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# Introduction by Ambassador Kathleen Kavalec, Head of Mission

As a leading multilateral security organization dedicated to early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) has played a crucial role in international efforts to build a stable, peaceful, and democratic Bosnia and Herzegovina. Since its establishment in 1995, the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina has implemented programmes intended to help achieve comprehensive and lasting security in the interests of all citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Following the signing of the Dayton Peace Accords on November 21, 1995, the Mission was deployed to administer democratic elections and to implement confidence- and security-building measures, including through arms control initiatives. In its early days, the Mission was engaged throughout the country through its many Field Offices in efforts to ensure the right to political participation and support the development of free and independent media. The Mission also focused on the return of people and property, supporting displaced individuals seeking to reclaim their properties and return to their homes.

The OSCE's comprehensive approach in building a stable and secure society involved the gradual transfer of its responsibilities to authorities at all levels. As crucial as the

OSCE's role was in conducting the first postwar elections, of equal importance was the transfer in 2002 of the election process to the BiH Central Election Commission. The Mission supported the establishment of parliamentary committees at all levels, along with oversight mechanisms to ensure the accountability of elected officials, including in the security and defence sectors. In subsequent years, the Mission has helped address evolving security challenges, including by working to prevent and counter radicalization and terrorism and support authorities in efforts to improve cyber security.

The Mission has also been active in supporting the development of legislation pertaining to democratic governance, education, discrimination, protection of Roma and national minorities, and anti-corruption. Mission recommendations drawn from monitoring of court proceedings have helped improve the country's response to serious crimes, while capacity-building activities for security personnel, legal professionals, elected officials, educators and youth have helped participants develop valuable expertise.

Since its establishment, the Mission has maintained a strong focus on working with civil society, supporting youth engagement, strengthening women's participation in all spheres of public life, and establishing a



network of civil society organizations dedicated to addressing environmental issues. In all spheres of engagement, the Mission has sought to promote respect for human rights and the rule of law.

Today, the Mission continues to play an essential role in supporting BiH authorities in their efforts to build a more secure and just society for all citizens. Our guiding goal remains implementation of the Dayton Peace Accords and support for BiH efforts to secure a secure, stable, and democratic future for all citizens. We are grateful for the continued support over the years of the OSCE's 57 participating States, including Bosnia and Herzegovina, in carrying out the Mission's mandate.

This publication is dedicated to recognizing the work carried out by the Mission, hand-in-hand with our local and international partners, on behalf of the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Mission's field presence, institutional memory, expertise, and co-operation with BiH counterparts, remain our strongest asset. The progress we have helped achieve in BiH would not have been possible without the dedication and commitment of our staff – both national and international, both past and current, who have supported local partners in their efforts to rebuild the country and take it forward.

I would like to express my gratitude to all of those who have served our Mission over the years. Your professionalism and commitment have been key to the successful delivery of our assistance and programmes. Let me also thank our many partners in BiH government, academia, media, civil society and business, with whom we have partnered over the years to secure a brighter future for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Most importantly, on behalf of the Mission, I would like to thank the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina for their confidence, partnership and engagement over the past 25 years in our joint efforts to build a better place for all.

Kathleen Kavalec Ambassador Head of the OSCE Mission to BiH March 2022

# The Mandate of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina

The following specific references are included in the Dayton Peace Agreement and the Mission's mandate:

## Confidence-and Security-Building Measures:

The OSCE facilitates activities and negotiations to enhance mutual confidence, build trust, and reduce the risk of conflict.

Under OSCE
auspices, the parties
to the Agreement on
Confidence- and SecurityBuilding Measures in
BiH (Article II) initiated
negotiations to "agree
upon a series of measures
to enhance mutual
confidence and reduce
the risk of conflict..."

The Dayton

Peace Agreement
entrusted
the OSCE
with crucial
responsibilities
to help build a
stable, secure, and
democratic State.

## **Elections**

The OSCE supervises ... "the preparation and conduct of elections in order to promote free, fair, and democratic elections and to lay the foundation for representative government."

## **Human Rights**

The OSCE closely monitors the human rights situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In doing so, it supports the upholding of the rule of law.

Today, the OSCE continues to advance security, democracy and human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

#OSCEBiH

#OSCEBiH25

# The OSCE Approach

Toward increased mutual trust and confidence, more stable and sustainable democratic institutions, improved governance, and greater respect for human rights, the OSCE Mission to BiH monitors, reports, consults and makes recommendations to authorities in line with the international commitments of its host State. The Mission also helps to build the capacity of institutions and civil society organizations in and for Bosnia and Herzegovina.



THE MISSION SUPPORTED
BUILDING DEMOCRACY,
STRENGTHENING GOOD GOVERNANCE &
PROMOTING HUMAN RIGHTS

## Our strength lies in our:



widely-held perception of being an objective and fair actor/partner,



field presence,



expertise and institutional memory,



flexibility and initiative,



professional and dedicated staff.

## The OSCE approach is:



comprehensive,



impartial,



participatory,



multi-dimensional,



needs-based, and



locally-tailored

# **Our Leadership**



Ambassador **Robert H. Frowick,** USA (1995 – 1997)



Ambassador **Robert Barry,** USA (1997 – 2001)



Ambassador **Robert M. Beecroft,** USA (2001 – 2004)



Ambassador **Douglas Davidson,** USA (2004 – 2008)



Ambassador **Gary D. Robbins,** USA (2008 – 2011)



Ambassador **Fletcher M. Burton,** USA (2011 – 2014)



Ambassador **Jonathan Moore,** USA (2014 – 2017)



Ambassador **Bruce Berton,** USA (2017 – 2019)



Ambassador **Kathleen Kavalec,** USA
(2019 – present)



## **Our Staff**



Largest number of staff: 988 (in 2000)

Largest number of field offices: 30

(24 Field Offices and 6 Regional Centers) in 1997

Countries represented among international staff of the Mission over the past 25 years:

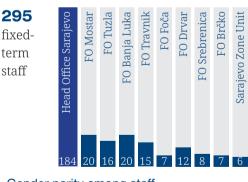
Albania, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States.

