

“Regional Support for Inclusive Education”

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“INCLUSIVE EDUCATION IN PRACTICE”

Patterns, tools and actions

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Duration: 15 minutes

Education is one of the basic elements in building a well-being and development in Europe. In all EU member countries as well as countries in the integration process, there are on-going processes and efforts to increase transparency and common frameworks, starting from European Qualification Framework, Framework for vocational and professional education and training, Framework for higher education.

There is a crucial task ahead of Bosnia and Herzegovina’s education system – how to help the country emerge from relative poverty and make it a pleasant and prosperous country. There are also challenges concerning the promotion of internationalization and globalization in education, whilst preserving the traditional and cultural values of peoples and citizens. This includes the values that are favorable for the development of a feeling of togetherness; acceptance of and respect for differences; solidarity and responsibility for sustainable development; encouraging a work-ethic amongst the citizenry and developing democratic society as a whole.

It is important to make the traditional education system more open and flexible and to enable individuals to apply their own individual approaches and styles of learning, adjusted to their own capacities, needs and interests. To that end, it is necessary to focus attention towards the utilization and implementation of adequate strategies for all, to assist increasing inclusion in education and society. The globalization of social relations necessarily indicates cooperation.

The precondition of integration into the European Union is regional cooperation. A large number of initiatives, projects, and activities generally run exactly in this direction. Project Regional support for inclusive education is just one of them.

In addition to the Joint project of the EU and the Council of Europe, should also mention the participation of BiH in the FRAME project (Regional project aimed at developing national sectoral strategies for skills development by 2020), WBIF (Investment Framework for the

Western Balkans), ERI SEE (Education Reform Initiative in SEE), CEEPUS (Central European Exchange Program for University Studies), TEMPUS activities, as well as commitments in the strategic documents (European Union Danube region Strategy, Southeastern Europe 2020 Strategy - Jobs and prosperity in the European perspective, ...), which also emphasizes the importance of regional cooperation in which they are realized in areas and activities that are encouraged precisely regional cooperation.

For all education levels, the legislation in Bosnia and Herzegovina allows each individual to have equal right of access and equal opportunities for participation in appropriate education, without discrimination on any basis. The legislation at the state level in the field of education is based on the most important international declarations and conventions regulating the issues of human rights and freedoms.

Since its establishment, the Ministry of Civil Affairs has initiated the adoption of five framework laws in the field of education as follows:

- Framework Law on Preschool Care and Education in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Official Gazette of BiH, No. 88/7);
- Framework Law on Primary and Secondary Education in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Official Gazette of BiH, No. 18/3);
- Framework Law on Secondary Vocational Education and Training in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Official Gazette of BiH, No. 63/08);
- Law on Agency for Preschool, Primary and Secondary Education in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Official Gazette of BiH, No. 88/07) and
- Framework Law on Higher Education in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Official Gazette of BiH, No. 59/07).

Apart from the legislation at the state level, the following strategies which incorporate the basic principles of nondiscrimination and education on human rights have been adopted:

- *Strategic Directions for the Development of Preschool Care and Education in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2005;*
- *Strategy for Vocational Education and Training in BiH 2007 – 2013* (Official Gazette of BiH, No. 65/07);
- *Strategic Directions for the Development of Education in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2008 - 2015* (Official Gazette of BiH, No. 63/08)

- *Strategy for Entrepreneurial Learning in Education systems in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the period 2012 - 2015* (with an action plan implementation) (Official Gazette of BiH, No. 29/12)
- *The Principles and Standards in the field of Adult Education in Bosnia and Herzegovina* (Official Gazette of BiH, No. 39/14)

In BiH, inclusive education is understood as a pedagogic, humanistic and reform movement. It is designed by introducing of new approaches into the education system, based on the experiences from the neighboring countries and on the European good practice examples.

1. What are the benefits of regional approach in inclusive education to your Ministry?

- Joint work significantly extends the capabilities of sharing experiences, good practices and learning from each other. Participation in the project is given the possibility to extend the understanding of the concept of inclusion.
- By developing regional policies and policy framework provides guidelines mutually agreed courses of action that still needs to be developed at the level of participating states.
- Contribution to improved cooperation between different institutions (ministries, educational institutions, ...) and sectors (education, health, labor and employment, social policy, ...) within the state, as well as inter-institutional and inter-ministerial cooperation at the regional level.
- Increasing the transparency of educational systems and the consequent improvement opportunities comparability of educational systems
- Improving the adaptability and flexibility of the education system, but also mobility in country and abroad.
- By creating a common framework of action is easier to achieve the main objectives of inclusive education:
 - Development of policies and mechanisms of action that will reduce the possibilities of exclusion of individuals and groups from the education system, but also from the labor market
 - Increasing social inclusion and social cohesion
- Development of institutional and human resource capacity for further implementation of inclusive principles.

2. How can your Ministry support the regional efforts in inclusive education?

- The incorporation of project results in documents dealing with planning further development of education, especially of inclusive education in BiH
- Informing the public about the widest educational activities and results of the Project
- By continuing participation in regional projects, initiatives and activities that lead in this direction
- In accordance with the possibilities of BiH to withdraw funds from various funds (IPA WBIF, ...), initiating projects that will be elaborated segments inclusive education.