

Youth Partnership

Partnership between the European Commission
and the Council of Europe in the field of youth



CONTRIBUTION OF NON-PROGRAMME COUNTRIES TO EU YOUTH WIKI

CHAPTER I

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA: YOUTH POLICY GOVERNANCE

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At the proposal of the European Commission, the EU-CoE youth partnership network of country correspondents in EKCYP (European Knowledge Centre on Youth Policy) is contributing to EU Youth Wiki with knowledge and information on a number of Erasmus + non-programme countries from South East Europe and Eastern Europe and Caucasus. The contributors use the guidelines of EU Youth Wiki when drafting their country contributions, but due to limited resources and support, present lighter versions of the required information. This chapter is part of piloting the EU Youth Wiki “Light” contributions for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

1.1 TARGET POPULATION OF YOUTH POLICY

Bosnia and Herzegovina is a state constituted by two entities: Republika Srpska and the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. There is also the self-governing District of Brcko.

National youth policy is not existing in Bosnia and Herzegovina, due to its constitutional structure and because certain jurisdictions (like youth) are tied by the constitution to a certain level of government.

The youth policy issues at the national level are in the jurisdiction of the [Commission for Co-ordination of Youth Issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina](#).

Most of the constitutional competencies regarding youth issues are at the level of the government of the entities: Republika Srpska and Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

A government representative from each entity is a member of the Commission for Co-ordination of Youth Issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina at the national level.

The competencies at the entity level in the field of youth are within the following ministries: [Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports of Republika Srpska](#) and [Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministry of Culture and Sports](#).

The [Law on Youth Organisation of the Republika Srpska](#) and the [Youth Law of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina](#) defines the age limits for youth as a target group as from 15 to 30.

1.2 NATIONAL YOUTH LAW

Bosnia and Herzegovina does not have a national youth law. The [Law on Youth Organisation of the Republika Srpska](#) (Zakon o omladinskom organizovanju Republike Srpske), and the [Youth Law of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina](#) (Zakon o mladima Federacije Bosne i Hercegovine) define the youth policy framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Brcko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina does not have a law on youth.

The [Law on Youth Organisation of the Republika Srpska](#) has had two revisions/updates. The first was in [2008](#) and the second was in [2011](#).

The Youth Law of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina has not undergone revisions/updates.

1.3 NATIONAL YOUTH STRATEGY

Bosnia and Herzegovina does not have a national youth strategy. The Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is developing the Youth Strategy for Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina 2016-2020 (Strategija prema mladima Federacije BiH 2016-2020), and it is expected to be adopted by the end of 2016. For the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina Youth Strategy, the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina formed a [Working Group](#) in 2015, the document “[Analysis of Federation Bosnia and Herzegovina Youth Conditions and Needs](#)” was produced in 2013 and the Draft Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina Youth Strategy was adopted by members of the Working Group in 2015.

The National Assembly of the Republika Srpska adopted the Proposal of the third [Youth Policy of the Republika Srpska](#) for 2016-2020 (Омладинска политике Републике Српске од 2016. до 2020. године) during its 13th session held on 13 and 14 July 2016.

The Brcko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina does not have a Youth Strategy.

The Draft Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina Youth Strategy 2016-2020 focuses on seven priorities:

- work, employment and youth entrepreneurship
- youth education and science
- youth social welfare
- youth health protection
- youth security
- culture, art and sport
- youth activism (participation, volunteering and mobility).

The Youth Policy of the Republika Srpska 2016-2020 focuses on five strategic priorities:

- employability
- active participation
- healthy lifestyles
- excellence
- leisure time.

Strategic priorities focus on five strategic aims:

1. Improve youth employability.
2. Improve possibilities for active participation of youth.
3. Develop youth healthy lifestyles.
4. Assure support to youth excellence.
5. Improve possibilities for quality youth leisure time.

