

Common Waste Common Libraries



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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.

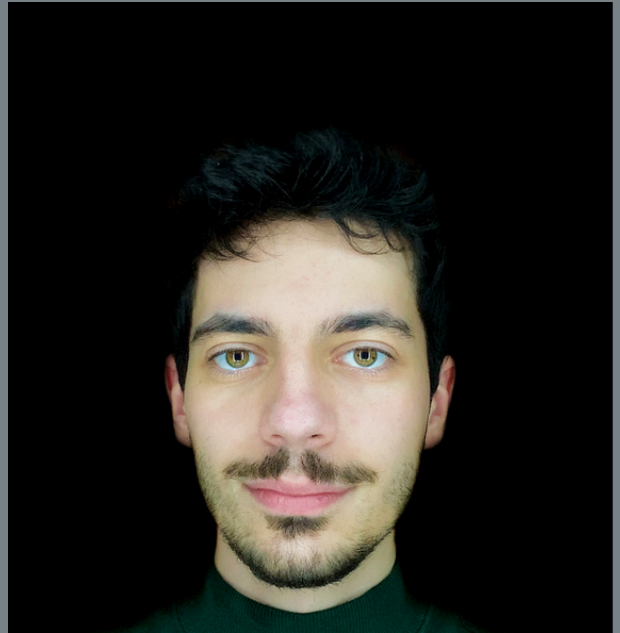


Ivana Borovnjak

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 restauration 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.

Danae Athanaseli



Danae is an architect committed to radical ecology and material experimentation.

During her Master's degree in Architecture Engineering at the University of Thessaly, Greece, she studied the intersection of low-tech building and biodesign, focusing on community involvement and participatory design processes. Her thesis, "Redesigning Human Life in Terms of Symbiosis," proposed a multidisciplinary approach to architecture, integrating agricultural expertise with collaborative efforts to enhance both the public space and the urban green. Professionally, she has been involved in residential projects for eco-tourism, designing both traditional and experimental accommodations that promote social development and food sovereignty in remote insular areas.

She is excited about Goethe Institute's "Common Waste – Common Libraries" workshop and meeting all creative minds. This initiative aligns with her focus on nature, waste prevention, and circular economy principles. By participating, she hopes to collaborate with other professionals to develop educational formats that position libraries as hubs for experiential education. With a passion for biobased solutions, she envisions innovative approaches that could contribute to the seminar's goals.

Fatma Tokgönül



I am 24 years old, an architect rooted in Istanbul, where the city's rich cultural heritage and vibrant environment inspire my work. With a deep appreciation for nature's beauty and a passion for sustainable living, I aim to integrate environmental consciousness into every aspect of my practice.

Driven by a deep curiosity, I continuously seek to expand my knowledge across disciplines, blending art, design, technology, and community engagement. For me, learning is not just about getting the information; it's about cultivating a visionary perspective that embraces the interconnectedness of all living beings and the environment.

From conceptualizing eco-friendly architectural designs to advocating for green urban planning strategies, I am committed to producing a harmonious relationship between humanity and nature. Through my work, I aim to create spaces that not only inspire awe but also promote environmental progress and community well-being.

My motivation with this project, I believe that our built environment has the power to shape our relationship with the natural world. By incorporating sustainable practices and innovative design solutions, I hope to leave a positive impact with the team and our work.

Hilal Sultan Taşçı



I graduated from Marmara University's Department of Information and Document Management in 2018. During my third year, I had the enriching opportunity to participate in an Erasmus program at the University of Borås in Sweden, focusing on Library Studies. This experience not only broadened my academic perspective but also deepened my appreciation for diverse cultural and professional environments.

After graduating, I explored various roles within librarianship and archiving before being appointed as an archivist in the Personnel Affairs Directorate at Marmara University in January 2022. In October of the same year, I joined Rami Library and in May 2023, I stepped into a pivotal role as the Sustainability Team Leader. My passion for sustainability in libraries led me to undertake a specialized training program in Sustainability Criteria and Practices with Kapadokya University, where I earned a certification.

Currently, I oversee all processes related to the Biosphere Certification at Rami Library. I am actively involved in collecting, organizing, and storing all sustainability-related forms, documentation, and records, ensuring our operations align with best practices in sustainability. Additionally, I am writing my thesis on Sustainability and Libraries at Istanbul University, aiming to contribute further to the field through academic research.

