

Success Stories

Significant change...



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I was able to participate in many organizational, professional and personal changes during the course of my eight week internship. One important change that I contributed to was the creation of a program training manual for the organization. I chose to do the program training manual on social inclusion and how it relates to women in BiH.

This topic is especially relevant currently because of BiH's interest in joining the European Union (EU). Social inclusion is a policy priority of the EU and progress towards it is required for EU ascension. Women's rights have improved since the war but in order for BiH to be recognized as a member state in the EU women's positions in political participation, education, health care, social protection and employment needs to improve. The aim of the program training manual is to educate women and profess

sionals about social exclusion in BiH, create a dialogue about women's participation and inclusion in the above areas, and provide a space for women to discuss what they can do to promote social inclusion in their communities.

As an international intern the personal and professional changes I experienced during my 8 week internship are immense and invaluable. I learned how different local nongovernmental organizations (NGO) operate in BiH. I was educated about the structure and organization of an NGO. In addition, in working in an environment and culture that was new to me, I learned how to be flexible and adaptive. All of these experiences have helped contribute to my professional growth and will help me succeed in international settings as well as national settings when I'm working with clientele that is ethnically and culturally different from me.

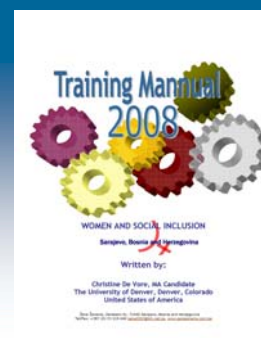
The staff at Žene Ženama was always positive, upbeat and included me in the everyday functions of the organization. I was made to feel very at ease and comfortable during the eight weeks. The friends and connections I made at Žene Ženama will be long-lasting and enduring.

During this time I completed a training manual and attending staff and the United Nations Development Program meetings. Completing a staff training, attending a summer camp in Montenegro, and working with autistic children were also discussed but due to time constraints I was unable to complete these activities.

I believe that Žene Ženama's provided enough pre-departure information to its volunteers. By accessing the organizations website, one can find almost all the information they need before departure. If interested Žene Ženama could recommend some readings to the intern to complete before her or his arrival. For example, the UNDP has several articles about the state of women in BiH that would give the intern a basic understanding before he/she left.

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Sharing moments with the
Executive Director — Memnuna Zvizdić

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