade i sport te ravnopravnost spolova. Od 2020. do 2024. obnašala je dužnost državne tajnice u Središnjem državnom uredu za demografiju i mlade, gdje je, pod njezinim vodstvom, ured provodio mjere potpore za obitelji i mlade – primjerice, potpore za subvencioniranje stanovanja mladim osobama. Od 2024. godine državna je tajnica u Ministarstvu demografije i useljeništva.

Pitanja ženskog zdravlja, mladih u digitalnom okruženju te brojni humanitarni projekti u lokalnoj zajednici i dalje su važan dio njezina profesionalnog i političkog djelovanja. Tijekom mandata usmjerena je na kreiranje mjera koje podupiru roditeljstvo i doprinose boljem položaju mladih u društvu.

ESP Željka Josić es Secretaria de Estado en el Ministerio de Demografía e Inmigración de la República de Croacia desde 2024. Se graduó en la Facultad de Medicina de la Universidad de Zagreb en 2004 y se especializó en ginecología y obstetricia en el Hospital General "Dr. Ivo Pedišić" de Sisak, donde también completó estudios de posgrado en ecografía ginecológica. A lo largo de su carrera profesional, ha trabajado como médica de urgencias, ginecóloga y especialista en reproducción humana.

Entre 2016 y 2020 fue diputada del Parlamento croata, participando activamente en varios comités parlamentarios, entre ellos los de salud y política social, familia, juventud y deportes, e igualdad de género. De 2020 a 2024 desempeñó el cargo de Secretaria de Estado en la Oficina Estatal Central para la Demografía y la Juventud, donde, bajo su dirección, la oficina implementó diversas medidas de apoyo para las familias y los jóvenes, por ejemplo, subsidios para la vivienda destinados a los jóvenes.

Las cuestiones relacionadas con la salud de la mujer, la juventud en el entorno digital y las numerosas iniciativas humanitarias en la comunidad local siguen siendo una parte importante de su labor profesional y política. Durante su mandato, se ha centrado en la creación de medidas destinadas a apoyar la maternidad y paternidad y mejorar la posición de los jóvenes en la sociedad.

KLARA KAMENAR

ENG Klara Kamenar, Associate in the Department for Legal Status, Culture, Education and Economy of the Croatian Diaspora at the Central State Office for Croats Abroad, Zagreb, Croatia.

Following graduation from the University of Zagreb in 2022 with a degree in History and Library Science, Klara initially worked as a school librarian and substitute teacher. In 2024, she joined the Central State Office for Croats Abroad as an associate in the Department of Programs and Projects of the Croatian Diaspora, where she participated in the execution of the Public Tender for Proposals for Programs/Projects by Croatian Diaspora Organizations in Overseas and European Countries and the Public Call for the Application of Specific Needs and Projects of Interest to Croats Abroad.

In 2025, she contributed to coordinating the Domovina Birthright Program. Recently, she has become part of the Department for Legal Status, Culture, Education and Economy of the Croatian Diaspora, where she continues to gain valuable knowledge and contribute to maintaining strong ties between Croats abroad and their homeland.

HR Klara Kamenar je suradnica u Službi za pravni položaj, kulturu, obrazovanje i gospodarstvo hrvatskog iseljeništva Središnjeg državnog ureda za Hrvate izvan Republike Hrvatske, Zagreb.

Nakon završenog jednopredmetnog preddiplomskog studija povijesti na Filozofskom fakultetu Sveučilišta u Zagrebu, upisuje dvopredmetni diplomski studij povijesti te informacijskih i komunikacijskih znanosti, smjer bibliotekarstvo. Diplomirala je 2022. godine, nakon čega radno iskustvo započinje stjecati u nastavi i školskoj knjižnici.

Od 2024. godine zaposlena je u Središnjem državnom uredu za Hrvate izvan Republike Hrvatske, gdje je, kao suradnica u Službi za programe i projekte hrvatskog iseljeništva, sudjelovala u provedbi Javnog natječaja za prijavu programa/projekata organizacija hrvatskog iseljeništva u prekomorskim i europskim državama te Javnog poziva za prijavu posebnih potreba i projekata od interesa za Hrvate izvan Republike Hrvatske, kao i programa Ljetna škola „Domovina" 2025.

Odnedavno je dio Službe za pravni položaj, kulturu, obrazovanje i gospodarstvo hrvatskog iseljeništva, u kojoj će, nada se, nastaviti stjecati vrijedna znanja te doprinijeti održavanju veza hrvatskog iseljeništva s domovinom.

ESP Željka Josić es Secretaria de Estado en el Ministerio de Demografía e Inmigración de la República de Croacia desde 2024. Se graduó en la Facultad de Medicina de la Universidad de Zagreb en 2004 y se especializó en ginecología y obstetricia en el Hospital General "Dr. Ivo Pedišić" de Sisak, donde también completó estudios de posgrado en ecografía ginecológica. A lo largo de su carrera profesional, ha trabajado como médica de urgencias, ginecóloga y especialista en reproducción humana.

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ANITA MARTINAC

ENG Anita Martinac, Master of Laws, serves as Advisor to the Minister for Veterans' Affairs of the Herzegovina-Neretva County (HNŽ), Bosnia and Herzegovina. A participant of the Homeland War, she is also a poet and novelist. Following a decade of military service, she worked in both the private and public sectors and is currently employed as an Advisor to the Minister for Veteran Affairs.

Since 1994, she has published 20 literary works, including collections of poetry, short stories, historical novels, fairy tales, and essays. She also writes scholarly papers on history, the Homeland War, and law. Her literary works have been featured in numerous anthologies, international and domestic collections, and school textbooks. She frequently participates in cultural events and literary gatherings.

Anita is the recipient of numerous literary awards and honors, including the Golden Charter of Matica hrvatska for three novels, and the Croatian Woman of Influence Award (2018) in the category of Arts and Culture. She serves as President of the South Croatian Branch of the Croatian Writers' Association, the Foundation of the Croatian Writers' Association in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Center of the Croatian World Congress for Research on the Consequences of Totalitarianism in Bosnia and Herzegovina. She is also actively involved in humanitarian and volunteer work through various associations.

HR Anita Martinac, diplomirana pravnica, sudionica je Domovinskog rata, pjesnikinja i romansijerka. Nakon desetljeća provedenog u vojnoj službi, radila je u realnom i javnom sektoru. Trenutno je zaposlena kao savjetnica ministra za pitanja branitelja HNŽ.

Objavljuje od 1994. godine, a do sada je objavila 20 književnih djela: zbirke poezije, novela, povijesnih romana, bajki i zbirki eseja. Piše znanstvene radove iz područja povijesti, Domovinskog rata i prava. Njezini su književni uradci zastupljeni u brojnim antologijama, međunarodnim i domaćim zbornicima te školskim udžbenicima. Često sudjeluje na različitim manifestacijama i književnim susretima.

Dobitnica je brojnih književnih nagrada i priznanja, među kojima se ističe Zlatna povelja Matice hrvatske za tri romana, te nagrada Utjecajna hrvatska žena za kulturu i umjetnost (2018). Predsjednica je Južnohrvatskog ogranka Društva hrvatskih književnika, Zaklade DHK u BiH i Središta Hrvatskog svjetskog kongresa za istraživanje posljedica totalitarizama u BiH. Djeluje humanitarno i volonterski kroz razne udruge.

ESP Anita Martinac, licenciada en Derecho, es asesora del ministro de Asuntos de Veteranos del Cantón de Herzegovina-Neretva (HNŽ), Bosnia y Herzegovina. Veterana de la Guerra de Independencia Croata, es también poeta y novelista. Después de una década de servicio militar, trabajó tanto en el sector privado como en el público. Actualmente se desempeña como asesora del ministro para Asuntos de Veteranos.

Publica desde 1994 y hasta la fecha ha escrito 20 obras literarias, entre ellas colecciones de poesía, relatos, novelas históricas, cuentos de hadas y ensayos. También escribe trabajos académicos en los campos de la historia, la Guerra de Independencia y el derecho. Sus obras literarias han sido incluidas en numerosas antologías, así como en recopilaciones nacionales e internacionales y en libros de texto escolares. Participa con frecuencia en diversos eventos culturales y encuentros literarios.

Ha recibido numerosos premios y reconocimientos literarios, entre los que destaca la Carta de Oro de Matica hrvatska por tres de sus novelas. En 2018 fue galardonada con el Premio Mujer Croata de Influencia en la categoría de Cultura y Arte. Es presidenta de la Rama del Sur de la Asociación de Escritores Croatas, de la Fundación de la Asociación de Escritores Croatas en Bosnia y Herzegovina, y del Centro del Congreso Mundial Croata para la Investigación de las Consecuencias del Totalitarismo en Bosnia y Herzegovina. Además, participa activamente en labores humanitarias y de voluntariado a través de diversas asociaciones.

IVANA RORA

ENG Ivana Rora, who holds a master's degree in public relations, is the new Deputy Director of the Croatian Heritage Foundation (Hrvatska matica iseljenika – HMI). She has dedicated more than thirty years of her professional career to this institution, where she has gained extensive experience through numerous programs she has designed and led.

Throughout her career, she has held various roles — from editor and journalist to head of public relations and media networks, as well as organizer of major annual projects. As a communication specialist, she has devoted her work to strengthening the ties between Croatia and its diaspora, developing projects and communication channels with Croatian communities around the world.

She served as editor of Dom i svijet, the first weekly supplement for Croatians abroad published by Večernji list, and was head of HMI's Marketing and Public Relations Department. She has also been active in the Croatian World Congress and was part of the organizing team for the Croatian World Games for Youth of the Diaspora

HR Ivana Rora, magistra odnosa s javnošću, nova je zamjenica ravnatelja Hrvatske matice iseljenika (HMI). Više od trideset godina svog profesionalnog rada provela je upravo u Matici, gdje je stekla bogato iskustvo kroz razne programe koje je osmišljavala i vodila.

Tijekom karijere obnašala je niz funkcija — od urednice i novinarke, preko voditeljice PR-a i medijske mreže, do organizatorice velikih godišnjih projekata. Kao komunikologinja, posvetila se povezivanju domovinske i iseljene Hrvatske, razvijajući projekte i komunikacijske kanale s hrvatskim zajednicama diljem svijeta.

Bila je urednica Doma i svijeta, prvog tjednog priloga za Hrvate izvan RH u sklopu Večernjeg lista, te voditeljica Odjela za marketing i odnose s javnošću HMI-a. Aktivno je djelovala u Hrvatskom svjetskom kongresu te je bila nekoliko godina voditeljica Domovinskog sjedišta i članica organizacijskog tima Hrvatskih svjetskih igara mladih Hrvata izvan RH.

ESP Ivana Rora, máster en relaciones públicas, es la nueva subdirectora de la Casa Croata de la Diáspora (Hrvatska matica iseljenika – HMI). Ha dedicado más de treinta años de su carrera profesional a esta institución, donde ha adquirido una amplia experiencia a través de numerosos programas que ha diseñado y dirigido.

A lo largo de su trayectoria ha desempeñado diversos cargos —desde editora y periodista, hasta directora de relaciones públicas y de la red de medios, además de organizadora de grandes proyectos anuales. Como especialista en comunicación, se ha dedicado a fortalecer los vínculos entre la Croacia nacional y la diáspora, desarrollando proyectos y canales de comunicación con comunidades croatas en todo el mundo.

Fue editora de Dom i svijet, el primer suplemento semanal para croatas fuera de Croacia publicado por Večernji list, y dirigió el Departamento de Marketing y Relaciones Públicas de la HMI. Participó activamente en el Congreso Mundial Croata y formó parte del equipo organizador de los Juegos Mundiales Croatas de Jóvenes de la Diáspora.

ADRIANA IVANA SMAJIĆ

ENG Adriana Ivana Smajić, Lawyer, Translator and Editor-in-Chief of the journal Studia Croatica, lives in Buenos Aires, Argentina, where she has built a successful career as a lawyer and notary public specializing in legal matters related to Croatia and Croats in Argentina and beyond. Since 2005, she has also been a certified court translator.

In addition to legal and technical documents, her passion for language and culture is reflected in her participation in the first Spanish translation of August Šenoa's literary classic Zlatarovo zlato. As a seasoned translator, she regularly provides simultaneous and consecutive interpretation at Croatian community meetings and during visits of high-level Croatian officials. Among her many engagements, her role as part of the delegation of the President of the Republic of Croatia, Zoran Milanović, during his 2022 visit to Chile stands out.

Active in the Croatian community in Argentina for many years, she has served as Secretary of the Committee of Croatian Associations and Institutions in Argentina and, since 2015, as Co-Editor of the esteemed journal Studia Croatica together with Joza Vrljičak. Adriana is the recipient of the Croatian Woman of Influence Award 2025 in the category of Leadership & Innovation.

HR Adriana Smajić živi u Buenos Airesu, gdje uspješno gradi karijeru odvjetnice i javne bilježnice, specijalizirane za pravne predmete povezane s Hrvatskom i Hrvatima u Argentini i šire. Od 2005. godine ovlaštena je sudska tumačica te aktivno djeluje i u toj struci.

Osim pravnih dokumenata i stručnih tekstova, njezina ljubav prema jeziku i kulturi ogleda se i u sudjelovanju u prvom prijevodu književnog klasika Augusta Šenoe Zlatarovo zlato na španjolski jezik. Kao prevoditeljica s dugogodišnjim iskustvom, redovito prevodi simultano i konsekutivno na sastancima hrvatske zajednice te tijekom posjeta visokih dužnosnika iz Hrvatske. Među brojnim angažmanima ističe se njezino sudjelovanje u izaslanstvu predsjednika Republike Hrvatske, Zorana Milanovića, tijekom njegova posjeta Čileu 2022. godine.

U hrvatskoj zajednici u Argentini aktivna je već dugi niz godina — obnašala je dužnost tajnice Međudruštvenog odbora hrvatskih udruga i ustanova u Argentini, a od 2015. godine suurednica je uglednog časopisa Studia Croatica, zajedno s Jozom Vrljičkom. Dobitnica je nagrade Utjecajne hrvatske žene 2025. godine u kategoriji za Vodstvo i Inovaciju.

ESP Adriana Ivana Smajić, abogada y traductora pública, directora de la revista Studia Croatica, reside en Buenos Aires, Argentina, donde ha desarrollado una exitosa carrera como abogada y escribana, especializada en asuntos legales relacionados con Croacia y los croatas en Argentina y más allá. Desde 2005, es traductora pública certificada.

Además de traducir documentos legales y técnicos, su amor por el idioma y la cultura se refleja en su participación en la primera traducción al español del clásico literario croata Zlatarovo zlato de August Šenoa. Como traductora con amplia experiencia, realiza traducciones simultáneas y consecutivas en reuniones de la comunidad croata y durante las visitas de altos funcionarios de Croacia. Entre sus numerosas colaboraciones, destaca su participación en la delegación del presidente de la República de Croacia, Zoran Milanović, durante su visita a Chile en 2022.

Activa desde hace muchos años en la comunidad croata en Argentina, fue secretaria del Comité de Asociaciones e Instituciones Croatas en Argentina y, desde 2015, se desempeña como codirectora de la prestigiosa revista Studia Croatica junto con Joza Vrljičak. Adriana ha recibido el premio Mujer Croata de Influencia 2025 en la categoría de Liderazgo e Innovación.

ABOUT THE AWARD

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 Croatian Women of Influence 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.

The Glagolitic alphabet (known as Glagolitsa) is the oldest known Slavic alphabet. It was created in the 9 th 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. 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 12 th to the 20 th 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 14 th century and was derived from the word glagoliti, applied to adherents of the liturgy in Slavonic.

Croats using the Glagolitic alphabet were the only nation in Europe given 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 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 Adriatic coast. As is well known, Latin had been the privileged language in religious ceremonies in the Catholic Church until the 2 nd Vatican Synod 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.

The award is a modern interpretation and recognition of our past, present and future. It's pillars of the letter "Ž" are a nod to the strength and resilience of women; protective, stable and timeless. It is a celebration of Croatian women of influence of today and is an affirmation to our trailblazing women that we all stand on each other's shoulders in creating the future.

Created in Canada, from aluminum and stone, this beautiful and now iconic award appears at first glance as a gift. Perhaps this is a gentle reminder that women are a gift and blessing to their communities and that the world should value their incredible and numerous contributions.

