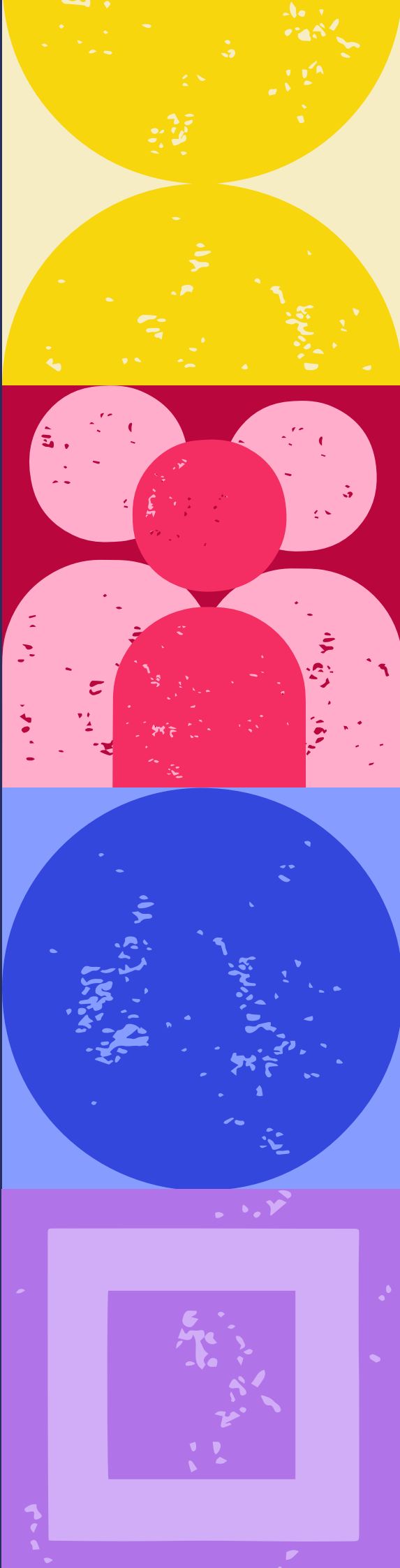


A vertical decorative bar on the left side of the cover, divided into five horizontal sections. The top two sections are yellow with a white speckled pattern. The middle section is red with a white speckled pattern and contains five overlapping circles of varying shades of red and pink. The bottom section is blue with a white speckled pattern and contains a large blue circle. The bottom-most section is purple with a white speckled pattern and contains a white square with a purple border and a purple speckled interior.

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

**SCHÜLER
Helfen
Leben**

IMPRESSUM

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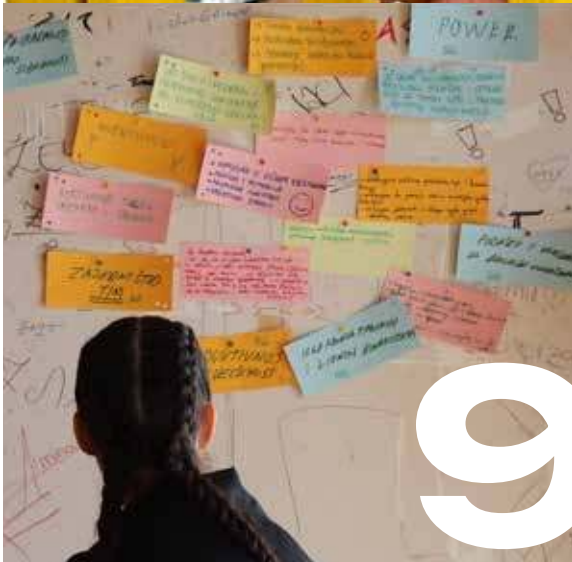
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**YEARS OF
WORKING WITH
YOUTH IN BIH**





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EDITOR'S WORD



The year behind us was not just a continuation of work; it was a reminder of why we do what we do. In 2025, the Schüler Helfen Leben (SHL) Foundation in Bosnia and Herzegovina continued to build a space where young people do not wait for changes, but initiate them themselves.

In a time that often brings uncertainty and a sense of stagnation, we believe that investing in young people is the most concrete form of hope. Through programs of education, volunteerism, support for youth initiatives and international cooperation, we tried to offer young people more than opportunities to give them confidence, support and space to recognize their own potential and act in their communities.