The Youth Policy issues at national level are in the jurisdiction of the [Commission for](#)

[Co-ordination of Youth Issues in](#) Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Commission for Co-ordination of Youth Issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina proposes and implements: solutions for the institutional framework; the construction of recommendations for youth policy; initiatives towards government and parliaments in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including recommendations for creating new and replacing or adding to already existing legal solutions; the organisation of meetings with young people; initiatives regarding international and other institutions about the youth-related issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The [Ministry of Civil Affairs](#) has responsibility over the work of the Commission for Co-ordination of Youth Issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The 2009 decision of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Council of Ministers reconstructed the composition and position of the Commission for Co-ordination of Youth Issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Under the 2009 decision, the Commission for Co-ordination of Youth Issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina became a standing body within the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This decision was taken to establish the conditions for a more effective and efficient performance of the Commission for Co-ordination of Youth Issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

[The Ministry of Family, Youth and Sport](#) is the Republika Srpska Government authority responsible for the implementation, co-ordination and monitoring of the Republika Srpska Youth Policy. However, an action plan allowing systematic implementation of the strategy, monitoring and evaluation of the strategy was not adopted until September 2016.

The Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports of the Republika Srpska, within its legal competence, prepares and submits to the National Assembly or the Government of the Republika Srpska, in the form of a draft, legal and sub-legal deeds as well as other deeds of interest for the Republika Srpska which are within the competence of the Ministry. The Ministry of Youth and Sport is carrying out the youth-related activities through the [Department for Youth](#). The Department for Youth performs administrative and other professional tasks relating to the following: determination of the National Action Plan and Youth Policy of the Republic and taking care of its application; creation of the assumptions for solution of youth issues – employment of the young, improvement of their social status, inclusion into society; implementation of youth projects; encouraging an active participation of the young in society; establishment of youth centres; co-operation with youth organisations; international co-operation in the domain of organisation and activity of young people.

The [Federal Ministry of Culture and Sport](#) carries out the administrative, expert and other tasks as laid down by the legislation related to the competencies of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the areas of: scientific researches activities in the field of safeguarding and use of cultural-historical heritage; museums, archives, libraries, publishing, theatre, music, fine arts, film and show business activities, activity of organisations and associations of citizens in the field of arts, culture, sport and youth; improvement of sport and physical culture; establishing development strategies in the field of culture, sport and youth, as well as other tasks laid down by the legislation governing this field.

The Ministry of Culture and Sport carrying out the youth-related activities through the [Youth Department](#). The Youth Department performs tasks related to: overall institutional mechanisms of government's care for young people, co-operation and co-

ordination tasks with the youth sector and youth associations to study the needs and problems of young people, as well as defining and proposing a federal youth strategy, establishing and maintaining a comprehensive youth database in co-operation with other institutions in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, activities related to informing young people and strengthening youth involvement in decision-making processes, defining, establishing and implementing a programme of action for youth in the areas of competence of the ministry, the planning of special funds in the budget for execution of tasks arising from the Law on Youth of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, monitoring the implementation of existing programmes in the field of youth at the federal level, the co-ordination of international co-operation relating to youth, determination procedures and training certification of youth, making analyses, reports, information, reports, studies, programmes, plans, estimates and other technical, information, planning, documentation and analytical materials in the field of youth, professional processing system solutions of importance to young people, and perform other tasks in order to protect the interests of young people.

No updates have been made to the present Youth Policy in the Republika Srpska.

1.4 YOUTH POLICY DECISION-MAKING

The decision-making process at the national level are in the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Civil Affairs and the Commission for Co-ordination of Youth Issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The parliamentary commission in charge of youth issues is the [Joint Committee on Human Rights, Rights of Children, Youth, Immigration, Refugees, Asylum and Ethics](#). The Joint Committee considers issues in the domain of human rights, the rights of children, youth, immigration, refugees, asylum and ethics.