2026

Future Leader
Budućа liderica
Futura líder

DANIJELA KAROLINA BORAS

Country: Canada
Category: Future Leader

Undergraduate Student – Honours Specialization in Geology – Faculty of Science, Western University, Canada

ENG Danijela is an undergraduate geology student at Western University in Canada, an active campus leader, and a summer research intern. Danijela investigates ocean circulation and critical climatic transition in Earth's history, and has also participated in fieldwork on the New Brunswick, Canada Tidal Flats. Danijela is an active member of her school community serving as the Croatian Club President, Western Environmental Business Vice President of Outreach, and a Science Student Council Department Representative. Through the Undergraduate Summer Research Internship (USRI), Danijela independently worked on her own research project: Reconstructing South Atlantic Ocean circulation and climate during the Eocene-Oligocene Transition, and participated in field work on the Bay of Fundy tidal flats in New Brunswick, Canada. Additionally, Danijela is the recipient of the Halton Catholic District School Board Student Award of Excellence (2022), Western Scholarship of Distinction (2023), USRI (2025). Danijela continues to pursue the many opportunities available to her, to be a strong future leader while most importantly honouring the many generations of strong Croatian women who have come before her.

Država: Kanada
Kategorija: Budućа liderica

Studentica dodiplomskog studija s počasnom specijalizacijom iz geologije – Fakultet prirodnih znanosti, Sveučilište Western, Kanada

HR Danijela Boras studentica je dodiplomskog studija na Sveučilištu Western u Kanadi, gdje pohađa studij s počasnom specijalizacijom iz geologije. Danijela je aktivna članica svoje sveučilišne zajednice – predsjednica je Hrvatskog kluba, potpredsjednica za odnose s javnošću u Odjelu za ekološke projekte Sveučilišta Western te predstavnica odjela u Znanstvenom studentskom vijeću. Kroz ljetni istraživački program za studente (USRI), Danijela je samostalno radila na vlastitom istraživačkom projektu pod nazivom Rekonstrukcija cirkulacije i klime Južnog Atlantskog oceana tijekom prijelaza između eocena i oligocena, te je sudjelovala u terenskom radu na plimnim ravnima zaljeva Fundy u pokrajini New Brunswick, Kanada. Danijela je dobitnica više priznanja: Nagrade za izvrsnost Katoličkog regionalnog školskog odbora Halton (2022.), stipendije Sveučilišta Western za istaknute studente (2023.), stipendije ljetnog istraživačkog programa za studente – USRI (2025.). Danijela nastavlja koristiti mnoge prilike koje joj se pružaju kako bi postala snažna budućа liderica, a ponajprije odajući počast mnogim generacijama snažnih hrvatskih žena koje su joj prethodile.

País: Canadá
Categoría: Futura líder

Estudiante de licenciatura – Especialización con honores en Geología – Facultad de Ciencias, Western Universidad, Canadá

ESP Danijela Boras es estudiante de licenciatura en Western Universidad, Canadá, donde cursa una especialización con honores en Geología. Danijela participa activamente en la vida universitaria como presidenta del Club Croata, vicepresidenta de extensión de Western Environmental Business y representante del departamento en el Consejo Estudiantil de Ciencias. A través del programa Undergraduate Summer Research Internship (USRI), Danijela desarrolló de forma independiente su propio proyecto de investigación titulado "Reconstrucción de la circulación del océano Atlántico Sur y del clima durante la transición Eoceno-Oligoceno", y participó en trabajos de campo en las planicies mareales de la Bahía de Fundy, en New Brunswick, Canadá. Asimismo, Danijela ha sido distinguida con el Premio a la Excelencia Estudiantil del Consejo Escolar del Distrito Católico de Halton (2022), la Beca de Distinción de Western (2023), la USRI (2025). Danijela continúa aprovechando las numerosas oportunidades académicas y profesionales a su disposición, con el propósito de consolidarse como una futura líder destacada, honrando especialmente a las muchas generaciones de mujeres croatas que la han precedido.

2026

Croatian Women of Influence
Utjecajne hrvatske žene
Mujeres croatas influyentes

CAROLYN AGIN BRUNO

Country: United States of America
Category: Leadership & Innovation

Senior Partner, Bruno Law, PLLC and General Counsel, Mindful Travel Croatia, LLC.

ENG Carolyn, a second generation Croatian-American, is an accomplished legal professional, community volunteer, and cultural ambassador to the Croatian diaspora. Over the past three decades she has served in many legal and community leadership positions. Carolyn has demonstrated extraordinary dedication to promoting Croatian culture and strengthening Croatian-American relations. She has been a transformative force in cultural diplomacy through her leadership roles in the Croatian Cultural Society of Minnesota and the National Federation of Croatian Americans. Carolyn has emerged as one of the key organizers for many events in these organizations, including high-profile Croatian diplomatic events in Minnesota: most notably, she served as Co-Chair/Co-Host to the Official Visit of the President of the Republic of Croatia, Zoran Milanović (2025). Carolyn continues as a liaison to Croatia by serving as General Counsel to Mindful Travel Croatia, a destination management company dedicated to bringing authentic and local Croatian experiences to visitors from around the world.

Država: Sjedinjene Američke Države
Kategorija: Vodstvo i inovacija

Viša partnerica u odvjetničkom društvu Bruno Law, PLLC i glavna pravna savjetnica u Mindful Travel Croatia, LLC

HR Carolyn, hrvatsko-američka pripadnica druge generacije, uspješna je pravnica, volonterka u zajednici i kulturna ambasadorica u hrvatskoj dijaspori. Tijekom posljednja tri desetljeća obnašala je mnoge pravne i vodeće pozicije u zajednici. Carolyn je pokazala izvanrednu predanost promicanju hrvatske kulture i jačanju hrvatsko-američkih odnosa. Bila je transformativna snaga u kulturnoj diplomaciji kroz svoje vodeće uloge u Hrvatskom kulturnom društvu Minnesote i Nacionalnoj federaciji hrvatskih Amerikanaca. Carolyn se istaknula kao jedna od ključnih organizatorica mnogih događaja u tim organizacijama, uključujući i visoko profilne aktivnosti hrvatskih diplomata u Minnesoti: najznačajnija je bila uloga supredsjedateljice/sudomaćina službenog posjeta predsjednika Republike Hrvatske, Zorana Milanovića (rujan 2025.). Carolyn nastavlja biti veza s Hrvatskom kao glavna pravna savjetnica tvrtke Mindful Travel Croatia, tvrtke za upravljanje destinacijama posvećene pružanju autentičnih i lokalnih hrvatskih iskustava posjetiteljima iz cijelog svijeta.

País: Estados Unidos
Categoría: Futura líder

Socia principal de Bruno Law, PLLC y asesora general de Mindful Travel Croatia, LLC.

ESP Carolyn, croata-estadounidense de segunda generación, es una destacada profesional del derecho, voluntaria comunitaria y embajadora cultural de la diáspora croata. Durante las últimas tres décadas, ha ocupado numerosos cargos de liderazgo en el ámbito jurídico y comunitario. Carolyn ha demostrado una extraordinaria dedicación a la promoción de la cultura croata y al fortalecimiento de las relaciones croata-estadounidenses. Ha sido una figura clave en la diplomacia cultural gracias a su liderazgo en la Sociedad Cultural Croata de Minnesota y la Federación Nacional de Croata-Estadounidenses. Carolyn se ha consolidado como una de las organizadoras principales de muchos eventos en estas organizaciones, incluyendo eventos diplomáticos croatas de alto nivel en Minnesota; cabe destacar su participación como copresidenta y coanfitriona de la visita oficial del presidente de la República de Croacia, Zoran Milanović (2025). Carolyn continúa su labor de enlace con Croacia como asesora legal de Mindful Travel Croatia, una empresa de gestión de destinos dedicada a ofrecer experiencias croatas auténticas y locales a visitantes de todo el mundo.

SILVINA BIOTT

Country: Argentina
Category: Arts & Culture

Argentine-Croatian writer and poet, promoter of Croatian culture, advocate for the culture of peace and member of the international movement 100 Poets for Peace

ENG Silvina Mariel Biott is an Argentine-Croatian writer, educator, and promoter of peace. Her work weaves together poetry, storytelling, and reflection on migration, identity, and belonging. From Tierra del Fuego, at the southernmost edge of Latin America, she spreads Croatian culture through diverse artistic and literary activities, carrying the living voice of the diaspora to the heart of the world. Author of Su Majestad, Plavo More, and Sembremos la Paz. Semillas de valores, among other books, she expresses the emotional bridge between Argentina and Croatia, her two homelands of the soul. For more than a decade, she has actively participated in the international movement 100 Poets for Peace, uniting her cultural and literary work in a shared mission: to transform words into acts of unity, and the Croatian diaspora into a true embassy of peace.

Država: Argentina
Kategorija: Kultura i umjetnost

Argentinsko-hrvatska spisateljica i pjesnikinja, promicateljica hrvatske kulture, zagovornica kulture mira i članica međunarodnog pokreta 100 pjesnika za mir

Silvina Mariel Biott argentinsko-hrvatska je spisateljica, učiteljica i promotorica mira. Njezina djela povezuju poeziju, pripovijedanje i razmišljanja o migraciji, identitetu i pripadnosti. Iz Ognjene zemlje, na krajnjem jugu Latinske Amerike, širi hrvatsku kulturu kroz raznolike umjetničke i književne aktivnosti, noseći živi glas dijaspore u samo srce svijeta. Autorica knjiga Su Majestad, Plavo More i Sijemo mir. Sjeme vrijednosti, među ostalima, izražava emocionalni most između Argentine i Hrvatske, svojih dviju domovina duše. Više od desetljeća aktivno sudjeluje u međunarodnom pokretu 100 pjesnika za mir, povezujući svoj kulturni i književni rad u zajedničkoj misiji: pretvarati riječ u čin jedinstva i hrvatsku dijasporu u istinsko veleposlanstvo mira.

País: Argentina
Categoría: Arte y Cultura

Escritora y poeta argentino-croata, promotora de la cultura croata y de la cultura de paz, integrante del movimiento internacional 100 Poetas por la Paz

ESP Silvina Mariel Biott es una escritora argentino-croata, docente y promotora de la paz. Su obra entrelaza la poesía, la narración y la reflexión sobre la migración, la identidad y el sentido de pertenencia. Desde Tierra del Fuego, en el extremo austral de América Latina, difunde la cultura croata a través de diversas actividades artísticas y literarias, llevando la voz de la diáspora al corazón del mundo. Autora de Su Majestad, Plavo More y Sembremos la Paz. Semillas de valores, entre otros libros, expresa el puente emocional entre Argentina y Croacia, sus dos patrias del alma. Desde hace más de una década, participa activamente en el movimiento internacional 100 Poetas por la Paz, uniendo su labor cultural y literaria en una misión compartida: convertir la palabra en un acto de unión y a la diáspora croata en una auténtica embajada de paz.

MARIA-GABRIELA DUMANDŽIĆ

Country: Argentina
Category: Business

Executive, Grupo Dumandzic

ENG María Gabriela Dumandžić is an Argentine business leader with a background in accounting and a master's degree in business management. She serves as a key executive at Grupo Dumandzic — which includes Construcciones Ivica Dumandzic S.A. and Minera Zlato S.R.L. — continuing the legacy of excellence established by her Croatian father, Ivica Dumandžić, who founded the family business in 1951. Under her guidance, the group continues to strengthen its culture of hard work, integrity, and community commitment. The company stands as a benchmark in large-scale infrastructure projects and provides highly specialized services to the mining sector. A founding member of the Equity Committee of the Argentine Chamber of Construction, she actively promotes the visibility of women in the industry and frequently participates as a speaker at diversity and inclusion forums. She was a featured speaker at the Latin American Summit of Croactivas®, the association of Croatian Women of Latin America, where she reflected on how her roots have been a defining force in her personal and professional journey.

Država: Argentina
Kategorija: Gospodarstvo

Izvršna direktorica, Grupo Dumandzic

HR Carolyn, hrvatsko-američka pripadnica druge generacije, uspješna je pravnica, voloMaría Gabriela Dumandžić, argentinska poslovna žena, diplomirana računovoda i magistrica, zauzima vodeću poziciju u Grupo Dumandzic — koji obuhvaća tvrtke Construcciones Ivica Dumandzic S.A. i Minera Zlato S.R.L. Nastavljajući tradiciju izvrsnosti obiteljske tvrtke koju je 1951. godine osnovao njezin otac, Hrvat Ivica Dumandžić. Pod njezinim vodstvom jača se kultura predanosti, poštenja i odgovornosti prema zajednici koja obilježava grupu. U području građevinarstva tvrtka je prepoznata kao referenca u izvođenju infrastrukturnih projekata velikih razmjera, dok u rudarstvu pruža specijalizirane usluge. Osnivačica je Komisije za jednakost pri Argentinskoj gospodarskoj komori za građevinarstvo, koja promiče vidljivost žena u građevinskim poduzećima, te aktivno sudjeluje kao panelistica na događanjima posvećenima toj temi. Sudjelovala je kao govornica na samitu Croactivas® — Mreže hrvatskih žena Latinske Amerike, gdje je istaknula da su njezini korijeni bili ključni za njezin osobni i profesionalni razvoj. Također potiče programe mentorstva i edukacije za mlade. María Gabriela smatra da se poslovni uspjeh mjeri i društvenim utjecajem te stvaranjem prilika. S tim pogledom potiče održivi rast grupe, kulturu oblikovanu njezinim hrvatskim korijenima.

País: Argentina
Categoría: Negocios

Directora ejecutiva, Grupo Dumandzic

ESP María Gabriela Dumandzic, empresaria argentina, graduada en Contaduría Pública y Magíster, ocupa una posición de liderazgo en el Grupo Dumandzic —que agrupa a las compañías Construcciones Ivica Dumandzic S.A. y Minera Zlato S.R.L.—, continuando la tradición de excelencia de la empresa familiar fundada por su padre croata, Ivica Dumandzic, en 1951. Bajo su dirección, se refuerza la cultura de esfuerzo, honestidad y compromiso con la comunidad que caracteriza al grupo. En el ámbito de la construcción, la empresa es referente en obras de infraestructura de gran escala, mientras que en minería brinda servicios especializados. Es miembro fundadora de la Comisión de Equidad de la Cámara Argentina de la Construcción, que promueve la visibilidad de la mujer en empresas constructoras, y participa activamente como panelista en eventos sobre diversidad e inclusión. Participó como oradora en la Cumbre Croactivas®, la Red de Mujeres Croatas de América Latina, donde expresó que sus raíces fueron una pieza fundamental para su desarrollo personal y profesional. Además, impulsa programas de mentoría y capacitación para jóvenes.

ANA JERKOVIĆ

Country: Croatia
Category: Leadership & Innovation

Economist and diplomat, Associate Fellow, World Academy of Art and Science, Member, International Council of Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs

ENG Ana Jerković is an economist and diplomat, an Associate Fellow of the World Academy of Art and Science and a member of the International Council of Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs, an international organization that won the Nobel Peace Prize. Throughout her career, she has worked in the media and in several Croatian ministries. She also contributed to the Croatian Presidency of the Council of the European Union, was a member of European Commission working groups, and served as author and manager of numerous projects and initiatives. She holds the title of Dame of the Order of Saint George of the House of Habsburg-Lorraine.

Država: Republika Hrvatska
Kategorija: Vodstvo i inovacija

Ekonomistica i diplomatkinja, suradna članica Svjetske akademije umjetnosti i znanosti, članica Međunarodnog vijeća Pugwashovih konferencija o znanosti i svjetskim poslovima

HR Ana Jerković je ekonomistica i diplomatkinja, suradna članica Svjetske akademije umjetnosti i znanosti te članica Međunarodnog vijeća Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs, međunarodne organizacije dobitnice Nobelove nagrade za mir. Kroz svoju karijeru radila je u medijima, zatim u više hrvatskih ministarstava, radila je na predsjedanju Republike Hrvatske Vijećem Europske unije te je bila članica radnih skupina pri Europskoj komisiji, kao i autorica i voditeljica niza projekata i inicijativa. Nositeljica je titule Dame Reda Svetog Jurja Kuće Habsburg-Lothringen.

