

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 5: PARTICIPATION
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

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5.1 GENERAL CONTEXT

Main concepts

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

A national youth policy does not yet exist 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 issues at the national level are under the jurisdiction of the [Commission for Co-ordination of Youth Issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina](#) and the newly established [Section for youth and mobility](#) at the [Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministry of Civil Affairs](#).

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

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

The competences 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](#), the [Youth Law of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina](#) and the [Brcko District Law on youth](#) define the age limits for youth as a target group from 15 to 30.

Institutions of representative democracy

The country's constitutional structure (e.g. if it is a centralised or a federal system; if it is a presidential democracy, a parliamentary democracy, constitutional monarchy etc.):

Bosnia and Herzegovina is a presidential-style parliamentary republic governed by a collegial presidency consisting of one Croat, one Bosniac and one Serb. It has a bicameral legislature consisting of the House of the People and the House of Representatives. Together, these chambers form the Parliamentary Assembly. The Constitutional Court is the country's highest judicial body.

Its main representative institutions at the national/federal (e.g. parliament, parliamentary assembly, house of representatives), regional (e.g. regional assembly) and local level (e.g. mayoral office, municipal council, local council etc.).

The Executive

The constitution includes a collegial three-person presidency, consisting of one Bosniac, one Croat and one Serb, each of them serving for four years. The Bosniac and Croat members are directly elected from the territory of the Federation whilst the Serb member is elected from the territory of the Republika Srpska. Members of the presidency may be re-elected once and are then ineligible for four years. A chair, who is selected by rotation or determined by the parliamentary assembly in case of no consensus, heads the presidency. However, decisions in the presidency shall be by consensus,

otherwise by a majority of the members. If the decision is seen to be “destructive of a vital interest” the dissenting member may appeal it within three days. A two-thirds majority of the legislature from the dissenting member’s respective territory is then allowed to nullify the decision. According to paragraph 3 of Article V, the presidency is competent to conduct foreign policy; appoint ambassadors; negotiate, denounce and ratify treaties; execute parliamentary decisions, and propose an annual budget. In addition, the members of the presidency are given “civilian command authority over armed forces”. However, neither of the entities is allowed to use force against another entity without the consent of the government of the latter and of the presidency.

The chair of the council of ministers, nominated by the presidency, selects the other members of the council with the approval of the House of Representatives. Not more than two-thirds of the members shall be appointed from the territory of the Federation. The council’s task is to carry out “the policies and decisions of Bosnia and Herzegovina”. If a vote of no-confidence is passed by the parliamentary assembly, the council of ministers is required to resign.

The Legislature

The constitution provides for a bicameral parliament comprising a lower chamber, the House of Representatives, and an upper chamber, the House of Peoples. It enjoys institutional autonomy and has a moderate amount of power over the executive. The legislature enacts legislation in order to implement decisions of the presidency or to carry out its own duties under the constitution. Its competences include the power to amend the constitution, approve international treaties and the annual budget, appoint members of the judiciary, grant amnesties and pardons and approve presidential declarations of war. Moreover, it is allowed to issue a vote of no-confidence against the council of ministers. The approval of both chambers is needed for all legislation. Similar to the decisions of the presidency, an act can be annulled if a majority of the respective members of parliament declares it to be “destructive of a vital interest” of the people. A joint commission, or under specific circumstances the constitutional court, has to resolve the dispute in case a majority of the members of parliament of another entity objects to the declaration.

The Judiciary

The constitutional court, a body of nine members, has original and final jurisdiction over all matters relating to the interpretation of the constitution. Four members are elected by the house of representatives of the Federation, two members by the Assembly of the Republika Srpska, and three members are designated by the president of the European Court of Human Rights (the Court) after consultation with the presidency. The Court may not select judges who are citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina or of any neighbouring country. The first judges of the Court were appointed for five years. Judges appointed thereafter, however, stay in office until the age of 70. The Court is competent to hear appeals over issues under the constitution arising out of judgments of any other court. In addition, any court in Bosnia and Herzegovina may ask the Court to review the constitutionality of laws, on whose validity its decision depends, with the constitution, with the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and its Protocols, or with the laws of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Court is granted exclusive jurisdiction

on disputes between entities or between the country and entities as well as on disputes between state institutions. The latter disputes may only be referred to the Court by certain officials or bodies.