My motivation stems from my commitment to advancing sustainable practices within the library sector. I am eager to exchange ideas, collaborate on meaningful initiatives, and learn from the diverse experiences of fellow participants.

Iva Bunčić Stanković



I'm a librarian at the Zagreb City Libraries. I have the Bachelor's degree in Journalism and the Master's degree in Library Science. I also worked as a drama/theater teacher for ten years.

I'm interested in working with marginalized groups, such as minorities and refugees, in the library as the part of the social integration process. My interest is also connecting community with library to discuss important issues, ideas, topics and problems. On professional, but also on a private basis, I'm interested in green topics – waste, ecology, recycling, sustainability, reusing sources, health and future, and what can we do for better and healthier future. At the library I work, we're organizing short story competition – metaFORA and last year's theme was green, so reading stories about biotechnology, recycling, ecology and similar topics were really powerful and inspiring. We also did a plant exchange, workshops and lectures with "green" as a main starting point.

When I was still involved in theatre, I was a part of the educational, interactive theatre play for children about recycling, waste, sustainability and ecology. The puppets in the play were made out of recycled milk tetra packs and we were reusing materials to make scenography and costumes.

I believe participating in this project will give me opportunity to learn more, set the challenges and expand horizons about subjects that can help us build greener and brighter future. I look forward to meet new colleagues, professionals and enthusiasts that can bring new ideas and inspirations on how to implement green subjects in libraries and other institutions that connect with the community.

Jelena Radovanovic

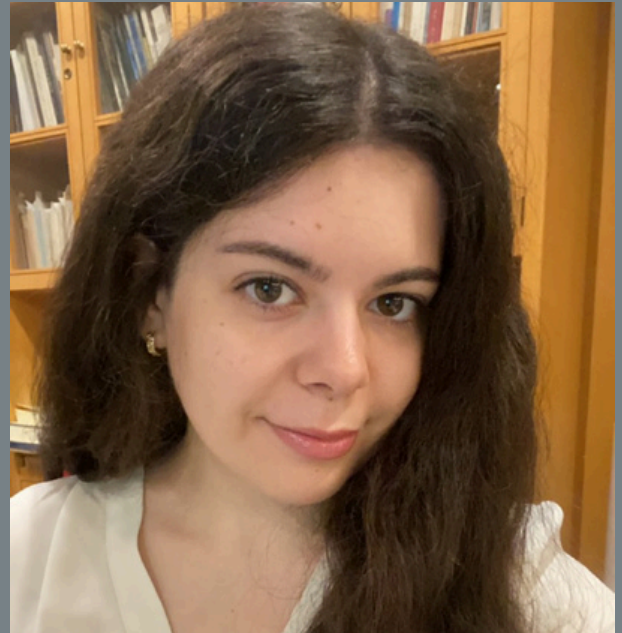


I studied at the Faculty of Dramatic Arts in Belgrade, Serbia and I have a bachelor's degree in management and production of theatre, radio and culture and master's degree in management of culture and media. While I was studying, I was also volunteering a lot in many different fields such as sports events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

Maria Aplada



A senior of Archival, Library and information systems department. My professional career began with digitization of files in the archive field as globally (so in Greece too) there is a huge effort of digitization in order to recycle all this old paper. Then I tried libraries. I worked about 1,5 years in Benaki Museum Library, a job that completely changed my perspective about libraries. I discovered the real source of knowledge, the basis of all human achievements. Currently I'm still working in this library as a volunteer but I'm also a museologist intern in both Industrial Gas Museum and Maria Callas Museum in order to complete my undergraduate programme.

The motivation to participate in Common Waste- Common Libraries occurred after a class I had in university entitled: Information literacy. There, in order to succeed in class, we had to connect libraries with Sustainable Development Goals until 2030 of United Nations. My study case was: "Quality education & Libraries". Quality education is a truly important institution, as the higher the education is, a better living is provided. Libraries with all of the books and databases can easily achieve this goal with an organised strategy.

Libraries are such a vibrant place, a wisdom treasure so they should be sustainable as well. There are plenty of ways for libraries to achieve sustainability. After this class my thoughts were that I need to dive deeper in sustainability in my workplace. I'm looking forward to present more of my ideas and further discuss on this topic in our project.