The Ministry of Family, Youth and Sport is the Republika Srpska Government decision-making authority. The National Assembly of the Republika Srpska [Committee for Children, Youth and Sport](#) is considering legislative proposals, strategies, information, reports and annual work plans of national authorities and organisations responsible for the youth policy. This Committee also discusses the situation of young people in society, considers the protection of the rights of children and young people, follows the development of sports and physical culture, and works to promote the rights and interests of the child. At the level of the Republika Srpska there is the [Youth Committee](#), which is composed of several members: Republika Srpska Ministry representatives, [Youth Council of Republika Srpska](#) and representatives of the Committee for Youth Affairs of the National Assembly of Republika Srpska. The Youth Committee, within the scope of the paper, proposes and gives opinions on: objectives, policies and measures proposed by the youth policy; programmes that are financed from the budget of the Republika Srpska and local governments; youth activities that are the priority for the Republika Srpska and local governments, the criteria for allocation of funds from the entity and municipal budgets of the Republika Srpska for the implementation of the Youth Policy.

The [Federal Ministry of Culture and Sport](#) is the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina Government decision-making authority. The [House of Peoples Committee on Education, Science, Culture, Sport and Youth Affairs](#), amongst other responsibilities, considers planning and development programmes in the field of education, science, culture, sports and technical culture and the issues of protection of children and young people and their participation in all sectors of society, as well as the protection of children and youth from all forms of addiction, as well as other

issues related to education, science, culture, sports and life of young people from the jurisdiction of the House of Peoples.

The [Commission for Co-ordination of Youth Issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina](#) is responsible for the confirmation of their basic principles and for the co-ordination of activities of all groups of significance to the promotion and protection of the roles and positions of young people of Bosnia and Herzegovina with the goal of improving their living conditions, and also for the international representation of issues which relate to Bosnian-Herzegovinian young people.

The topics of the Commission are to bring about, in concordance with the authorities of relevant institutions: confirming the basic principles of the co-ordination of activities related to youth; harmonising plans of entity bodies of government in connection to youth; defining strategies with international plans regarding youth; analysing problems of youth in Bosnia and Herzegovina; co-ordinating youth projects; gathering and distributing information from the youth issues field.

A National Agency for Youth does not exist in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

1.5 CROSS-SECTORAL APPROACH WITH OTHER MINISTRIES

The [Youth Council](#) of the Republika Srpska was established by the Government of the Republika Srpska following the proposal of the ministry, with the mission to give their opinions on professional issues in the field of youth policy and its implementation. Council members are: the Minister of Family, Youth and Sports; the [Minister of Education and Culture](#); the [Minister of Health and Social Welfare](#); [Minister of Labour, War Veterans and Disabled Persons' Protection](#); the [Minister of Finance](#); a representative of the working body which deals with youth issues of the National Assembly of the Republika Srpska; and three representatives of the Youth Council of Republika Srpska.

The document “Youth Policy of the Republika Srpska 2016-2020” explained the multi-sectoral approach in the part relating to the implementation of the document with defined actors for each measure, which will be further developed through the projects in the Action Plan implementing the youth policy.

Most of the measures, programmes, projects and activities defined by the document will be implemented within all institutions, organisations, departments and services involved. The Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports is the main co-ordinator for the planning, implementation and monitoring. In addition, a cross-sectoral team will be established in order to develop and implement an action plan for the implementation of Youth Policy and ensure that:

- this document is project-driven, the activities and work related to the implementation will be co-ordinated;
- analytical, managerial and communication capacities are provided, in order to successfully work on achieving the set goals;
- planning and reporting are co-ordinated;
- support is given to the constructive involvement of stakeholders (youth organisations, civil society organisations, the business sector, international organisations, representatives of the professional community in these areas and other key stakeholders) during the preparation and implementation of the action plan;

- efficient operation of the implementation through centralised co-ordination and support is ensured which includes the development of programmes, reports, analysis, organising meetings.

The preparation of the annual action plan for the implementation of Youth Policy is done in co-operation with all stakeholders and partners involved in measures set out in the Youth Policy. Support for this process is provided by [USAID](#), which supported the ministry in drafting the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for Youth Policy. In May 2016, monitoring and evaluation training was organised for the representatives of institutions and civil society organisations involved in the implementation.

The [Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina](#) is currently in the process of developing the first strategic document for young people in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The process of developing a Youth Strategy is co-ordinated by the Federal Ministry of Culture and Sport. The Federal Government asked the [Institute for Youth Development “KULT”](#) to support the process of drafting the Youth Strategy in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The contribution of the Institute in the process of developing the Youth Strategy refers to the professional consultancy support.