Constitutional development

The Bosnian Constitution is part of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Annex 4 of the Agreement) signed by the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in Paris on the 14 December 1995. It is also known as the Paris Agreement or the Dayton Agreement, named after the cities where it was signed. The Dayton Peace Agreement is a de facto series of agreements consisting of one framework agreement and 12 special agreements referred to as Annexes of the General Framework Peace Agreement for Bosnia and Herzegovina. The special agreements, which were signed by different parties, relate to civilian (Annexes 2 to 11) and military components (Annexes 1-A and 1-B). Annex 4 contains the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which, unlike other annexes, was not made in the form of an agreement. The Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republika Srpska all approved the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Although the last sentence of Article XI states that the Agreement shall be signed in the three official languages of Bosnia and Herzegovina (i.e. Bosnian, Serbian and Croatian) and English languages, the Constitutional Charter of Bosnia and Herzegovina was officially signed only in English. There are no official versions made in the official languages of Bosnia and Herzegovina, nor have the relevant authorities translated this document, including the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina; only unofficial translations have been used. The Dayton Peace Agreement, including the constitution, has never been published in the Official Gazettes of the state and/or entities.

The Constitution of the Republika Srpska was adopted on 28 February 1992 and published in the Official Gazette of the Republika Srpska. Since 1992, there have been more than 120 amendments to the Constitution. Article 1 of the Constitution states that the Republika Srpska is territorially unified, indivisible, and an inalienable constitutional and legal entity that shall independently perform its constitutional, legislative, executive and judicial functions. The constitution created a centralised federal unit within the asymmetrical federal system in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Washington Agreement created the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (the Federation) in March 1994. On 30 March 1994, the Constitutional Assembly of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted its constitution, establishing the second of the two entities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Unlike the Republika Srpska, the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is extremely decentralised, made up of 10 cantons with broad constitutional powers and discrepancies in the areas of education, culture, health care, etc. The cantonal system was selected to prevent dominance by one ethnic group over another. Since 1994, this constitution has been amended at least 100 times.

The Brcko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina was established in 2000 after an arbitration process undertaken by the High Representative. It is a neutral, self-governing administrative unit under the sovereignty of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as all relevant decisions and laws regarding the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, are directly

applicable throughout the territory of the district. Brcko also has its own statute regulating the functions and powers of the district, its co-operation with the entities, human rights and freedoms, organisation of the district, and division of powers, competences and institutions, etc. The status of the district was secured with the adoption of the first Amendment to the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2009.

The main legal principles concerning elections, such as whether voting is compulsory and how the vote is cast (by ballot, by post, by proxy etc.).

Legal framework and electoral system

Elections are primarily regulated by the Election Law on Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted in 2001. Amendments to the law were adopted in April 2016, only six months prior to the elections, thus challenging the Central Election Commission with regard to the implementation of the law. The most important amendments adopted in 2016 included a gender quota of at least 40% of candidates from the underrepresented gender on candidates' lists.

With regard to the electoral system, mayors are directly elected by a simple majority first-past-the-post system (plurality system). However, in the Brcko District, East Sarajevo and the City of Sarajevo, mayors are indirectly elected by the respective District Assembly and City Councils.

For municipal councils in all entities, the electoral system in use is proportional representation in multi-member constituencies. There is a 3% threshold to participate in the process of allocation of seats. Mandates in municipal councils are then allocated to the candidates' lists according to the Saint-Laguë method, which is a highest quotient method using successive quotients for each list. Mandates won by a list are then distributed among candidates on the list. Mandates should be first distributed among candidates who individually received at least 10% of the votes, from the candidate who received the highest number of votes to the candidates who received the lowest number. If some mandates are still to be allocated to the same list, they are distributed among candidates who received less than 10% of the votes, according to their rank order on the list. All municipal councils of municipalities which form a city elect a city council through a proportional representation system.