Our work during 2025 was focused on three key directions: education for active and responsible citizenship, strengthening the culture of solidarity through volunteerism, and connecting young people through international cooperation and exchange of experiences. In each of these segments, we tried to stay close to the real needs of young people by listening to them, adapting programs and together with them looking for answers to the challenges brought by the social context of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

"Behind every number in this report stands a young person who decided not to wait for changes but to initiate them himself."

The special value of our work continues to be young people who are willing to dedicate their time, energy and knowledge to contribute to others. Their initiatives, ideas and willingness to act confirm that solidarity is not an abstract concept, but an everyday practice that changes communities from within.

This report is an overview of what we have achieved together in the past year, but also a reminder that behind every number are people, experiences and small but important changes. As always, our work would not be possible without the trust of partners, cooperation with local communities and educational institutions and the support of all those who believe that young people have the power to shape a more just and open society.

Why youth work is important in 2025



In Bosnia and Herzegovina, young people grow up in a society characterized by insecurity, departures, low trust in institutions and limited space for active participation. In many local communities, young people do not have enough opportunities to develop their ideas, learn through practice, meet peers from other backgrounds and feel that their voice can have a real impact.

This is precisely why SHL continues to create spaces where young people do not just remain observers of social processes but become active participants in them. Through informal education, volunteerism, support for youth initiatives and connecting young people from different parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, SHL responds to the need for more trust, solidarity and civic responsibility among young people.

SHL IN NUMBERS



„Young people from more than 30 local communities throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina were part of the SHL program in 2025.“

During the year 2025, through 11 realized activities, we gathered more than 460 young people from different parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In parallel, we supported 13 youth projects that included an additional 850 participants, confirming the continued growth in interest and engagement among young people in the community.

What makes these figures particularly significant is their spread. Young people came from different local areas, from larger urban centers to smaller communities, including Tešanj, Orašje, Trebinje, Živinice, Kladanj, Banovići, Cazin, Gračanica, Goražde, Zavidovići and Busovača, but also Zenica, Kostajnica, Konjic, Pale, Laktaše, Sarajevo, Donji Vakuf, Usora, Gradiška, Luka, Vareš, Gradačac, Bugojno, Bihać, Banja Brčko, Travnik, Fojnica, Livno, Hadžiće, Ilijaš and Lopare.

This geographical diversity testifies that the need for space for learning, connection, and action knows no borders, and that young people throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina recognize the importance of active participation in society.

WHAT WE DID IN 2025



Our work model: from the first idea to an active community

SHL's approach to working with young people is based on a process that connects learning, experience and concrete action. Young people most often enter the program through educational seminars, where they learn about the basics of activism, volunteerism, teamwork and civic engagement. After that, with support from coaches, mentors, and the SHL team, they develop their own ideas and turn them into concrete projects in their schools and local communities.

The special value of this model is that young people are not just participants in the activities. Over time, they take responsibility, lead teams, develop new initiatives, involve their peers and become part of a wider network of young people operating throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. In this way, SHL not only supports individual activities but also builds continuity in youth engagement.

Learning → Idea development → Mentoring support
→ Community project → New activists/trainers

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT THROUGH EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS

In 2025, through a series of thematic seminars, SHL continued to develop the competencies of young people, providing them with space for learning, networking and active activities. The programs were designed to respond to participants' varying levels of experience, from those encountering volunteerism and activism for the first time to young trainers who take on a more active role in working with peer groups

Stand Up: First steps towards activism and community

The Stand Up seminar is aimed at young people with little or no prior experience, providing a foundation for understanding voluntarism and youth engagement. Through a combination of educational and informal activities, the participants had the opportunity to develop their initial ideas and build mutual relationships, which often serve as the key to further involvement. This seminar proved to be an important initial step in empowering young people and involving them in the broader SHL program.

Move On: From an idea to a concrete initiative

It was followed by the Move On seminar, which brought together previous participants and new members, creating a dynamic and challenging work environment. Through this process, the participants developed concrete project ideas related to the real needs of their local communities. Although the group dynamic was restrained at the beginning, working in smaller groups and the continuous support of the coaching team gradually helped the participants develop greater confidence in expression and cooperation, resulting in quality, thoughtful initiatives.