País: República de Croacia
Categoría: Liderazgo e innovación

Economista y diplomática, miembro asociada de la Academia Mundial de Arte y Ciencia, miembro del Consejo Internacional de Conferencias Pugwash sobre Ciencia y Asuntos Mundiales

ESP Ana Jerković es economista y diplomática, miembro asociada de la Academia Mundial de Artes y Ciencias y miembro del Consejo Internacional de Pugwash Conferencias sobre Ciencia y Asuntos Mundiales, organización internacional galardonada con el Premio Nobel de la Paz. A lo largo de su trayectoria profesional, ha trabajado en medios de comunicación y en diversos ministerios croatas. Trabajó durante la Presidencia croata del Consejo de la Unión Europea, fue miembro de grupos de trabajo de la Comisión Europea y autora y líder de numerosos proyectos e iniciativas. Ostenta el título de Dama de la Orden de San Jorge de la Casa de Habsburgo-Lorena.

JASNA KARAČIĆ ZANETTI

Country: Belgium
Category: Leadership & Innovation

Head of Health Diplomacy Unit / President of The Croatian Association for the Promotion of Patients' Rights

ENG Dr. Jasna Karačić Zanetti is the President of the Croatian Association for the Promotion of Patients' Rights and Head of the Office for Health Diplomacy. During Croatia's Presidency of the Council of the European Union, she was responsible for the area of health and actively participated in managing the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. For her contribution to the scientific approach to patient-centered medicine, she was appointed as the International Ombudsman for Patients. She serves as an advisor to hospital directors and health ministers and is the first Doctor of Health Diplomacy in Europe. She is a member of numerous international organizations and the representative of forensic sciences for the Republic of Croatia. She serves on the Governing Board of the World Center for Bioethics, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, and as an advisor to the European Commission on health matters. Dr. Karačić Zanetti is an invited speaker at conferences around the world and a professor at several universities. She carries out her work in multiple countries and speaks Croatian, English, Italian, and French. She is the recipient of numerous international awards and recognitions.

Država: Belgija
Kategorija: Vodstvo i inovacija

Predsjednica Hrvatske udruge za promicanje prava pacijenata i voditeljica Ureda za zdravstvenu diplomaciju

HR Dr. sc. Jasna Karačić Zanetti predsjednica je Hrvatske udruge za promicanje prava pacijenata i voditeljica Ureda za zdravstvenu diplomaciju. Tijekom hrvatskog predsjedanja Vijećem Europske unije bila je odgovorna za područje zdravstva te je aktivno sudjelovala u upravljanju krizom pandemije COVID-19. Zbog svog doprinosa u znanstvenom pristupu medicini usmjerenoj na pacijenta, izabrana je za međunarodnog ombudsmana. Savjetnica je ravnateljima bolnica i ministrima zdravstva te prva doktorica zdravstvene diplomacije u Europi. Članica je brojnih međunarodnih organizacija i predstavnica forenzičnih znanosti za Republiku Hrvatsku. Članica je upravnog odbora Svjetskog centra za bioetiku, Europskog centra za kontrolu i prevenciju bolesti te savjetnica Europske komisije za zdravstvo. Pozvana je predavačica na kongresima diljem svijeta i profesorica na nekoliko fakulteta. Svoj rad provodi u više država te govori francuski jezik. Dobitnica je brojnih međunarodnih nagrada i priznanja.

País: Bélgica
Categoría: Liderazgo e innovación

Presidenta de la Asociación Croata para la Promoción de los Derechos de los Pacientes y directora de la Oficina de Diplomacia Sanitaria

ESP María Gabriela Dumandzic, empresaria argentina, graduada en Contaduría Pública y Magíster, ocupa una posición de liderazgo en el Grupo Dumandzic —que agrupa a las compañías Construcciones Ivica Dumandzic S.A. y Minera Zlato S.R.L.—, continuando la tradición de excelencia de la empresa familiar fundada por su padre croata, Ivica Dumandzic, en 1951. Bajo su dirección, se refuerza la cultura de esfuerzo, honestidad y compromiso con la comunidad que caracteriza al grupo. En el ámbito de la construcción, la empresa es referente en obras de infraestructura de gran escala, mientras que en minería brinda servicios especializados. Es miembro fundadora de la Comisión de Equidad de la Cámara Argentina de la Construcción, que promueve la visibilidad de la mujer en empresas constructoras, y participa activamente como panelista en eventos sobre diversidad e inclusión. Participó como oradora en la Cumbre Croactivas®, la Red de Mujeres Croatas de América Latina, donde expresó que sus raíces fueron una pieza fundamental para su desarrollo personal y

DANICA KEGEVIĆ

Country: Chile
Category: Leadership & Innovation

President, Croatian Sports Club Valparaíso, Chile / Key Account Manager, Pacifico Atlantico Seafood

ENG Danica Kegević is a prominent woman in her country for having presented the Zero Tolerance Law project to the Chilean government, which came into effect in 2012 as an amendment to her country's traffic law. She also spearheaded the first commemoration of traffic victims, which is now a national day after being formalized by Supreme Decree No. 40, promulgated in June 2020. She is a loving mother of two children, Magdalena and Bernardo, and happily married to the renowned swimmer and water polo player, Felipe Jimenez. Together with other Croatian descendants, she founded the Croatian Sports Club of Valparaíso, located in Reñaca, Viña del Mar, whose mission today is to recruit young athletes to lead a Chilean representative team to the 2027 Croatian World Games.

Država: Čile
Kategorija: Vodstvo i inovacija

Predsjednica Hrvatskog sportskog kluba Valparaíso, Čile / Voditeljica ključnih klijenata, Pacifico Atlantico Seafood

HR Danica Kegević je istaknuta žena u svojoj zemlji jer je čileanskoj vladi predstavila projekt Zakona o nultoj toleranciji, koji je stupio na snagu 2012. kao amandman na prometni zakon njezine zemlje. Također je predvodila prvo obilježavanje žrtava prometa, koje je sada nacionalni dan nakon što je formalizirano Vrhovnim dekretom br. 40, proglašenim u lipnju 2020. Ona je brižna majka dvoje djece, Magdalene i Bernarda, te sretno udana za poznatog plivača i vaterpolista Felipe Jimenenza. Zajedno s drugim potomcima Hrvata osnovala je Hrvatski sportski klub Valparaíso, smješten u Reñaci, Viña del Mar, čija je misija danas regrutirati mlade sportaše koji će voditi reprezentaciju Čilea na Hrvatskim svjetskim igrama 2027.

País: Chile
Categoría: Liderazgo e innovación

Presidenta del Club Deportivo Croata de Valparaíso, Chile / Key Account Manager, Pacifico Atlantico Seafood

ESP Danica Kegević es una mujer destacada en su país por haber presentado al gobierno de Chile el proyecto de Ley de Tolerancia Cero, que entró en vigor en 2012 como una modificación de la ley de tránsito. Además, impulsó la primera conmemoración a las víctimas de tránsito, que hoy es un día nacional tras ser formalizado por el Decreto Supremo N°40, promulgado en junio de 2020. Es madre cariñosa de dos niños, Magdalena y Bernardo, y está felizmente casada con el reconocido nadador y waterpolista Felipe Jimenez. Junto a otros descendientes croatas, fundó el Club Deportivo Croata de Valparaíso, ubicado en Reñaca, Viña del Mar, cuya misión actual es reclutar a jóvenes deportistas para formar un equipo representativo que participe en los Juegos Mundiales Croatas 2027.

SUZANA KRIŠTO

Country: Bosnia and Herzegovina
Category: Leadership & Innovation

Member of Parliament, Central Bosnia Canton Assembly

ENG Suzana Krišto brings more than a decade of experience in legislative authority and over 15 years in leadership, entrepreneurship, and rural development to her roles. She tirelessly advocates for gender equality, women's empowerment, and an inclusive society. As a parliamentarian, she deliveres tangible results – from initiating the first Youth Strategy in the Central Bosnia Canton and programs that support young families, to strengthening the rights of oncology patients, especially women with breast cancer. She holds a Master's degree in Food Technology and is a certified court expert in agriculture at the level of the Federation of BiH. Additionally, she is certified in coaching, NLP, facilitation, and gender equality. Through education and mentorship, she empowers women by bridging policy and practice, and connecting local initiatives with global perspectives. She is the initiator and organizer of numerous cultural, educational, sports, and humanitarian projects. Outside of her professional work, Suzana nurtures a love for Argentine tango, wine culture, and inspiring friendships.

Država: Bosna i Hercegovina
Kategorija: Vodstvo i inovacija

Zastupnica, Sabor Županije Središnja Bosna

HR Suzana Krišto kao žena s više od desetljeća iskustva u zakonodavnoj vlasti i preko petnaest godina profesionalnog rada u oblastima liderstva, poduzetništva i ruralnog razvoja, neumorno zagovara rodnu ravnopravnost, osnaživanje žena i inkluzivno društvo. Kao saborska zastupnica, ostvarila je konkretne rezultate – od izrade prve Strategije za mlade u ŽSB i podrške mladim obiteljima, do jačanja prava onkoloških pacijenata, posebno žena oboljelih od karcinoma dojke. Magistrirala je prehrambenu tehnologiju te je stalna sudska vještakinja iz oblasti poljoprivrede na razini Federacije BiH. Također posjeduje certifikate iz coachinga, NLP-a, facilitacije i rodne ravnopravnosti. Kroz edukaciju i mentorstvo osnažuje žene povezujući politiku i praksu te spajajući lokalne inicijative s globalnim perspektivama. Inicijatorica je i organizatorica mnogih kulturno-zabavnih, edukativnih, sportskih i humanitarnih projekata. Izvan profesionalnog angažmana, njeguje ljubav prema argentinskom tangu, vinskoj kulturi i inspirativnim prijateljstvima.

País: Bosnia y Herzegovina
Categoría: Liderazgo e innovación

Representativa, Asamblea del Cantón de Bosnia Central

ESP Suzana Krišto trae más de una década de experiencia en el poder legislativo y más de quince años de trabajo profesional en los ámbitos del liderazgo, el emprendimiento y el desarrollo rural, y defiende incansablemente la igualdad de género, el empoderamiento de las mujeres y una sociedad inclusiva. Como diputada, ha logrado resultados concretos: desde la elaboración de la primera Estrategia de Juventud en el Cantón de Bosnia Central y el apoyo a las familias jóvenes, hasta la lucha por mayores derechos de los pacientes oncológicos, especialmente de las mujeres con cáncer de mama. Con una maestría en tecnología alimentaria y como perita judicial certificada en el ámbito de la agricultura a nivel de la Federación de Bosnia y Herzegovina, Suzana también está certificada en coaching, PNL, facilitación e igualdad de género. Trabaja activamente en el empoderamiento de las mujeres a través de la educación y la mentoría, uniendo la política y la práctica, lo local y lo global. Es iniciadora y organizadora de numerosos proyectos culturales, educativos, deportivos y humanitarios. Junto a su labor profesional, cultiva su amor por el tango argentino, la cultura del vino y las amis-

VITOMIRA LONČAR

Country: China
Category: Arts & Culture

Professor, Eurasia University, School for Culture and Media, Xi'an, China
General Manager, Mala Scena Theatre, Zagreb, Croatia

ENG Vitomira Lončar, Ph.D. is an award-winning Croatian actress, producer, university professor, blogger, vlogger, and strategic planning expert. She is the co-founder and director of the Mala scena theatre in Zagreb, as well as the educational platform VestaLLLs. During her 50-year career, she has played more than 60 roles in theatre, film, and television, and produced more than 80 domestic and international theatre plays and projects. She has published six books, is the editor of the Mala scena library, and is the founder of the Network of Independent Theatres in Croatia and Theatre Epicentre. She has completed numerous training courses in the field of cultural management and personal development. Since 2016, she has lived and worked in China, where she also founded the WEL (Women Entrepreneurship and Leadership) program for young women. She has shared her thoughts with the public through her blog "Straw of Salvation," and since 2021 she has been recording the vlog "Time for Change with Vita," through which she supports people who want to change their lives. She is a wife, mother, and grandmother.

Država: Kina
Kategorija: Kultura i umjetnost

Dr. sc. Vitomira Lončar, profesorica na Sveučilištu Eurasia, Škola za kulturu i medije, Xi'an, Kina / Direktorica kazališta Mala scena, Zagreb, Hrvatska

HR Dr. sc. Vitomira Lončar nagrađivana je hrvatska glumica, producentica, znanstvenica, profesorica, blogerica, vlogerica i stručnjakinja za strateško planiranje. Suosnivačica je i direktorica kazališta Mala scena u Zagrebu, kao i edukacijske platforme VestaLLLs. Tijekom 50 godina karijere odigrala je više od 60 uloga u kazalištu, filmu i na televiziji, te producirala više od 80 domaćih i međunarodnih kazališnih predstava i projekata. Objavila je šest knjiga, urednica je biblioteke Mala scena, osnivačica Mreže neovisnih kazališta u Hrvatskoj i Kazališnog Epicentra. Završila je brojne edukacije iz područja kulturnog menadžmenta i osobnog razvoja. Od 2016. godine živi i radi u Kini, gdje je osnovala WEL (Women Entrepreneurship and Leadership) program za mlade žene. Svoja je razmišljanja s javnošću dijelila kroz blog „Slamka spasa", a od 2021. snima vlog „Vrijeme je za promjenu s Vitom", kroz koji podupire osobe koje žele promijeniti svoj život. Supruga je, majka i baka.

País: China
Categoría: Arte y Cultura

Profesora, Universidad de Eurasia, Escuela de Cultura y Medios, Xi'an, China / Directora general, Teatro Mala Scena, Zagreb, Croacia

ESP La Dra. Vitomira Lončar es una galardonada actriz croata, productora, científica, profesora, bloguera, vloggera y experta en planificación estratégica. Es cofundadora y directora del teatro Mala Scena en Zagreb, así como de la plataforma educativa VestaLLLs. A lo largo de sus 50 años de carrera, ha interpretado más de 60 papeles en teatro, cine y televisión, y ha producido más de 80 obras y proyectos teatrales nacionales e internacionales. Ha publicado seis libros, es editora de la biblioteca Mala Scena, fundadora de la Red de Teatros Independientes en Croacia y del Epicentro Teatral. Ha completado numerosas formaciones en gestión cultural y desarrollo personal. Desde 2016, vive y trabaja en China, donde fundó el programa WEL (Women Entrepreneurship and Leadership) para mujeres jóvenes. Ha compartido sus pensamientos con el público a través de su blog "Slamka spasa" ("Paja de la salvación") y desde 2021 publica el vlog "Vrijeme je za promjenu s Vitom" ("Es hora de un cambio con Vita"), a través del cual apoya a personas que desean cambiar sus vidas. Es esposa, madre y abuela.

BRANKA MALINAR

Country: United States of America
Category: Arts & Culture

Curator, Croatian Museum, CL, Ohio

ENG In 1983, Branka and her husband Jerry were founding members of The American Croatian Lodge in Eastlake, Ohio, establishing the Croatian Heritage Museum and Library. Its objective is to collect, preserve and maintain the collections. In 2009 they helped establish the Croatian Cultural Garden in Rockefeller Park, Cleveland, Ohio. In 1993, Branka participated in the Ellis Island Oral History Project, which is stored at the Ellis Island Immigration Museum. In 2016, Branka donated two of her family's folkloric dresses and a biography of her father, Nikola Frigan, to her museum. At 84, Branka is still active at the Croatian Heritage Museum and Cultural Gardens. She is a member of the Croatian Women's Club, Kardinal A. Stepinac, the Northern Ohio Intermuseum Council, and the Ohio Association of Retired Teachers. In 2025, Branka was inducted into the Cleveland International Hall of Fame and was recognized by the Croatian government with the "Red Hrvatskog Pletera."

Država: Sjedinjene Američke Države
Kategorija: Kultura i umjetnost

Kustosica, Hrvatski muzej, CL, Ohio

HR Godine 1983. Branka i njezin suprug Jerry bili su osnivači Američke hrvatske lože u Eastlakeu, Ohio, osnivajući Muzej i knjižnicu Hrvatske baštine. Njegov je cilj prikupljanje, očuvanje i održavanje zbirki. Godine 2009. pomogli su u osnivanju Hrvatskog kulturnog vrta u Rockefeller Parku, Cleveland, Ohio. Godine 1993. Branka je sudjelovala u Projektu usmene povijesti otoka Ellis, koji se čuva u Muzeju imigracije otoka Ellis. Godine 2016. Branka je svom muzeju donirala dvije folklorne haljine svoje obitelji i biografiju svog oca, Nikole Frigana. Sa 84 godine, Branka je još uvijek aktivna u Muzeju Hrvatske baštine i Kulturnim vrtovima. Članica je Kluba hrvatskih žena, Kardinala A. Stepinca, Međumuzejskog vijeća sjevernog Ohija i Udruge umirovljenih učitelja Ohija. Godine 2025. Branka je primljena u Kuću slavnih Cleveland International, a hrvatska vlada joj je dodijelila odlikovanje "Red Hrvatskog Pletera."