Maria Slaveva Makedonska



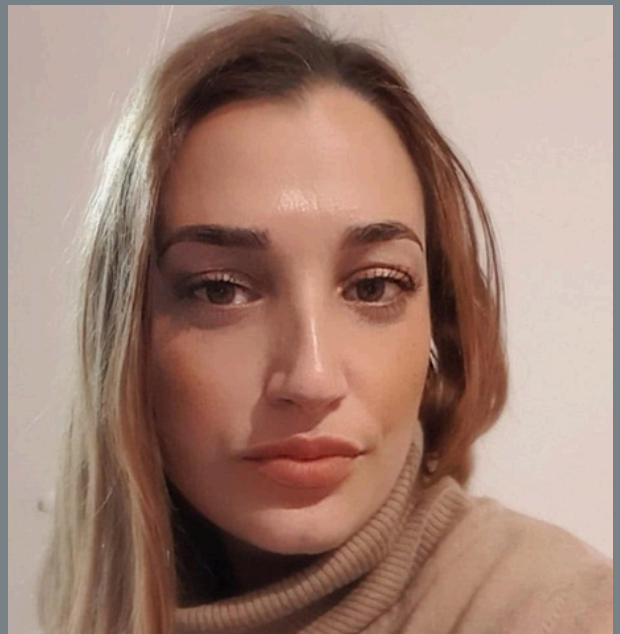
A storyteller at heart, weaving narratives through words, images, and community engagement. With a background in PR and mass communication from Sofia University, I've ventured into various creative realms, from serving as a scriptwriter for Bulgarian National Television and working as a copywriter in different advertising agencies, to multimedia management at a publishing house.

Throughout my creative journey, I have been honored as a laureate several times in competitions within the realms of literature and short film. Additionally, my passion lies in community projects. From collaborating with residents for "The Voice of Stolipinovo" to documenting Romani heritage with Roma Yak TV, I'm dedicated to amplifying diverse voices.

Recently, I've explored performance art and community-driven initiatives, participating in various residencies and festivals that prioritize art in urban environments and seek to foster emotional connections among people. This year for me has been marked by projects that place art in the heart of the city and explore the emotional bonds between individuals. As a creator, my goal is to inspire and uplift, sharing stories that resonate deeply and ignite meaningful dialogue.

I'm excited to be a part of the Common Waste – Common Libraries project because I'm genuinely passionate about digging into the emotional side of waste and how art can give it a whole new life. What really motivates me is the chance to uncover the personal stories behind things people throw away and share them in all sorts of creative ways.

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.

Meliha ARI



I was born in 1994 in the village of Derebaşı, Turkey. After completing my education in 2017, I embarked on a fulfilling journey as a librarian at the Erbaa Şehit Said Uslu District Public Library.

During my academic pursuits, I immersed myself in a significant research endeavour with my thesis titled "Assessment of Sustainable Development Awareness among Librarians Working in Public Libraries Affiliated to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism". This academic exploration allowed me to deepen my understanding of sustainable practices in the library environment and strengthened my commitment to environmental protection.

Furthermore, in 2023, I had the privilege of leading a course entitled "Early Childhood Environmental Awareness". Through this initiative, my aim was to instil a deep sense of environmental responsibility and protection in young minds, laying a strong foundation for sustainable behaviour from an early age. My overarching goal in engaging with this project is to orchestrate impactful awareness campaigns aimed at reducing waste generation. As a passionate librarian, I have a deep appreciation for the transformative role that libraries play in enriching people's lives and shaping a better future. I firmly believe in the intrinsic value of libraries as catalysts for knowledge dissemination, community engagement and societal progress.

My commitment extends to advocating for a harmonious balance between nature and humanity, emphasising the need for responsible resource management and environmental conservation. Looking forward to working together for a greener world.

Nikolas Kanavaris



I studied architecture at the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA) and I hold a MSc "Design-Space-Culture." I specialized in scenographic and costume design at the National Theatre of Greece. Based in Athens, I work as freelance architect and scenographer-costume designer. As a member of the B.P.M. Theater Group, I have curated sets and costumes for different performances. Additionally, I have worked as an assistant scenographer.

I approach issues of space, city, performativity, scenographics and design theoretically through the concept of "commons." I have published "Refugee Housing Squats as Shared Heterotopias" in "Housing as Commons" by Bloomsbury and I am a member of the Greek translation team for "Free Fair and Alive: The Insurgent Power of the Commons" by Silke Helfrich and David Bollier, published by NEFELI. Under publishing is my paper "Scenography as a living transformer of the theatrical space-The 'on stage' spatialities of G. Patsas and D. Fotopoulos" in *Theatralia Journal*. I apply my knowledge through art (city games, *Trust in Play*, European School of Urban Game Design), teaching (adjunct teaching on housing issues), and activism.