Number and locations of current field offices:

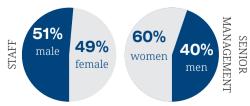
9



Current number of staff and geographical distribution:



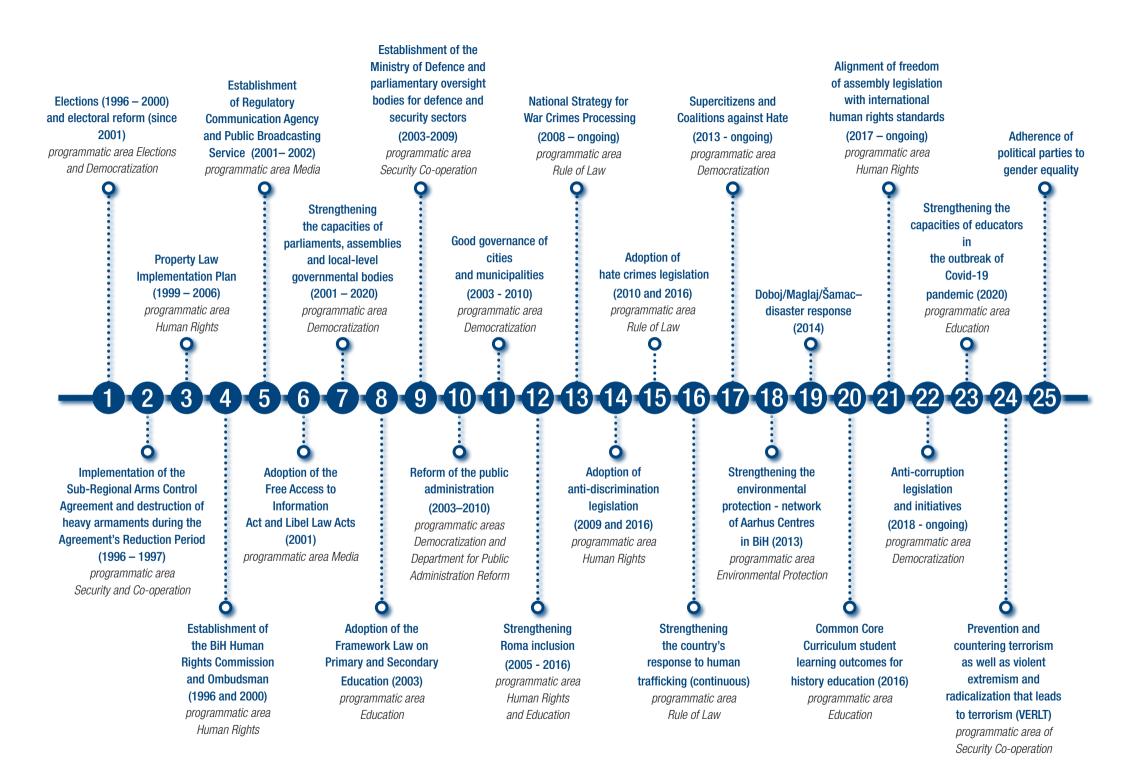
Gender parity among staff and management:



# The 25 Milestones for 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Mission



As we mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Mission is honoured to present 25 milestones marking our many achievements. We hope these serve as a reminder of our commitment to the prosperity and, above all else, to the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina:





#### Helga Schmid

Secretary General of the OSCE

"The 25th anniversary of the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina is a proof of the close and fruitful co-operation it enjoys with its host country.

Last November, during my visit, I could see for myself what great work the OSCE is doing in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It ranges from promoting an independent and efficient judiciary, to combating corruption, strengthening trust and reconciliation, to improving the quality of education. I am proud to see how appreciated the Mission's work is – both by government representatives and local partners, including civil society.

The OSCE is a fervent supporter and enabler of regional co-operation. Over the past two decades, South-Eastern Europe has made considerable progress in further consolidating peace, security and stability, and in strengthening democratic institutions and the rule of law. The OSCE is proud to have played its part in supporting that, particularly via the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina with its Headquarters in Sarajevo and field offices across the country.

More than ever, political leaders in the region are now called upon to present a positive vision of co-operation that can enable progress and overcome the divisions of the past. The OSCE will continue to support Bosnia and Herzegovina in achieving its strategic goals, in the interest of all citizens."

#### Bisera Turković

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina (2018 – )

"When the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina ended the war in late 1995, it also shaped the mandate and operations of the OSCE Mission in our country. This organization was at the time, and still is, the essential stakeholder in all democratic processes in Bosnia and Herzegovina, starting with sustaining peace and initiating rebuilding, institutional building and arms control and the provision of strong support to efforts of Euro-Atlantic integration of our country.

With hard work and commitment on the part of all Mission Members, whose contribution is profoundly respected and appreciated by the citizens of BiH, the OSCE served for two and a half decades as a strong international support and partner of our country and all its citizens, and an important remedial factor in the society of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I am convinced that further operation of this important international organization will continue to focus on the support in fulfilment of the foreign policy goals of Bosnia and Herzegovina and building of a modern, secure, multi-ethnic country in which all citizens will be able to enjoy the same rights, opportunities and freedoms."

## Željko Bakalar

President of the Central Election Commission of Bosnia and Herzegovina

"I would like to express my sincere congratulations to the 25-year long presence of the OSCE Mission to BiH and my deep gratitude for everything that the Mission has done and has been doing for the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Co-operation between the Central Election Commission of BiH and the OSCE Mission to BiH has been ongoing ever since the very establishment of the Central Election Commission of BiH.

During this long-term co-operation, a variety of joint projects has been implemented with the aim of enhancing the election process and other activities and responsibilities of the Central Election Commission of BiH.

What is of special importance to us is the continued assistance provided by the OSCE Mission to BiH in the area of strengthening the integrity of the election process in Bosnia and Herzegovina and providing expert opinions and views of relevant international organisations (including, amongst others, the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights) on all issues falling within the jurisdiction of the Central Election Commission of BiH."





ELECTIONS (1996 – 2000) AND ELECTORAL REFORM (SINCE 2001)

programmatic area
Elections and
Democratization

Holding free and fair elections that ensure the highest possible eligibility, access, and participation of citizens of voting age was crucial for post-war Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Mission administered the first post-war elections in 1996 and continued to administer elections until the BiH Election Law was adopted in 2001. After that, the Mission supported the creation of the Secretariat of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Election **Commission** and the transfer of skills and technology to the new institution so that subsequent elections could take place in line with OSCE commitments. The Mission advocates for free and fair elections in line with the recommendations of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR). This work continues to this day: most recently, with the Mission's support, numerous political parties signed election pledges, committing themselves to credible, policy-based election campaigns that are free of harmful speech and rhetoric.



IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
SUB-REGIONAL ARMS
CONTROL AGREEMENT
AND DESTRUCTION OF
HEAVY ARMAMENTS
DURING THE
AGREEMENT'S REDUCTION
PERIOD (1996 – 1997)

programmatic area Security and Co-operation

The Mission supported the Office of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office for Article IV of the Dayton Peace Accords' Annex 1B and the Parties to the Agreement in the implementation of the Sub-Regional Arms Control Agreement ("Article IV Agreement"). This includes assistance in conducting activities within the Agreement's inspection regime as well as the disposal of armaments limited by the Agreement (ALAs) through the Reduction Period of 1996-1997. The destruction of thousands of pieces of five categories of heavy weapons to the thresholds set by the Agreement was of great importance to the military stabilization of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region, and set the basis for the future implementation of the Agreement that continues today. In total, 2,075 pieces of artillery, armored combat vehicles and battle tanks were destroyed in BiH during the reduction period.



PROPERTY LAW IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (1999 – 2006)

programmatic area Human Rights The OSCE Mission to BiH, together with the Office of the High Representative, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UN Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Commission for Real Property Claims of Displaced Persons and Refugees, supported the **property repossessions of more than one million people**. In addition to this, the Mission advocated that authorities throughout the country establish a **harmonized, rights-based social housing policy**. The rate of property return was 98 per cent, meaning that 98 per cent of repossession claims were granted. In order to end protracted displacement in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region, in partnership with the OSCE's Conflict Prevention Centre and the OSCE Missions to Montenegro and to Serbia, the Mission continues to monitor the implementation of the Regional Housing Programme to the current day.

#### Sifet Podžić

Minister of Defence and the first Chief of Defence and previous Chair of the BiH PA Joint Committee for Defence and Security

"As the BiH Minister of Defence, I would like to take this opportunity and express my sincere gratitude to the OSCE Mission to BiH's staff for the continuous, professional and friendly assistance and support that they have extended to the BiH Ministry of Defence and the BiH Armed Forces for the past 17 years. Your 25-year-long presence in BiH has left a visible trace in building a sovereign country and democracy through three dimensions of your activities: human, economic and politico-military.

Following the examples of stable European democracies with the support of the OSCE and international partners, we have built a respectable defence system based upon the democratic political oversight of the BiH Armed Forces by the BiH Parliamentary Assembly and upon civil command by the BiH Presidency. In that way, the Armed Forces are engaged in protecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country and, in a wider context, of our citizens, in preserving peace at the international level, by participating in peacekeeping operations and by maintaining civil and military co-operation.

As regards the development of the defence sector, the Mission has played an important role in establishing the BiH Ministry of Defence and the BiH Armed Forces as well as in the process of adopting the legislative framework for their operations. This successful collaboration is crowned by the Agreement on Co-operation, additionally enhancing the defence system through specific joint activities and projects with equal participation of national and international experts.

The BiH Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces are committed to continuation of this successful, meaningful and useful co-operation with the Mission as well as to fulfilment of all commitments stemming from the OSCE documents aimed at building trust and security."

#### Nikola Radovanović

1<sup>st</sup> BiH Minister of Defence and Parliamentary Military Commissioner

"The OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina has achieved impressive results in building confidence and security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as achieving a balanced defense force levels at the lowest level in the region, thus its importance and contribution goes beyond the borders of the state. The Mission, in particular the Department for Security Co-operation, first created a framework, offered the knowledge of prominent experts and supported the parties' negotiations on regional defense stabilization, and then for many years worked diligently to implement agreed measures in the spirit of co-operative security with the then entity defense and military structures and the BiH Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Also, the Mission's participation in the work and the support to the Commission for Defense Reform in both its convocations and to the Ministry of Defense of BiH is immeasurable."





ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BIH HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AND OMBUDSMAN (1996 AND 2000)

programmatic area Human Rights As per Annex VI of the General Framework Agreement for Peace for Bosnia and Herzegovina, the BiH Ombudsman and the Human Rights Chamber constituted the BiH Human Rights Commission, which the OSCE Mission to BiH supported. The OSCE Mission to BiH also supported the establishment of such institutions at the entity level and, after that, the consolidation of the entity Ombudsman structures into a single State-level institution. Based on the standards set out by the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe, governmental authorities adopted legislation to create a unified structure thus ensuring that domestic institutions to redress human rights violations are available to the general public.



ESTABLISHMENT
OF REGULATORY
COMMUNICATION
AGENCY AND PUBLIC
BROADCASTING SERVICE
(2001 – 2002)

programmatic area Media

The Mission was the leading organization in supporting the International Media Commission, which was the predecessor of the Communications Regulatory Agency. The establishment of the Communications Regulatory Agency was a crucial milestone in **the protection of freedom of expression** and diversity of opinion, while respecting widely-accepted standards of decency, non-discrimination, fairness, accuracy, and impartiality. During this time, the Mission was intensively involved in the development of media standards that aim to ensure the independence of media outlets in the country, which culminated in the establishment of the Public Broadcasting Service.



ADOPTION OF THE FREE ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT AND LIBEL LAW ACTS (2001)

programmatic area Media

With the adoption of the **Free Access to Information Acts and Libel Law Acts**at the entity level and in Brčko District BiH,
Bosnia and Herzegovina became the first
country in the region to decriminalize libel.
The Law also empowered the citizens of
Bosnia and Herzegovina to access information
on the work of public institutions **promoting transparency and accountability**.

#### Ljiljana Zurovac

Journalist. Expert for Media Self-regulation

"25 years of existence of the OSCE Mission to BiH is the equivalent of a quarter of a century of feeling safe. As a media person, I find the feeling of safety extremely important, the feeling of knowing that I can count on the protection and support at any given moment.