Election administration bodies

The election administration is a three-level structure headed by the Central Electoral Commission (CEC). The election administration also includes municipal election commissions (MECs) and polling station commissions (PSCs). The CEC is composed of seven members appointed for a seven-year term, including two Croats, two Bosniacs, two Serbs and one representative of the "Others".

Voter registration and voters' lists

A total of 3 263 906 voters were registered in the Central Voters' Register including 65 111 postal voters for the 2016 elections. All citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina registered in the Central Voters' Register had the right to vote in person in the municipality of their permanent residence. Voters residing abroad were allowed to cast their ballot out of the country upon registration with the Central Election Commission but were also entitled to vote if in the country on election day. Polling stations were organised in diplomatic representations of Bosnia and Herzegovina abroad for about 25 000 voters.

5.2 YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY

Young people as voters

The voting age limit for voting in the elections of the country's representative democracy institutions at all levels:

As stated in [Bosnia and Herzegovina Election Law](#) Article 1.4: (1) Each citizen of Bosnia and Herzegovina (hereinafter: BiH citizen) who has attained eighteen (18) years of age shall have the right to vote and to be elected (hereinafter: right to vote) pursuant to this law. (2) To exercise his or her right to vote, a BiH citizen must be recorded in the Central Voters' Register, pursuant to this law.

If there are imminent plans to lower the voting age limit, or if the age limit has been lowered recently (i.e. after 2000) please elaborate here. N/A

Any special provisions for young people in the electoral law and/or rules. N/A

The turnout of young people in the latest national/federal, regional, local and European Parliament elections and compare it to the overall population turnout:

According to the [Institute for Youth Development Kult](#) research on youth, youth voter turnout in Bosnia and Herzegovina elections is the same as the turnout of the general population. According to data of the Central Election Committee, which were double-checked at the request of the Institute for Youth Development KULT, youth turnout is more than 50%, and is not significantly different from the European average. According to the results of the 2013 census, there are 773 850 young people in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and they comprise 21.4% of voters in Bosnia and Herzegovina. According to data of the Central Election Committee, over 50% of youth voted in the 2014 general elections, and a similar percentage was recorded during the 2016 local elections.

Young people as political representatives

Young people as members of political parties, including any top-level legislation on party youth wings where available:

Bosnia and Herzegovina has a multi-party system, [with numerous parties](#) in which no one party often has a chance of gaining power alone, and parties must work with each other to form coalition

governments. Every ethnic community has its own dominant political party and all major political party has a youth branch.

Young people as candidates in federal/national, regional, local and European elections for securing a position in a representative assembly or in an elected public office position (e.g. mayor, head of regional government, head of state):

The formal right of young people as political representatives in a unicameral parliament includes a candidacy age of 18. There is no quota of seats reserved for young people, nor existing provisions aimed at facilitating young people standing as political candidates. There are no data available for number of young people as candidates.

Young people as elected representatives (i.e. elected in a representative assembly):

According to the PRONI Centre for Youth Development research on [Woman, Youth and Minorities representation in Bosnia and Herzegovina Representative bodies 2018](#) at all levels the situation is as follows: out of 615 representatives in all researched representative bodies in Bosnia and Herzegovina, young people hold 27 seats.

5.3 YOUTH REPRESENTATION BODIES

Bosnia and Herzegovina doesn't have any national youth representation bodies beside the [Commission for Co-ordination of Youth Issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina](#).

Youth parliament

There is no youth parliament in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Youth councils and/or youth advisory boards

Bosnia and Herzegovina has three the most significant youth councils: the [Youth Council at the Republika Srpska](#) level, serving as an umbrella representative body, which is legally defined under the Law on Youth Organisation of the Republika Srpska since 2004; the [Youth Council of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina](#) was established in December 2015 after the six Cantonal Youth Councils have been established in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina during 2014-2015; and the [Youth Council of Brcko District](#) established in 2018.

At the level of the Republika Srpska there is the [Youth Council](#), which is composed of several members (ministers in the Republika Srpska government representatives, [Youth Council of Republika Srpska](#) and representatives of the Committee for Youth Affairs of the National Assembly of Republika Srpska).

Structure

The Youth Council of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is the umbrella organisation of youth from the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. As an umbrella organisation, the Youth

Council was formed by the Law on Youth of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina by the six cantonal Youth Councils.

