

Common Waste Common Libraries



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INSTITUT

Meet Our Mentors



Mateja Medić

is graduated in sociology and philosophy at the University of Zagreb. She is currently the president of the association Green Network of Activist Groups (ZMAG) and works as an educator and manager of the education program organizing various educational events. She has many years of experience in educating children and adults how to live sustainably through various lectures and creative workshops focusing on the practical application of knowledge and skills in dealing with topics of sustainable consumption, waste pollution and creative reuse of discarded things and materials.



Drazen Šimleša

Works as a senior research associate at the Ivo Pilar Institute of Social Sciences in Zagreb. The fields of work are social and solidarity economy, sustainability, and permaculture. He has published eight books and several scientific papers. The last book is Public Policies for Social and Solidarity Economy – Manual for Cities (2021).

He teaches the Global Society and Sustainable Development course at Peace Studies. He is active in the association Green Network of Activist Groups (ZMAG) as the Coordinator of the Center of knowledge program and as the manager of the Cooperative for a Good Economy. He is the General Coordinator of the Solidarity Economy Network – RIPESS Europe.

Green Network of Activist Groups

ZMAG operates as one of nine Centers of Knowledge for social development in Croatia, in the field of sustainable living and the development of permaculture. The association has become known as an incubator for the implementation of sustainability, with its most prominent example being the construction of the Recycled Estate educational center in Vukomerić.

Meet Our Mentors



Yanina Taneva

is the cofounder of Ideas Factory Sofia and BABA residence - a program for cultural innovations in rural areas. She is a consultant, researcher, strategic communicator and facilitator with over 15 years of experience in leading groups and their processes aiming at social innovation through interdisciplinarity. Yanina was on the implementation board of Tandem Europe cultural exchange, part of the team behind the facilitator's platform Competendo, as well as EduCity - neighbourhood facilitation and part of the Design for change global network. She is passionate about Human centered design, action research and access to culture.



Ivana Borovnjak

is a designer based in Zagreb, working independently and as a founder and member of the Oaza Art and Design Collective. She graduated in conceptual design from the Design Academy Eindhoven in 2007. Since then, she has actively contributed to the independent cultural scene through projects of various sizes and impacts.

From 2013 to 2017, she served as the director of the Croatian Designers Association, where she was involved in creative direction, curation, and management of initiatives, platforms, festivals, and educational projects. She designs, curates, researches and writes about design.

Adin Alispahić



Student of Fine Arts in Sarajevo department product design.

His inspiration have been different artists and designers, with a focus on using local materials and telling personal stories through some of the projects he does.

So far he has applied to many very different projects from learning how artificial intelligence can influence emotion (in the project Ethics-AI=Labs done with Goethe institute Bulgaria) to projects like restoration of old film tapes and “learning and developing a short movie” (done with Omladinski filmski festival)

Understanding the ecological aspects of product design is essential for students of similar fields. In today's world, environmental concerns are increasingly prominent, making it crucial for designers to play a pivotal role in shaping a sustainable future.

Considering ecological aspects in product design fosters sustainability. Designers can minimize environmental impact by using sustainable materials, reducing energy consumption, and designing for recyclability. The first step in development of any product is considering the materials, one could say that that is a moral obligation of designers. It's important to consider the environmental impact of any creation and to embrace eco-friendly practices which demonstrate a commitment to ethical design principles

Adna Šišić



A dedicated student of Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage and an enthusiastic tour guide, embodies a profound commitment to sustainability in cultural preservation. With a fervent passion for film and an unwavering ambition, Adna channels her energy into both academic pursuits and practical endeavors.

Her relentless work ethic and eagerness to learn have propelled her to participate in projects like the one with Goethe Institut in Bulgaria, an experience she cherished every moment of. Adna exemplifies the intersection of heritage conservation, tourism, and creative expression, poised to make significant contributions to the sustainable future.