1.6 EVIDENCE-BASED YOUTH POLICY

The [National Assembly of the Republika Srpska](#), at its 13th session held on 13 and 14 July 2016, adopted the Youth Policy of the Republika Srpska for the period 2016-2020. This is the third youth policy of the Republika Srpska. What makes this policy different from the two previous youth policies is a high degree of participation of key stakeholders in the drafting process. Over 3000 young people and experts in the field that includes youth policy from all parts of the Republika Srpska participated in the drafting process of this document, and through the public consultation this process was open to everyone.

The Ministry of Youth, Family and Sport in co-operation with the Youth Council of the Republika Srpska, [Youth Communication Centre Banja Luka](#) and [UNFPA](#) organised a series of activities leading up to the final version of the document:

- In late 2014 and early 2015 [survey studies](#) were conducted about the attitudes of young people, their perception of the social environment, as well as ideas about possible solutions for some of the perceived problems in a sample of 2 066 respondents from 27 local governments of the Republika Srpska.
- In May 2015 a two-day conference, “[Dialogue with Youth](#)”, was organised which was intended to open a dialogue between young people and all relevant stakeholders involved in youth issues (70 participants – representatives of all ministries in the Government of the Republika Srpska, youth organisations, student councils, local governments, international organisations and other key stakeholders), to define the priorities for improving the situation of young people and create the basis for drafting the document.
- Through a public call all interested representatives of the professional community (youth organisations, civil society organisations, the business sector, international organisations and other key stakeholders) were invited to get involved in the process of drafting the document during working group meetings, which were held in June, July and August 2015 (57 working group members).

- The general public had the opportunity to be involved in this process during the public consultation when the relevant ministry published the draft document on the website and invited all interested parties to participate in the review, and submit their comments and suggestions.
- A draft document was presented during the public consultation and the regional public events that were held in November 2015, in Banja Luka, Trebinje, Eastern Sarajevo, Doboj and Bijeljina, which were attended by over 200 young people and other stakeholders.
- In December 2015 the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sport organised a working-consultative meeting, “Dialogue with donors”, which was attended by representatives of international organisations and donors, youth projects and programmes implemented in the Republika Srpska with the aim of improving the Draft Youth Policy document.
- The National Assembly of the Republika Srpska adopted the Draft Youth Policy of the Republika Srpska in February 2016.
- In March 2016 the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports, in accordance with a Resolution of the National Assembly of the Republika Srpska, organised a public debate on the draft Youth Policy of the Republika Srpska in Trebinje, Eastern Sarajevo, Bijeljina and Banja Luka and once again called on the authorities and organisations, scientific and professional institutions, representatives of youth organisations and other interested citizens to participate in public debates and to submit suggestions on the document.
- The [Youth Committee](#) of the Republika Srpska held a meeting in April 2016 and discussed the Youth Policy document that gets support and was send to the further parliamentary procedure.

The Federal Ministry of Culture and Sport, together with the Institute for Youth Development (KULT), implemented a study about the needs of young people in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2013. The research has been used as a basis for the beginning of the process of developing the Youth Strategy. In order to understand the situation of young people and drafting the Youth Strategy document, a two-day event, “[Dialogue: The youth strategy in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina](#)”, was organised. This opportunity was used to open a dialogue with stakeholders in order to hear opinions and suggestions on this important document for the youth in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The draft Youth Policy document was produced in the same period as the third Youth Policy of the Republika Srpska, but has not yet been adopted.

The existing statistics dating from the 2013 Population Census in Bosnia and Herzegovina includes information on different population aspects but no specific indicator has been established precisely for the youth population.

There is no specific line of funding aimed at the evidence-based evaluation of government and/or the ministry activities and policies.

1.7 FUNDING YOUTH POLICY

At national level, the Ministry of Civil Affairs administers the [budget](#) allocated to administrative and staff costs for the ministry and for the Commission for Co-ordination of Youth Issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This part of the budget cannot be separated from the total operational allocations.