Boost Up: Building a team that boosts others

Special focus was also on strengthening the activist team itself through Boost Up seminars, which played a key role in building a cohesive and functional group of young activists. Through this process, a new work structure was formed with new group members, based on teamwork and the division of responsibilities across segments ranging from communication and idea development to program implementation. By introducing the rotation model, new members are enabled to develop different skills and gain comprehensive insight into the processes of organizational and activity implementation.

"From the first step in activism to the realization of one's own ideas, the year 2025 showed how quickly young people grow into initiators of change when they are given space and support."

Power Up: Strengthening support for young people through the education system

In the education sector, the Power Up seminar was held for professors and professional associates to strengthen their role in supporting young people. Although logistical challenges, such as the implementation deadline and the limited participation, affected the seminar's dynamics, this process raised important questions for future planning and for improving the approach to working with this target group.

Street Art: When creativity becomes a social voice

As an example of an innovative approach, the Street Art seminar was held, offering young people a different form of expression through a combination of art and activism. In cooperation with the Obojena Klapa collective, the participants had the opportunity to learn about the role of street art in society, develop their own ideas and paint a mural on the SHL house. This seminar showed how creative approaches can be powerful tools for engaging young people and raising awareness of social issues in an accessible and visible way.

The seminars held during 2025 confirmed the importance of continuous work with young people through various learning formats, from structured education to experiential and creative processes. At the same time, they provided valuable insights into participants' needs and organizational challenges, which will serve as a basis for further improving the program in the coming period.

Promo Tour: SHL closer to young people across Bosnia and Herzegovina

During 2025, SHL held a successful Promo Tour with the aim of bringing the organization's programs, opportunities and values closer to young people in different local communities across Bosnia and Herzegovina. In just 10 days, the SHL team visited 15 local communities: Mostar, Livno, Bugojno, Donji Vakuf, Travnik, Vareš, Ilijaš, Fojnica, Kiseljak, Zavidoviće, Doboj, Brčko, Tuzla, Kladanj and Vogošću.

Through direct meetings with high school students, professors, pedagogues, school directors, student councils, informal youth groups and representatives of youth organizations, the Promo Tour brought together 308 participants. This activity allowed SHL to present its programs, seminars, and opportunities for involvement, as well as to hear firsthand what young people recognize as key challenges in their schools and local communities.

The special value of the Promo Tour was in direct contact with young people. Through conversations, anonymous questions, presentations and meetings, young people spoke about the topics that burden them — from the lack of activities, poor information flow and lack of support from adults, to more serious challenges such as gambling, addiction, violence, lack of self-confidence and feelings of disinterest among peers. These insights provide an important basis for further planning of the SHL program, as they show that young people not only need information about opportunities but also continuous support, a space to express themselves, and the feeling that someone is truly listening to them.

The Promo Tour also showed how important schools, teachers and local contacts who recognize the value of youth engagement are. In many communities, SHL met young people who had already participated in previous seminars and projects, as well as new students who were introduced to the organization's opportunities for the first time. In this way, the Promo Tour connected the existing SHL network with new young people, schools and local partners.

It is particularly encouraging that, after the Promo Tour, young people from the communities visited began registering for SHL activities, confirming that direct work on the ground has a real effect. This activity showed that SHL does not wait for young people to find opportunities on their own, but actively goes towards them, listens to their needs and opens up space for new involvement.

The Promo Tour thus became much more than a promotional activity. It was a process of connecting, listening, and understanding young people across Bosnia and Herzegovina — an important step in strengthening SHL's visibility and further developing programs that respond to the real needs of young people.

More information about SHL's activities can be found on the website www.shl.ba.



YOUTH STORIES



Changes in the community often begin with a simple idea, the moment when young people feel that something can and should be different. It is precisely in such moments that SHL becomes a space of support, encouragement and concrete opportunities to turn an idea into action.

Through seminars and programs, young people gain not only knowledge but also the confidence to take the first step. For many of them, it is the first action they initiate, the first time they take responsibility and the first time they see how their initiative can have a real impact.

These changes may at first glance seem small - a decorated school room, a renovated public space, an initiative launched or an open dialogue in the community. However, for the young people who initiate them, and for the people around them, they represent much more: a sense of belonging, community, and awareness that change is possible.

Driven by the desire to make their environment more beautiful, safer and more open, young people throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina are showing through their actions that responsibility towards the community does not come with age but with the decision to act.

Here are their stories.