País: Estados Unidos
Categoría: Arte y Cultura

Curadora, Museo Croata, Cleveland, Ohio

ESP En 1983, Branka y su esposo Jerry fueron miembros fundadores de la Logia Croata Americana en Eastlake, Ohio, donde establecieron el Museo y Biblioteca del Patrimonio Croata. Su objetivo es recopilar, preservar y mantener las colecciones. En 2009, contribuyeron a la creación del Jardín Cultural Croata en el Parque Rockefeller, Cleveland, Ohio. En 1993, Branka participó en el Proyecto de Historia Oral de la Isla Ellis, cuyos archivos se conservan en el Museo de la Inmigración de la Isla Ellis. En 2016, donó dos vestidos folclóricos de su familia y una biografía de su padre, Nikola Frigan, al museo. A sus 84 años, Branka sigue activa en el Museo y Jardín Cultural del Patrimonio Croata. Es miembro del Club de Mujeres Croatas, del Kardinal A. Stepinac, del Consejo Intermuseos del Norte de Ohio y de la Asociación de Maestros Jubilados de Ohio. En 2025, Branka fue incluida en el Salón de la Fama Internacional de Cleveland y fue reconocida por el gobierno croata con la "Red Hrvatskog Pletera".

MARIJA MRGUDIĆ

Country: Croatia
Category: Business

Winemaker, OPG Marija Mrgudić

ENG Marija Mrgudić is co-owner of the Bura-Mrgudić winery and the steward of family vineyards on the first two geographically protected sites of Dingač and Postup, located on the Pelješac Peninsula. These vineyards have been in the Mrgudić family for twelve generations, sustained and passed down through a deep devotion to viticulture and the art of winemaking. As one of the first female winery owners in post-communist Croatia, she was a true pioneer—spearheading the promotion and export of Croatian wines to the United States and key European markets at a time when the country's modern wine industry was only just emerging on the global stage. Alongside preserving this rich winemaking heritage, Marija is equally committed to safeguarding Croatian cultural traditions. As a teacher of traditional song and dance, she passes on the spirit of Croatian folklore to younger generations. A civic-minded community leader, Marija actively promotes social and gender equality, with a particular focus on advancing women's rights. She is the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions for both her professional accomplishments and her community engagement.

Država: Republika Hrvatska
Kategorija: Gospodarstvo

Vinar, OPG Marija Mrgudić

HR Marija Mrgudić suvlasnica je vinarije Bura-Mrgudić i čuvarica obiteljskih vinograda na prvim dvjema zaštićenim geografskim lokacijama Dingač i Postup na poluotoku Pelješcu. Ovi vinogradi u vlasništvu su obitelji Mrgudić već dvanaest generacija, a očuvani su i prenošeni s koljena na koljeno zahvaljujući dubokoj predanosti vinogradarstvu i umijeću vinarstva. Kao jedna od prvih vlasnica vinarija u postkomunističkoj Hrvatskoj, bila je istinska pionirka—predvodeći promociju i izvoz hrvatskih vina u Sjedinjene Američke Države i ključna europska tržišta u vrijeme kada je moderna hrvatska vinska industrija tek započinjala svoj izlazak na svjetsku scenu. Uz očuvanje ove bogate vinske baštine, Marija je jednako posvećena i njegovanju hrvatskih kulturnih tradicija. Kao učiteljica tradicionalnih pjesama i plesova, prenosi duh hrvatskog folklora na mlade generacije. Kao društveno angažirana članica zajednice, Marija aktivno promiče socijalnu i rodnu ravnopravnost, s posebnim naglaskom na prava žena. Dobitnica je brojnih nagrada i priznanja za svoja profesionalna postignuća i društveni angažman.

País: República de Croacia
Categoría: Negocio

Enóloga, OPG Marija Mrgudić

ESP Marija Mrgudić es copropietaria de la bodega Bura-Mrgudić y guardiana de los viñedos familiares en las dos primeras zonas geográficas protegidas, Dingač y Postup, situadas en la península de Pelješac. Estos viñedos han sido propiedad de la familia Mrgudić durante doce generaciones, preservados y transmitidos de una generación a otra gracias a su profunda dedicación a la viticultura y al arte de la elaboración del vino. Como una de las primeras propietarias de bodegas en la Croacia poscomunista, fue una verdadera pionera, liderando la promoción y exportación de los vinos croatas a Estados Unidos y a los principales mercados europeos en una etapa temprana, cuando la industria vinícola croata moderna apenas comenzaba a posicionarse en la escena internacional.Además de conservar esta rica tradición vinícola, Marija está igualmente comprometida con la preservación de las tradiciones culturales croatas. Como profesora de cantos y danzas tradicionales, transmite el espíritu del folclore croata a las generaciones más jóvenes. Como miembro activa y comprometida de su comunidad, Marija promueve la igualdad social y de género, con especial énfasis en los derechos de las mujeres. Ha recibido numerosos premios y reconocimientos por sus logros profesionales y su labor comunitaria.

GORDANA NIKOLIĆ

Country: Croatia
Category: Leadership & Innovation

Dean and Associate Professor, PAR University of Applied Science

ENG Gordana Nikolić, PhD founded the first University of Applied Science in the city of Rijeka in 2007. She is the only female owner of a private higher education institution in Croatia. Appointed to the European Network of Women Ambassadors of Entrepreneurship, Gordana received a UNECE scholarship supporting women entrepreneurs in SEE Europe.

She has received numerous recognitions, including Entrepreneur of the Year in Croatia (2014), the Primorje-Gorski Kotar County Award for international achievements, and the City of Rijeka Award for contributions to higher education and entrepreneurship. Internationally, she received the "Exceptional Women of Excellence" award (2018) and the "Woman of the Decade" award (Women's Economic Forum, New Delhi, 2022).

Within the global G100 network—100 sectors, 100 world women leaders—Gordana leads the Higher Education sector, serving as an international role model for women.

Država: Republika Hrvatska
Kategorija: Kultura i umjetnost

Izv. prof. dr.sc. Gordana Nikolić, Dekanica, PAR University of Applied Science

HR Izv.prof. dr.sc. Gordana Nikolić pokrenula je 2007. prvo privatno veleučilište u Rijeci te je jedina žena vlasnica privatne visokoobrazovne ustanove u Hrvatskoj. Članica je europske mreže žena ambasadorica poduzetništva i stipendistica UNECE programa za podršku poduzetnicama iz jugoistočne Europe.

Dobitnica je brojnih priznanja: Poduzetnica godine RH (2014.), nagrade Primorsko-goranske županije za međunarodna postignuća i nagrade Grada Rijeke za doprinos visokom obrazovanju i poduzetništvu. Posebno se ističu nagrade "Exceptional Women of Excellence" (2018.) i "Žena desetljeća" (WEF, New Delhi, 2022.).

U sklopu globalne mreže G100 – 100 sektora, 100 svjetskih žena liderica – Gordana vodi sektor visokog obrazovanja.

País: República de Croacia
Categoría: Liderazgo e innovación

Decana y Profesora Asociada, PAR University of Applied Science

ESP La Dra. Gordana Nikolić fundó en 2007 la primera universidad privada en Rijeka y es la única mujer propietaria de una institución privada de educación superior en Croacia. Es parte de la red europea de mujeres embajadoras del emprendimiento y fue becaria del programa UNECE para apoyar a mujeres emprendedoras en Europa del Sudeste.

Ha recibido numerosos reconocimientos, incluyendo Empresaria del Año en Croacia (2014), el premio del Condado de Primorje-Gorski Kotar por logros internacionales y el premio de la Ciudad de Rijeka por contribuciones a la educación superior. A nivel internacional, recibió "Exceptional Women of Excellence" (2018) y "Woman of the Decade" (WEF, New Delhi, 2022).

En la red global G100 – 100 sectores, 100 mujeres líderes mundiales – Gordana dirige el sector de educación superior.

MARINA PERIĆ

Country: United States of America
Category: Arts & Culture

Supervising Producer (Hollywood Unlocked, The Steve Harvey Show & The Kelly Clarkson Show)

ENG Born and raised in Chicago, Marina Perić is a Supervising Producer in Hollywood with over a decade of experience in television production. Throughout her career, she has produced and overseen celebrity interviews with some of the world's most influential figures, including Floyd Mayweather, Cardi B, Ariana Grande, and Tom Hanks. Her work has taken her beyond the studio, covering major cultural moments from the Grammys to the White House, placing her at the center of stories that shape pop culture. Now based in Los Angeles, Marina continues to create bold and compelling narratives that connect audiences and artists alike, while embracing her identity and journey as a proud first-generation Croatian-American.

Država: Sjedinjene Američke Države
Kategorija: Kultura i umjetnost

Nadzorna producentica (Hollywood Unlocked, The Steve Harvey Show, The Kelly Clarkson Show)

HR Rođena i odrasla u Chicagu, Marina Perić je supervizijska producentica u Hollywoodu s više od deset godina iskustva u televizijskoj produkciji. Tijekom karijere producirala je i nadgledala intervjue s nekim od najutjecajnijih svjetskih ličnosti, uključujući Floyda Mayweathera, Cardi B, Arianu Grande i Toma Hanksa. Njezin je rad odveo daleko izvan studija, od dodjele nagrada Grammy do Bijele kuće, smještajući je u središte priča koje oblikuju popularnu kulturu. Danas, sa sjedištem u Los Angelesu, Marina nastavlja stvarati snažne i autentične priče koje povezuju publiku i umjetnike, istovremeno ponosno njegujući svoj identitet i put prve generacije hrvatsko-američke zajednice.

País: Estados Unidos
Categoría: Arte y Cultura

Productora Supervisora (Hollywood Unlocked, The Steve Harvey Show, The Kelly Clarkson Show)

ESP Nacida y criada en Chicago, Marina Perić es una productora supervisora en Hollywood con más de una década de experiencia en la producción televisiva. A lo largo de su carrera ha producido y supervisado entrevistas con algunas de las figuras más influyentes del entretenimiento, entre ellas Floyd Mayweather, Cardi B, Ariana Grande y Tom Hanks. Su trabajo la ha llevado más allá del estudio, desde los premios Grammy hasta la Casa Blanca, situándola en el centro de historias que definen la cultura pop. Actualmente radicada en Los Ángeles, Marina continúa creando narrativas poderosas y auténticas que conectan a artistas y audiencias mientras celebra su identidad y trayectoria como orgullosa croata-estadounidense de primera generación.

En la red global G100 – 100 sectores, 100 mujeres líderes mundiales – Gordana dirige el sector de educación superior.

MARTINA PULJIĆ

Country: Croatia
Category: Business

President, Management Board, Pleter-usluge d.o.o.

ENG Martina Puljić is an experienced leader and a woman who inspires by example. Since 2021 she is President of the Management Board of Pleter-usluge d.o.o., where she has implemented a comprehensive business restructuring and modernization of business processes. Thanks to her vision and determination, Pleter has become one of the biggest state-owned companies in the hospitality services sector and a reliable partner to its strategic associates — the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Interior Affairs, and NATO. Throughout her career, Martina has achieved notable results in strategic management, marketing, and business development. She always emphasizes that people are the foundation of every success – that is why she builds strong, motivated teams with special attention and encourages a culture of togetherness and trust. Previously, Martina gained extensive experience in management, marketing, and sales, leading demanding projects in the construction and hospitality industries and collaborating with numerous domestic and international partners. Through her example, Martina shows that a woman's true strength lies in balancing professional excellence, personal passion, and the warmth she brings to everything she does.

Država: Republika Hrvatska
Kategorija: Gospodarstvo

Predsjednica Uprave, Pleter-usluge d.o.o.

HR Martina Puljić iskusna je poslovna liderica i žena koja inspirira svojim primjerom. Na čelu je društva Pleter-usluge d.o.o., gdje je od 2021. godine provela sveobuhvatno restrukturiranje i modernizaciju poslovanja. Zahvaljujući njenoj viziji i odlučnosti, Pleter je danas prepoznat kao jedno od vodećih društava u sektoru ugostiteljskih usluga u Republici Hrvatskoj, ali i kao pouzdan partner MORHU, MUP-u i kao podrška članicama NATO-a. Kroz svoju karijeru Martina je ostvarila zapažene rezultate u strateškom upravljanju, marketingu i razvoju poslovanja. Uvijek ističe da su ljudi temelj svakog uspjeha – zato s posebnom pažnjom gradi snažne, motivirane timove i potiče kulturu zajedništva i povjerenja. Prije dolaska u Pleter, stjecala je bogato iskustvo u menadžmentu, marketingu i prodaji, vodeći zahtjevne projekte u građevinskoj i ugostiteljskoj industriji te surađujući s brojnim domaćim i međunarodnim partnerima. Svojim primjerom Martina pokazuje da istinska snaga žene leži u ravnoteži između profesionalne izvrsnosti, osobne strasti i topline koju unosi u sve što radi.

País: República de Croacia
Categoría: Negocio

Presidenta del Consejo de Administración, Pleter-usluge d.o.o.

ESP Martina Puljić es una líder empresarial experimentada y una mujer que inspira con su ejemplo. Está al frente de la empresa Pleter-usluge d.o.o., donde desde 2021 ha llevado a cabo una completa reestructuración y modernización del negocio. Gracias a su visión y determinación, Pleter se reconoce hoy como una de las empresas líderes en el sector de servicios de hostelería en la República de Croacia, así como un socio de confianza del Ministerio de Defensa, del Ministerio del Interior y un sólido apoyo a los países miembros de la OTAN. A lo largo de su carrera, Martina ha obtenido destacados resultados en gestión estratégica, marketing y desarrollo empresarial. Siempre subraya que las personas son la base de todo éxito; por ello, dedica especial atención a la creación de equipos fuertes y motivados, fomentando una cultura de unidad y confianza. Antes de incorporarse a Pleter, acumuló una valiosa experiencia en gestión, marketing y ventas, liderando proyectos exigentes en las industrias de la construcción y la hostelería, y colaborando con numerosos socios nacionales e internacionales.

NEVENA RAMIĆ

Country: Croatia
Category: Military

First Non-commissioned Officer of the Croatian Air Force

ENG Nevena Ramić was born in Zadar in 1971. In 1991, at the beginning of the terrible aggression against her homeland, all her childhood dreams were cut short. She immediately enlisted in the Armed Forces of the Republic of Croatia as a soldier — a role she proudly continues to serve in today. Nevena joined the Croatian Air Force in 2003 as a Non-Commissioned Officer, becoming the first woman in the history of the Croatian Armed Forces to be appointed to the position of NCO of the branch. She serves as an advisor to the commander on military matters and as a representative of rank and file at the decision-making level. Throughout her service, Nevena has completed several levels of military education in Croatia and abroad. She is the recipient of numerous recognitions, including the Order of the Croatian Interlace, the Homeland War Memorial Medal, the Homeland Gratitude Memorial Medal for 5 and 10 years of service, and the "Operation Storm" Medal.

Država: Republika Hrvatska
Kategorija: Oružane snage

Prva dočasnica Hrvatskog ratnog zrakoplovstva

HR Nevena Ramić rođena je u Zadru 1971. godine. Početkom strašne agresije na našu Domovinu 1991. godine, prekinuti su svi djevojački snovi tada dvadesetogodišnje djevojke. Odmah se priključila Oružanim snagama Republike Hrvatske i postala hrvatski vojnik – dužnost koju s ponosom obnaša i danas. U sastav Hrvatskog ratnog zrakoplovstva priključila se 2003. godine u Zadru, gdje je radila do 2024. godine, kada prelazi u zapovjedništvo HRZ-a u Velikoj Gorici na mjesto Prve dočasnice HRZ-a. Po prvi put u povijesti Hrvatske vojske, žena je imenovana na dužnost prvog dočasnika grane. Ta dužnost uključuje savjetovanje zapovjednika o pitanjima vojnika i dočasnika te njihovo predstavljanje na razinama odlučivanja. Tijekom svoje službe završila je više razina vojnih škola u zemlji i inozemstvu, a za postignuća u službi više je puta pohvaljena i nagrađena. Odlikovana je Redom hrvatskog pletera, Spomenicom Domovinskog rata, Spomenicom domovinske zahvalnosti za 5 i 10 godina službe te medaljom „Oluja".

