

ADDRESS BY Prof. dr. Dušanka Bošković

Minister for Education, Science and Youth, Canton Sarajevo

Distinguished representatives of the University of Sarajevo and HafenCity University Hamburg, honourable representatives of the German Embassy and GIZ, dear professors, students, and guests, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to join you today at the opening of this academic exchange programme between the University of Sarajevo and HafenCity University Hamburg.

International academic cooperation plays a crucial role in strengthening the quality, relevance, and resilience of higher education systems. In a rapidly changing global environment, universities must prepare students not only with disciplinary knowledge, but also with the ability to work across cultures, disciplines, and borders.

For the Ministry for Education, Science and Youth of the Canton Sarajevo, international cooperation is a strategic priority. It is through initiatives such as this exchange that we support the internationalisation of our universities, enhance academic quality, and create opportunities for students and academic staff to engage with global knowledge networks.

In this context, I would like to particularly commend the University of Sarajevo for its stepping into the role of institutional leadership with establishing the Office for Climate Change and Sustainability. This initiative demonstrates how universities can actively respond to global challenges by integrating sustainability, climate action, and interdisciplinary collaboration into their core academic mission.

The focus of this exchange — sustainability, circular economy, and enabling urban infrastructure — reflects precisely the type of knowledge and skills that higher education must foster today. These themes are not only academically relevant, but also closely aligned with the development priorities of the Canton Sarajevo and the broader societal transition toward more sustainable and resilient systems.

By connecting students and professors from Sarajevo and Hamburg, this programme creates a valuable platform for interdisciplinary learning, critical thinking, and the exchange of perspectives across different institutional and national contexts. Such experiences are essential for educating future professionals and decision-makers capable of addressing complex global challenges.

I would like to acknowledge the University of Sarajevo's strong commitment to international cooperation and innovation in education, as well as the importance of partnerships with international institutions that support academic mobility and joint learning.

Also, I am proud to recognize that University of Sarajevo follows one of my favourite mottos for roles of educational institutions linked to sustainability: Learn, Live and Lead, since it teaches and conducts research linked to sustainability, develops procedures of every day operation in line with the sustainability goals, and acts as a leader in the society.

Dear students, I encourage you to make full use of this opportunity — to learn from one another, to exchange ideas, and to build connections that will extend well beyond this programme.

I wish you a successful and inspiring exchange, productive discussions, and a meaningful stay in Sarajevo.

Thank you.