Small ideas, real changes

Knowledge and community corner - Cazin

Young people from Cazin decided to create a space that would bring more to their school than just a place to rest, a space for socializing, conversation and community. They found inspiration at the SHL seminar and through their own action learned how to turn an idea into a concrete result.

Although they faced challenges such as obtaining materials and organization, joint work and support from the environment led to a successful implementation. Today, their project is not just a decorated space, but proof that young people can shape the environment in which they live.

A new corner for a quiet moment - Donji Vakuf

Confronting the stereotype that young people do not read, students from Donji Vakuf revived the school library. Through joint work, they decorated the space, collected books and created a place for learning and spending time.

The support from the school and the community showed them how important it is to have people who believe in the idea, and the result is a space used by the entire school today.

Practical lessons from Kladanj - Kladanj

The students of the electrical engineering school decided to improve the quality of teaching by purchasing equipment for practical work. Driven by the desire to make learning easier for their peers, they turned an idea into a concrete solution that will last for generations.

Their action shows that change does not have to start with big projects but with the need to improve the everyday classroom experience.

Green economy - Bosanski Petrovac

Through the topic of green economy, students from Bosanski Petrovac combined knowledge and social responsibility. Their goal was to bring the importance of sustainable development and environmental protection closer to their peers.





Their work was recognized and awarded the maximum number of points at the 6th Festival of Work of Secondary Technical and Vocational Schools, confirming that young people have the capacity to open up important social topics.

Let's create together - Zavidovići

Schoolgirls from Zavidovići decided to decorate the school space, which is used for workshops and gatherings of young people. Driven by a desire for change, they gathered a large number of peers and carried out the project together.

Although they faced logistical challenges, the result was a space that inspires new ideas and activities today.

Creative wall - Fojnica

Out of a personal love for art, a mural was created that transformed the appearance of the school premises. Despite the challenges and moments of lack of support, a small group of students managed to bring the idea to fruition.

Today, their work leaves a visible mark and a strong message about persistence and faith in one's own ideas.

Cabinet 2.0 - Bugojno

Students from Bugojno recognized the need to modernize the space for practical classes and decided to act. Through the project, they renovated the cabinet and improved learning conditions.

They were not without challenges in organization and communication either; experience showed them how much joint work can bring concrete results.

Together in the stands - Goražde

Two young participants decided to decorate the city stadium in Goražde, making it more beautiful and functional for all users. With the help of volunteers, they cleaned the area, rebuilt the fence and installed trash cans.

Their action shows that even small interventions can significantly improve the common space.

Good returns better - Tešanj

Driven by the desire to help others, young activists from Tešanj organized a humanitarian action for a center for people with special needs.

Despite a lack of volunteers, their persistence and motivation led to a successful action and a strong message to the community about the importance of solidarity.

New Generation Mural – Banja Luka

The youth expressed a message of togetherness, acceptance and support through the mural. The process of work was as important as the final result; the participants learned, developed ideas and strengthened each other through it.

Positive reactions from the community confirmed that art can be a powerful tool for social change.

DoMore Debate - Mostar

By organizing a debate, young people from Mostar opened a space for dialogue, exchange of opinions and development of critical thinking.

Through this project, they showed that activism does not always have to be a physical change of space, but also creating a space for conversation and ideas.

High School Drama Festival - Konjic

Through the 23rd edition of the High School Drama Festival of Bosnia and Herzegovina, young people from different parts of the country were given the opportunity to express their ideas, emotions and views on society through art. The festival, organized by the Amateur Theater "Neretva" Konjic, brought together young talents and created a space for developing creative and communication skills.

This initiative shows how powerful a role art can play in the education and socialization of young people, not only as a form of expression, but also as a tool for building tolerance, mutual respect and togetherness. Through drama, participants had the opportunity not only to perform, but also to learn from each other, expand their horizons and develop a sense of belonging to the community.

You can find more information about SHL's support projects on the website www.shl.ba

"Every idea in this chapter started as a simple question: what can we change in our community?"



KEY PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS



Youth Education Program

During 2025, the Schüler Helfen Leben Foundation continued to develop and implement its key Youth Education Program, which is the foundation of our work with young people in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This program combines educational seminars, capacity development training, and support for youth initiatives launched by young people in their local communities.