Jelena Radovanovic

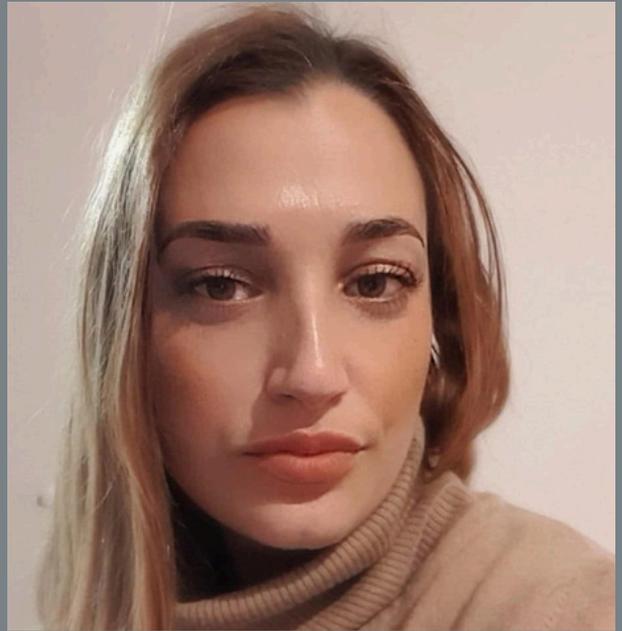


I studied at the Faculty of Dramatic Arts in Belgrade, Serbia and I have a bachelor's degree in management and production of theatre, radio and culture and master's degree in management of culture and media. While I was studying, I was also volunteering a lot in many different fields such as sports events and culture but also, I was working in the theater, at festivals and at the radio.

At the University I developed my love towards storytelling. That led me towards different advertising agencies, and I started working in the field of digital marketing for many big brands. But, after some time I realized 9-5 job office job was not suitable for me, and also supporting and promoting brands that are not going along with my personal values. So, I quit my job and went to recharge in nature.

That is when my new lifestyle was born (5 years ago) as I started combining travelling, volunteering and freelancing. I did many interesting projects: I lived in Iceland where I was a camp leader for environmental NGO, I was a Park Ranger in the NP Plitvice in Croatia, I was the ambassador of the project "Europe on Track 9" and WeBalkans campaign "Made of Us" and nowadays I work as a Social Media Manager for several film festivals and I am active as a facilitator/organizer in different nature-related projects. That is why I applied to this project, because I believe I can share my organizational skills but also my creative side.

Martina Maksimkov



Detail-oriented person with strong knowledge of office administration and librarianship with master degree of librarianship at the Department of information sciences and master degree Study of Russian language and literature at Faculty of Humanities And Social Sciences.

For the past two and a half years I have been working as an informant in Zagreb City Libraries and besides that as an student advisor At University College Algebra in Zagreb and as an head librarian in Public Library Vlado Gotovac Sisak in Sisak.

As my advantages I would list that I am highly skilled in organization, time management and confidentiality with expertise in performance management, succession planning and process improvement. Strategic planner with strong communication skills.

I am very interested in environmental topics and would like to expand my knowledge about waste prevention, recycling and circular economy. This planet is our home and I truly believe that we should treat it with special care and respect, therefore I am very excited to meet other people who share my opinion and enthusiasm.

In my spare time I love to read, swim, stay in nature and do arts and crafts.

Nadina Grebović-Lendo



Nadina is a Ph.D. candidate in Information Sciences at the University of Sarajevo. She holds a Master's Degree in Literary History and a Master's Degree in Comparative Literature and Library Science from the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Sarajevo. As the Director of the University of Sarajevo Library and the Head of the Faculty of Philosophy Library, she has significantly contributed to advancing library services and infrastructure.

Nadina Grebović-Lendo is actively involved in various domestic and international projects, focusing on the integration of modern technologies into library practices. Her research and professional interests include the development of innovative library services in higher education, digital transformation in libraries, and the enhancement of user experience through technology.

Throughout her career, she has demonstrated a commitment to improving library services and promoting the role of libraries in education and research. Her work has been instrumental in several initiatives aimed at modernizing library systems and expanding access to information.

As a Ph.D. candidate in Information Sciences and a library professional with a strong interest in applying modern technologies to library practices, I am deeply motivated to participate in this project.

My interest for sustainability and the development of innovative library services aligns perfectly with the goals of "Common Waste – Common Libraries." I am eager to collaborate with other professionals and activists to develop practical, educational formats that can be implemented in libraries to address the urgent issues of waste management and sustainability.

Valentina Popović



Currently employed as a librarian at the City Library in Ljig, I hold a master's degree in library science from the Faculty of Education in Sombor, where I specialized in the role of digital tools in small public libraries. Currently pursuing a PhD in library science at the same institution, I'm deeply passionate about advancing library practices through digital innovation. As the manager of the E-library website, I actively promote best practices among Serbian librarians.

My commitment to digital literacy and library modernization led me to publish the book "Digital Tools," which explores open-source digital solutions, practical applications, and challenges faced by public libraries in the digital era. Additionally, I've delivered lectures on "Digital Tools and the Virtual Shelf" as part of accredited seminars on ICT roadmaps for modern libraries. In 2023, I became a certified media literacy trainer, conducting workshops for students, teachers, and community members.

As a member of the Serbian Library Association's working group for sustainable development, I've gained valuable insights on the important role of libraries in promoting sustainability. My educational background in adult learning (andragogy) has driven my curiosity to gain more knowledge about circular economy within the context of the Common waste- Common libraries project. I'm looking forward to working in a team hoping to develop unique approaches and innovative solutions during our collaboration, and to make a change in my own community and more importantly to educate others in this particular area.