País: República de Croacia
Categoría: Militar

Primera Suboficial de la Fuerza Aérea de Croacia

ESP Nevena Ramić nació en Zadar en 1971. En 1991, al inicio de la terrible agresión contra su patria, todos sus sueños de infancia se vieron truncados. Inmediatamente se alistó en las Fuerzas Armadas de la República de Croacia como soldada, y aún hoy sirve con orgullo. En 2003, Nevena se incorporó a la Fuerza Aérea Croata como suboficial, convirtiéndose en la primera mujer en la historia de las Fuerzas Armadas Croatas en ser nombrada suboficial principal de la rama. Ejerce como asesora del comandante en asuntos militares y como representante del personal subalterno ante los niveles de toma de decisiones. A lo largo de su servicio, Nevena ha completado varios niveles de formación militar en Croacia y en el extranjero. Ha recibido numerosos reconocimientos, entre ellos la Orden del Trenzado Croata, la Medalla Conmemorativa de la Guerra Patria, la Medalla de Agradecimiento a la Patria por 5 y 10 años de servicio y la Medalla "Operación Tormenta".

ANGELA SANKOVICH-RAMIREZ

Country: Colombia
Category: Entrepreneurship

Social Communicator, Specialist in Project Management – CEO, Colombia-Croatia Chamber of Commerce and Co-founder of Croactivas® for Colombia

ENG Born in Manizales, Colombia, to a Croatian father, Angela grew up between two cultures that shaped her worldview and entrepreneurial spirit. With more than 15 years of experience in both the public and private sectors, she has spent the past three years driving projects that strengthen the ties between Croatia and the Croatian diaspora in Colombia, passionately promoting the culture, values, and traditions of her heritage. Cheerful, visionary, and dedicated, she firmly believes that everything dreamed with the heart can become a reality. The married mother of two children, she finds in her family the inspiration to continue leading with purpose and building bridges that connect communities beyond borders. Her recognition as a Croatian Woman of Influence reflects her leadership, innovation, and unwavering faith in dreams.

Država: Kolumbija
Kategorija: Poduzetništvo

Social Communicator, Specialist in Project Management – CEO, Colombia-Croatia Chamber of Commerce and Co-founder of Croactivas® for Colombia

HR Rođena u Manizalesu, Kolumbija, kći oca Hrvata, Angela je odrasla između dvije kulture koje su oblikovale njezin pogled na svijet i poduzetnički duh. S više od 15 godina iskustva u javnom i privatnom sektoru, posljednje tri godine posvetila je poticanju projekata koji jačaju veze između Hrvatske i hrvatske dijaspore u Kolumbiji, s velikom strašću promičući kulturu, vrijednosti i tradicije svojih korijena. Vesela, sanjarska i predana, duboko vjeruje da se sve što se sanja srcem može ostvariti. Udana i majka dvoje djece, u svojoj obitelji pronalazi nadahnuće za daljnje vođenje s vizijom i svrhom te za izgradnju mostova koji spajaju zajednice izvan granica. Njezino priznanje kao Utjecajnu Hrvatsku Ženu odražava njezino vodstvo, inovativnost i nepokolebljivu vjeru u snove.

País: Colombia
Categoría: Emprendimiento

Comunicadora Social, Especialista en Dirección de Proyectos – CEO de la Cámara de Comercio Colombia Croacia y Co-fundadora de Croactivas® por Colombia

ESP Nacida en Manizales, Colombia, e hija de padre croata, Angela ha crecido entre dos culturas que han moldeado su visión del mundo y su espíritu emprendedor. Con más de 15 años de experiencia en el sector público y privado, ha dedicado los últimos tres años a impulsar proyectos que fortalecen los lazos entre Croacia y la diáspora croata en Colombia, promoviendo con pasión la cultura, los valores y las tradiciones de sus raíces. Es una mujer alegre, soñadora y comprometida, convencida de que todo aquello que se sueña con el corazón puede hacerse realidad. Casada y madre de dos hijos, encuentra en su familia la inspiración para seguir liderando con propósito y construir puentes que unan comunidades más allá de las fronteras. Su reconocimiento como Mujer Croata de Influencia refleja su liderazgo, innovación e inquebrantable fe en los sueños.

NERA STIPIČEVIĆ

Country: Croatia
Category: Philanthropy

Multidisciplinary author, producer, academic, actress, and economist, Member of ZGK Komedija

ENG Nera Stipičević is a multidisciplinary author and producer, academic actress, and economist, as well as a member of ZGK Komedija. During her artistic residencies at Récollets International in Paris (2013 and 2018), she developed her artistic expression Freeda Nera Immortelle / FNI, exploring the relationship between art, authenticity, and mental health (nominated for the Croatian Award for the Promotion of Mental Health, 2023) while promoting the importance of intercultural influences and collaborations with France. She is the author of numerous multidisciplinary projects in theater (Free_DA, Cvit samoće, Dar, Voilà! – à la Traversthe, Pod pariškim nebom), literature and music (the book with music Cvit samoće), and online (the podcast La Fleur de la Solitude, available for free in over 90 countries). Through her work, she connects art and social awareness, participating in projects such as Mission for Orphans in Tanzania (2019) and Together We Erase Scars (2024), promotes authentic Croatian art (voice of the "Croatia in the EU" campaign, 2013), and in September 2025 represented Croatia through the literary program Regards croisés in Lyon.

Država: Republika Hrvatska
Kategorija: Humanitarni rad

Multidisciplinarna umjetnica Freeda Nera Immortelle i producentica Umjetničke organizacije Soba2 / platforme FNI, glumica i pjevačica ZGK Komedija

HR Nera Stipičević je multidisciplinarna autorica i producentica, akademska glumica i ekonomistica te članica ZGK Komedija. Tijekom umjetničkih rezidencija u Récollets International u Parizu (2013. i 2018.) razvila je svoj autorski izričaj Freeda Nera Immortelle / FNI, kroz koji istražuje odnos umjetnosti, autentičnosti i mentalnog zdravlja (nominacija za Hrvatsku nagradu za promicanje mentalnog zdravlja, 2023.) te promiče važnost međukulturalnih utjecaja i suradnji s Francuskom. Autorica je brojnih multidisciplinarnih projekata u kazalištu (Free_DA, Cvit samoće, Dar, Voilà! – à la Traversthe, Pod pariškim nebom), književnosti i glazbi (knjiga s glazbom Cvit samoće) te online (podcast La Fleur de la Solitude, dostupan besplatno u više od 90 zemalja). Kroz svoj rad povezuje umjetnost i društvenu osjetljivost, sudjelujući u projektima poput Misija za siročad u Tanzaniji (2019.) i Zajedno brišemo ožiljke (2024.), promiče hrvatsku autentičnu umjetnost (glas kampanje "RH u EU", 2013.) te je u rujnu 2025. predstavljala Hrvatsku kroz književni program Regards croisés u Lyonu.

País: República de Croacia
Categoría: Filantropía

Autora y productora multidisciplinaria, actriz académica y economista, así como miembro de ZGK Komedija

ESP Nera Stipičević es una autora y productora multidisciplinaria, actriz académica y economista, así como miembro de ZGK Komedija. Durante sus residencias artísticas en Récollets International en París (2013 y 2018), desarrolló su expresión artística Freeda Nera Immortelle / FNI, explorando la relación entre arte, autenticidad y salud mental (nominada al Premio Croata de Promoción de la Salud Mental, 2023) y promoviendo la importancia de las influencias interculturales y la colaboración con Francia. Es autora de numerosos proyectos multidisciplinarios en teatro (Free_DA, Cvit samoće, Dar, Voilà! – à la Traversthe, Pod pariškim nebom), literatura y música (el libro con música Cvit samoće), y en línea (el pódcast La Fleur de la Solitude, disponible gratuitamente en más de 90 países). A través de su trabajo, conecta el arte con la conciencia social, participando en proyectos como Misión para huérfanos en Tanzania (2019) y Juntos borramos cicatrices (2024), promueve el arte auténtico croata (voz de la campaña "Croacia en la UE", 2013) y en septiembre de 2025 representó a Croacia a través del programa literario Regards croisés en Lyon.

DR. SC. VESNA ŠKARE OŽBOLT

Country: Croatia
Category: Leadership & Innovation

Attorney at Law, Law office Vesna Škare Ožbolt
Former Minister of Justice 2003–2006
Former advisor to the first Croatian President
Franjo Tuđman 1991–1999

ENG Vesna Škare Ožbolt is a former Minister of Justice of the Republic of Croatia and former Advisor to the first President of the Republic of Croatia for International Relations and Peace Processes. Vesna initiated a comprehensive reform of the judiciary, introduced the right to a trial within a reasonable time period, established the Judicial Academy, and led the digitalization of land registries. She participated in peace negotiations and the peaceful reintegration of the Croatian Danube region — the only fully successful UN mission in the world. She promotes Croatia at global forums and, through the Mediterranean Women Mediators Network, empowers women mediators in accordance with the UN Resolution on Women, Peace, and Security.

Država: Republika Hrvatska
Kategorija: Vodstvo i inovacija

Odvjetnica, Odvjetnički ured Vesna Škare Ožbolt
Bivša ministrica pravosuđa (2003. – 2006.)
Bivša savjetnica prvog Hrvatskog Predsjednika dr. Franje Tuđmana (1991. – 1999.)

HR Vesna Škare Ožbolt je bivša ministrica pravosuđa Republike Hrvatske i savjetnica prvog Predsjednika Republike Hrvatske za međunarodne odnose i mirovne procese. Pokrenula je sveobuhvatnu reformu pravosuđa, uvela suđenje u razumnom roku, Pravosudnu akademiju i digitalizaciju zemljišnih knjiga. Sudjelovala je u mirovnim pregovorima i mirnoj reintegraciji hrvatskog Podunavlja, jedinoj u potpunosti uspješno dovršenoj misiji UN-a u svijetu. Promovira Hrvatsku na globalnim forumima i kroz Mediterranean Women Mediators Network osnažuje žene medijatorice u skladu s Rezolucijom UN-a o ženama, miru i sigurnosti.

País: República de Croacia
Categoría: Liderazgo e innovación

Abogada, Despacho de Abogacía Vesna Škare Ožbolt
Exministra de Justicia (2003–2006)
Exasesora del primer Presidente de Croacia, Dr. Franjo Tuđman (1991–1999)

ESP Vesna Škare Ožbolt es exministra de Justicia de la República de Croacia y exasesora del primer Presidente de la República de Croacia para Asuntos Internacionales y Procesos de Paz. Inició una reforma integral del poder judicial, introdujo el derecho a un juicio en un plazo razonable, fundó la Academia Judicial y lideró la digitalización de los registros de propiedad. Participó en las negociaciones de paz y en la reintegración pacífica de la región del Danubio croata, la única misión de la ONU en el mundo completada con pleno éxito. Promueve a Croacia en foros internacionales y, a través de la Mediterranean Women Mediators Network, impulsa el empoderamiento de las mujeres mediadoras conforme a la Resolución de la ONU sobre las Mujeres, la Paz y la Seguridad.

PATRICIA ŠTAMBUK MAYORGA

Country: Chile
Category: Arts & Culture

Journalist, writer, academic. Vice-Rector, Chilean Academy of Language, Corresponding Member, Royal Spanish Academy, President, Higher Council, University of Magallanes

ENG Patricia Štambuk Mayorga was born in Magallanes, Chile. She is a journalist, a graduate of the University of Chile, the author of ten books of contemporary memoirs, and the recipient of the National Journalism Prize, the highest professional distinction awarded by the Chilean government. Her professional career has unfolded in Punta Arenas, Santiago, and Valparaíso, both in the media and in academia, where she trained several generations of journalists. Her works of literary journalism have been translated into several languages and have received prestigious awards. She is a full member of the Chilean Academy of Language and a corresponding member of the Royal Spanish Academy (RAE). She chairs the Governing Board of the University of Magallanes and belongs to the Croatian Cultural Association of the Valparaíso Region and the International Women's Forum. She honors the memory of her Croatian father through her active contribution to cultural integration between Chile and Croatia.

Država: Čile
Kategorija: Kultura i Umjetnost

Novinarka, spisateljica, akademik. Prorektor Čileanske akademije za jezik, dopisni član Kraljevske španjolske akademije, predsjednica Višeg vijeća Sveučilišta Magallanes

HR Patricija Štambuk Mayorga rođena je u Magallanesu, u Čileu. Novinarka je, diplomirana na Univerzi Čilea, autorica deset knjiga suvremenih memoara i dobitnica Nacionalne Nagrade za Novinarstvo, najviše profesionalno priznanje dodijeljeno od Čileanske vlade. Njezina profesionalna karijera odvila se u Punta Arenasu, Santiagu i Valparaizu, kako u medijima (radio, TV i novine) tako i u akademskoj zajednici, gdje je obrazovala nekoliko generacija novinara. Njezina djela iz književnog novinarstva prevedena su na nekoliko jezika i dobila su prestižne nagrade. Punopravna je članica Čileanske Akademije za Jezik i dopisna članica Kraljevske Španjolske Akademije (RAE). Predsjedava Upravnim Odborom Univerze Magaljanesa i članica je, između ostalih institucija, Hrvatskog Kulturnog Društva (Hrvatski Dom) regije Valparaiza, gdje trenutno živi, i Međunarodnog Ženskog Foruma. Svojim aktivnim doprinosom kulturnoj integraciji između Čilea i Hrvatske, odaje počast svom ocu, koji je rođeni Hrvat.

País: Chile
Categoría: Arte y Cultura

Periodista, escritora, académica. Vicedirectora de la Academia Chilena de la Lengua, Miembro correspondiente de la Real Academia Española, Presidenta del Consejo Superior de la Universidad de Magallanes

ESP Patricia Štambuk Mayorga nació en Magallanes, Chile. Es periodista de la Universidad de Chile, escritora de 10 libros de memorias contemporáneas y Premio Nacional de Periodismo, la más alta distinción profesional que otorga el Estado de su país. Su carrera profesional se ha desarrollado en Punta Arenas, Santiago y Valparaíso, tanto en medios de comunicación como en el ámbito académico, donde formó a varias generaciones de periodistas. Sus obras de periodismo literario han sido traducidas a varios idiomas y han recibido importantes premios. Es miembro de número de la Academia Chilena de la Lengua y correspondiente de la Real Academia Española (RAE). Preside el Consejo Superior de la Universidad de Magallanes y pertenece, entre otras instituciones, al Hrvatski Dom de la región de Valparaíso, donde vive actualmente, y al International Women's Forum. Honra la memoria de su padre croata con un activo aporte a la integración cultural entre Chile y Croacia.

MIRELA ŠPANJOL

Country: Croatia
Category: Entrepreneurship

CEO, Ciceron Komunikacije d.o.o.

ENG Mirela Španjol is a professor of German Studies and Phonetics, business coach, and communications consultant whose career has been dedicated to elevating the culture of communication and fostering constructive dialogue. As founder and director of Ciceron komunikacije, a leading Croatian firm specializing in rhetoric, public speaking, and leadership, she has spent more than 20 years educating professionals and shaping communication excellence in business and public life. A pioneer in political speech analysis during the 1990s, Mirela has been a frequent media commentator and a respected voice in advancing public discourse in Croatia. Her book, The Power of Persuasion (2011), became a national bestseller with over 10,000 copies sold and is considered the first Croatian handbook on influence and public speaking. For her outstanding professional achievements and societal impact, she received the Croatian Public Relations Association Award in 2017, recognizing her lasting contribution to communication and public relations.

Država: Republika Hrvatska
Kategorija: Poduzetništvo

Izvršna direktorica, Ciceron Komunikacije d.o.o.