The program is designed as a process from the first encounter with activism, through the development of ideas, to their concrete implementation. Through various forms of non-formal education, young people have the opportunity to become familiar with civic engagement concepts, develop critical thinking, and acquire practical skills that enable them to actively participate in society. Special focus is placed on connecting knowledge and action, so that education does not end with a seminar but continues through concrete actions and projects that young people implement.

In the context of Bosnia and Herzegovina, where social narratives often leave little room for shared values and civic identity, this approach has additional importance. Through the work of SHL, young people get the opportunity to get out of the framework of divisions and develop a sense of belonging to values that transcend ethnic and national borders to the values of solidarity, responsibility and active citizenship.

"Beyond Borders: The BiH Empowerment Race"

As an important step forward in 2025, the new project "Beyond Borders: The BiH Empowerment Race" was developed, which represents the expansion of the existing program and its transformation into an innovative, interactive learning tool. This project is designed as a combination of education, play and experiential learning, through which young people have the opportunity to develop teamwork, mutual trust and understanding of different perspectives.

Through competitive and cooperative challenges, participants will have the opportunity to review existing social patterns and develop new forms of cooperation based on common values. The project aims to demonstrate, both symbolically and practically, how social, ethnic, and mental boundaries can be overcome not through theory but through shared experience and action.

The development of this project is taking place in collaboration with young people, educators and experts, through working groups that jointly shape its content, structure and messages. In this way, the idea represents not only a new project, but also a natural continuation of the SHL approach in which young people are not just participants, but active creators of programs and social change.

PARTNERSHIPS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

In 2025, the Schüler Helfen Leben Foundation continued to strengthen its international presence through strategic partnerships and active participation in European initiatives aimed at developing the youth sector. Through cooperation with organizations, institutions and networks across Europe, SHL further strengthened its role as a relevant actor in the field of work with young people and opened new opportunities for the exchange of knowledge, experiences and good practices.

International youth networking

Participation in the Act.ival for Future youth congress in Lübeck (Germany), organized by the partner organization SAME, enabled SHL representatives to join a global platform that brings together young people from more than 40 countries. Through active participation in the organization and the program's implementation, as well as through the exchange of experiences with participants from different contexts, connections that contribute to the development of international solidarity and joint action by young people on social justice issues were further strengthened.

Cooperation with the Council of Europe

A significant step forward in institutional networking was achieved through cooperation with the Council of Europe, in which SHL was actively involved in initiatives to develop and improve youth centers. Participation in the Platform 2025 event in Luxembourg created an opportunity to connect with experts and representatives of youth centers from across Europe and further positioned the SHL house as a potential space that can meet European quality standards in work with young people.

Quality Label and the development of the SHL training center

In this context, it is important to note that since last year, SHL has been part of the network of centers within the Quality Label for Youth Centers program of the Council of Europe, and that in 2025 it applied for this quality label for the SHL training center. This process is not only an institutional recognition but also a platform for further development of cooperation with relevant actors

within the European Union, through the exchange of knowledge, joint initiatives, and the strengthening of standards for working with young people.

Dialogue and future initiatives

This cooperation was further deepened through the visit of high representatives of the Council of Europe to the SHL office in Sarajevo, where the possibilities of future joint activities, exchange of experiences and development of new programs were discussed. Special focus is placed on the role of youth centers as spaces for learning, participation, and the cultivation of democratic values, with the SHL training center having the potential to become a recognizable model of such activity in the regional and European context.

Capacity building through education

The contribution to international networking was also confirmed through the participation of SHL representatives at the educational forum in Magdeburg, which brought together trainers and educators from several European countries within the network of youth centers with the Council of Europe quality mark. Through the exchange of approaches, methods, and experiences, this forum not only strengthened the capacities of the SHL team but also contributed to the development of common standards in educational work with young people.

Through all these activities, international cooperation proved to be a key element of the organization's development, not only as a space for learning and connecting, but also as an opportunity to position Bosnia and Herzegovina within a wider European network of organizations that actively work to empower young people and strengthen democratic societies.

"Collaboration does not start with a project; it starts with the trust we build together through shared values and work with young people."

RESULTS IN 2025

During 2025, the results of SHL's work are reflected not only in the number of implemented activities, but also in the changes that young people initiated in themselves, their schools and local communities. The focus of our work was on providing young people with knowledge, support and space to move from ideas to concrete action.

Through the Youth Education Program, support for youth initiatives, development of training capacities and international cooperation, SHL continued to build a space in which young people do not remain just participants in the program, but become active drivers of change in their communities.