The OSCE Mission to BiH engaged very concretely in the field, working toward protection and promotion of media freedom and freedom of speech, not just in BiH, but across the region, and its engagement has been invaluable. Its contribution yielded tangible outcomes as demonstrated through the establishment of dialogue between media representatives from all countries of the region and facilitating their co-operation; or the establishment of important media institutions, development and adoption of documents in support of the media freedom and protection of professional reporting, implementation of countless workshops for journalist in small communities across BiH and organization of regular annual conventions that bring together journalists of the region. The list of wonderful success stories written by the OSCE Mission to BiH over the past 25 years is long, and they can all be summed up in the notion that the OSCE Mission has been the home and the sanctuary for all of use who have put our hearts into professional journalism, paving the way under such difficult conditions to free and professional media landscape, for generations of journalists to come.

My heartfelt congratulations go to all the wonderful people of the OSCE Mission – may you stay by our side for many years to come."

#### Marin Vukoja

Secretary of the House of Representatives of the BiH PA

"In twelve years of successful co-operation between the OSCE Mission to BiH and the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH, the Mission actively supported key processes that led to improvements of the efficiency, openness and transparency of the legislative work. This co-operation specifically included the support to electoral reform, improvement of the rules of procedure, development of key strategic plans, reorganization of committees and offices, implementation of projects such as the Open Parliament, development of the website, introduction of intranet and support to live broadcasting of sessions of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH. In particular, I would underline the assistance in procurement of the equipment for the Grand Hall in 2020, which enabled live broadcasting of the sessions of the House of Representatives and insight of the public in decision-making processes during the period of crisis."





STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITIES OF PARLIAMENTS, ASSEMBLIES AND LOCAL-LEVEL GOVERNMENTAL BODIES (2001 – 2020)

programmatic area
Democratization

Open Parliament.

Since 2001, the Mission has provided technical and professional expertise to BiH parliaments, assemblies, and local-level governmental bodies, helping them to deliver services to citizens in a timely, transparent, and equitable manner. This included supporting BiH parliaments and assemblies in improving their organizational structures, capacities, and transparency, modernizing legislative work, as well as providing technical support. The Mission advocated for and supported the adoption of the BiH Law on Parliamentary Oversight in 2018, which represented an important step toward improving the transparency of government and the accountability of public officials. The Mission advocated for the introduction of tools for the inclusion of citizens in decision-making processes, including via amending the internal rules of procedure to include the possibility for citizens' initiatives and introducing the concept of



ADOPTION OF THE FRAMEWORK LAW ON PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION (2003)

> programmatic area Education

Following the Mission's extensive advocacy effort and expert assistance, in 2003, the Framework Law on Primary and Secondary Education in BiH was adopted. This further led to the harmonization of entity, cantonal and Brčko District Laws on Primary and Secondary Education with the Framework Law. The Law established the key principles of democratic participation, non-discrimination, quality and inclusivity in schools.



ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND PARLIAMENTARY OVERSIGHT BODIES FOR THE DEFENCE AND SECURITY SECTORS (2003 – 2009)

> programmatic area Security Co-operation

The Mission had a central role in the process of defence reform in BiH, including by supporting the establishment of a State-level Ministry of Defence in 2004. The Mission's support was also key to the establishment of the BiH Parliamentary Assembly's Joint Committee on Defence and Security and the Joint Committee on Supervision of the Work of the Intelligence and Security Agency of BiH in 2003. These two bodies introduced crucial parliamentary oversight to the BiH security and defence sectors to improve their efficiency, transparency and functionality, including through a greater focus on the implementation of the security and defence policies of BiH. Parliamentary oversight of the defence sector was then further strengthened in 2009 with the Missionsupported establishment of the BiH Parliamentary Assembly's Office of the Parliamentary Military Commissioner. This body now has an important role in upholding the rule of law and protecting the human rights and freedoms of soldiers and cadets in the Armed Forces of BiH and the BiH Ministry of Defence.

#### Samra Filipović Hadžiabdić

Director of the BiH Gender Equality Agency

"The BiH Gender Equality Agency of the BiH Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees and the OSCE Mission to BiH have been co-operating successfully for a number of years, through the implementation of commitments enshrined in the BiH Gender Equality Law, the BiH Gender Action Plan and the Action Plan for the Implementation of the UN's Women, Peace and Security Resolution in BiH.

In the past, we implemented a number of joint programmes, projects and activities, of which the most important were the following:

- Increasing the participation of women in public life and in decision-making – development of the Political Party Gender Equality Pledge, which defines the basic preconditions for the work of political parties on these issues,
- Implementation of activities from the Action Plan for the Implementation of the UN's Women, Peace and Security Resolution 1325 in BiH – support to local action plans and the promotion of the importance of the Resolution,
- Prevention of and fight against gender-based violence implementation of the Well-Being and Safety of Women, Survey on Violence against Women in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Marking of important days and of the International Women's Day, including the Gender Equality Award presented by the BiH Gender Equality Agency, the Gender Equality Committee and the OSCE Mission to BiH.

The OSCE Mission to BiH is a very important strategic partner of the MHRR's BiH Gender Equality Agency in attaining gender equality and the strengthening of women. Hence, we think that the synergy will contribute to a more efficient establishment of an equal opportunities' society."

### Vehid Šehić

President of the Strategic Board of the "Pod lupom" Coalition

"The OSCE Mission to BiH has provided extensive support and assistance to the Pod lupom Coalition, in both organizational aspect and our role of observers at the elections since 2014. Our collaboration is based on partnership having the same goal of contributing to fair and free elections in BiH and to the integrity and credibility of the election process. We would like to continue our collaboration successfully in future election cycles."

#### Boško Šiljegović

Parliamentary Military Commissioner of BiH

"As a member of the OSCE PA on behalf of BiH, member and Chair of the BiH PA Joint Committee for Defence and Security from 2002 to 2006 and in my capacity of the Parliamentary Military Commissioner of BiH since 2009, I would like to express my gratitude to all the representatives of the Mission for the continued long-standing, selfless, professional and friendly assistance and support as well as the important role of the OSCE Mission to BiH."





REFORM OF THE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (2003 – 2010)

programmatic area
Democratization and
Department for Public
Administration Reform

The Mission participated in the development and implementation of almost all regulations connected with public administration reform – ranging from drafting laws on the civil service and public finances to the promotion and implementation of these new legislative frameworks at all levels of government. The main aim of these activities was to increase transparency, accountability and citizen participation.