The Government of the Republika Srpska is planning €2 335 000 for its different

programmes, projects and measures in its [budget](#) for 2016 and out of that amount the specific budget allocation for Youth Policy is €150 000.

The Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is planning €204 000 for its youth programme in its [budget](#) for 2016.

Youth issues are the responsibility of entities and programmes for young people and youth organisations are funded by the relevant institutions responsible for youth issues. Since 2006 the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports is using the Youth Policy of the Republika Srpska for financing the youth organisations and programmes for young people. The Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports, through regular annual public calls, provides support, funding and co-funding projects for youth organisations. The Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports is funding projects in accordance with the [“Regulation on conditions and criteria for funding programmes and projects for the improvement of the situation of young people and the improvement and development of youth organising”](#). All funding opportunities are published in daily newspapers and on the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports [website](#). Guidelines, application forms and supporting tender documents are posted on the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports website. The guidelines contain information on the rules of competition, criteria for an applicant’s application, criteria related to the content of the projects, the amount of funds for the project implementation, timeframe and eligible projects for funding. The Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports makes assessments and decisions on projects’ acceptance and funding. After the decision the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports signs the contract with organisations, and controls the execution of projects and the expenditure of funds in accordance with the signed contracts. The Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports also provides other support through participation in activities and projects, and provides technical, advisory and other support during the implementation of projects (participation in round tables, promotions, forums, conferences, etc.). The Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports is funding the following youth projects in 2016, as seen from the [Republika Srpska Budget 2016](#):

- support project for construction of facilities for children and youth, €1 260 000;
- subvention to youth housing, €818 000;
- public institutions dealing with youth grant, €10 200;
- Youth Policy programmes, €150 300;
- programmes for rural youth, €51 000;
- youth mobility programmes, €46 000.

The [Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina Budget 2016](#) has one budget line dedicated for the support to youth organisations. This budget line is called [“Transfer for youth”](#), and the planned amount is €204 000. Federal Ministry of Culture and Sport is responsible Ministry for this budget line. This specific programme in 2016 is described in [“Decision on acceptance of the Federal Ministry of Culture and Sports budget spending for 2016”](#) and it focuses on:

- youth culture and sports projects and programmes, €128 000;
- support for youth research and youth policy development, €51 000;

- support for the [Youth Council of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), €15 000;
- intervention funds for youth NGOs, €10 000.

All the recipients of funding from the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports in the Republika Srpska are obliged to submit a financial and narrative report to the Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports, according to Article 9 of the [“Regulation on conditions and criteria for funding programmes and projects for the improvement of the situation of young people and the improvement and development of youth organising”](#).

All the recipients of funding from the Federal Ministry of Culture and Sport are obliged to submit a financial and narrative report to the Federal Ministry of Culture and Sport, according to Article 7 of the [“Decision on acceptance of the Federal Ministry of Culture and Sport budget spending for 2016”](#).

The IPA 2008 project [“EU support to the co-ordination and implementation of Bosnia and Herzegovina’s National Youth Policy”](#), the so-called “EUNYP project”, was funded by the European Union with a budget of €606 000 and it was implemented by a consortium led by EEO Group S.A. in association with EPRD Ltd, Particip GmbH and [Youth Communication Centre Banja Luka](#). The project started on 9 January 2012 and lasted for 24 months ending in December 2013.

Objectives of the project

The overall objective of this project was to improve the position of youth in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The specific purpose of the project was to create appropriate conditions for better and more efficient dialogue and more functional co-ordination among the stakeholders responsible for youth issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Project beneficiaries

The main direct beneficiary of this project was the Commission for Co-ordination of Youth Issues (CCYI) in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The indirect beneficiaries of the project were:

- the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- the Entity Ministries and District Breko department responsible for youth issues;
- public officials responsible for youth;
- civil society organisations (CSO) active in the youth sector.

Expected Results

Capacities of the CCYI in Bosnia and Herzegovina for efficient and effective implementation of its mandate as well as of other beneficiaries of the project enhanced.