The reason I participate in "Common Waste – Common Libraries" is to explore the relationship between waste and spatial design. I am particularly interested in designing experiential spaces in the public context through the lens of creating commons. Management and raising awareness about issues of circularity, sustainability, and community resilience can only envision new ways of handling through active communities of commoners. My skills in spatial design and my academic research on the discourse around commons can be highly valuable in creating experiences and spatial storytelling.

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.

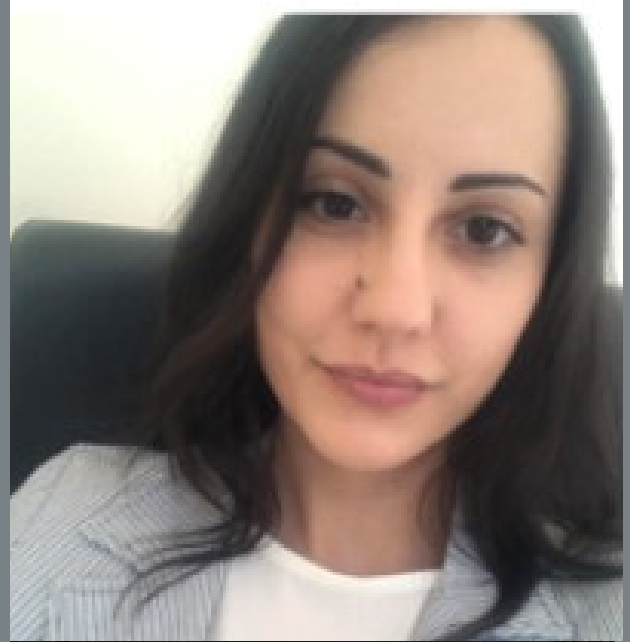
Nadina Grebović-Lendo is actively involved in various domestic and international projects, focusing on the integration of modern technologies into library practices. Her research and professional interests include the development of innovative library services in higher education, digital transformation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

Sofia Papageorgiou



I studied Environmental Science in Mytilene (Department of the Environment, University of the Aegean), with postgraduate studies in "Policies and applied methods for the protection of the environment" (Department of Civil Engineers of the University of West Attica).

I am a member of "Project Skyros" and a junior researcher at the Special Academic Unit of Environmental Education, Education and Health of the University of West Attica and authored research work with presentations in international and national conferences.

My experience is in designing educational programs with a focus on natural disasters, environmental education, food losses and waste. Currently, I work in the private sector as an Environmental Scientist, in the consulting company Circular Innovative Solutions, related on environmental and circular economy issues.

In my free time I enjoy travelling, going to theatre, reading books and spent time with friends. My motivation for the participation in this program is to get to know and cooperate with other participants which have different backgrounds and create something that mixes up all our background knowledge! As a person, an important fact for me is that no one is left behind in a team and that we should give our best for a positive and effective outcome!

Thomas Marinescu



“What ignites your curiosity?”

With this question guiding my journey, I've ventured across diverse domains, from healthcare to arts and entertainment, from social initiatives to educational endeavors.

Initially, I grappled with a sense of failure due to my perceived lack of consistency, only to realize that each experience seamlessly intertwines, shaping the path for the next idea.

In my perspective, a dynamic world thrives on playfulness, where creation itself mirrors play, and every moment serves as an experiment, leading to significant discoveries. It's within this perspective that I see the world as a place awaiting our collective reimagination.

Naturally, my involvement in the Common Waste - Common Libraries project feels like a natural convergence, as it aligns with the core aspects that drive my curiosity: sustainability, creativity, empathy, and technology.

Umut Duman



A dedicated student pursuing a Bachelor of Architecture (BArch) at Istanbul Technical University. With a passion for design and architectural innovation, Umut has gained valuable experience through internships and academic pursuits.

Umut possesses strong skills in architectural design and softwares which contribute to his proficiency in architectural visualization and design.

He is deeply interested in sustainability issues and their applications in architecture. He actively explores ways to integrate sustainable practices into architectural design, aiming to contribute to environmentally conscious and resilient built environments. His passion for sustainability informs his approach to design and inspires innovative solutions.

He is driven by a desire to merge artistic creativity with technical expertise in architecture, aiming to make meaningful contributions to the built environment through innovative, sustainable design solutions.

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 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.