GOOD GOVERNANCE OF CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES (2003 – 2010)

programmatic area Democratization Through the introduction of UGOVOR, the Beacon Scheme, and the Local First initiatives, the Mission contributed to the introduction of a regulatory framework and principles of good governance aiming to bring cities and municipalities closer to the standards of the European Charter on Local Self-Government, with the aim to deepen citizens' engagement with municipalities and to foster municipalities that have the political will and institutional capacity to address citizens' demands in an efficient, even-handed and transparent manner. These initiatives, based on the premise that strengthening democracy begins at the local level, provided support to municipal assemblies/councils, the creation of inter-municipal learning and support mechanisms, and promoted community engagement as well as youth access to employment.





STRENGTHENING ROMA INCLUSION (2005 – 2016)

programmatic area Human Rights and Education The Mission played an active role in the establishment of the Roma Advisory Board at the BiH Council of Ministers in 2002. Additionally, it advocated for the adoption of the BiH Strategy for Addressing Roma Issues in 2005 and the Roma Action Plan from 2008 in the field of employment, housing and health care. The Mission also supported the adoption of the Action Plan on the Educational Needs of Roma and Members of Other National Minorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2004. The Mission worked to strengthen the capacities of young Roma activists, particularly young Roma women, and has supported an initiative to establish a BiH Council of Roma Youth as part of work promoting the inclusion of national minorities at all levels.

#### Edin Jahić

Ministry of Security, Chief of the Section for Combating Organized Crime and Corruption

"For many years now, the OSCE Mission to BiH has been providing significant support to the efforts of BiH in preventing and combatting terrorism by the means of building our capacities and providing advisory support. I would, particularly, like to stress our co-operation in the area of preventing and fighting the financing of terrorism, within which our joint activities have been contributing to the overall progress of BiH and that of the inter-agency co-operation, with full adherence to human rights standards."

#### Meddžida Kreso

Former Judge and President of the Court of BiH

"At the beginning of its mandate, the OSCE Mission of BiH was unclear and disputed at the Court of BiH by certain judges, but, in time, the OSCE observers have become an integral and welcomed partner to the War Crimes Division at the Court of BiH.

The presence of the OSCE observers and trial monitoring has resulted in objective and unbiased reports, which have detected issues related to certain trials, judgements and prosecutorial indictments, which have caused problems to judges.

Objective analyses conducted by the OSCE were of utmost importance to the final report submitted by Judge Joanna Corner and her recommendations for improvements to trials and revising the War Crimes Prosecution Strategy."

#### Erduan Kafedžić

Sarajevo Canton Office for the Fight Against Corruption and Quality Control

"Since the introduction of the Anti-Corruption Strategic Framework in 2015, Sarajevo Canton has been recognized as the leader in the systemic fight against corruption, for the anti-corruption policies it put into place that led to specific results. The principal stakeholders involved in implementation of anti-corruption procedures and initiatives included Sarajevo Canton Anti-Corruption Team (2015 - 2019), which was later transformed into Sarajevo Canton Office for the Fight Against Corruption and Quality Control. Leadership position of Sarajevo Canton largely resulted from the support of international organizations that operate in the country and particular contribution was made by the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, as our strategic partner which supported bodies involved in anti-corruption processes in the Canton.

Sarajevo Canton Office for the Fight Against Corruption and Quality Control is particularly grateful to the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina for its pivotal assistance in development and introduction of the information system our Office uses. Without this support it is unlikely that our Office would be able to put into place our anti-corruption digital platform, which now constitutes one of the key preconditions for the establishment of effective and efficient anti-corruption system in Sarajevo Canton."





NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR WAR CRIMES PROCESSING (2008 – ONGOING)

programmatic area Rule of Law The Mission supported the development of the National War Crimes Processing Strategy in 2008 and its revision in 2020, which were important steps in pursuing justice for all victims of war crimes. The Mission also advocated for the development of a clear and efficient mechanism for the transfer of less complex cases to the entity and Brčko District judiciaries in order to allow the Court of BiH and BiH Prosecutor's Office to focus on the most complex cases. The Mission designed and developed the Database of Open Case Files, a software tool that serves as a centralized database of war crimes case files at the BiH Prosecutor's Office. The Mission's War Crimes Monitoring Project has been instrumental in monitoring war crimes case processing and providing qualitative analyses regarding the implementation of the Strategy. It also serves as a basis to deliver tailored capacity-building activities.



ADOPTION OF ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LEGISLATION (2009 AND 2016)

programmatic area Human Rights The Mission supported the adoption and subsequent revision of the Law on Prohibition of Discrimination, including by working closely with the Ministry for Human Rights and Refugees, to which the Mission provided legal advice during the drafting process and facilitated consultations with judicial professionals, the Ombudsman Institution, and civil society. These efforts also included training for more than 1,000 judges and legal professionals on international and European non-discrimination standards and mechanisms contained in the Law, helping ensure that the principles of non-discrimination and equality are effectively applied.





ADOPTION OF HATE CRIMES LEGISLATION (2010 AND 2016)

programmatic area Rule of Law The Mission supported the drafting and adoption of amendments to the entity and Brčko District Criminal Codes addressing **hate crimes**. The Mission provided expert support during the process and facilitated consultations with judicial professionals. These efforts were complemented by the Mission's offering of continuous capacity building for justice sector actors and awareness-raising among other stakeholders about what constitute hate crimes and the legal framework for reporting, investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating bias motivated incidents and hate crimes. These efforts aimed to address the **equality, security and protection** of all persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

#### Medina Mehmedović-Mulalić

Riyasat of the Islamic Community in BiH, Chief of Section for co-operation with government and civil society organizations

"The Islamic Community in BiH and the OSCE Mission to BiH have maintained a long-standing and successful co-operation in the area of strengthening the rule of law, religious and civil freedoms, inter-faith dialogue, hate crimes prosecution, prevention of violent extremism and enhancing education to protect the rights of children and youth against all forms of discrimination and segregation.

In its activities, the Mission particularly focuses on the importance of engaging a wider society in the prevention of and combatting violent extremism, promotion of the rule of law and human rights protection, including the right to use one's own language and practice freedom of religion or faith."