Results in numbers

In 2025, SHL achieved the following results through its programs and supported initiatives:

460+

young people participated in educational activities

850+

young people are involved through supported youth projects

13

youth initiatives were implemented throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina

30+

local communities were covered by SHL programs

Promo Tour

15

local communities, with a direct meeting with

308

young people

a new generation of trainers and activists was formed through-

Boost Up

young people developed and implemented their

own projects

in schools and local communities

a working group was formed for the development of the project

Beyond Borders:
The BiH Empowerment Race

cooperation

with international partners and institutions was strengthened

These data show the breadth of SHL's work in 2025, as well as the fact that the programs are not tied to just one city or one group of young people. Through activities, seminars, and supported projects, SHL reached young people from diverse local communities throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina, including smaller communities where opportunities for informal education, activism, and youth bonding are often limited.

What has changed for young people?

The evaluation conducted in 2025 shows that SHL programs for young people are not only educational activities but also experiences that encourage them to act, take responsibility, and participate more actively in their communities.

Particularly important is the finding that 96% of participants acquired practical knowledge applicable in everyday life, while 94% state that, through SHL programs, they gained knowledge they could not acquire through formal education. These results confirm the importance of non-formal education as a space where young people develop skills, self-confidence, and readiness to apply what they have learned in real-life situations.

In addition, 89% of young people have developed a desire for greater involvement in society, and 91% of them believe that their example can inspire others to become active in the community. These data show that SHL programs not only strengthen the individual capacities of young people but also their willingness to take on more active social roles and to motivate other young people to act.

An important result of the program is the development of ideas. 42% of young people developed a new idea through the program, while 45% of participants improved existing ideas with support from mentors and the coaching team. This shows that SHL programs offer young people not only knowledge, but also a concrete process of support — from the first recognition of a problem, through the development of an idea, to its realization in the community.

The programs also helped connect young people. 89% of participants report that during the activity they made friends with whom they will continue to collaborate. This data shows that SHL programs create a network of young people that continues even after individual activities are completed, and that, through the program, participants not only gain new knowledge but also receive support from peers from other backgrounds.

It is particularly important to note that 89% of participants learned something new about peers from other ethnic groups. In a society where young people often grow up in segregated educational, local and social environments, this result shows that SHL programs create space for encounter, understanding and overcoming prejudices.

The evaluation also shows that young people recognize the importance of working together after the program. 66% of participants state that they prefer working in a team, 28% want to take on a leadership role, while only 6% prefer individual engagement. This data confirms that SHL programs

strengthen a culture of cooperation, but also open up space for young people who are ready to lead processes in their communities.

What has changed in communities?

Through supported youth projects, young people have been decorating school and public spaces during 2025, initiating humanitarian and educational actions, opening up space for debate, creative expression and social engagement.

Although the projects were different in topic and scope, they have in common that they started from the real needs of young people and their local communities. In some communities, the result was a renovated school corner or library, in others, improved practical teaching, a renovated public space, a mural with a social message, or an event that opened a space for dialogue.

In this way, SHL's support does not end only with the education of individuals. It is transferred to communities through concrete actions that remain visible even after the program ends. Through these projects, young people learn that change is not an abstract concept, but a process that begins with recognizing a problem, gathering a team, and taking responsibility for a shared space.

These projects show that young people, when given support and trust, can recognize their community's needs and offer concrete solutions. Regardless of whether it is a school, a public space, a cultural event, a humanitarian action, or a debate, each of these initiatives represents an important step towards more active, responsible, and connected local communities.

"Most participants not only become active, but also inspire other young people to get involved in the community. The knowledge gained through SHL programs is perceived by participants as practical and applicable in real life."

The results from 2025 confirm that SHL's work has a multifaceted impact: young people gain knowledge and confidence, develop ideas, connect with peers from diverse backgrounds, and initiate concrete changes in their communities. It is this connection between learning and action that remains one of the greatest values of the SHL program.

Volunteers – the heart of SHL



The story of the Schüler Helfen Leben Foundation began thanks to young volunteers. More than three decades ago, high school students in Germany, driven by a desire to help their peers affected by the war in the former Yugoslavia, launched an initiative that grew into one of the largest youth-led organizations. Today, as then, SHL survives thanks to the energy, dedication and ideas of volunteers.