- A platform for monitoring and evaluation and for collection of statistical data related to the youth issues developed.
- Structures/models required for full participation in Community Programmes related to youth designed.

- Recommendations for future activities developed.
- Awareness raising and visibility activities carried out.

Organizations from Bosnia and Herzegovina can take part in the [Erasmus+: Youth in Action Programme](#) as:

- As Partners in the following activities:
 - Youth Exchange, European Voluntary Service or Mobility of Youth Workers in projects within Key Action 1;
 - strategic partnerships in the field of youth in projects within Key Action 2 (under specific conditions);
 - meetings between young people and decision makers in the field of youth in projects within Key Action 3.
- As Applicants in the following activities:

Capacity building in the field of youth, in particular in the context of the Western Balkans Youth Window, within Key Action 2. Each project has to include at least one mobility activity: Youth Exchange, European Voluntary Service or Mobility of Youth Workers, corresponding to the activities within Key Action 1.

[The SALTO SEE Resource Centre](#) promotes and supports the participation of young people and other actors in the field of youth and non-formal education from the Programme's Partner Countries in the Western Balkans in the Erasmus+ Programme, and it aims to contribute to youth work and youth policy development in the Western Balkans region. It acts as a support service for:

- the network of Erasmus+: Youth in Action National Agencies in the field of co-operation with this region; and
- youth organizations, youth leaders, youth workers and other actors in the field who are interested in developing co-operation between Programme countries and Neighboring Partner countries in the Western Balkans region.

Within the [framework of the European integration of the Western Balkans region](#), the SALTO SEE Resource Centre actively supports the process of accession of all countries of the region to the Erasmus+: Youth in Action Programme. The Centre's programme of activities is run with the support of pools of trainers and accreditors, in particular in the European Voluntary Service strand of the programme, as well as contact points for the Erasmus+: Youth in Action Programme located in the programme's Partner Countries in the Western Balkans region.

The SALTO SEE Resource Centre carries out EVS accreditations of organizations based in Western Balkans Partner Countries and organizes the EVS training sessions for volunteers hosted in or coming from the region.

In order to bring knowledge and resources closer to the potential beneficiaries of the Erasmus+: Youth in Action Programme, the SALTO SEE Resource Centre has nominated [Contact Points for the Programme](#) in each Western Balkans Partner Country. The contact points are local youth organizations with experience in the programme and the capacities to transfer this knowledge further on to others. Their task is to promote the programme as well as to provide information, advice and training at the national level.

The Contact Point for the ERASMUS+ Youth in Action Programme is the [PRONI Center for Youth Development](#).

According to the researches done by the “IPA-EU Support to the co-ordination and implementation of Bosnia and Herzegovina’s National Youth Policy” (EUNYP) in 2013, currently there is a lack of a system that gathers and processes youth data qualitatively in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In addition, there is a considerable lack of databases on organizations dealing with youth issues, or for on-going programmers and their achievements.

Therefore, the EUNYP has developed the prototype of the database, which, once it becomes fully functional, will be available [online](#).

Also, it has been noted that there is an absence of adequate monitoring and assessment of whether or not the new/existing legislation treats the youth issues, how the legislation treats the youth issues, and finally how it is implemented.

The database will be a tool to detect youth needs and problems, establish relevant policies and responsibilities within the public institutional context and connect a wide range of stakeholders from both the governmental and civic sectors.

The proposed Monitoring and Evaluation System aims at monitoring on-going progress in eight youth-relevant fields of action and evaluating them against general and specific objectives laid down by the [EU Youth Strategy 2010-2018](#).

Through feedback information, the system will serve as a basis for:

- describing developments in the situation of youth in Bosnia and Herzegovina; describing and monitoring key targets of youth policy in the eight fields of action;
- describing the civil society infrastructure (NGOs oriented on youth) and its development;
- describing and informing about youth (oriented) projects and programmes;
- describing developments in youth legislation and the implementation mechanisms.