### Indira Bajramović

President of Roma Women Association "Bolja budućnost" Tuzla

"The Association I lead and represent (Association of Roma Women "Bolja budućnost" of the city of Tuzla) is satisfied with its cooperation with the OSCE Mission. It should be underlined that the Mission contributed in a very significant way to the scope of rights and improvement of the position of Roma population in all aspects of life in BiH."

#### Goran Nezirović

Supreme Court Judge and former member of the BiH High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council

"As a judge and a member of the HJPC at the time, I participated in the implementation of many international projects focusing on the promotion of the rule of law in our country.

Particular professional challenge, but also a great deal of satisfaction, came out of my cooperation with the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, both due to the significance of the projects implemented and their tangible positive results in the area of justice sector reform and the rule of law.

I hope that the OSCE Mission to Bosnia will continue to play its essential role in the reform of the judiciary and democratization of our society."





STRENGTHENING THE COUNTRY'S RESPONSE TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING (CONTINUOUS)

> programmatic area Rule of Law

The Mission provided support to the State Co-ordinator for Combating THB and successfully advocated for the criminalization of human trafficking in all four criminal codes in BiH, as well as the introduction of the principle of non-punishment for victims of trafficking. Regarding prevention and protection, the Mission supported the development of by-laws and guidelines for the work of domestic anti-trafficking structures. The Mission is committed to combatting trafficking in human beings (THB) by strengthening domestic authorities' capacities to counter this heinous practice, including through the enhancement of the legislative and policy framework and the professional development of relevant stakeholders.



SUPERCITIZENS AND COALITIONS AGAINST HATE (2013 – ONGOING)

> programmatic area Democratization

Since 2013, the Mission has supported the establishment and activities of 31 local Coalitions against Hate across the country, bringing together civil society organizations and activists. The main focus of the Coalitions against Hate was to **speak out against bias-motivated incidents and prevent their reoccurrence**. In recent years, the Coalitions have shifted their focus to working closely with local authorities to increase social cohesion at the community level. Currently, the Mission is supporting 20 Coalitions to design social cohesion policies in partnership with local authorities.





STRENGTHENING THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION NETWORK OF AARHUS CENTRES IN BIH (2013)

programmatic area Environmental Protection

In order to support the implementation of the Aarhus Convention in BiH, the national Network of Aarhus Centres was formed in 2013 under the auspices of the Mission. The Network represents a platform for exchanging information between the authorities and the public. The Network encourages the **transparency of public bodies and enables citizens to voice their views** on decisions that may have an impact on the environment. Furthermore, the offices of the Aarhus Centres in Banja Luka, Sarajevo, Tuzla and Zenica are open to citizens, serving as a place where they can receive expert advice, obtain good quality and timely information and get involved in decision-making processes.



DOBOJ/MAGLAJ/ŠAMAC
- DISASTER RESPONSE
(2014)

Following the devastation caused by flooding in 2014, the Mission redeployed staff and opened five temporary premises to support local institutions, which focused on restoring and safeguarding key services for citizens. The Mission strengthened its monitoring capacities in the affected areas, enabling the development of early warning indicators and the design of tailored programmes to prevent, counter or mitigate the negative impact of natural disasters.

#### Nermina Džepar-Ganibegović

Chief of the Department for Housing Policy and Analytic Planning, BiH Ministry for Human Rights and Refugee

"Bosnia and Herzegovina has many years of successful co-operation with the OSCE Mission to BiH. Since its establishment in 2000, the BiH Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees has relied on the OSCE's advisory and expert role in the monitoring and protection of fundamental human rights and freedoms. The OSCE's support to facilitate the Annex VII of the GFAP implementation, including implementation of property laws was of particular importance for achieving lasting and sustainable solutions for refugees and displaced persons, thus making a crucial contribution to restoring trust and building peace not only in BH society, but also to the deepening of good neighbourly relations and stability in the Western Balkans region."

#### Dr. Miloš Šolaja

University of Political Science, Banja Luka and Director of Center for International Relations, Banja Luka

"I have co-operated with the OSCE Mission to BiH since its very establishment as a journalist and rapporteur and, at a later stage, as a member of the Media Experts Subcommittee in 1996 - 2001. I have witnessed that the OSCE has played a major role in developing the media towards both transformation and raising media standards and democratization of the election process and the elections.

The Mission has contributed a great deal to the development of a security environment and democratization of security, which I have witnessed through my participation in organizing and training many generations of the School of Security in BiH, as well as in the process of the BiH security policy development and the adoption of the BiH Defence Budget."

#### Srđan Baralić

President of the Repulika Srpska Association of Social Workers

"The OSCE has been supporting the networking of professionals in the field of social activities across BiH. It gave us the opportunity to establish the BiH Union of Social Workers and gain the status of a member of the International Federation of Social Workers. This is certainly important for the profession itself, as we have the opportunity to network with professionals from the region, and to learn from examples of good practice and challenges others face in the protection of beneficiaries."

## Marin Radišić

Mayor of Čitluk

"The OSCE has been a sincere partner of the Municipality of Čitluk for more than twenty years. Together, we initiated some very important processes, such as the strategic planning of development of the Municipality, public administration reform, and increasing transparency of our work, all with the aim of providing high-quality services to our citizens. Our co-operation continues to our mutual satisfaction."











COMMON CORE
CURRICULUM STUDENT
LEARNING OUTCOMES
FOR HISTORY EDUCATION
(2016)

programmatic area Education As part of efforts to support education authorities to modernize learning content and implement **contemporary approaches to teaching**, the Mission supported the development of the Common Core Curriculum, focusing on students and the development of competencies. Subsequently, the Mission worked with the Agency for Pre-Primary, Primary and Secondary Education and, in co-ordination with all ministries of education, on the development of the Common Core Curriculum based on student learning outcomes for the school subject of history.



ALIGNMENT OF FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY LEGISLATION WITH INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS (2017 – ONGOING)

> programmatic area Human Rights

The Mission supported the alignment of legislation pertaining to freedom of assembly with international human rights standards at all levels of government in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Freedom of assembly is a fundamental freedom; everyone has **the right to peaceful assembly and demonstration in a democratic society**. The first law fully harmonized with international standards was adopted in Brčko District in 2020. The Mission continues to support other levels of authority to ensure the fullest possible enjoyment of this right.