HR Mirela Španjol je profesorica germanistike i fonetike, poslovna trenerica i konzultantica za komunikacije, koja je svoj profesionalni put posvetila podizanju kulture komunikacije i poticanju konstruktivnog dijaloga. Kao osnivačica i direktorica Ciceron komunikacije, vodeće hrvatske tvrtke specijalizirane za retoriku, javni nastup i vodstvo, više od 20 godina educira stručnjake te oblikuje izvrsnost u poslovnoj i javnoj komunikaciji. Kao pionirka analize političkog govora tijekom 1990-ih, Mirela je česta komentatorica u medijima i prepoznat autoritet u razvoju javnog diskursa u Hrvatskoj. Njezina knjiga „Moć uvjeravanja" (2011.) postala je nacionalni bestseler s više od 10.000 prodanih primjeraka te je prvi domaći priručnik koji se bavi temom utjecaja i javnog nastupa. Za svoj izniman profesionalni doprinos i utjecaj na društvo primila je nagradu Hrvatske udruge za odnose s javnošću (HUOJ) 2017. godine, priznanje koje potvrđuje njezin trajan doprinos razvoju komunikacije i odnosa s javnošću.

País: República de Croacia
Categoría: Emprendimiento

Directora ejecutiva, Ciceron Komunikacije d.o.o.

ESP Mirela Španjol es profesora de germanística y fonética, entrenadora empresarial y consultora en comunicación, dedicada a elevar la cultura comunicativa y fomentar el diálogo constructivo. Como fundadora y directora de Ciceron komunikacije, una de las principales empresas croatas especializadas en retórica, oratoria y liderazgo, lleva más de 20 años formando a profesionales y promoviendo la excelencia en la comunicación empresarial y pública. Pionera en el análisis del discurso político durante la década de 1990, Mirela es una comentarista habitual en los medios y una reconocida autoridad en el desarrollo del discurso público en Croacia. Su libro "El poder de la persuasión" (2011) se convirtió en un éxito de ventas nacional con más de 10.000 ejemplares vendidos, siendo el primer manual croata dedicado a la influencia y la oratoria. Por su destacada contribución profesional y su impacto social, recibió en 2017 el premio de la Asociación Croata de Relaciones Públicas (HUOJ), reconocimiento a su importante papel en el desarrollo de la comunicación y las relaciones públicas.

JOZEFINA TOMLJENOVIĆ

Country: United States of America
Category: Leadership & Innovation

Nursing Operations Manager, Cleveland Clinic Hillcrest, Ohio

ENG Jozefina Tomljenovic, RN BSN serves as the Nursing Operations Manager at Cleveland Clinic Hillcrest Hospital, where her leadership, dedication, and compassion shine every day. She plays a vital role in ensuring smooth inpatient operations, coordinating staffing, patient placement, and responding to emergent situations with calm expertise. Known for her kindness and professionalism, Jozefina goes above and beyond to support patients, families, and her colleagues. Fluent in Croatian, she provides comfort and understanding to Croatian-speaking patients, helping them feel at home during their hospital stay. Beyond her professional achievements, Jozefina's heart lies within her community. A lifelong member of the Cleveland Junior Tamburitzans Croatian Pride, she has proudly served as both board member and President and now celebrates her daughter continuing the tradition. She also dedicates her time to Saint Paul's Croatian Church, the Croatian Women's Club Kardinal Stepinac, and ACAP. Jozefina's dedication, warmth, and community spirit truly make her an inspiration to all.

Država: Sjedinjene Američke Države
Kategorija: Vodstvo i inovacija

Voditeljica operacija u sestrinstvu, Cleveland Clinic Hillcrest, Ohio

HR Jozefina Tomljenović obnaša dužnost voditeljice sestrinskih operacija u bolnici Cleveland Clinic Hillcrest Hospital, gdje svakodnevno blista svojim vodstvom, predanošću i suosjećanjem. Igra ključnu ulogu u osiguravanju nesmetanog rada bolničkih odjela, koordiniranju osoblja, raspoređivanju pacijenata i reagiranju u hitnim situacijama s mirnoćom i stručnošću. Poznata po svojoj ljubaznosti i profesionalnosti, Jozefina uvijek ide korak dalje kako bi pružila podršku pacijentima, njihovim obiteljima i kolegama. Tečno govori hrvatski jezik te pruža utjehu i razumijevanje hrvatskim pacijentima, pomažući im da se osjećaju kao kod kuće tijekom boravka u bolnici. Osim svojih profesionalnih postignuća, Jozefinino srce pripada zajednici. Dugogodišnja je članica Cleveland Junior Tamburitzans – Croatian Pride ansambla, u kojem je s ponosom služila kao članica upravnog odbora i predsjednica. Danas s radošću gleda kako njezina kći nastavlja tu obiteljsku tradiciju. Jozefina također nesebično daruje svoje vrijeme brojnim humanitarnim i zajedničkim aktivnostima kroz hrvatsku župu Svetog Pavla u Clevelandu, Hrvatski ženski klub Kardinal Stepinac te Udrugu američko-hrvatskih profesionalaca (ACAP). Njezina predanost, toplina i duh zajedništva istinska su inspiracija svima oko nje.

País: Estados Unidos
Categoría: Emprendimiento

Gerente de Operaciones de Enfermería, Cleveland Clinic Hillcrest, Ohio

ESP Jozefina Tomljenović desempeña el cargo de Gerente de Operaciones de Enfermería en el Cleveland Clinic Hillcrest Hospital, donde brilla cada día por su liderazgo, dedicación y compasión. Desempeña un papel fundamental en garantizar el buen funcionamiento de las unidades hospitalarias, coordinando al personal, asignando a los pacientes y respondiendo con calma y profesionalismo en situaciones de emergencia. Conocida por su amabilidad y profesionalismo, Jozefina siempre va más allá para brindar apoyo a los pacientes, a sus familias y a sus colegas. Habla con fluidez el idioma croata y ofrece consuelo y comprensión a los pacientes croatohablantes, ayudándolos a sentirse como en casa durante su estancia en el hospital. Además de sus logros profesionales, el corazón de Jozefina pertenece a su comunidad. Es miembro de toda la vida del conjunto Cleveland Junior Tamburitzans – Croatian Pride, donde ha servido con orgullo como miembro de la junta directiva y presidenta. Hoy disfruta al ver cómo su hija continúa con esa tradición familiar. Jozefina también dedica generosamente su tiempo a numerosas actividades benéficas y comunitarias a través de la Iglesia Croata de San Pablo en Cleveland, el Club de Mujeres Croatas Cardenal Stepinac y la Asociación de Profesionales Croatas Estadounidenses (ACAP). Su dedicación, calidez y espíritu comunitario son una verdadera inspiración para todos los que la rodean.

TANJA TROŠELJ MIOČEVIĆ

Country: Croatia
Category: Leadership & Innovation

Expert Advisor, Science and Higher Education, Institute for Migration Research; Secretary, Center for Croatian Diaspora Research

ENG Tanja Trošelj Miočević holds a PhD in historical sciences and is a researcher of contemporary political history and the Croatian diaspora. Born and educated in Zagreb, starting out as an entrepreneur, Tanja gained extensive experience in business management, project development, and international cooperation. Driven by social change and a desire for a deeper understanding of Croatian national history, she turned to academic research in the mid-2010s. Her primary field of interest is the Croatian diaspora, with a focus on political emigration and its role in the creation of the Croatian state. She defended her doctoral dissertation in 2023 at the University of Zagreb's Faculty of Croatian Studies. She has authored numerous professional and scholarly papers and has participated in conferences and discussions on demographic trends, identity, and the historical processes of the Croatian diaspora. As Secretary of the Center for Croatian Diaspora Research, she actively participated in organizing international conferences and initiatives aimed at strengthening connections between the homeland and the diaspora.

Država: Republika Hrvatska
Kategorija: Vodstvo i inovacija

Stručna savjetnica u sustavu znanosti i visokom obrazovanju, Institut za istraživanje migracija; Tajnica, Centar za istraživanje hrvatskog iseljeništva

HR Tanja Trošelj Miočević doktorica je povijesnih znanosti, istraživačica suvremene političke povijesti i hrvatskog iseljeništva. Rođena je u Zagrebu, gdje je završila Ekonomski fakultet. Tanja je jedno vrijeme vodila vlastitu tvrtku, a u nastavku karijere stekla je bogato iskustvo u poslovnom upravljanju, razvoju projekata i međunarodnoj suradnji. Potaknuta društvenim promjenama i željom za dubljim razumijevanjem hrvatske nacionalne povijesti, sredinom 2010. godine usmjerava se prema znanstvenom radu. U fokusu njezina interesa nalazi se hrvatsko iseljeništvo, s posebnim naglaskom na političku emigraciju i njezinu ulogu u stvaranju hrvatske državnosti. Doktorsku disertaciju obranila je 2023. godine na Hrvatskim studijima Sveučilišta u Zagrebu. Autorica je brojnih stručnih i znanstvenih radova te sudionica konferencija i javnih rasprava o demografskim kretanjima, identitetu i povijesnim procesima hrvatskog iseljeništva. Kao tajnica Centra za istraživanje hrvatskog iseljeništva, aktivno je sudjelovala u organizaciji međunarodnih skupova i inicijativa usmjerenih k povezivanju domovine i dijaspore. U svom radu nastoji spojiti poduzetničku energiju, istraživačku preciznost i društvenu odgovornost, s jasnim ciljem doprinosu razumijevanju hrvatske prošlosti i izgradnji održive budućnosti.

País: República de Croacia
Categoría: Liderazgo e innovación

Asesora experta en el sistema científico y de educación superior, Instituto de Investigación sobre Migración; Secretaria del Centro de Investigación de la Emigración Croata

ESP Tanja Trošelj Miočević es doctora en Ciencias Históricas e investigadora de la historia política contemporánea y de la emigración croata. Nacida y educada en Zagreb, Tanja fue una emprendedora que ganó una amplia experiencia en gestión empresarial, desarrollo de proyectos y cooperación internacional. Impulsada por los cambios sociales y el deseo de comprender más profundamente la historia nacional croata, a mediados de la década de 2010 orientó su carrera hacia la investigación científica. Su principal campo de interés es la emigración croata, con especial atención a la emigración política y su papel en la creación del Estado croata. Defendió su tesis doctoral en 2023 en la Facultad de Estudios Croatas de la Universidad de Zagreb. Es autora de numerosos trabajos profesionales y académicos, y ha participado en conferencias y debates públicos sobre tendencias demográficas, identidad y procesos históricos de la emigración croata. Como secretaria del Centro de Investigación de la Emigración Croata, participó activamente en la organización de congresos internacionales e iniciativas destinadas a fortalecer los vínculos entre la patria y la diáspora.

NICOLE VIDOVICH

Country: United States of America
Category: Science & Technology

Senior Director, Creative & Brand Marketing, Consumer Technology Association (CTA)®, producer of CES®

ENG Nicole Vidovich is a marketing executive, brand strategist, and storyteller passionate about connecting global audiences with innovations that drive positive change. At the Consumer Technology Association (CTA)® — producer of CES®, the world's most powerful tech event — she leads the CES brand campaign, shaping strategy and storytelling to position CES as the global stage where innovation drives opportunity and impact. She oversees CES's flagship content platforms, including the CES Tech Talk podcast, ranked in the top 10% of U.S. podcasts, and the C Space Studio, featuring live interviews with global brands such as Warner Bros. Discovery, TikTok, and Google. Nicole also leads video production, capturing engaging content for millions of viewers worldwide. Her work bridges technology and culture through strategic partnerships with organizations including the United Nations, World Bank Group, Shark Tank, and SAG-AFTRA. Guided by creativity, collaboration, and purpose, she amplifies stories that inspire innovation and shape a better future.

Država: Sjedinjene Američke Države
Kategorija: Znanost i tehnologija

Viša direktorica za kreativni i brend marketing, Consumer Technology Association (CTA)®, organizator CES®

HR Nicole Vidovich je izvršna direktorica za marketing, strateginja brenda i pripovjedačica strastvena u povezivanju globalne publike s inovacijama koje potiču pozitivne promjene. U udruzi Consumer Technology Association (CTA)® — proizvođaču CES®, najmoćnijeg tehnološkog događaja na svijetu — vodi kampanju brenda CES-a, oblikujući strategiju i narativ kako bi pozicionirala CES kao globalnu pozornicu na kojoj inovacije stvaraju prilike i donose utjecaj. Nadgleda ključne sadržajne platforme CES-a, uključujući CES Tech Talk podcast, koji se nalazi među 10% najuspješnijih u SAD-u, te C Space Studio, s intervjuima uživo s globalnim brendovima poput Warner Bros. Discoveryja, TikToka i Googlea. Nicole također vodi video produkciju, stvarajući privlačan sadržaj za milijune gledatelja diljem svijeta. Njezin rad povezuje tehnologiju i kulturu kroz strateška partnerstva s organizacijama poput Ujedinjenih naroda, Svjetske banke, Shark Tanka i SAG-AFTRA. Vođena kreativnošću, suradnjom i svrhom, pojačava priče koje nadahnjuju inovacije i oblikuju bolju budućnost.

País: Estados Unidos
Categoría: Ciencia y tecnología

Asesora experta en el sistema científico y de educación superior, Instituto de Investigación sobre Migración; Secretaria del Centro de Investigación de la Emigración Croata

ESP Nicole Vidovich es una ejecutiva de marketing, estratega de marca y narradora apasionada por conectar audiencias globales con innovaciones que generan cambio positivo. En la Consumer Technology Association (CTA)® —productora de CES®, el evento tecnológico más poderoso del mundo— Nicole lidera las campañas de marca de CES, definiendo la estrategia y la narrativa para posicionar a CES como el escenario global donde la innovación genera oportunidades e impacto. Supervisa las principales plataformas de contenido de CES, incluido el pódcast CES Tech Talk, clasificado entre el 10 % superior de los pódcasts en EE. UU., y C Space Studio, que presenta entrevistas en vivo con marcas globales como Warner Bros. Discovery, TikTok y Google. Nicole también dirige la producción de video, capturando contenido atractivo para millones de espectadores en todo el mundo. Su trabajo une la tecnología y la cultura mediante alianzas estratégicas con organizaciones como las Naciones Unidas, el Banco Mundial, Shark Tank y SAG-AFTRA. Guiada por la creatividad, la colaboración y el propósito, amplifica historias que inspiran la innovación y dan forma a un futuro mejor.

NIKOLINA VUČKOVIĆ

Country: Croatia
Category: Arts & Culture

Creative Producer & Innovator, Luminosa d.o.o.

ENG Nikolina Vučković works in the fields of culture, arts, innovation, environmental activism, and science popularization. In her practice, she combines creativity, technology, and a sustainable mindset, believing that art can serve as a catalyst for positive social change. She has participated in numerous international film industry projects, including collaborations with HBO (Game of Thrones), Disney & Marvel (Moon Knight), and Paramount Pictures (Tom Clancy's Jack Ryan), collectively awarded 64 Emmy Awards. She has also contributed to campaigns for Rolls Royce, Ferrari, Hoka, and other global brands that promote Croatia as a place of creativity and collaboration. Nikolina is professionally engaged in technological innovation, with her project Wingo heated table receiving several international recognitions, including an award from the MIT Enterprise Forum CEE. She is particularly dedicated to volunteer projects such as "Ne daj se Cetino," focused on protecting the Cetina River, as well as the Science Festival she organizes in her hometown of Sinj. She believes that those who respect and protect nature can reach the highest forms of creative expression.

Država: Republika Hrvatska
Kategorija: Kultura i umjetnost

Kreativna producentica i inovatorica, Luminosa d.o.o.

HR Nikolina Vučković djeluje na području kulture, umjetnosti, inovacija, ekološkog aktivizma i popularizacije znanosti. U svom radu kombinira kreativnost, tehnologiju i održiv način razmišljanja, vjerujući da umjetnost može biti pokretač pozitivnih promjena u društvu. Sudjelovala je u brojnim međunarodnim projektima u filmskoj industriji, među kojima su HBO (Game of Thrones), Disney & Marvel (Moon Knight) i Paramount Pictures (Tom Clancy's Jack Ryan), nagrađeni s ukupno 64 nagrade Emmy. Radila je i na kampanjama za Rolls Royce, Ferrari, Hoku i druge globalne brendove koji promiču Hrvatsku kao prostor kreativnosti i suradnje. Nikolina se profesionalno bavi i tehnološkim inovacijama. Posebno se ističe njezin projekt Wingo grijani stol, koji je osvojio više međunarodnih nagrada, uključujući priznanje MIT Enterprise Forum CEE. Posebno su joj dragi volonterski projekti "Ne daj se Cetino", posvećen očuvanju rijeke Cetine, kao i Festival znanosti kojeg organizira u rodnom Sinju. Vjeruje da čovjek koji cijeni i čuva prirodu može dosegnuti najviši oblik stvaralaštva.

