

# Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

## Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina



# Who we are

The General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, negotiated in Dayton in the United States and signed in Paris in 1995, shapes the work of the OSCE Mission. The Agreement established the Mission as one of the bodies responsible for helping to secure lasting peace in the country and thus to build a stable, secure, and democratic state.

Based in the capital city of Sarajevo, the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina relies on its network of nine field offices and two temporary offices to fully engage citizens and authorities at all levels – municipal, cantonal, entity, as well as State.

To adapt as necessary to social and political developments, the structure of its field work and activities remains flexible.

Nine focus areas comprise the Mission's approach: human rights, education, the rule of law, gender equality, democratic governance, security co-operation, environmental and economic activities, youth, and media freedom.

The Mission's initial focus on elections was transferred to Bosnia and Herzegovina's Central Election Commission in 2002 .



The Mission works with the country's Parliamentary Assembly to raise its efficiency, enhance citizens' participation in parliamentary proceedings and to increase the Assembly's capacity in supporting reforms.



Having the lead international responsibility in the area of education, the Mission targets discriminatory policies and practices by supporting local authorities to develop lasting, inclusive solutions across the education system.

# What we do

The Mission's principal aim is to promote stability and reconciliation while assisting Bosnia and Herzegovina on its path to regional, political, economic and social integration.

## Human rights

The Mission works to advance understanding of and respect for human rights. It aims to strengthen the implementation of policies and laws that eliminate discrimination and integrate national minorities, and collaborates with other international partners as well as domestic institutions to promote the conditions for the sustainable return of displaced people. The Mission also closely engages religious communities – both individually and collectively.

## Education

The Mission has the lead responsibility among the international organizations present in the country for supporting primary and secondary education. With a focus on quality, non-discriminatory education, the Mission targets policies and practices that deepen ethnic segregation and distrust by supporting local authorities to develop long-term, inclusive solutions.

## Rule of law

Building the capacity of a strong, effective, impartial and independent judiciary

that is equally accessible to all citizens, is a key objective of the Mission. It supports the criminal justice system in tackling serious and sensitive crimes fairly and effectively. The Mission's assessments of judicial responses to war crimes, hate crimes and trafficking in human beings, form the basis of targeted advice to authorities with a view to improving the judiciary's performance and ensuring justice for victims.

## Gender equality

Women are under-represented in public and political life. Gender-based violence remains widespread and under-reported. To combat these trends, the Mission works with political parties to improve gender equality principles and promotes gender-responsive budgeting. The Mission collaborates with law enforcement to strengthen the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and include a gender focus into activities to counter violent extremism. In addressing domestic violence cases, the Mission promotes collaboration among all relevant actors.

## Democratic governance

The Mission seeks to strengthen co-operation among institutions and citizens to implement reform in democratic governance. Core activities include combatting corruption, building accountable and transparent public offices, increasing citizen participation, fostering social cohesion and reconciliation, and field monitoring of factors that impede institutional functioning and community relations. The Mission seeks to integrate citizens in decision-making and foster community-level partnerships, such as the Coalitions against Hate.

## Security co-operation

By empowering local-level actors, engaging youth and fostering inter-sectoral co-operation and dialogue, the Mission helps the country deal with the threats and consequences of violent extremism. The Mission assists authorities in

minimizing the consequences of transnational threats and strengthening cyber security. Through awareness-raising, training and outreach, the Mission promotes a security sector that is transparent, accountable and capable of responding to increasingly complex challenges while fulfilling the country's international commitments. The Mission contributes to the safety of the population by advocating for the disposal of surpluses of weapons, ammunition and explosives and by enhancing physical security at storage sites.

## Environmental protection

The Mission stimulates dialogue between government and civil society on environmental issues. It works with the authorities to raise their capacities in disaster risk reduction and improve their preparedness.



By engaging youth through trainings and fostering inter-sectoral co-operation, the Mission assists the country to deal with threats, radicalization and violent extremism.

# What we do

(continued)

## Youth

Recognizing young people as partners for positive change and promoters of peace and reconciliation, the Mission engages youth to counter radicalization and violent extremism, hate speech, bias-motivated incidents and hate crimes, segregation in education, and corruption. Throughout its activities, and with the Youth Advisory Group as a primary instrument,

the Mission identifies and considers young people's concerns, needs and priorities.

## Media freedom and development

The Mission monitors violations of free expression and raises its voice in defence of the media. The Mission also provides training for editors and journalists, with a special focus on the training of journalism students.



The Mission raises awareness about tolerance and respect for diversity through projects and campaigns which engage citizens.

# Facts and figures

(as of September 2017)

## Head of Mission



**Ambassador Bruce G. Berton** of the United States heads the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina since September 2017.

## Staffing



The Mission consists of 33 international and 287 national Mission members.

## Budget



**11,373,600 Euros**

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**OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina**  
Fra Anđela Zvizdovića 1, UNITIC Tower A  
71000 Sarajevo  
Bosnia and Herzegovina

Office: +387 33 952 100  
Fax: +387 33 442 479  
press.ba@osce.org  
www.osce.org/bih  
@oscebih