ANTI-CORRUPTION LEGISLATION AND INITIATIVES (2018 – ONGOING)

programmatic area Democratization With the support of the Mission, anti-corruption co-ordination mechanisms between anti-corruption teams at all government levels and the BiH Agency for Prevention and Co-ordination of the Fight against Corruption were strengthened. The Mission also worked to improve the capacities of anti-corruption institutions. In 2020, the Mission supported the development and adoption of the Brčko District Law on Conflict of Interest and its implementation by providing technical and expert support. Furthermore, the Mission continued to advocate for the adoption of State-level conflict of interest legislation that is in line with international standards. Over the past few years, the Mission has supported the development and adoption of asset declaration legislation in Sarajevo and Tuzla cantons and plans to support similar processes in other cantons. The Mission supported innovative ICT-based corruption prevention solutions at numerous levels: the State, Republika Srpska, and Sarajevo Canton, Bosnian Podrinje Canton Goražde and Central Bosnia Canton. These include public registries that help identify and prevent conflicts of interest and irregularities in employment, appointments, and public procurement.

#### Enes Avdičević

Coordinator of the Coalition against Hate "Društvo bez predrasuda" from Teočak

"For a number of years, the OSCE Mission to BiH has been providing various forms of support to the Coalition against Hate "Društvo bez predrasuda" (Unbiased Society) Teočak, the only one in BiH which is active in both Entities and in five municipalities. A specific form of support is directed towards co-operation with local authorities and the joint development of action plans, as well as towards specific needs of the members of the Coalition. Supported by the Mission, the Coalition has been working on the fight against hate, the development and promotion of the culture of dialogue, and the promotion of positive values of the community. In my view, such initiatives have a direct positive impact on everyday lives of BiH citizens."

#### Ansela Husetić

Director of the Public Institution Culture and Education Centre, Bosanski Petrovac

"My successful and I can openly say enviable co-operation with the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina was a result of the understanding, desire and willingness of the Mission's staff in Bosanski Petrovac to help both the institutions and citizens of Bosanski Petrovac. They gave great contribution to our local community for which I am especially grateful. I sincerely hope that the co-operation will continue in the future."

#### Lejla Zonić

Youth Advisory Group of the OSCE Mission to BiH

"My work with the OSCE Mission began six years ago. The Mission supported the implementation of projects that I had worked on with other organizations, such as the initiative for forming the Youth Council of the Tuzla City in 2013, when I received, soon after, an invitation to join the Youth Advisory Group at the OSCE Mission of BiH. Opportunities that this membership offered to me were countless, especially the one enabling me to extend my network of professional contacts through various program- and project-related travels, such as those to North Macedonia and Albania. I was invited to give my contribution to the fight against violence against women, particularly in the area of cyber violence. As a person who experienced cyber violence, I turn to the Mission seeking help. In conversations with the representatives of the Mission and through their active participation, I became empowered as a woman to address this experience in public and dedicate myself to promoting positive practices and values via my new blog ( HYPERLINK "http://www.lejlazonic. com" www.lejlazonic.com). Thanks to the Youth Advisory Group, I developed a sense of belonging and I was given an opportunity to develop my own potentials and those of my community."





STRENGTHENING
THE CAPACITIES OF
EDUCATORS AMIDST THE
OUTBREAK OF COVID-19
PANDEMIC (2020)

programmatic area Education The Mission provided IT equipment and protective masks to assist education authorities in ensuring that the most vulnerable children were able to access education during the outbreak of the pandemic, including by providing Zoom business licenses to facilitate communication and co-ordination between ministries of education, pedagogical institutes, and schools. The Mission also organized workshops on effective and inclusive education in a virtual setting, reaching over 11,600 school directors, teachers, students, and parents.



PREVENTING AND
COUNTERING TERRORISM
AS WELL AS VIOLENT
EXTREMISM AND
RADICALIZATION THAT
LEAD TO TERRORISM
(VERLT)

programmatic area Security Co-operation The Mission worked on building capacities of institutions in BiH at all levels to help them in addressing the threats of terrorism and violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, including, more specifically, the financing of terrorism, terrorist travel, cyber terrorism, as well as chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats. Through policy guidance on how to counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, the Mission conducted tailored capacity-building activities and facilitated exchanges of good practice with authorities. The Mission's systematic work enabled increased co-ordination and co-operation between a wide range of actors at all levels through greater inclusion of civil society, religious communities, women, and youth.





ADHERENCE OF POLITICAL PARTIES TO GENDER EQUALITY In 2014, the Mission supported the BiH Agency for Gender Equality to develop a Pledge for Political Party's Allegiance to Gender Equality. In doing so, the Mission established contact with eight political parties that subsequently signed the pledge, ensuring their commitment to gender equality. Based on the pledge, the Mission, in co-operation with OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, conducted a gender audit of the participating parties. The audit was created as an internal tool to assess the parties' implementation of gender equality commitments. This has also served as the foundation of future work, which has included the development of the respective parties' strategies for the promotion of gender equality within their structures through the identification of policy and programme areas that require additional efforts to achieve gender parity.

#### Vanes Mešić

University professor Sarajevo, Member of the Curriculum Advisory Team within the ExB Project "Quality Education through Curriculum Reform"

"I had the honour to co-operate with the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina as part of the Quality Education through Curriculum Reform project. I was especially impressed by the Mission's professional approach to tasks, as well as by the consistent promotion and respect of excellence. By establishing and determining the key challenges in the local education systems, and by careful networking of competent individuals who can contribute to overcoming those challenges, from throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region, the Mission continuously provides significant support to education authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina."

#### Lidija Ljubojević

Former BDA delegate and Chairwoman of the BDA Gender Committee

"We improved the work of the Brčko District Assembly with the support of the OSCE Mission to BiH, especially by establishing the Gender Equality Committee in 2013, which was also a result of the Mission's support to exchanging best practices of parliaments from BiH with the Parliament of Austria. Thanks to that, after a large number of meetings organised on the topic of gender equality with the nongovernmental sector, and thanks to the support of the OSCE's Field Office, the adoption of the Law on Prevention of Domestic Violence was proposed and subsequently adopted by the Assembly. The law was promoted in three local communities in Brčko with the aim of encouraging victims to report domestic violence, while the co-operation with the OSCE also resulted in the adoption of the Law on the Protection of Rights of National Minority Members in Brčko."