The Youth Council of the Republika Srpska (OSRS) is an umbrella youth organisation in Republika Srpska, whose position and role is defined by the Law on Youth Organisation, adopted by the National Assembly of the Republika Srpska in 2004.

The youth council of the Brcko District is the umbrella organisation of youth organisations from Brcko District formed by the Brcko District Law on Youth.

Composition

The Youth Council of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina consists of the six cantonal youth councils: the youth councils of Tuzla Canton; Canton Sarajevo; Una-Sana Canton; Canton of West Herzegovina; Central Bosnia Canton and Posavina Canton.

As an umbrella youth organisation, the Youth Council of the Republika Srpska brings together local and republic youth organisations in its membership with the aim of presenting and representing their interests to the institutions of the Republika Srpska, in international co-operation, and others.

The youth council of Brcko District is the umbrella organisation composed of 10 youth organisations from Brcko District.

Role and responsibilities

The Youth Council of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina is a non-governmental organisation that legitimately represents and represents the interests of its members/founders at all levels of government. In addition to the member/founder, the youth council also represents the interests of all young people, youth organisations and organisations working with young people in the way of youth policies and affects the development and well-being of youth in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This council is engaged in the implementation of joint projects of young people in the federation, membership and participation, or representation of youth issues at a higher level, building dialogue with the institutions of government in order to improve the position of young people and build partnerships and co-operate internationally.

The Youth Council of the Republika Srpska was granted the status of an association of public interest based on spatial (territorial) and cultural action, multi-ethnic structure and long-term work aimed at meeting the needs of young people in the social-humanitarian field.

The Youth Council of Brcko District aims to encourage youth involvement in the social life of the community; strengthen co-operation between the council and the institutions of government; promote youth work and youth work in general; popularise and disseminate awareness of the importance of youth work and youth access; improve the living conditions of young people in the Brcko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina; support to creation of the documents and operational programs in the field of youth work and youth work; co-operate with the other youth councils, both at lower and higher levels of government.

Funding

The Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina's budget has one budget line dedicated for youth called "Transfer for youth", in the Federal Ministry of Culture and Sport, as support to youth organisations and financing the Youth Council of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Ministry of Family, Youth and Sports finances the youth organisations and programmes for young people including the Youth Council of the Republika Srpska.

The Youth Council of Brcko District is funded by the Brcko District Government and the Department for Expert and Administrative Affairs.

Higher education student union(s)

Please indicate if there is a body representing the interests of tertiary education students in your country. N/A

School student union(s)

The Law on Secondary Education was enacted in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2004, in which students were given the opportunity to become organised into councils, and therefore affect processes in education.

[The Network of councils / councils of students of Bosnia and Herzegovina](#) has been active since 2011 and actively advocates equal opportunities for all high-school students.

Structure

The Network of councils / councils of students of Bosnia and Herzegovina is a unified body of all councils / councils of students in Bosnia and Herzegovina that advocates the existence and efficient functioning of councils / councils of students in all secondary schools at the state level. This body is made up of councils of student councils in all of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which together represent a student's activism platform in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Composition

The Network of councils / councils of students of Bosnia and Herzegovina is composed of the Council of the Students of the BiH Federation Cantons and the Council of Student Councils of Republika Srpska.

Role and responsibilities

The Network of councils / councils of students of Bosnia and Herzegovina is a unified body of all councils / councils of students in Bosnia and Herzegovina that advocates the existence and efficient functioning of student councils / councils in all secondary schools at the state level.

Funding

No information of sources of funding.

Other bodies

[Asocijacija Srednjoškolaca u Bosni i Hercegovini](#) (ASuBiH) is the organisation that gathers every secondary school student together with each School Student Council in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Its aim is to improve the status of secondary school students through the promotion of their rights.

Top-level legal framework for establishment

The Association of High School Students in Bosnia and Herzegovina (ASuBiH) is a non-governmental, non-partisan and non-political organisation whose main goal is to improve the status of high-school students in the country and gather all young people attending high school in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

ASuBiH was established on 4 November 2007 at the founding General Assembly in Sarajevo, with the support of over 250 high school students and representatives of their local communities from all over Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Roles and responsibilities

Increase the inclusion of high-school students in the decision-making process that improves their status in society through learning about the rights of high-school students and representing the ideas of all high-school students in Bosnia and Herzegovina that contribute to improving their lives in the community.