País: República de Croacia
Categoría: Arte y Cultura

Productora creativa e innovadora, Luminosa d.o.o.

ESP Nikolina Vučković trabaja en los ámbitos de la cultura, el arte, la innovación, el activismo ecológico y la divulgación científica. En su labor combina la creatividad, la tecnología y una mentalidad sostenible, convencida de que el arte puede ser un motor de cambio positivo en la sociedad. Ha participado en numerosos proyectos internacionales de la industria cinematográfica, entre ellos colaboraciones con HBO (Game of Thrones), Disney & Marvel (Moon Knight) y Paramount Pictures (Tom Clancy's Jack Ryan), galardonados en conjunto con 64 premios Emmy. También ha contribuido a campañas para Rolls Royce, Ferrari, Hoka y otras marcas globales que promueven a Croacia como un espacio de creatividad y colaboración. Nikolina se dedica profesionalmente a la innovación tecnológica, destacándose especialmente su proyecto Wingo, una mesa calefactable que ha recibido varios reconocimientos internacionales, incluido un premio del MIT Enterprise Forum CEE. Tiene un cariño especial por los proyectos voluntarios como "Ne daj se Cetino", dedicado a la protección del río Cetina, así como por el Festival de la Ciencia que organiza en su ciudad natal, Sinj. Cree que quienes respetan y protegen la naturaleza pueden alcanzar la forma más alta de expresión creativa.

YANYA VISKOVICH

Country: Switzerland
Category: Science & Technology

Strategic Advisor & Lawyer – Cybersecurity Crisis & AI Governance, Keynote Speaker & Author

ENG Yanya Viskovich is a cybersecurity strategist and expert in AI ethics and human behaviour in digital systems. A former cybercrime prosecutor and UN crisis advisor, she now advises boards and executive teams on cyber crisis preparedness, risk governance, and the ethical design of emerging technologies. She is a published author and frequent speaker at global cybersecurity and AI forums. Her work bridges law, technology, and ethics — grounded in the belief that a safer, more equitable digital future is not only possible but imperative. With Croatian roots and a global career, Yanya is committed to fostering meaningful dialogue across disciplines, sectors, and cultures.

Država: Švicarska
Kategorija: Znanost i tehnologija

Strateška savjetnica i odvjetnica za krizu kibernetičke sigurnosti i upravljanje umjetnom inteligencijom, govornica i autorica

HR Yanya Viskovich je strateginja za kibernetičku sigurnost i stručnjakinja za etiku umjetne inteligencije te ljudsko ponašanje u digitalnim sustavima. Bivša tužiteljica za kibernetički kriminal i savjetnica Ujedinjenih naroda za krizne situacije, danas savjetuje uprave i izvršne timove o pripremljenosti na kibernetičke krize, upravljanju rizicima i etičkom oblikovanju novih tehnologija. Objavljena je autorica i česta govornica na globalnim forumima o kibernetičkoj sigurnosti i umjetnoj inteligenciji. Njezin rad povezuje pravo, tehnologiju i etiku – temeljen na uvjerenju da je sigurnija i pravednija digitalna budućnost ne samo moguća, nego i nužna. S hrvatskim korijenima i globalnom karijerom, Yanya je posvećena poticanju smislenog dijaloga između različitih disciplina, sektora i kultura.

País: Suiza
Categoría: Ciencia y tecnología

Asesora estratégica y abogada especializada en crisis de ciberseguridad y gobernanza de la IA, oradora principal y autora

ESP Yanya Viskovich es estratega en ciberseguridad y experta en ética de la inteligencia artificial y en el comportamiento humano en los sistemas digitales. Exfiscal especializada en delitos cibernéticos y asesora de crisis de las Naciones Unidas, actualmente asesora a juntas directivas y equipos ejecutivos en la preparación ante crisis cibernéticas, la gestión de riesgos y el diseño ético de las tecnologías emergentes. Es autora publicada y oradora frecuente en foros internacionales sobre ciberseguridad e inteligencia artificial. Su trabajo une el derecho, la tecnología y la ética, basado en la convicción de que un futuro digital más seguro y equitativo no solo es posible, sino imprescindible. Con raíces croatas y una carrera global, Yanya está comprometida con fomentar un diálogo significativo entre disciplinas, sectores y culturas.

KRISTINA ZANIĆ

Country: United Arab Emirates
Category: Entrepreneurship

CEO, Kristina Zanic Consultants

ENG Kristina Zanić is an award-winning interior designer with nearly four decades of experience and projects spanning more than 20 countries. Her eponymous studio, now a 200-member global practice with offices in Dubai, London, Riyadh, Bangkok, and the Philippines, is renowned for creating bespoke interiors for hospitality, residential, wellness, and dining spaces. The firm is consistently ranked as a leading design consultancy and recognized as an International Giant of Design by Interior Design magazine. Croatian-Australian by heritage, Kristina draws inspiration from her travels to nearly 80 countries, infusing her work with cultural richness and a deep sense of place. A respected industry voice, she frequently speaks and judges at international design forums and champions mentorship, design education, and women's empowerment across the creative industry.

Država: Ujedinjeni Arapski Emirati
Kategorija: Poduzetništvo

Glavna izvršna direktorica, Kristina Zanic Consultants

HR Kristina Žanić je nagradivana dizajnerica interijera s gotovo četiri desetljeća iskustva i projektima koji obuhvaćaju više od 20 zemalja. Njezin istoimeni studio, sada globalna praksa s 200 članova i uredima u Dubaiju, Londonu, Rijadu, Bangkoku i Filipinima, poznat je po izradi interijera po mjeri za ugostiteljske, stambene, wellness i blagovaonske prostore. Tvrtka je dosljedno rangirana kao vodeća konzultantska tvrtka za dizajn i prepoznata kao međunarodni div dizajna od strane časopisa Interior Design. Kristina, hrvatsko-australskog podrijetla, inspiraciju crpi iz putovanja u gotovo 80 zemalja, unoseći u svoj rad kulturno bogatstvo i dubok osjećaj mjesta. Kao cijenjeni glas industrije, često govori i sudi na međunarodnim dizajnerskim forumima te se zalaže za mentorstvo, edukaciju o dizajnu i osnaživanje žena u kreativnoj industriji.

País: Emiratos Árabes Unidos
Categoría: Emprendimiento

Directora Ejecutiva, Kristina Zanic Consultants

ESP Kristina Zanic es una galardonada diseñadora de interiores con casi cuatro décadas de experiencia y proyectos en más de 20 países. Su estudio homónimo, ahora una firma global con 200 profesionales y oficinas en Dubái, Londres, Riad, Bangkok y Filipinas, es reconocida por crear interiores a medida para espacios de hostelería, residenciales, de bienestar y gastronómicos. La firma se posiciona constantemente como una consultora de diseño líder y es reconocida como un Gigante Internacional del Diseño por la revista Interior Design. De ascendencia croata-australiana, Kristina se inspira en sus viajes a casi 80 países, impregnando su trabajo de riqueza cultural y un profundo sentido de pertenencia. Reconocida voz en la industria, participa frecuentemente como ponente y jurado en foros internacionales de diseño y promueve la mentoría, la educación en diseño y el empoderamiento de la mujer en el sector creativo.

Croatian Women of Influence Award and Future Leader Award Winners

2016

President Kolinda Grabar Kitarović
Honorary Award/Počasna Nagrada
Brenda Brkušić
Ljubica Cimera
Vlatka Hlupić
Diana Juričević
Bernadette Luketich
Karen Oremuš
Maria Ramas
dr. sc. Ana Sunčana Smith
Antonija Spajić
dr. sc. Dunja Šamec
Dr. Katarina Školnik- Aleksa
Tena Štivičić
prof. dr. sc. Iva Tolić
Antonija Trupinić
Natalie Beg
Matea Kovač
Emma Moguš
Julia Moguš

2017

dr. med. dent. Neda Caktas
Branka Cubelic
Ivona Culic
Marijana Dokoza
dr. sc. Ivanka Dvorzak Schrun
prof. dr. sc. Tamara Gazzic-Aleric
Petra Gregorats
Mara Letica-Sarac
dr. Maja Lucak-Štir
Ana Matic
Andrea Novak Neumann
Delia Kosić Papić
Nika Penić
dr. sc. Anita Šalić
s. Anđelina Sokić
dr. Nelia Šrsen
dr. Silva Šušnjar
dr. Suzana Tkalčić, DVM, PhD
doc. dr. sc. Ksenija Urcić
Blanka Vlašić
dr. sc. Despina Zdravčev
Gordana Grgat/Prijatelj Hrvatske
Marijela Jurić
Kaja Pavlinić
Anita Vidic

2018

Ksenija Abramović
Zrinka Bačić
Carolina Boroević
mr. sc. Vesna Bosanac, dr. med.
Antonella D'Antuono
Suzana Flanz
Gloria Juršić
dr. Zorka Kinda-Berlačković
Sara Kolak
Đurđica Orepić
Marina Matiranec
dr. Josipa Petrunić
Ira Perić
dr. sc. Marija Selak, doc.
dr. med. Nikolina Seser
dr. sc. Anđelka Sopić Sondi
dr. sc. Lidija Srnec
Kathryn Tesija
Nataša Tramišak
doc. dr. sc. Ana Jurinjak Tušek
Tea Zakuła
Ivana Bujak
Maja Grgić
Tatjana Mustać

2019

Danijela Baličić
Damjana Domanovac
Sanja Drakulić
prof. dr. sc. Nataša Drevenkar
Jasenka Gajdoš Kljusurić, PhD, MBA
Viktorija Knežević
Anica Kovač, Ph.D, Meng. AE.
Biljana Lovrinović
prim. Ph.D. sci. Lijla Marton, MD
Katia Petrinjak
Nadica Prišanc Matulich
Nada Sirk
dr. med. Bjanka Sović
dr. sc. Jadranka Šiljević-Spehar
prim. dr. med. Božidarka Martina Šola Roksandić
dr. sc. Spomenka Tomek-Roksandić, MD
Jelena Lara Marinković

2023

Dalia Alić
Marianna Balatinac
Matea Brižić
Katarina Čeliković
Ivana Dobrotić
Olja Družić Ljubotina
Sara Dawn Dyson
Cathy Gorn
Julija Kaleb
Ivana Kalogjera
Dijana Katica
Lidija Kovarik
Dajana Kučić Grgić
Ana Maria Kuljevan
Jadranka Luketa Marković
Karmen Meić
Jelena Nadinić
Ivana Nosić
Antonija Petričušić
Marijana Radović Kletečki
Neda Rosandić Šarić
Francesca Sammartino
Andrea Patricia Sepúlveda Rosso

2024

Jana Koščak
Vjekoslava Bagarić
Jovana Čutul
Kristina Ercegović
Jasna Horvat
Vesna Jakšić Lowe
Stela Jokić
Tamara Jurković
Nevenka Komarica
Marina Lekić Peran
Barbara Matić
Lidija Ortloff
Adriana Smajić
Nataša Tramišak
Zlata Vasiljević
Željana Zovko

2025

Dubravka Datković
Marija Kuštro
Rafaella Arapović
Ana Bačić
Ana Barjašić
Morana Brkljačić
Sanda Erdelez
Petra Heisinger
Mateja-Anđelina Kramar
Vesna Kittelson Krezić
Judith Krizmanić Živić
Frances Krtulić Šeparović
Vedrana Likan
Catalina Lonac
Lluvitza Lopéz Golac
Mirjana Miličević
Branka Pavić Blažetin
Marijana Petir
Drina Rendić
Ana Maria Šonjić
Katherine Sredle
Andrea Stanić
Mira Temunović
Katherine Vlasica
Blanka Žakula
Tamara Živković Ivanović

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Croatian Women's Network™/
Mreža Hrvatskih Žena

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OIB 28639482602
tel (+385 1) 61 15 118, fax (+385 1) 61 11 522
e-mail: hmi-info@matica.hr
www.matica.hr

POZDRAVNO PISMO

Poštovane i drage dobitnice nagrada, cijenjeni organizatori,

Hrvatska matica iseljenika od samog početka podržava projekt Međunarodne konferencije „Napredak Žena. Napredak ekonomije. Ostvari potencijal! Žena kao pokretač promjena.", koja pridonosi jačanju položaja i utjecaja žena u Hrvatskoj i u svijetu. Iznimno smo ponosni što ove godine obilježavate desetljeće povezivanja i promicanja hrvatskih žena diljem svijeta i na tomu vam čestitam. Vaša nagrada na poseban način predstavlja izvanredne hrvatske žene čija kreativnost, vodstvo i inovativnost pokreću značajne promjene. To su uzori koji utjelovljuju otpornost, viziju i utjecaj, kako u hrvatskim zajednicama tako i u svijetu i domovini.

Od srca čestitam svim nominiranima a posebice laureatkinjama za 2026. godinu, koje su zasigurno žene inspiracije koje će na najbolji način nastaviti zagovarati i priznavati postignuća žena diljem svijeta, povezivanja žena iz Hrvatske, Bosne i Hercegovine i hrvatskih iseljeničkih zajednica.

Želim vam i dalje puno uspjeha u vašem radu jer vaša postignuća su dobra primjer i nadahnuće za mlađe naraštaje te velika pomoć u ostvarivanju njihova potencijala.

Zdeslav Milas, Msc, MA
Ravnatelj/Director

Zagreb

Croatian Women's Network™
Mreža hrvatskih žena

Zagreb, 11. veljače 2026.

PREDMET: Čestitka povodom 10. obljetnice Croatian Women's Network™

Poštovane,

u ime Turističke zajednice grada Zagreba i svoje osobno ime, upućujem vam iskrene čestitke povodom obilježavanja **10. obljetnice osnutka Croatian Women's Network™ / Mreže hrvatskih žena**, kao i organizacije međunarodne konferencije *„Napredak žena. Napredak ekonomije. Ostvari potencijal!"* pod geslom *„Nasljeđe u pokretu"*.

Desetljeće vašeg djelovanja snažan je pokazatelj kontinuiranog i predanog rada na osnaživanju žena hrvatskoga podrijetla diljem svijeta, a međunarodni karakter vaših aktivnosti, vrijedan su doprinos razmjeni znanja, iskustava i primjera dobre prakse.

Veseli nas što se upravo Zagreb i ove godine potvrđuje kao domaćin događanja koja potiču uključivost, ravnopravnost i gospodarski razvoj, što dodatno jača vidljivost Zagreba kao otvorenog i poticajnog mjesta susreta, dijaloga i međunarodne suradnje.

Još jednom čestitam na ovom značajnom jubileju te želim uspješan nastavak rada i daljnji razvoj mreže koja svojim djelovanjem ostavlja trajan i prepoznatljiv trag.

S poštovanjem,

dr.sc. Martina Bienenfeld
direktorica

Turistička zajednica grada Zagreba, 10000 Zagreb, Kaptol 5
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REPUBLIKA HRVATSKA
MINISTARSTVO ZNANOSTI, OBRAZOVANJA I MLADIH

KLASA: [illegible]
URBROJ: [illegible]

Zagreb, 16. veljače 2026.

MREŽA HRVATSKIH ŽENA
n/p gospođi Caroline Spivak, osnivačici
info@Croatianwomensnetwork.org

PREDMET: Međunarodna konferencija "Napredak žena. Napredak ekonomije. Otvori potencijal!"
- [illegible]

Poštovana gospođo Spivak,

[illegible] Vlada [illegible] Ministarstvo [illegible] pokrovitelj[illegible] nad međunarodnom konferencijom "Napredak žena. Napredak ekonomije. Otvori potencijal!"

Međunarodna konferencija - organizacija Mreže hrvatskih žena održava se povodom deset godina djelovanja organizacije te predstavlja [illegible] za [illegible] gospodarskog rasta [illegible] osnaživanje žena na svakoj [illegible] dnevnom [illegible] Dani događaja istaknut [illegible] [illegible] i [illegible] žena kroz [illegible] [illegible] dobre prakse. Kroz tematske panele [illegible] [illegible] dosadašnji primatelji „Ponosna hrvatska žena" i „Budućе lidericе", [illegible] promoviranje kulturne [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] žena u gospodarstvu, diplomaciji, znanosti, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Prihvaćajući pokroviteljstvo Ministarstva [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] organizacije [illegible] [illegible] konferencije.