1.8 CROSS-BORDER CO-OPERATION

Bosnia and Herzegovina is currently a beneficiary of the [Instrument of Pre-accession Assistance 2014-2020](#) (IPA II) programme, which opens opportunities for cross-border co-operation in the field of civil society. Bosnia and Herzegovina currently participates in six programmes within the framework of the IPA Component II Cross-Border Co-operation: three bilateral cross-border co-operation (CBC) programmes with its immediate neighbours Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia, a CBC programme with EU Member States (IPA Adriatic CBC programme) and two transnational programmes (South-East Europe and Mediterranean).

[EU countries](#) such as Germany, Italy, Austria, France and Sweden, through their respective embassies and development agencies, invested in youth policy development at the national and local level in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

[The United Nations in Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Bosnia and Herzegovina is comprised of thirteen UN Funds, Programmes and Specialized Agencies (FAO, ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNFPA, UNEP, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, UNV, UN Women, WHO), the Bretton Woods Institutions (World Bank, IMF) and ICTY. The work of the UNCT is being coordinated through the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator and framed within the One UN Programme for Bosnia and Herzegovina 2015-2019 representing the strategic, programmatic and financial basis for the development partnership between the United Nations and the country. The focus of the next generation of joint UN programmes is to address, among other things, the most pressing Bosnia and Herzegovina developmental challenges in the areas of peace and reconciliation, transitional justice, protracted displacement, gender empowerment, social care and protection and energy efficiency and environmental protection.

UNCT also co-operates and co-ordinates effectively and exhaustively in the areas of HIV/AIDS prevention, youth and employment issues, people with disabilities, local development and Roma issues.

[The Council of Europe “Action plan for Bosnia and Herzegovina 2015-2017”](#) defines the following aims for youth in Bosnia and Herzegovina:

- To strengthen the role of youth in promoting a culture of human rights as a ground to address discrimination and segregation.
- Young people increasingly contribute to conflict-transformation through applying a human rights-based approach in cross-community projects.
- Young people recognise hate speech and act against it leading to a reduction in the levels of its acceptance among youth both online and offline.

The Council of Europe has implemented a variety of actions with youth actors from Bosnia and Herzegovina in the past few years, in particular: the Youth Peace Ambassadors project, training workshops, the publication of Compass, the manual on human rights education for young people, as well as other activities and projects at the European Youth Centres. Based on this experience, the proposed action will support the involvement of youth organisations in conflict-transformation processes.

Support will be provided to cross-community projects by training youth leaders in regional youth peace camps led by Youth Peace Ambassadors. Youth leaders and youth workers will be bringing human rights education into the mainstream in youth activities and youth work practice. The recognition of youth work and youth organisations’ role as schools of democracy will be achieved through community and inter-community training activities between civil servants dealing with youth matters and youth organisations’ representatives.

Youth groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina will also be encouraged to participate in the youth campaign “No Hate Speech Movement”. A specific focus and emphasis will be placed on increasing the levels of participation of young Roma people at both local and regional levels.

The [OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina](#) is active in the youth field through its initiative to establish the [Youth Advisory Group at the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina](#) and a more recent [initiative](#) aiming to develop school-supported

activities to counter and prevent violent extremism from taking ground in educational environments.

Non-EU countries active in youth development field in Bosnia and Herzegovina are [USA](#) and [Switzerland](#). Those countries are active through their respective embassies and developmental agencies and have country strategies documents that highly prioritise youth issues.

1.9 CURRENT DEBATES AND REFORMS

The draft Youth Policy document for the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina has been produced and it is expected to be adopted by the end of 2016.

Brcko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina don't have plans for the Law on Youth, Youth Policy and Youth Council.

Establishment of the [Regional Youth Co-operation Office](#) (RYCO) – the RYCO mission is to support regional exchange of youth and their ideas, underlying future co-operation based on the values of co-existence, tolerance and respect for human rights and differences, intensification of regional co-operation of both youth and institutions dealing with youth, as well as securing the implementation of joint youth programmes on the principles of democratic governance, sustainable economic development, education and innovations, and youth co-operation co-ordination in the Western Balkans. The Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina at the 61st session defined, among other things, a [Proposal Agreement of the Regional Youth Co-operation Office of Western Balkans countries](#).

1.10 REFERENCES

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