Powers, impact and output

Implemented 364 activities in 2018 and had 164 media reports on their activities.

Overseeing body (if any)

The General Assembly is the highest body of the association. It consists of formal representatives of all councils of students of Bosnia and Herzegovina (one representative per school). ASuBiH also has a management board composed of 10 elected representatives.

Budget and funding source

ASuBiH was launched by the German foundation Schuler Helfen Leben (SHL), which is also the general donor of ASuBiH. Its budget for 2018 was 154 299.84 Bosnian marks (BAM).

Size (in terms of number of participants)

Currently ASuBiH has more than 2 000 members in 62 local teams from 62 towns in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Membership selection criteria

ASuBiH has two different kinds of member: regular members and honourable members. Every citizen from the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina that has the status of a secondary school student can apply for regular membership of the organisation. Citizens that do not have the status of a secondary school student can apply for honourable membership of the organisation.

Age range of young people participating

15-18 years.

Initiatives to increase the diversity of participating young people / measures for inclusivity

- The General Assembly, which gathers more than 200 secondary school students of Bosnia and Herzegovina and which is the highest decision-making body of ASuBiH.
- Peer-to-peer trainings and workshops for school student councils, in which best practices and knowledge are shared and exchanged and which aim to empower them to act independently in their communities.
- Co-operation with governmental and non-governmental organisations at national and international level.
- Friends Without Borders (FWB), which was financed by Embassy of the United States in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The FWB project is based on a three-day home-stay exchange between 11 Bosnia and Herzegovina towns. During these three days seven participants from every town had the opportunity to go sightseeing through the town and to have fun, but there were also some workshops organised. In the end there was a final conference organised in Sarajevo where all participants came to meet each other. During the project implementation a film was made which will be published soon.
- ASuBiH is also conducting PAR research for UNICEF about dropping out and early school leaving of secondary school students in Bosnia and Herzegovina. ASuBiH started the study, gathering 20 participants in six local communities (Banja Luka, East Sarajevo, Gorazde, Mostar, Visoko and Zenica) and local partners. After preparing the field and participants in March ASuBiH team held three meetings with the participants in each city. Until the end of the field work on the project in July 2014 ASuBiH team will do nine more meetings with the participants in each town and do activities in between.

5.4 YOUNG PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN POLICY-MAKING

National youth policy, national youth law, national youth council or any youth representative body do not exist in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Since the authorities over the youth-related issues are mainly at entity, canton and Brcko District level there is a variety of youth participation that usually goes via the youth councils in forms of meetings with the responsible ministries.

5.5 NATIONAL STRATEGY TO INCREASE YOUTH PARTICIPATION

Existence of a national strategy to increase young people's political and civil society participation: There is no specific national strategy on youth participation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as an overarching public document, an action plan, or a set of official documents integrating the major directions to be followed in the organisation of policy making at national level.

The type of official document in the national system (e.g. parliament's bill, government's decree, framework law, etc.): N/A

The time of introduction and timeframe: N/A

Scope and contents

The level of participation (national/regional/local) the strategy aims to address: N/A

A brief summary of the main elements of the strategy: N/A

Key objectives set by the strategy: N/A

Specific target groups within the youth population identified by the strategy, whose participation should be particularly fostered (e.g. young people with a migrant background): N/A

Responsible authority for the implementation of the strategy

The government authority (e.g. a ministry, a national youth agency, the government as a whole, etc.) **responsible for the implementation, coordination and monitoring of the strategy:** N/A

Whether any evidence-based monitoring/assessment/evaluation of the implementation of the strategy has been conducted and, if applicable, its main results. N/A

Revisions/updates: N/A

5.6 SUPPORTING YOUTH ORGANISATIONS

Legal/policy framework for the functioning and development of youth organisations

There is no national legislation on youth in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Regional and local legislation on youth exists in both entities and Brcko District.