S poštovanjem,

MINISTAR
prof. dr. sc. Radovan Fuchs

SREDIŠNJI DRŽAVNI UREDA ZA HRVATE IZVAN REPUBLIKE HRVATSKE
DRŽAVNI TAJNIK

Zagreb, 6. veljače 2026.

n/p gđi Caroline Spivak
Mreža Hrvatskih Žena

Poštovana,

zahvaljujem vas, u ime Središnjeg državnog ureda za Hrvate izvan Republike Hrvatske i osobno ime, na najljepše želje povodom Dana žena, upućivanje čestitke uvaženim dobitnicama te organizaciji jubilarne, 10. dodjele nagrada „Ponosna hrvatska žena" i „Buduće lidericе" i još jednog izlaska konferencije „Napredak žena. Napredak ekonomije. Otvori potencijal!"

Kontinuiran njihova održavanja svjedoči o dosljednoj predanosti Mreže Hrvatskih Žena umrežavanju žena hrvatskog podrijetla te pruža vrijedne prilike za susret i jačanje veza domovinske i iseljene Hrvatske. Upravo zato, Središnji državni ured za Hrvate izvan Republike Hrvatske rado uvaža prijedlog dati podršku realizaciji ove hvalevrijedne inicijative, pružiti pokroviteljstvo nad navedenim događajima.

U nadi kako nam predstoji još mnogo prilika za suradnju, ovim putem izražavam iskrene želje za najuspješnom provedbom ovog i svih budućih projekata.

S poštovanjem,

DRŽAVNI TAJNIK
Zvonko Milas

Congratulations to the 2026 Croatian Women of Influence Award and Future Leader Award Winners

Best Wishes and Congratulations to the Croatian Women's Network on its 10th Anniversary

Čestitamo!

CWN 10th Anniversary Celebration Committee

Cathy Gorn, Committee Chair, CWoI 2023, United States of America

Biljana Abel, CWoI 2019, Bosnia Herzegovina/United States of America
Sara Dyson, CWoI 2023, Republic of Croatia /United States of America
Nevenka Nena Komarica, CWoI 2025, United States of America
Lidija Kovarik, CWoI 2023, Czech Republic
Judi Krizmanić Živić, CWoI 2024, United States of America
Kaja Pavlinić, Future Leader 2017, Republic of Croatia
Adriana Smajić, CWoI 2025, Argentina
Antonija Trupinić, CWoI 2017, Republic of Croatia

Dalia Alić, Program Committee, CWoI 2023, Austria

LEGACY IN MOTION

Nasljeđe u pokretu
Legado en movimiento

Croatian Women's Network™/
Mreža Hrvatskih Žena/
La Red de Mujeres Croatas
and Hrvatska Matica Iseljenika
invite you to an afternoon of arts and culture

Thursday, March 5, 2026 at 14:00 h

Hrvatska Matica Iseljenika, 3rd floor
Trg Stjepana Radića 3, Zagreb

@CWNLeaders // #CWN2026 // #CWN10

Arts and Culture Panel
Panel: Umjetnost i Kultura | Arte y Cultura

Moderator: Adriana Smajić, CWoI 2025, ARG
Panelists: Silvina Biott, CWoI 2026, ARG
Branka Malinar, CWoI 2026, USA
Marina Perić, CWoI 2026, USA
Patricia Štambuk Mayorga, CWoI 2026, Chile

Book launch
Predstavljanje knjige | Lanzamiento del libro

dr. sc. Jelena Nadinić, CWoI 2023, ARG
Diana Arias, book coordinator, ARG

"Guardianas de la trama".
25 historias de la herencia croata en la voz de mujeres latinoamericanas

Custodians of Connection.
25 Stories of Croatian Heritage Told by Latin American Women

„Čuvarice veza. 25 priča o hrvatskoj baštini ispričanih glasom latinoameričkih žena"

Book launch
Predstavljanje knjige | Lanzamiento del libro

Jovana Čutul, CWoI 2025, RH

Žene Koje Pokreću
Women as Changemakers
Las mujeres como agentes de cambio

Congratulations Class of 2026

best wishes from
your CWoI 2016 Class Members

Vlatka Hlupic – United Kingdom
Bernadette Luketich-Sikaras – United States of America
Dunja Šamec – Republic of Croatia
Katarina Školnik-Aleksa – Canada
Ana Sunčana Smith – Republic of Croatia
Iva Tolić – Republic of Croatia
Antonija Trupinić – Republic of Croatia

Your accomplishment is proof that when we listen to who we truly are, extraordinary things unfold.

Congratulations
Class of 2026

Best wishes from your

CWoI 2017 Class Members

Ana Matulić – Croatia
Andrea Novak-Neumann – United States of America

Your journey is a powerful reminder that progress is built on initiative, persistence, and belief. By daring to begin, you set momentum in motion — and that momentum has carried you toward this well-deserved award.

Congratulations
Class of 2026

Best wishes from your

CWoI 2018Class Members

Ksenija Abramović – Croatia
Zorka Kinda-Berlaković – Austria
Kathryn Tesija – United States of America

This award is not just a recognition of your hard work, but a celebration of your courage to dream big and pursue those dreams relentlessly.

Congratulations Class of 2026

best wishes from

your CWoI 2023 Class Members

Dalia Alić – Austria
Sara Dyson – Croatia
Cathy Gorn, Ph.D. – United States of America
Ana Maria Kuljevan – Peru
Karmen Meić – Germany
Jelena Nadinić – Argentina

By daring to begin, you set momentum in motion — and that momentum has carried you toward this well-deserved milestone.

Congratulations Class of 2026

best wishes from your CWoI 2024 Class Members

Croatian Women of Influence

Rafaella Arapović – Canada
Ana Bačić – Canada
Ana Barjašić – United Kingdom
Doc. dr. sc. Morana Brkljačić, Dr. Med. – Republic of Croatia
Sanda Erdelez – United States of America
Petra Heisinger – Republic of Croatia
Mateja-Anđelina Kramar – Republic of Croatia
Vesna Krezich Kittelson – United States of America
Judith Krizmanić Ziyić – United States of America
Dr. Frances Krtolić Separović, AO, FAA – Australia
Vedrana Likan – Republic of Croatia
Catalina Lonac – Argentina
Lluvitza Lopéz Golac – Bolivia
Prof. Ph.D. Sc. Mirjana Miličević – Bosnia & Hercegovina
Branka Pavić Blažetin – Hungary
Marijana Petir – Republic of Croatia
Drina Rendić – Chile
Ana Maria Šonjić – Argentina
Katherine C. Sredl, Ph.D. – United States of America
Andrea Stanić – Republic of Croatia
Mira Temunović – Serbia
Katherine Vlasica, DO FACEP – United States of America
Blanka Žakula – Republic of Croatia
Tamara Živković Ivanović – Republic of Croatia

Future Leaders

Dubravka Datković, Republic of Croatia
Marija Kuštro, Republic of Croatia

Congratulations Class of 2026

best wishes from your CWoI 2025 Class Members

Vjekoslava Bagarić – Republic of Croatia
Jasna Horvat – Republic of Croatia
Nevenka Komarica – United States of America/Republic of Croatia
Lidija Ortloff – United States of America
Adriana Ivana Smajić – Argentina

May this success inspire you to continue embracing the possible, breaking barriers, and creating even more extraordinary moments.

Congratulations
Class of 2026

Best wishes from your

CWoI 2020 Class Members

Liliana Čanadić – Canada
Debbie Čosić 2020 – Canada
Goranka Horjan – Croatia
Elizabeta Kera – United States/Croatia
Alexandra Marina Rukavina
Lucija Velican
Vedrana Jelusic

Through vision, determination, and unwavering belief in yourself, you've transformed challenges into opportunities and turned what once seemed impossible into reality.

CROATIAN PRIDE
CLEVELAND JUNIOR TAMBURITZANS

Congratulations, Josie!

Thank you for your dedication to the Cleveland Junior Tamburitzans and our Cleveland-Croatian community.

Danijela Boras

Western

Čestitamo, draga Danijela!
Ponosni smo na tebe i na sav trud koji si uložila kako bi postigla ovaj uspjeh. Tvoja snaga, upornost i dobrota čine te izuzetnom mladom ženom. Radujemo se svim tvojim budućim koracima i uspjesima. Neka te Bog čuva, blagoslovi i vodi na svakom koraku.

Srdačne čestitke i najbolje želje šalju:
tata Dane, mama Ana i brat Nikola Boras, uz ljubav i podršku obitelji, kumova i prijatelja iz Kanade, Amerike, Hrvatske (Zagreb, Primorsko-Goranska županija) i Hercegovine (Ljubuški).

Croatian Franciscan Centre – Hrvatsko Franjevačko središte
Queen of Peace Church – Župa Kraljice Mira
9118 Winston Churchill Blvd., Norval, Ontario L0P 1K0
Tel. 905-456-3203; e-mail: cfcnorval@gmail.com

Norval, January 28, 2026

Danijela Boras

Dear Danijela,

On behalf of our Croatian Community of the Croatian Franciscan Center Queen of Peace in Norval, we congratulate you on receiving The Croatian Women of Influence Award and the Future Leader Award. This empowering recognition, that was awarded to many courageous and strong women who truly became strong leaders, is a sign to us that your talent, skill and dedication was already recognized, and we believe it will take you far.

We are looking forward to seeing your many future accomplishments for the benefit of our nation and our community.

Sincerely,

Fr Ivica Majstorović, O.F.M.
Pastor of Quenn of Peace Church and Director of Croatian Franciscan Center

HRVATSKO FRANJEVAČKO SREDIŠTE · NORVAL, ONTARIO · CANADA · CROATIAN FRANCISCAN CENTRE

hello@mindfultravelcroatia.com

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CAROLYN AGIN BRUNO

2026 Croatian Women of Influence Award for Leadership and Innovation

Congratulations

to our wonderul
board member

Carolyn Bruno

The National Federation of Croatian Americans Cultural Foundation (NFCACF) congratulates you on receiving the Croatian Women of Influence Award!

As an organization devoted to advancing Croatian heritage, cultural engagement, and leadership within the Croatian American community, NFCACF is proud to celebrate women who inspire progress and embody strength. You inspire future generations to dream boldly and lead with purpose.

Čestitamo on this extraordinary accomplishment!

NFCACF
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF CROATIAN AMERICANS CULTURAL FOUNDATION

Congratulations Branka Malinar

for winning

The Croatian Women of Influence Award 2026

We are so proud of you!

In 1983, both Branka and Jerry Malinar were founding members of The American Croatian Lodge in Eastlake, Ohio. Establishing the Croatian Heritage Museum and Library was part of the development of the lodge. She has been a volunteer for the past 43 years planning many exhibits in the museum and helped to develop the library. In 2009, they were part of the committee that established the Croatian Cultural Garden in Rockefeller Park, Cleveland, Ohio.

You have done so much to keep the Croatian Heritage alive for us all! Thanks you for the support you gave your grandkids in The American Zagreb Junior Tamburitzan group.

Love your family ~ Drina & (Terry), Mirna, Vesna & (Dan), Nada & (Jeff)
Love you Baka from your Grandchildren ~
Nicolette, Mandy & (Steve), Danny & (Allissa), Kevin, Andy & (Jessie), Carissa, Morgan & (Mitch), Jessie & (Jessie), Nicholas, Brendan and Justin, and Great Grandchildren ~ Eloise, Roan, Abigal, and Sylvie

Čestitamo!

Dobitnicama nagrade
Croatian Women of Influence 2026

od obitelji Tomislava Zovke iz Clevelanda

Congratulations Branka Malinar

for being awarded

The Croatian Women of Influence Award 2026

From the volunteer staff
Croatian Heritage Museum and Library
34900 Lakeshore Blvd.
Eastlake, Ohio 44095
and
Croatian Cultural Garden
Rockefeller Park, Cleveland,OH

THE UNSEEN RESUME

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- Made space for someone who didn't yet believe they belonged
- Set a standard by not bending it
- Took responsibility when it wasn't assigned
- Opened doors and didn't hover near them
- Chose patience over proving a point
- Modeled leadership on a difficult day
- Left a place better without needing credit
- Built trust slowly - and kept it

Congratulations to the 2026 Croatian Women of Influence & Future Leader Award recipients.

You may never see the full arc of what you started, but your legacy is already in motion.

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Sincere Congratulations

dr. Nikolić,
on receiving the prestigious
Croatian Women of Influence Award!

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Assoc. Prof. Gordana Nikolić, PhD

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Congratulations to all 2026 Award Winners - your excellence empowers generations to come. Here's to continued leadership, connection, and success.

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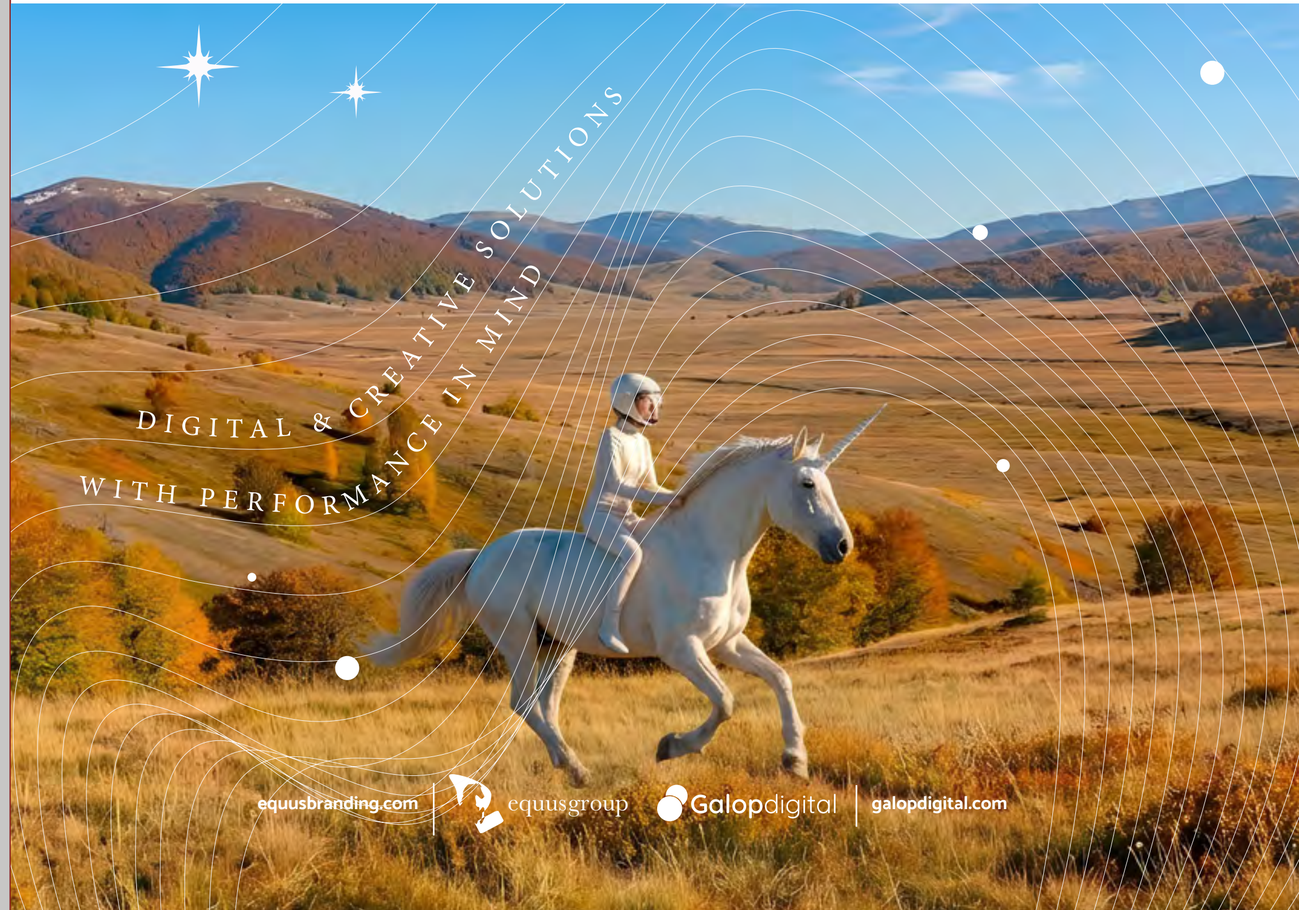
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Eastlake, Ohio

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