Every year, high school students across Germany participate in the Social Day, when they leave their school desks for a day and do various jobs, donating their daily wages to finance youth projects across Europe. Many of them later decide to take the next step – to spend a year in volunteer service at one of the SHL offices in the region.

During 2025, our team in Sarajevo had the privilege of continuing cooperation with Hannes, who started his volunteer service in 2024. Through his enthusiasm, creativity and sincere attitude towards young people, Hannes left a strong mark on the work of our office. His ideas, knowledge and willingness to always take responsibility contributed to the improvement of numerous activities, the strengthening of relations with young people and the development of new approaches in our daily work. His contribution was much

more than project support – he became part of the team and community that SHL is building in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

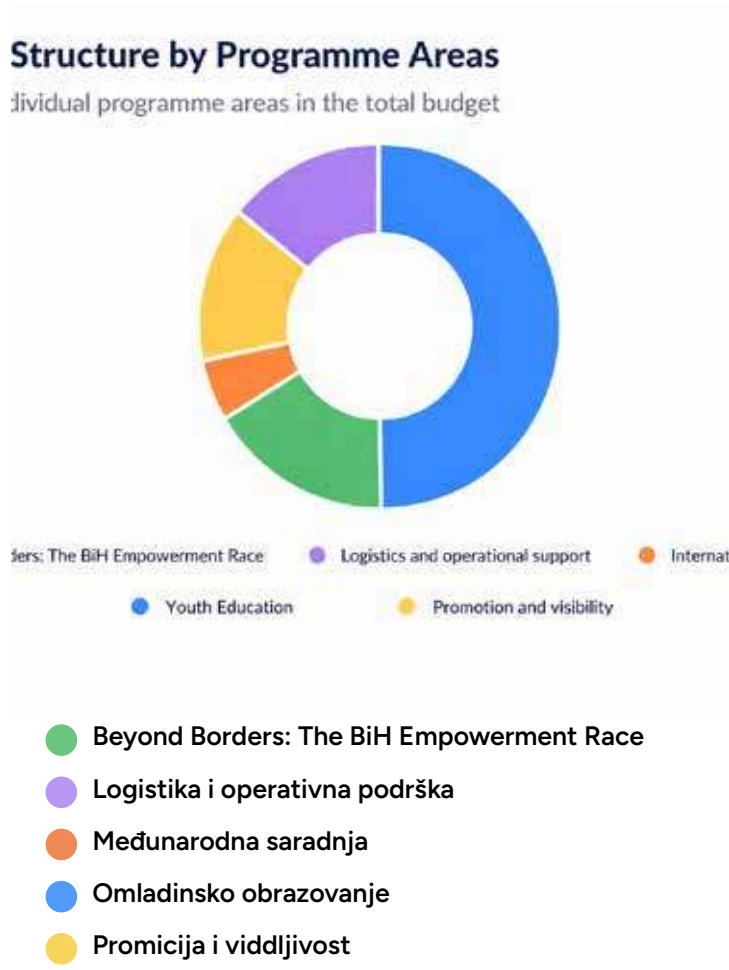
At the same time, the year 2025 brought a new, equally important story. Dragana, a former member of the activist group Boost Up, began her volunteer service in Germany, where she became part of the SHL team that organizes the Social Day – an event that funds programs like the ones she once participated in. Her path symbolically shows the full circle that SHL strives to enable young people: from participating in the program, through active engagement in the community, to taking responsibility for creating new opportunities for generations to come.

Such stories remind us that volunteering at SHL is not only about supporting the realization of activities. It represents a space where young people learn, develop, take responsibility and become initiators of change – in their communities, but also within the organization itself. That is why we believe that stories like Hannes' and Dragana's will continue to develop in the years to come, confirming that volunteers are still SHL's greatest strength.

FINANCE AND TRANSPARENCY

In 2025, the total budget of the Schüler Helfen Leben Foundation in Bosnia and Herzegovina amounted to 462,035.42 BAM. The funds were used for the implementation of youth education programs, support for youth initiatives, international cooperation, development of new program formats, promotion and operational support.

Special focus was on ensuring that most of the funds are directed to direct work with young people and activities that create a concrete contribution in local communities.