The Law on Youth Organisation of the Republika Srpska was adopted in 2004. This law provides a range of definitions concerning youth issues, supports the development of the youth organisations,

suggests ways to adopt the youth policy, regulates youth organisations and international co-operation, professional work and training and information for youth.

The Law on Volunteering of the Republic of Srpska was adopted in 2008.

The National Assembly of Republika Srpska adopted the Proposal of the Youth Policy of Republika Srpska for 2016-2020 during its 13th session held on 13 and 14 July 2016.

The Youth Law of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina was adopted in 2010. This Law regulates issues related to youth life, position and activities in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Law on Volunteering of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina was adopted in 2012.

The Brcko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted the Law on youth in 2017 and the Law on volunteering in 2018 with similar regulations to those in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Republika Srpska.

Public financial support

International level

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 (RYCO). The text of the Agreement was defined by an international work group, in which representatives of all Western Balkans countries took part. Bosnia and Herzegovina is to budget €154 000 for implementation of the agreement.

The Erasmus+ youth programme, Bosnia and Herzegovina, secured €115 000 for entry into the Community Programme in 2014, and since then youth organisations can apply for funding.

National level

The Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina is planning about €400 000 for national youth programmes in its budget for 2016.

Regional level

The Government of the Republika Srpska has spent €2 335 000 for its different programmes, projects and measures in its budget for 2016.

The Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina spent €204 000 for its youth programme in its budget for 2016.

Brcko District has funds of about €100 000 to support youth initiatives in 2016.

Initiatives to increase the diversity of participants

There are no specific national or large-scale initiatives aiming to increase the diversity of young people participating in youth organisations in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

5.7 “LEARNING TO PARTICIPATE” THROUGH FORMAL, NON-FORMAL AND INFORMAL LEARNING

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, civic education is being conducted in some parts of the country, while in some cases it is not implemented at all. The local civil society organisation [CIVITAS](#) has played a major role in the promotion of civic education, which has been working on the promotion and implementation of civic education in elementary and secondary schools in Bosnia and Herzegovina for years through its [Network](#).

5.8 RAISING POLITICAL AWARENESS AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE

The Central Election Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina is the state-level authority when it comes to raising political awareness amongst young people. Its [Centre for Education](#) is established and aimed at education of the election management bodies and all stakeholders in the area of elections and political party financing at the national, regional and international level.

By establishing the Centre for Education, the Central Election Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina has provided a permanent and adequate space to meet the legal obligation for continuous training of the EMB’s members. The Central Election Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina strives to provide high-quality and continuous training and professional development for all participants in the electoral process in Bosnia and Herzegovina by organising educational workshops, seminars and lectures to be delivered to the members of election administration, but also to the representatives of political subjects, the media and the NGOs, by renowned domestic and international election experts.

Examples of their work with youth are projects such as: “Lecture to the students of the Faculty of Law of the Sarajevo University” and promotion of the initiative for marking the World Election Day, called: “Increasing Youth Participation in the Election Process”.

5.9 E-PARTICIPATION

Even though there is no e-participation portal for young people, the Ministry of Justice of Bosnia and Herzegovina has vested significant efforts to improve the system of transparency, co-operation and openness to citizens and civil society organisations. The highlight of these efforts is the web platform [eKonsultacije](#), developed with the expert support provided through the project Capacity building of government institutions to participate in dialogue with civil society (CBGI) funded by the European Union.

5.10 CURRENT DEBATES AND REFORMS

Forthcoming policy developments

Development of the youth policy document in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Brcko District is something that is to be expected in next year. The Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Brcko District have never had a youth policy developed. In Republika Srpska it is expected that new management is expected to be elected, after the planned elections in the Youth Council of Republika Srpska.

Ongoing debates

An ongoing debate is the position of the Commission for the co-ordination of youth issues since the last commission never elected a president and has met only once. There is a question of functionality of this body in such form. Related to this is the “undercover” debate on forming some sort of national youth representation body that can enable young people from Bosnia and Herzegovina to participate in European and UN youth representative bodies. For both debates it is obvious that relevant ministries are in the position of keeping their current status while youth NGOs and some youth councils are for changes and development. Both processes are highly politicised since the authority over the youth issues are at entity and Brcko District level.