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Economic Participation for Strengthening Security

1st Preparatory Meeting for the 25th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum Vienna, 23-24 January 2017

Zeljka Sulc, OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina



Bosnia and Herzegovina - challenges

- 3.5 million inhabitants
- Foreign direct investment decrease 2.6 (2014) to 1.4 % of GDP (2015)
- 80 000 people left BiH in 2016 searching for jobs
- 27.5 % official unemployment rate in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)
 - 31.2 % women
 - 25.3 % men
- 60% youth unemployment rate in BiH



Presentation title 2 9

Bosnia and Herzegovina - Opportunities

- BiH as employment heaven in the neighborhood
 - IT industry largely outsourced / Balkans as a new Silicon Valley
 - Human resources best value for money
- More women interested in business
 - Significant funds invested in women entrepreneurship projects
 - 27.3 women as company owners big or small number?
- 60% youth unemployment rate
- No new foreign terrorist fighters in 2016



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Security and confidence building measures

A precondition to building genuine and lasting security is to create strong local communities.

Strong local communities are, among other efforts, built by mutual trust, respect and strong business environments.



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OSCE - platform for building partnerships

- Supporting municipalities to showcase the best practices in improving economic governance (Beacon scheme - municipalities competing in excellence)
- De-corrupting the country / promoting transparency and accountability - Integrity plans / monitoring cases of corruption
- Gender responsive budgeting
- Emphasizing role of local communities in promoting economic development in BiH
- Branding Bosnia and Herzegovina

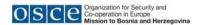


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OSCE - platform for reducing radicalisation

Strengthening capacities of different communities/stakeholders in identifying and combating violent extremism

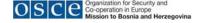
- Supported BiH in adopting Strategy and Action Plan on Preventing Violent Extremism
- Religious communities trained over 2000 religious leaders on CVE
- Educators trained school teachers on how to deal with potential signs of radicalization
- Media trainings for journalists on CVE reporting
- Youth Organized 4 youth summits on CVE gathering over 2000 young people
- Supported initiatives to counter financing of terrorism



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Opportunities for 2017

- Not an election year for Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Supporting different economic fora:
 - Prime Ministers' Joint Business Conference in Drvar area
 - Facilitating visits to different areas / investment potential
 - Business Conference/Women in business
 - Business and Economic Fora
- Continued co-operation with local communities at all levels on anticorruption, CVE, connectivity



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Opportunities for 2017

Role of the OSCE Mission to BiH

In accordance with Austrian Chairmanship priorities

Support sustainable peace

- For youth
- For women
- For sustainable economy
 - For all citizens of BiH



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