Program area	Amount	Procentage
Youth Education	231.418,07 BAM	50%
Beyond Borders: The BiH Empowerment Race	76.775,00 BAM	17%
International cooperation	25.401,13 BAM	5%
Promotion and visibility	63.079,00 BAM	14%
Logistics and operational support	65.362,22 BAM	14%

- Program investment: 86%
- Administrative and operational costs: 14%

This budget structure shows that the Foundation has maintained a strong program focus in 2025, with responsible planning and transparent use of available funds.

In 2026, the Schüler Helfen Leben Foundation continues to develop and improve its Youth Education

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026



Program, as the basic framework for working with young people in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Through educational seminars, development of coaching capacities and support for youth initiatives, the focus remains on empowering young people to take an active role in their communities and society as a whole.

At the same time, the year 2026 brings an important step forward through the implementation of the "Beyond Borders: The BiH Empowerment Race" project. This project represents an innovative continuation of the existing program, with the aim of bringing the values of cooperation, trust and civic engagement closer to young people through educational and interactive formats.

The central event of the project will be the big sports/ educational "Games without borders", which will bring together young people from different parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina in a joint experience of learning, competition and cooperation. Through a series of challenges and activities, participants will have the opportunity to develop teamwork, critical thinking and understanding of different perspectives, as well as build relationships that transcend local and social divisions.

Through these activities, SHL continues to build a space in which young people not only learn about society but also actively participate in shaping it, laying the foundations for more open, supportive and democratic communities in the future.

"Our focus remains the same - young people who do not wait for change, but initiate it themselves."

THEN VS NOW (1993 - 2025)



From humanitarian aid to the youth movement

Then (1993 – beginning)

The story of the Schüler Helfen Leben foundation in Bosnia and Herzegovina begins in the most difficult times, in the early nineties, when young volunteers from Germany came to the war-stricken country to provide basic humanitarian aid.

In the years that followed, their involvement grew to include supporting reconstruction through the renovation of schools and kindergartens, fundraising, and creating conditions for a return to everyday life.

But what started out as solidarity in times of crisis became something much bigger over time.

Today (2025 – continuous development)

Today, more than three decades later, SHL in Bosnia and Herzegovina operates as an organization that empowers young people to take an active role in society.

Through informal education, the development of youth initiatives, and continuous work with young people, the foundation has become a space where ideas are developed, tested, and turned into concrete actions across the country, especially in smaller local communities where support is most needed.

From the establishment of student councils, the development of youth organizations and media initiatives, to the support of hundreds of projects and the organization of hundreds of seminars, SHL has over the years left a deep mark on the development of youth engagement in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

"From helping in the most difficult times to empowering the generations who today themselves are driving change."

SHL training center – a symbol of continuity

Since the end of the nineties, the SHL training center in Sarajevo has been the heart of all the foundation's activities. Built by young volunteers and opened in 1999, this house is not just a space, it is a symbol of community, learning and activism.

Today, it brings together young people from all over Bosnia and Herzegovina and across Europe. It is the place where ideas are born, projects are developed and relationships are built that last even after the end of the activity.

Continuity of action

Over the years, SHL has not only responded to the needs of young people through regular programs, but also to the challenges of the moment, from humanitarian actions to supporting communities in crisis situations.

At the same time, through the support of projects in the fields of art, education, health and activism, the foundation continuously expands the space for young people to act and gives them the opportunity to leave a mark in their communities.



FINAL WORD



There are years that are remembered for what was done.

And there are years that are remembered for the people who decided not to give up.

2025 is exactly that.

Through every seminar, every idea and every action, young people across Bosnia and Herzegovina have shown something that cannot be measured in numbers: the courage to take responsibility, to trust each other and, despite everything, to decide to act.

This report is not just a review of activities.

This is proof that change exists.

That it is happening.

That it is growing.

We have seen it in classrooms that have become places of ideas.

On streets that have been given new energy.

In the voices of young people who have decided to make themselves heard.

And perhaps most importantly, we have seen it in the moment when young people stop asking "can something change?" and start saying "we will change it."

Our strength has never been just in programs.

It is in the people who decided to stay, to try, to create even when it would be easier to leave or give up.

That is why today we are not just talking about what is behind us.

We are talking about what is coming.

Because the generations that come are not looking for a perfect system,

they are building it.

And as long as there are young people who believe in togetherness, solidarity and change, there is also reason for pride.

There is also reason for hope.

And perhaps most importantly, there is a future that is not a coincidence, but the result of the decisions we make today.