#### **NGO Kvart**

"In our effort to promote the values of equality, justice and democracy, we have often been the target of discrimination, hate speech and hate crimes. During certain challenges, the OSCE Mission to BiH provided assistance and played an important role in terms of consultations, exchange of opinions and reactions. We thank the OSCE Mission to BiH for their engagement and support to our work, and we are looking forward to seeing every small step forward in the field of enhancement and protection of human rights in BiH."



# **Facts and Figures**

More than 3,000 staff members served in 25 years

- O In the period 1996-2014, there was a total of **790** arms control inspections and **129** arms reduction inspections involving more than **1,300** OSCE personnel, and **29** supporting
- A total of **5,151** heavy armaments were destroyed **445** battle tanks, **232** armored combat vehicles, **4,470** artillery and **4** combat aircraft.
  - **211,781** claims were received for the return of property, of which **192,682** were resolved.
  - Since the Mission began to monitor war crimes processing in BiH in 2004, a total of **594** proceedings involving **904** defendants have been completed.
  - **120** small grants were allocated to support the development of free media between 1998 2001.

- In 1998, the Mission supervised
  2,180 polling stations in Bosnia and Herzegovina and at 137 in Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and distributed approximately
  2.4 million ballot papers to
  BiH citizens<sup>1</sup>.
- Since its release in 2021, more than **2 million** people have viewed the

  Mission-produced movie "Maglaj War
  and Peace".
- 29 new history textbooks
  were published and training in
  implementing these new resources
  was provided to over 200 history
  teachers, potential textbook authors
  and reviewers following the Missionsupported development and signing
  of the Guidelines for Writing and
  Evaluation of History Textbooks for
  Primary and Secondary Schools in
  Bosnia and Herzegovina.











<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Annual Report 1998



- More than **50** initiatives supported to increase women's participation in the security sector.
- The Mission investigated the experiences of more than **2,300** women across BiH to examine the prevalence and consequences of violence against women.
- More than **20,000** public officials, security personnel, criminal justice, law enforcement and education officials trained.
- Since 2004, the Mission monitored

  13,704 trial hearings in war
  crimes, hate crimes, trafficking in
  human beings and other criminal cases
   across 72 courts in BiH.

- Since 2017, the Mission monitored
  602 court cases to assess the quality
  and effectiveness of the judicial
  response to corruption.
- Since 2017, the Mission monitored nearly **500** parliamentary plenary and committee sessions to keep abreast of political and security developments, and to be able to make timely and informed decisions on key interventions.
- Since 2013, the Mission monitored the responses to over **1,200** potential bias-motivated incidents and hate crimes, including **324** related court cases, to assess the application of the hate crime laws and inform capacity-building and awareness-raising activities.











# The Way Forward

In the coming years, acting within the framework of its mandate, the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina will continue to offer technical assistance and support to Bosnia and Herzegovina to meet its commitments in the politico-military, economic and environmental, and human dimensions.

## In order to do so, the Mission will:

- >>> Continue promoting stability and reconciliation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) by developing systems of governance, justice and education that uphold human rights and the rule of law;
- >>> Continue sustaining the results of crucial reforms in BiH and work with authorities to overcome political stalemates and tensions to improve the performance of parliamentary and legislative bodies, address corruption and decrease the potential for electoral misconduct;
- >>> Continue supporting the development of an independent and transparent justice system that upholds human rights and possesses the capacity to effectively investigate, prosecute and adjudicate crimes, including war crimes, hate crimes, trafficking in human beings, corruption, organized crime, and domestic violence;
- >>> Continue supporting BiH in ensuring that international standards inform the legal framework applicable to freedom of assembly, expression and media;
- >>> Continue sustaining efforts in ensuring that the right to freedom of religion or belief in BiH is respected, in particular by encouraging inter-religious dialogue;
- >>> Continue assisting BiH to counter terrorism and address violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism through an inclusive and co-operative approach;
- >>> Continue supporting BiH to meet its arms control commitments and to sustainably increase the capacity of the military and police to manage weapons and ammunition;
- >>> Continue supporting BiH authorities in conducting crucial security sector reforms necessary for better responding to contemporary and emerging threats to security, including by modernizing the approach to law enforcement;



- >>> Continue supporting inter-agency co-operation on and capacities for border security and management toward a more integrated system that is better able to combat cross-border crime in a human-rights-compliant manner;
- >>> Continue supporting the development of cybersecurity strategic policy and mechanisms to increase resilience to contemporary and evolving threats emanating from cyberspace;
- >>> Continue facilitating improvements in the protection and rescue system and related capacities, helping increase resilience to natural and other hazards and decrease disaster risk;
- >>> Continue assisting fair and equal access to the social rights of persons in a position of vulnerability, with a focus on housing, healthcare and social protection, as well as assessing the responses of authorities during the COVID-19 crisis, potential violations of social rights, and specific human rights concerns relating to the most vulnerable categories;
- >>> Continue supporting education authorities to demonstrate increased commitment to ensuring inclusive and non-discriminatory quality education for all children;
- >>> Continue providing support to strengthening environmental protection and security in BiH through improved implementation of environmental law, including the Aarhus Convention, and by fostering public awareness and action on environmental issues;
- >>> Continue assisting and promoting gender equality as well as the greater and more meaningful involvement of youth and women in democratic processes at all levels.





## #OSCEBiH #OSCEBiH25

#ZaSigurnost

#KontrolaNaoružanja

#SECUPBIH

#ZaLjudskaPrava #HumanRightsFWD

#ZaRavnopravnost

**#NeDiskriminaciji** 

#NeMržnji

#HateMonitorBiH

#BoljeObrazovanje

#DjelujLokalno

**#LocalFirst** 

#BoljiParlamenti

#FreeMedia

#NeTrgoviniLjudima

#VladavinaPrava #BoljePravosuđe

#ProcesuirajmoZločine

**#TacklingWarCrimes** 

#AccountableBiH #PouzdanaBiH

#ZaČistOkoliš

#EfikasnijaUprava